

The chance has come again! And the goal of opportunity is the Klondike, in British America, near the Alaska boundary. From there we hear wonderful reports, which, extravagant as they may appear, are confirmed from many sources, official and otherwise, to such an extent as to make the wonderful richness of that region beyond dispute. Only a comparatively small portion of the auriferous area has been prospected in any systematic manner, but every indication points to the fact that there, in the frozen North, is a country whose riches exceed "the wealth of Ormus and of Ind," and of which are told, by staid officials and matter-of-fact pioneers, stories which sound like the romances of Scheherazade.

Except to the pioneers who found the way to the new diggings in the fall of 1896 and winter of 1897, the name, even, of the Klondike was unknown to all except to a very few white persons. It was omitted from a majority of the maps and spelled "Chandik" in nearly all the others, and if the name had been spoken in any company it would have aroused no interest.

#### KLONDIKE SUDDENLY FAMOUS.

All this was changed in the middle of July, 1897. On the 15th the steamer "Excelsior" arrived at San Francisco, bringing about forty passengers, from St. Michaels, Alaska, among whom were fifteen who had won fortune in the Klondike district. The story of these men appeared in the principal papers of the country, but many of the journals made little of the story—evidently doubting its truth, be-