

when like California, she has out-lived that difficulty and started fairly in her career of prosperity, and, so from the quantity of gold, the world may, if it pleases, form a correct estimate also of all other natural products and elements of wealth. I do not concur with those political economists who think there is no advantage to a country in being gold-bearing. Would California and Australia be to-day what they really are, magnificent in their present and future history, unless for the last fifteen years they had produced from \$40,000,000 to \$60,000,000 every year? In California, I know, all the elements of productive wealth, commerce, agriculture, manufactures, existed for many years, and do still to a great extent, in proportion to the yield of gold, though having received a good start from the product of gold, they are fortunately all fast becoming self-sustaining. I see the same thing going on around me here—the life of the Colony governed in the past, the present, the future, by the yield of gold—exalted or depressed, stagnant or progressive, according to the year's yield. How all important then to have a correct knowledge of the mineral formation, which, in fact, determines the extent and richness of the auriferous deposits, which again in their turn decide the life or death of the country for years. The ignorant may deny, the educated may doubt, one man's ability to see farther into a rock than another, and yet with an *abiding* faith in *nature* he can do so, and does do so, in all mining countries. I know very well the Great Creator never errs or belies His purpose, and on looking over the universe we find everything "that is, is well." Now, in the same way, if I find the imprint of Divine omnipotence stamped on a rock, or a series of rocks, or in other terms "on a formation," I care not what man, or multitude of men, ignorant beyond what they see, or intelligent to the full extent of education, oppose me, I there rest my unwavering faith. I know this formation is an integral part of the great universe, I know it is created for the specific purpose of man's use and happiness, and therefore must be capable of being understood and developed by natural laws, otherwise the object of its creation is a failure, and that cannot be. The fact is, Mr President, these mineral formations are really governed by laws as determined and immutable as those that govern the heavenly bodies; and when the one are understood as well as the other, there is no more difficulty in predicting the result of the final development of a mineral formation than there is in tracing the excentric wanderings of a comet through space for centuries to come, and fixing the precise moment at which it shall reappear to us on earth. If one man, by a knowledge of gravitation, can bring the eternity of space within the deductions of the human mind, I see no reason why another, by a knowledge of geology, should not also be able to bring the mysteries of the mineral system to a comparative certainty. Being assured that such a thing is to be done, let me now give in detail the analogy between the