

neighborhood yet. Considering the amount of labor and capital expended at the present day on this Gulch, the enunciation of any man's ideas may be useful to all interested, provided they are based on reason, and induce a closer and more extended examination of the laws of nature. My opinion is, that the mountain, from McCullum's Gulch to the Prairie Flower, at the Meadows, though divided now, is one and the same mountain, that Conklin's Gulch is comparatively of recent formation, and that the original deposit will only be found far back in the hill, beyond *the pressure of water*, which when it first broke its barriers, made the United, Ericson, Davis, Aurora, and Borealis ground so very rich. Thus, to understand the final chances of most claims on this Creek, we must look into the prospects of finding

### HILL DIGGINGS.

These may be considered the second era of placer mining, for they are naturally overlooked until people begin to inquire whence all the gold in the stream beds comes, and is finally traced up the banks into the mountains. Too much importance cannot be attached, nor too much encouragement given to this branch of mining, for as a general thing, it is always found to be a permanent source of wealth. According to our California ideas it has not really been commenced in British Columbia, simply because its day has not arrived; but it is time public attention was directed to it, for by my own showing, the more the streams are brought under a thorough system of drainage, the quicker and more effectually will they be exhausted, and hence, it cannot be very long in the natural course of events before some other resource will be required to fall back upon. Let us, then, look into the hills rising so precipitously round the locality we are reviewing, and that will be sufficient, for the same argument, and the same rules in a primary sense apply to all others.

Of the existence of immense rivers, of which there is no evidence at present but such as the hardy miner gives the world, I may quote the great "Blue Lead" in California. Here we have the bed of a large river, intersecting the centre of the whole State almost from one end to the other, filled in by some terrible incomprehensible convulsion, and huge mountains piled up on it, afterwards to hide, if possible, its precious treasures for ever. By degrees and by accident man's intelligence is brought to bear upon the subject, when the secret of countless ages is made known, perhaps, in a few months; and, his skill and indurance in this, as in his other triumphs over the accumulated obstacles of nature, add to the general happiness of his race. Now, if large rivers can thus be lost for ages, and found again in one country, why cannot smaller streams be lost and found by the same agencies in another? I ask this question to arrest the attention of the sceptical, feeling assured, that if the experience of California in this matter is applied to