

In regard to the advantages offered by the United States, to the emigrant, Mr. Lillie's pamphlet only requires to be read to carry the conviction that whatever advantages our neighbours offer, we offer greater. I am surprised at the tenor of Mr. Chambers' letter I must confess.

MAJOR.—So am I. It is most singular that so short a residence in the States should have so corrupted Chambers as to induce him, for the sake of making a few paltry pounds, by reprinting his works, to pay America so high and certainly so undeserved a tribute. I mean undeserved when contrasted with other countries, Canada for instance. By-the-by talking of other countries I will read you extracts from two letters, one from California, the other from Australia. I'll begin with the Californian epistle.—(*Reads.*)

"After all that has been spoken contemptuously of 'the diggins,' they have not turned out the only profitable gold enterprise, whether in Australia or California. I have repeatedly had the most perfect evidence that the early emigrants and miners found gold on the river beds, during the dry season, mixed up with sand and dirt in such large deposits that a man might separate £500 in a day. For a time, all that the imagination could depict about the fabled Eldorado, was more than realised here, and from the great extent of the river beds and mountain 'dulchies,' you might suppose that great success would continue for many years. Yet if you could see the marvellous works of excavations that have been done here in every direction, you would wonder how it was possible for the population of California to have done such an amount of work. Hundreds of miles of mining ground have been turned and washed over two or three times, and where the rivers were too deep to admit of mining in dry seasons—large wooden planes have been erected to carry off the water, and lay bare the bed. In other cases the rivers have been turned into artificial channels—and latterly, small canals have been made from rivers, draining the waste water into remote places, where gold was found, but no water. During the six months of summer weather, the heat at the diggins is intense, and miners generally leave work from 11 to 4 P. M. However, it must not be omitted, that the heat by day, and extreme cold at night—the bad food, and still worse accommodation, the great insecurity of life, through drinking habits, and the congregating of the worst of criminals, in search of gold, have combined to make the

diggings a hard business in its best estate; while there, I made several excavations by the assistance of a miner, G. W.—, who was on board the City of Glasgow, but we never got enough to pay expenses. The mining country is very beautiful and picturesque, like a vast park, covered at intervals with fine pine and ancient oak. I should think, upon the whole, that the traders who have supplied food and clothing at the diggins, have made the most money, charging generally, a profit of 100 to 150 per cent., in this way the miners have been much plundered. While in the mines, before my machinery arrived, I had serious thoughts of settling on a farm in the midst of the mining district, between the middle and south forks of the American river, and I was in negotiation for a farm of 160 acres, with a small house, which was offered me for the low sum of £60.—It was well watered, and in the driest season there was grass one foot high. Nearly fifty acres was clear pasture.

The farm or ranch was a preemption claim of an American, for which I should have had afterwards to pay about one hundred and sixty dollars, or about forty pounds. There was a saw-mill about half a mile distant, where I could have sawed out enough timber from the estate to pay for living. The chief difficulty in taking that or any other farm is the payment for labour, about forty dollars a month and board for each man. Any one with sons would do well here on a farm with a good tiller. The Mexicans have laid claim to the chief portion of land near the coast, and, until these claims are settled by the land commissioners, it is dangerous to have to do with them. But in the mining districts there are good lands to be obtained by all who are citizens, or who have declared their intention of becoming such, all that is requisite is to ascertain by searching the District Register to see if there is any recorded claim of the desired land, if not, a qualified man may record 160 for himself, 160 for his wife, and 160 for each child—specifying exactly the bounds and making within three months, improvements to the amount of two hundred or two hundred and fifty dollars. The land can be used free of charge till surveyed by government, and then about one dollar an acre is called for. The price of land varies extremely. In San Francisco I have known land as street frontage sell at four hundred dollars a foot, and city lots, in parts not yet built on or graded, with twenty-three feet frontage and running back sixty-eight feet, average from six hundred to one thousand dollars. Farming lands about twenty miles distant can be bought at about six to eight dollars an acre, with confirmed titles.