

MISCELLANEOUS.

MAMMOTH-LUMP OF COPPER.

The Lake Superior *Miner*, the editor of which is himself a practical miner, contains the following interesting description of the big "copper nugget:"

"Since our last publication, we have been twice into the Minnesota Mine to look at this wonderful piece of copper. A few tons have already been taken from it, and there are some thirty men at work cutting it up, and more parties will be put on soon. The lower end of the copper was raised by the powder from the rock in which it was enclosed, the upper end being very little disturbed. This leaves it inclining but little from the horizontal, and in an excellent position for cutting to advantage. They are cutting in some ten places, two of which are already in to where the copper is *five feet thick*. Another is four feet and a quarter. Eighteen inches further will bring one of the cuts to where the copper is *seven and a quarter feet thick*. Its greatest thickness is between eight and nine feet, but the cuts driven in from the edges very soon reach the thickness of three, four or five feet, and its average thickness will be from three-and-a-half to four feet. Its greatest length is forty-six feet. Greatest width eighteen and-a-half feet. We made the following measurements of its width at several joints, in feet and decimals: 11, 12.5, 13.5, 16.2, 12.7, 10.9, 6, showing a mean of about twelve-and-a-half feet. We cannot think its average thickness to be less than three-and-a-half feet. These dimensions give it a cubic content equal to about two thousand feet; and this amount of pure copper would weigh 549 tons.

"Large masses from this mine have generally been of high purity; and the exterior of this is quite clear of rock, and the cuttings thus far show it to be remarkably pure. In the five-foot cuts scarcely a speck of rock is to be seen, but the copper is as bright as a new, polished penny. Unless it should prove to be a great shell, enclosing rock, its purity must be very high, probably more than ninety per cent.; and we think there is no ground for such an apprehension. On the contrary its solidity is indicated, not only by its external purity, but also by the manner in which it resisted the action of the powder, and rose from its bed without the slightest crack or bending at any point. There is scarcely a possibility of its being anything else than almost solid metal. If it has ninety-one per cent., and that is not a high estimate for such a mass, it contains about five-hundred tons of pure copper, and will be worth, when prepared for the market, about \$300,000."

EXTENSIVE SWINDLING--THE BRECK DRAFTS.

We find the following account, of the operations of William Breck, of Rochester, and his confederates, in a late number of the St. Louis *Leader*:
\$248,000 OBTAINED ON THE BRECK DRAFTS.

From Mr. C. P. Bradley, of Bradley & Co., detective-police firm at Chicago, we have obtained some particulars of the swindling operations