

*made by progressive canopy falls.* Now if this be true, time will prove it true, and there we desire to leave it.

We wish our readers to bear in mind that we are not urging the claim that the northern gold field is a marvel to induce gold seekers to rush headlong into the dangers of that land. It is used merely as a verification of the correctness of our theory, and we are using this gold discovery to advance what we think is a greater discovery. With this greater discovery the intelligent miner may learn the most valuable lesson, and future generations will know about these great store-houses of the earth. And now we will whisper in the reader's ear: "There must be hidden, in the north-land beds, immeasurable quantities of the heavier hydro-carbons."

When the earth was a molten sphere, it was a *smoking world*. Carbon was one of the most abundant elements of the earth, and it will not take the chemist long to tell what became of that carbon when the earth was boiling up in mineral fury from its depths. That carbon went to the skies, just as unconsumed carbon goes there as smoke from every chimney and smoke-stack in use to-day. To-day, however, in its nascent state the carbon unites with oxygen in the air, and is consumed. But in that primeval atmosphere oxygen had greater affinity for other elements which it greedily devoured and left the carbon unconsumed. Oxygen and hydrogen rushed into combination, so also oxygen with molten iron, calcium, sodium and other minerals. But the unconsumed carbon went aloft amid hot and steaming vapors. Now the inevitable result. The gas maker will tell us he injects steam into his retort with his carbon to make a hydro-carbon or an oxy-hydro-carbon. In this way he forms a number of oily carbon products, burning gas, etc.

But in that day when the Great Chemist put His carbons into the *retort of retorts* and poured superheated aqueous vapors over them, what did *He* make? If the puny fires of man can to-day make hydro-carbons—fuel to illumine and burn at will—what infinite quantities did the world's titan retort make? All the hydrogen this world has, all the carbons on the earth and