

To simplify this lecture to the full comprehension of those present, who cannot be expected to be familiar with the fundamental principles of mining and exploring, I shall carefully eschew all technical and scientific terms while I take you step by step through the vastness and yet the legitimacy of your mining territory and explain *seriatim* the facts which have led me gradually to form such an exalted opinion of your slandered country. First, then,

### THE MINERAL FORMATION.

It is a great mistake, in my opinion, of many very competent persons to deny the *continuity* of true organic veins and the existence of any natural laws by which we can determine their permanency and richness. For my own part, I am a firm believer in the continuity of organic veins, in obedience to the course of electricity, now generally admitted to be the grand agent of their formation; for, as Prescott beautifully remarks, "it is electricity, mysteriously powerful in this as in other departments of material existence, that teaches these veins what course to take, where to accumulate and where to lie down and rest." Modern science has demonstrated, beyond all question, the universal influence of this agent throughout the range of animal life and material existence. Why, then, deny it in the aggregation of mineral veins, and thus retain the difficulties, which for ages have proved a stumbling block to geology and scientific mining? I was first led to believe in this theory when exploring the great mineral formation of the Coast, from the Southern boundaries of California to Oregon, especially the copper system; and I have since become confirmed in that belief by my recent explorations thence through your territory up almost to the Rocky Mountains, a distance, in a direct line, of some 1200 miles or more. From the extreme south, through the intermediate regions to the extreme north, I find the same unity of formation, the same continuity of course, the same extent of width, the same disposition of metal, the same relation of rock, and therefore how can I longer doubt it all springs from the same parentage; that the great mineral formation of California and British Columbia are one and the same thing, and that when placed under the same expenditure of capital and the same intelligence of labor, as these primary agents of successful enterprise and industry naturally gravitate to their level, they will equal each other in the same endless wealth. I believe I could not do the Colony a greater service than by proving the identity of the mineral system of the Coast at the extreme north and the extreme south. The world knows what gold California has produced, still produces, and for years will produce; the world, if it pleases, may know thereby what British Columbia, struggling at present under the early difficulty of California, an unnatural inequality between labor, food and capital, will be,