

companies. Some of the reefs have proved exceedingly rich ; the Bulleen mine near Melbourne, yields gold, *iron* and *antimony* from every piece of quartz broken ; at certain points, as much as 22 oz. per ton.

In a late number of the " Mining Journal " reference is made to about thirty differents Quartz Mining Companies, all in successful operation, though according to official reports, some of the districts do not give more than an average of 2 dwts. 10 grs. of gold per ton, the greatest average being 9 dwts. 16 grs. It is worthy of special mention that the Black Hill Company obtains an average less than 2 dwts. per ton, yet pays 24° on its capital. The Prince of Wales Company has yielded 200 oz. per ton.

At some points the auriferous drifts are of great breadth and depth, and are worked by shafts, down to the schistose and quartose auriferous rock. The black lead is said to resemble the celebrated blue lead of California. Many of the quartz mines are worked below the drift, as in the " Clunes " gold field, and have attained depths from 120 to 500 feet. A commission lately appointed by Government have reported, that they believe the quartz lodes *diminish in value as the depth increases*, but the Mining Journal shews that this opinion has no satisfactory basis, and though some state, that lodes rarely pay below 500 feet, yet Mr. Crichton of the Victoria Company, Clunes, reports that at a depth of 410 feet, *the lodes are as rich as ever*, and Mr. Meurice, of the Clunes Company, gives the following return :—" The average yield of the quartz down to 225 feet, was 5 dwts. 17 grs. per ton ; from 225 feet to 286, the present depth, 8 dwts. 16 grs. per ton." Mr. Bland of the Victoria Company raised from a depth of 300 feet, quartz which yielded 20 oz. per ton. Mr. Bland asserts that the decrease in the average arises now, from the quartz not being selected, but rubbish and all