

worthy of belief. And this brings me naturally to the MAIN POINT in question, the existence of the Gold, and in what quantities.

In the first place the geological features of the country speak for themselves: but as few might understand them, I will pass them over and merely observe, that all the gold dust below Fort Yale is so fine, that though the miners invariably use blankets with their rockers they very probably lose one half. Latterly the introduction of copper plates with quicksilver has been a great improvement, but still the loss is very great. Now, when gold is so exceedingly fine, it is a sure sign that it comes from a distance; and when there is so much of it, (infinitely more than any depot of the kind in California,) we may conclude that so much fine gold must come from an extensively rich country. This is an inference which it is difficult to deny, though some people would deny anything. And here let it be remarked; that not one of the discontented miners who have come down, denies that there is gold. Its existence is uncontested. He even allows that there is SOME gold, and if asked how much, will answer: perhaps enough to gain a couple of dollars a day.

Such a concession from such a source tells more than it intended. Indeed every thing we see and hear corroborates the fact that there is gold in plenty; and the steady increase in the amount of dust, which has been coming down by every steamer, begins to convince even the most incredulous. Here I will lay before the reader a few calculations on the subject; and though it would be difficult to obtain any very accurate result, still by comparing notes we may arrive at a tolerable approximation.

I have been assured by respectable parties, I know not with what truth, that the whole official exports from California to the Eastern States in 1849; comprehending a lapse of more than six months from the first discovery of the gold, amounted only to 60,000 dollars. It is possible that as much more was sent to Chili and the Sandwich Islands, and we will suppose the same amount to have been taken away by private hands, though the opportunities at that time were few and far between. To the above may be added 60,000 dollars more for what remained in circulation in the country, and we shall reach a total