Our Moung Kolks.

AN ADVENTURE WITH A STEMMA-TOPUS.

BY EDMUND COLLINS.

The fleet of great iron-clad and steel-The fleet of great iron-clad and steel-prowed ships known as "scalors" leave Newioun-cland every spring for those great bodies of compact ice known as floes, which about the 1st of March begin to move from Batlin's Bay and other northern regions toward the south. These floes are often hundreds of square miles in area, being composed of cakes, or "pans," so the scalers call them, irozen together. Here and there through the floe towers up a huge borg, resplendent in gold and blue and green at sunrise. These bergs are of the most fantastic shapes sometimes, and often look like great castles, their clean-cut spikes rising gracefully, like the spires of a Gothic cathedral.

An interesting denizen of the ice-fields off

An interesting denizen of the ice-fields off An interesting denizen of the ice-fields off the threenland and Labrador coasts is the stemmatopus, or hooded seal. This is an ungainly beast, often larger than an ox. He has in a great heap on the ice, and is much the color of soot. On days when the sun is strong, as the spring advances, the oil fairly cozes out of his glistening skin. I have sometimes seen him lying so still, and bathed in his perspiration of oil, that I imagined him dead, and "rendering" out in the heat. The seal-hunters call him the "dog hood," because he has a huge hood or membrane The seal-hunters call him the "dog hood," because he has a huge hood or membrane consisting of blubber and a tough tissue, several inches thick, which in the twinkling of an eye he can draw over his head. He is then safe from all ordinary assault, being shielded all over the body by several inches thick of blubber or fat, through which the heavy shot of the seal-hunters' guns cannot reach vital parts. The greenhorn delights to capture the pelt of a dog hood, but the experienced hunter is just as content to let the ugly brute alone.

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How well I remember the first day that I sailed out, with the captain of a big iron-clad, on a flee, stretching away from the coast of Labrador! The crew, about three hundred in number, had been killing white-coats everywhere on the ice, and I was receiving my first lessons in killing and "skulp...ig," the latter term meaning the stripping of the heavy coat of fat from the body of the seal. I had a gun as well as a gaff with me, for I wanted some of the birds that went wheeling and screaming around the tops of the and screaming around the tops of the

ing and screaming around the tops of the icebergs.

In the early afternoon, as we were making our way toward the slip, being lamed from the long trainping over the ice, the captain who had been scanning the ice field with his spy-glass, said, "There's a hood over there, and a pretty big fellow too."

"Where?" I inquired, eagerly. "I should like to get him."

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"I should advise you," he replied, "to let him alone. Idoreover, he is a mile distant."

tant."
"I will have him," I replied, not at all daunted. And the captain shrugging his shoulders as much as to say, "Then take your own course," set out for the ship. I started away alone, still carrying my gun

As I approached, I found that he was in-As I approached, I found that he was indeed a monster, and he lay in an ugly heap on the ice, as if he were dead. He was having an afternoon sleep in the sun, and he fairly shone in the light. I had no idea at tha time that any special skill was required in slaying the animal, and as for being in airead of him, I treated the idea with mere warrempt, for what was he but a clumsy be harmless heap of fat?

There within twenty paces or so of the within twenty paces or so of the walk jerk, over his head, if they my gaff on the ice cake. I the walk jerk, over his head, which is the many gun, which is the many gun, and walk jerk, over his head, which is the many gun, which is the many gun, and walk jerk out the ice cake. I

principle in his

casurance doubly sure, however, I treated him to one more dose of shot—this time in the body—and has he barely moved, I unsheathed my knife once again and walked up to take my trophy of fat and hide.

He made no move as I approached hum, and I stood by his side, with the stock of m'z gun resting on the ice, while I deliberated on the easiest way of stripping him. I had not long to think, as old Hoody, with a movement as quick as a bear, turned and seized my gun somewhere about the centre of the barrel, taking it firmly in his mouth. Had my leg been pearer to his head than—gun was, I should not have waltzed since, I was dumbfounded, but this was not all. With my gun in his mouth, the monster made after me, and the rate of speed at which he dragged his huge carcars over the ice occild not be believed by any one who had not seen it. I had on "shin" boots, which cling to the ice and keep you fairly well from slipping, but I saw that the hood's speed was fully equal to mine. To my left was a stretch of rough surface, as if the blocks and cakes had been heaten up in some storm, and then became frozen in this manner. Here I had the advantage, and a few minutes put me out of danger.

