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following the "ignis fatuus" of the gold seeker. The past season may furnish a profitable lesson ; a few like the Poulins will realize handsome returns, a few more may make fair wages, the vast majority will be disappointed. An experienced Australian miner, who has visited the district, affirmed to me that where so much "heavy" gold has been found, much "*fine*" gold will be found ; this we believe, but it will be a lottery, and who will venture to say, I will draw a prize. "Chemists, Geologists and Mineralogists," says Hittel, "have not done better than ignorant men and new comers. Most of the best veins have been discovered by poor and ignorant men. Not one has been found by a man of high education as a miner or geologist. No doubt geological knowledge is valuable to a miner, and it should assist him in prospecting ; but it has never yet enabled anybody to find a valuable claim."

For the benefit of those who have not visited the Chaudière, we will now give a short description. The river extends from the St. Lawrence to the Lake Megantic, in the State of Maine ; its course exceeds a hundred miles. The valley is very beautiful, moderately fertile and healthy. It is inhabited almost entirely by French Canadians. There is a very good road running up the valley, which is daily travelled by the mail courier. About every nine miles there is a pretty village, generally the centre of the parish. Here, and at comfortable inns at other points on the road, the traveller can get accommodation on moderate terms. The population of the valley exceeds fifteen thousand.

The Seigniors hold their patents from Louis Quatorze, which generally bear date 1736, and all require that the Seigniors "shall give notice to His Majesty, or to us and our successors, of the mines, ores and minerals, which may be found within the said extent of land."