

These seem to be closely related to the fiery mass which is now generally supposed to constitute the interior of the globe, and are thence ejected through the crust of the earth's surface. Therefore, we look to the primary formation—the original crust of the globe—for the gold-bearing quartz. From Mexico to the Russian Possessions, the Pacific coast is characterized by parallel ranges of mountains, quite unlike the limestone ridges and undulations of the Alleghanics. The Rocky Mountains, the most easterly of the Pacific ranges, have been called Stony or Glistening Mountains, because abounding in siliceous rocks. These conditions are favorable to gold discovery, and exist in British Oregon as fully as in Australia, California or Siberia.

As to the surface minings, the Frazer and Thompson River District had one great advantage. Its northern situation secured to the country frequent and copious rains. The rivers are numerous and full of rapids; hence the disintegration of the gold bearing quartz by the action of the rains and frosts, and the dispersion of the gold along the beds of the streams may be expected in a greater degree than in California, where much less rain falls, and where work is often suspended in consequence. Perhaps this is a cause why the mines of Australia are falling off in productiveness. The speaker regarded this fall of water through North-western America, as not only valuable for mining, but as affording a great resource for agriculture and stock raising in the valley of the Columbia and its tributaries, Frazer and Thompson rivers, and Vancouver Island. The rainless district of the Continent was far to the south; but the immense region north of the southern boundary of Minnesota extended to the Pacific, was favored in that respect, and agriculture was not limited by the necessity of irrigation. A glance at the map would show the immense river systems thus comprised. The basins of the Columbia, the Upper Missouri, the Yellow Stone, the James, the Sioux, the Minnesota, the Red River of the North, the Upper Mississippi, the St. Louis and the St. Croix, are evidently adequate for the organization of ten first-class States of the American Union; while north of the international line, similar river systems, to-wit, the basins of Frazer and Thompson rivers, the Upper Columbia, the Athabasca, the Saskatchewan, the Assiniboin and the Red River of the North, (the last named divided with Minnesota,) are now well understood to be no less adapted to settlements. The present discussion, as had been previously observed, was no less a question than the dedication to Anglo-Saxon civilization of one million square miles of the globe; an area as large and almost identical in physical respects, with the Continent of Europe.

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