

The veins which I pointed out on the right bank of the *Chaudiere*, among the alluvions of the *Gilbert* River, are discovered in the prolongation of these ridges; besides which, I would also mention two other lodes, already examined, on the left bank of the *Chaudiere*, one on the boundary line of Lots 70 and 71, in the concession St. Joseph; the other, at a few arpents to the south of Mr. de Lery's mills on the first range southwest.

I have now finished stating in detail all that I saw, remarked and noted, of a favorable character to the future of the gold bearing lands of the *Seignory of Rigaud-Vaudreuil*, and affording encouragement for their development. But, besides the striking local facts, which, of themselves, already give an incontestable value to this extensive property, I augur in its favor serious and greater expectations from the recent discoveries made in California and Australia, privileged gold-bearing regions of undoubted character, yet with which, within certain limits, the exceptional products of the *Gilbert* River permit us to make comparisons.

In Australia and California the later, or contemporary alluvions, resting on the Silurian formation, at the level of the earth or within a few yards of its surface, naturally were those first discovered and turned to account; for the working of this class of alluvial mines is that alone possible to those improvised miners who rush to the gold fields from the moment that fame has pointed them out to the seekers after gold.

However, since the exhaustion of those deposits, in which the precious metal was very capriciously distributed, but which, nevertheless, produced immense wealth, discoveries have been made of more ancient alluvions, hidden by deposits of later date,—buried so deep, in Australia, that to reach them necessitated mining through layers of argile, sand and basalt, to a depth varying from 45 to 400 feet. After some cautious attempts this kind of mining was perfected, and to-day it has attained a marvellous degree of success and prosperity.

These enterprises are of that kind which exact considerable time, capital and perseverance; yet the profits are generally so great, that a share in the proprietary of a shaft is often a real fortune. In fact, the richness of the ancient alluvions is sometimes so much superior to that of the modern deposits, that the question has been asked, "if those alluvions are really produced by the disintegration of the quartz lodes which pierce through the Silurian formation, or if there might not be underneath the solid crust of the globe an immense reservoir from whence this gold comes, and where, no doubt, much more remains?" The writer who gives utterance to this thought adds, with reason, that we dare hardly risk hypothesis on this subject, and that its examination would be without object, seeing that if there should exist, within the bowels of the earth, real agglomerations of native gold, they must assuredly be at a depth impossible to reach.

But whatever may have been the origin of the ancient alluvions, does it not seem probable that they may have contributed, in certain localities, to