

The Gold Fields of the Klondike.

CHAPTER I.

GOLD ON THE KLONDIKE.

WEALTH-LADEN GRAVEL IN A NEW EL DORADO.

Gold for the digging! No piece of news that wires can flash will set more hopes to work than this; for gold means money, ease, comfort, freedom from thousands of cares. What if the road to it be long, full of peril, adventure and perhaps suffering, if a year or two of strenuous labor will bring to one who has toiled, unrequited, for years, the means of future independence? Given a sound constitution, a stout heart, and American grit, and mere physical obstacles will have little weight so that gold in plenty rewards the pursuit, and the hard knocks of experience are paid for in want-dispelling affluence.

SHORTER ROAD TO WEALTH.

All industry is prosecuted for the purpose of securing a living, and is mere drudgery unless there be a hope that a surplus over a mere living can be secured to guard old age from poverty. Therefore nearly every active man is seeking some shortened road by which wealth can be secured. None of these is so attractive as that which leads to virgin gold—gold which can be had by the mere act of delving for