

RENFREW.

To the northward of the Oldham anticlinal, according to Mr. Campbell, we cross a belt of clay slate belonging to the upper division of the gold series, and occupying a synclinal, before arriving at the sixth and northernmost anticlinal of his section, on which is situated the Renfrew gold district. The mining operations at Renfrew, he tells us, have hitherto been confined to the lodes on the south side of the anticlinal, those to the north side being covered by a considerable depth of drift derived from the clay slates, or from the Upper Silurian rocks, which overlie the gold-bearing series a short distance to the north. Mr. Campbell detected large exposures of quartz in two localities to the westward, along this same anticlinal, one about ten miles distant, where the River Hebert crosses it obliquely, and where gold was found both in the drift and in the quartz; and another seven or eight miles farther westward, a mile and a half to the east of the post road from Halifax to Windsor, and about nine miles distant from the latter place. It is highly probable that careful explorations may detect, at some points along this line, other outcrops of the rich auriferous lodes of Renfrew. In February, 1863, when Mr. Campbell wrote the report from which the preceding details are cited, the declared production of gold for Renfrew was only 508 ounces; but since that time, the yield has rapidly augmented,—the official returns from 1861 to the end of September, 1866, giving a total of 9,898 ounces of gold, with an average yield of 1 oz. 8 dwt. to the ton of mineral. During the succeeding year, ending September 30th, 1867, there were crushed in the Renfrew district 7,770 tons of mineral yielding 9,401 ounces of gold, which is equal to an average of 1 oz. 4 dwt. 4-gr. to the ton. The product for each laborer employed during these twelve months was not less than \$895.30. These figures suffice to shew the great prosperity of the Renfrew district, in which we found at the time of our visits in November and December, 1867, three mining companies in operation, employing in all 225 or 230 workmen.

The Ophir Mining Company, under the direction of Mr. H. B. Prince, was organised in 1866 in Boston, with a paid-up capital of \$100,000, in shares of one dollar each, which are now at a premium of seventy-five or eighty per cent. The property comprises nineteen lots,—the three upon which the principal mining operations are carried on, having been bought for \$1,600. Three lodes are here mined,—known as the North, South and Brook veins, which run east and west, with a dip of about forty-five degrees to the south. The first of these really consists of three contiguous veins, divided by slaty layers, the breadth of the whole being from eighteen to thirty inches. All of the material extracted from this lode, with the exception of some adhering fragments of sterile rock, is submitted to the stamps. Five shafts are sunk on this North vein, at intervals of 100 feet; they are numbered from east to west, and have, in this order, the respective depths of 60, 128, 130, 156 and 140 feet. They are connected by about 600 feet of galleries, opened at different levels, for the extraction of the mineral, which, as well as the water, was raised to the surface by means of horse-power. At the time of our departure, however, a pump was being fixed in the deep shaft of 156 feet, connected with a steam engine of twenty-five horse-power, which will also serve for raising the mineral from the adjacent shafts.

The three quartz layers of the North vein became so thin to the eastward, that the easternmost shaft was abandoned at the depth of sixty feet; but we were informed that to the westward, beyond the limits of the Ophir Co., they unite in a single vein of seven or eight inches. Upon the South vein, which is about one hundred and fifty feet to the south of the one just mentioned, six shafts have been sunk, numbered from east to west, and having, in December last, the depths of 145, 150, 165, 162 and 156 feet. The shafts, Nos. 1, 2 and 3, have distances of 120 feet between them; while the others are at intervals of 100 feet. Galleries for the purpose of extraction, having an aggregate length of 700 feet, have been opened at different levels, one of which, at a depth of fifty-five feet, starting from the shaft No. 3, connects the whole. The thickness of this vein in the easternmost shaft, is only three or four inches, but it gradually thickens towards the west, and in the shaft No. 6, attains a breadth of ten inches. The lifting of the mineral and of the water from the mine, was effected by horse-power, but preparations were at the time being made to drain the whole mine by means of a pump over shaft No. 5, to be worked by the engine on the North vein. On this account workings were temporarily suspended in some of the shafts of the South vein. The mining on the Brook vein, about 700 feet to the south of the South vein, consisted of a single shaft of the depth of seventy feet, from which the