

dollars, and were realized from the sale and milling of about four thousand two hundred tons. The ore yielded in the mill from thirty-three dollars to forty dollars per ton.

In the "Imperial" mine, the lower station is five hundred and eighty-seven feet from the surface. The present daily extraction from this mine is now about one hundred tons, worth say thirty-five dollars a ton. Seventy feet above the lower station in the old workings, there are supplies of ore for perhaps six weeks; and in the lower works, the pay seam has a mean width of about twenty-seven feet, and continues through the whole length of the claim, or seven hundred and eighteen feet. This will probably furnish ore enough for from four to six months' workings. No works of prospecting in depth are being carried on, and the shaft is in such bad condition, that, should the coming winter prove wet, serious apprehensions would be entertained of a cave, which would oblige work to be suspended. It is contemplated to sink a new shaft, some distance to the east of the present one in the solid Eastern Country; but it has not yet been commenced.

The lower works of the "Empire" do not present so good an appearance as those of the "Imperial." The fifth and lowest station is at a depth of six hundred and fifteen feet. Between the second and third stations, all the ore has been worked out; between the third and fourth, nearly all, except what has been left to support its shaft; and between the fourth and fifth, there are about fifty-six feet of ore that is undisturbed. With the exception of what may be ultimately met with in sinking still farther, the main reliance of this mine is from a body of unexplored ground within one hundred and thirty feet of the surface. This is about one hundred and eighty feet high, seventy-five feet long and fifty feet wide, and I understand that, since I examined the mine, this ground has afforded some good ore. Preparations are being made for sinking still farther, but a wet winter will be likely to affect disastrously this mine, as well as all others in Gold Hill proper.

#### THE FUTURE OF THE COMSTOCK MINES.

Now what are the probabilities of finding new deposits of ore in these mines, as the works are pursued in depth? It is now an accepted conclusion by all those persons, who have examined the matter carefully, and have had the most experience in geological as well as general mining matters, that the Comstock is a fissure vein of extraordinary width and productiveness, and, consequently, reasoning from analogy, we have great right to assume that ore exists and will ultimately be found at as great a depth as it is possible to extend underground workings. In fact, there is no instance, where a well defined fissure vein has been found terminating entirely in depth; and although nothing is more frequent in the progress of working than to meet with barren zones of unproductive matter, their metalliferous contents have never been exhausted at any depth, which has yet been obtained by mining. The limit to the successful working of one of these veins appears to be fixed entirely by the increased cost of extraction of the ore, and pumping the water from