I returned to the ship without either my gun or my gaff, and when I went below I could see that the veterans in the cabin knew my story about as well as myself, although they had not seen the ercounter.

The next day an old hunter said to me: "These hoods are not worth bothering with, as their blubber is not as profitable as the white-coats, but we'll find that fellow of yours and get your gun, Besides, I'll show you how he can be got without firing at him at all."

We found him not far from where I had escaped from his toils, and he lay there,

We found him not far from where I had escaped from his toils, and he lay there, positively looking just as comfortable as if I had only been popping pease at him the day before. My gun was a few yards away, and it was bent in the barrel. The hunter, with his heavy-headed gaff in his hand, appreached the seal from behind, walked briskly up, and tapped him on the back. The animal instantly three up his head, dropping his hood for an instant to see his assailant; but in that instant the steel-headed gaff descended upon the unprotected skull, and Hoody had fought his last battle.

SOME BIG NUGGETS.

Lucky Finds of Gold in Original Packages Are Less Frequent Nov.

One of the curious things about the present methods and condition of gold mining on the coast is that, while the aggregate output is larger than it ever was, the day of hig ming gets seems to be over. Occasionally the local columns of the papers published in the mining districts contain an item concerning the digging out of a "hefty lump" of the precious metal, but the examples of concentrated wealth are not what they used to be. One of the last discovered nuggets was dug out a few

metal, but the examples of concentrated wealth are not what they used to be. One of the last discovered nuggets was dug out a few weeks ago in the Spring Gulch Creek, above Redding, in Shasta county Cal., by two men while washing gravel. The lump was irregular in shape, being about four inches long by two in diameter, and yielded a trifle over \$500 worth of pure metal.

The Prescott Courier of a recent date presented its readers with a cut of the face, bust, and outlines of a pretty well-developed lump of gold that had been found in Big Bug district by a Mexican named Jesus Sazueta. When taken to the Bank of Arizona the cashier informed Jesus Sazueta that its weight was just thirty-seven ounces, and that its value was \$670. It was five inches long and three and one half inches in its widest part. A number of Mexicans were working at Big Bug, and one of them, named T. o Calisa, an old Cambussino, told Sazueta to try a certain spot. Sazueta, in climbing to the place, placed his foot on a projecting rock; it troke away with him, and when he picked himself up he was worth more than half a thousand dollars.

The Courier says that this is the biggest nugget ever found in the neighborhood of Prescott, but that others as large have been picked up or picked out in the Weaver district.

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weighing from six to seven pounds—that is,

weighing from six to soven pounds—that is, from soventy-two to eighty-four ounces—were found in the same locality.

The next largest was taken from the Monumental quartz mine, Slerra county, Aug. 18, 1860. It weighed 1,690 ounces troy, and was purchased by R. B. Woodward for \$21,030.52. He exhibited it in the gardens for a long time and then had it melted down, realizing, howover, only \$17,664.64 from the bullion.

The third largest nugger was found, by Ira A. Willard on the west branch of the Feather River, Aug. 4, 1858. It weighed fity four pounds aveirdupois, that is 864 oun es before and forty nine and one-half pound value matter melting.

Fourd in size, though not in value, was a large slab-sided quartz nugget, found by a Mr. Strain near Knapp ranch, Tuolumne county, which weighed fifty pounds avoirdupois, and which, after crushing and melting, yielded \$3,500 worth of gold. This was in 1851, and in the same year a nugget was found at French ravine, Slerra county, the gold from which was valued at \$3,000. Five years after another nugget was found in the same place, which had considerable quartz in it, but which yielded \$10,000.

