

P R E F A C E .

THIS book is intended for the general reader, not for the specialist. I do not undertake to teach the quartz miner or the hydraulic miner anything new about his special branch of business, but I may tell something about the occupation of each to the other. My object has been to collect, arrange in a lucid manner, condense and set forth in a clear style, all the attainable information about the main points of our mining and mineral resources, so that the reader, who has never been in the mines, can easily form an intelligible idea of the chief industry of this coast. Specialists might desire more elaborate treatment of their various branches, but a thorough technical handling of geology, chemistry, metallurgy, mechanics, law, history and trade, in so far as they are connected with mining in California, would have required an encyclopedia. Besides, accurate information on many points is not to be had, or can be obtained only by great expense.

I am indebted for useful hints to Messrs. C. Heusch, C. S. Capp, Dr. J. A. Veatch, C. Trinius and C. Wennerhold.

In the second chapter, I have expressed the opinion that California never can produce her own coal, and this has been, until very recently, the opinion of all the geologists in the State; but since that chapter was written, the coal mines on the slope of Mount Diablo have been opened, and Professor Whitney, State Geologist, thinks they will probably furnish good coal. I am not convinced, but dare not say much against such authority.

The fifth chapter, in which Washoe is spoken of as part of Utah, was in type before we had news of the organization of Nevada Territory.

JOHN S. HITTELL.

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