

the church gold to gild the high altar, replied he could give what would gild the whole church. Exaggerated reports have, no doubt, gone abroad of their wealth; but, nevertheless, they must have found more than the wretched manner in which they live would lead one to infer, for their good fortune has not in the least improved their outward condition. The gold being stolen, they were always fearful of doing anything which would disclose their success.

Yet, however much they may have found while scouring the river bed, they probably never struck on any such rich deposit as that which has created so unusual a fever throughout the province during the past summer. The spot is on the north branch of the river Gilbert, about four miles from its mouth. It was too late in the season, when the discovery was made, to do more than ascertain its exceeding richness, but so soon as the spring freshets had subsided, they betook themselves to work, and with such success, that the fame of their good fortune spread rapidly through the parish, and the most impassive of the *habitants* flocked to the locality. The river was explored for about a mile of its length, and two spots selected as the richest; one on the lot of a man called Veilleux, the other about fifteen acres lower down, on Rodrigue's land. The upper diggings attracted the greatest crowds, and up to the middle of July, Rodrigue himself and three of the Poulins, his associates, were undisturbed in their possession of the lower diggings. Within the six weeks—from the beginning of June till near the middle of July—several acres of ground in Veilleux's lot were thickly perforated with holes, and the bed of the river pretty thoroughly washed out. The bailiff, who was sent by Mr. De Léry to drive them off, took down the names of about seventy persons. Of these a large proportion were, perhaps, merely looking on; but, judging by the quantity of work got through, there must have been as many as fifty people, on an average, washing during the six weeks. Very few were willing to make returns, not so much, perhaps, through dishonesty, as because, when demanded, the gold was sold and the proceeds dis-