The first nugget of any great importance was found by a young soldier of Stevenson's regiment in the Mokelumne River, while drinking from that stream. He hastened to San Francisco and placed his prize in the hands of Col. Mason for safety, after which it found its way to Now York, where it fanned the smoldering flame and caused the nations to realize the importance of California as a gold-producing territory. The nugget was of pure gold and weighed between twenty and twenty-five pounds. Another nugget was of pure gold and weighed between twenty and twenty-five pounds. Another nugget was of pure gold and weighed between twenty and twenty-five pounds. Another nugget was of pure gold and weighed between twenty and twenty-five pounds. Another nugget was found in French consul at San Francisco recovered the nugget realized the value and sent the money to the finder's family in France. Ot Columbus Tuolumno county.

No dates are given for anything then be fore 1864, when a nugget of pure gold was found in the middle fork of the American River, two miles from Michigan Bluff, which weighed 226 ounces, and was sold for \$4,204. Another account of this nugget states that the weight was 187 ounces. Then in 1867 a bowlder of gold quartz was found at Pilot Hill, El Dorado county, which yielded in gold \$3,000. Several other bowlders of maller are presented by the same law and the same law. smaller size were found in the same claim. Au other charming bowlder was of pure white quartz, which J. D. Colgrove of Dutch Flat, Placer county, found in the Polar Star hydraulic mine. It contained gold to the amount of \$5,760.

Two nuggets, the date of whose discovery is not given, are these: One found near Kelsey, El Dorado county, which sold for \$6,700, and one found on Fall Hill. Tuolumne county, which weighed 380 ounces and was valued at \$6,500.

California, however, cannot claim the honor of having produced the largest nugget in the world. That, according to Phillips, was the great Australian lump known as the "Sarsh Sanda." It weighed 233 pounds 4 ounces troy, 2.797 ounces, as against the 2,340 ounces of that taken out of Carson Hill, Calculate against in Neumber 1874. Anoth. 2.340 ounces of that taken out of Carson Hill, Calaverascounty, in November, 1854 Another mass, according to the same authority, was exhibited in London in 1871 as the product of one of the Victoria mi, which weighed 146 pounds, or 1,752 trov ounces, while a still larger but not so valuable mass was found at Ballarat in the same year which weighed 2.217 ounces. According to the Annual Statistician, however, the largest solid nugget ever found was discovered in Australia in 1869 which weighed 2.280 ounces, and was valued at \$45,600, while the largest piece of ore and rock was found in New South Wales in 1872, which weighed 640 pounds—thatis, 7,680 ounces—and was valued at \$14,600. 000.

1000.

To come back to this country, Montain has added one or two fair sized integets to the list. The largest of all was found in Deadwood Culca, twenty five miles north of Deer Lodge, in the country of that name, Oct. 19, 1865. It weighed 13; pounds, or 159 ounces, was more inches long, four inches wille, and two inches thick, and was soil in Helcha for \$3,224,50, at the rate of \$16 per ounce. The finder was Ed. Rising, and the story of how it was found he gives in the following way: "I had five partners when

Constipation.

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best of aperients.

"Having been subject, for years, to constipation, without being able to find much relief, I at last tried Ayer's Pills. I deem it both a duty and a pleasure to testify that I have derived great benefit from their use. For over two years past I have taken one of these pills every night before retiring. I would not willingly be without them."—G. W. Bowman, 26 East Main st., Carlislo, Pa.

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—T. Conners, M. D., Centre Bridge, Ps.

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CARTEL MIDICH'S C., her Yel.

anal fil Small Dose, Small Frice.

I found it, and we were working the ground together. We first sunk a ten-foot shaft on the pay gra veland then drifted about fifteen feet from the bottom, at which point I picked up the nugget. It was quite dark in the face of the drift, and the only way I could judge what I had found was by its weight. One of my partners was working under the shaft and when I walked out and held up the chunk of gold you could have knocked his eyes off with a base ball bat."

From Helena the nugger was sont to Virginia Nev., thence to San Francisco, thene e to Paris, where it was shown in the Exposition, and where it passed into the possession of the Rothschilds.

During the summer following Rising's discovery one of the partners found another chunk in the same place, valued at \$700, and yet another worth \$954.