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Aim to Improve!

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Cable Extra

will be found to be exceptionally
 fine, and we respectfully suggest
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Fresh and Salted Beef, Vegetables,
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Wholesale & Retail Victuallers.

AND MANUFACTURERS OF

CANNED GOODS, BOLOGNAS, &c.

6 to 10 Bedford Row,

ESTABLISHED 1864

HALIFAX, N. S.

MINING.

A BRIEF GOLDEN DREAM.

Written for the Engineering and Mining Journal by Dan de Quille.

Following the discovery of silver in Nevada, and the grand excitement incident to the opening and development of the mines of the Comstock, were numerous minor excitements, as the Reese River, White Pine, Pioche and other mining "rushes." In all these interior camps of Nevada, however, good mines were opened, and for many years large amounts of gold and silver were annually extracted; therefore, the people who were attracted to them, found and enjoyed for a number of years a good degree of prosperity, if not the large fortunes they had anticipated. The most disastrous mining excitement ever participated in by the people of the Comstock was that of Meadow Lake, in 1865. The mines of Meadow Lake were discovered by a Virginia City man named Hartley. They were situated in the high Sierras, in Nevada County, Cal., where in winter the snow falls to a depth of from 10 to 20 ft. on the level. The mines being discovered by a Comstocker, men of the Comstock had the first information in regard to their richness, and began the rush, soon to be followed by the people of a number of California mining camps.

The mines of Meadow Lake district were of such a nature as to excite in the hearts of all the highest hopes of good fortune, and then dash from their lips the cup of happiness just when it seemed most firmly in their grasp. The veins of the district were all largely composed of iron. In the croppings, and to a considerable depth below the surface, the iron in the quartz had oxidized and decomposed, leaving the contained gold free. From the veins at the very surface, and even above the surface in places, one was able to pan out of the red oxidized material big prospects of free and glittering gold. In places men made eight and ten dollars a day with rockers, carrying the dirt they washed a considerable distance in sacks. Gold seemed abundant everywhere. There were hundred of quartz veins, great and small, and in all gold was found in the decomposed material at the surface, while in places there were only rich pockets. As far as the veins were opened by means of cuts, inclines and shafts the favorable prospects continued.

Feeling secure as regarded the value of the mines, the people turned their attention to the building of dwellings and other structures, necessary to a comfortable residence in that snowy region in the winter. The mines were all right; nobody could doubt that; the main thing was to be comfortably housed before the big snows came.

Only a few remained in the camp the first winter. The next spring and summer—the good prospects continuing in the mines—the boom began in earnest. There was a grand rush from both Nevada and California. As if by magic a town of some 5,000 inhabitants appeared on the shore of the beautiful lake. There were stores and shops of all kinds, a theatre, stock exchange, daily newspaper and hotels, lodging houses, restaurants and saloons, almost without number. On the lake was a fleet of twenty sail boats; a brass band played nightly on the lake as the plaza; quartz mills were being erected and in the town new buildings were going up on all sides; everybody seemed on the high road to fortune. The summer weather in that elevated region was like early spring in the valleys. The air was fresh and green in all the dells, and everywhere beautiful mountain flowers were blooming. Almost daily there were picnic parties or excursions upon the lake, while of nights there were music and dancing in a score of places about the town. Nowhere in the mountains was there to be found a more beautiful place than the Meadow Lake, or a happier people than those who made the town their home.

But their happiness was brief. Rain soon stared hundreds in the face. The decomposed surface material of the veins was soon worked out—almost as soon as the first mills were started—and below was found the solid, bright, unchanged iron. This iron held the gold in its grasp and could not be made to yield it up by any process of working that could be invented, though scores were tried. Down went the shares of all mines; down went the prices of buildings in the town and all property—down went everything far and near in that grandly beautiful mountain region.

At first houses and property could be sold for something, but soon people were obliged to desert the place, leaving behind homes upon which they had spent their last dollar. In one or two winters the roofs of the deserted buildings were crushed in by snow, and soon the whole town became a ruin. Only one man remained in the place, and that was Hartley, the discoverer of the mines. He is there to this day, and is now known as "Hermit Hartley." He has faith in the mines he found so many years ago, and manages in some way to dig a good deal of gold out of the iron-bound veins of the district. Hartley even winters alone in a house which is still standing in the old town. This is a strong, steep-roofed two-story building, and in winters so deep is the snow that he uses one of the windows of the upper story as a door. All his excursions abroad are made on Norwegian snow shoes.

Every year we hear of some man who has a process by means of which the ores of Meadow Lake can be made to yield up their gold, but we hear of no man's process proving a success. Some day a way of working the ore will be hit upon; then, perhaps, there will be seen on the shores of the lake a new town that will far surpass that which the old-time pioneers left behind them when the "iron entered their souls" and they fled the country.

"THE BLOOD IS THE LIFE,"

Runs the old saying, and everything that ever makes part of any organ of the body must reach its place therein through the blood. Therefore if the blood is purified and kept in good condition by the use of Hood's Sarsaparilla, it necessarily follows that the benefit of the medicine is imparted to every organ of the body. Can anything be simpler than the method by which this excellent medicine gives good health to all who will try it fairly and patiently?