

of working himself, leased all his rights to the Chaudière Mining Company, in consideration of receiving an improved royalty, amounting, for the first portion of the leasehold term, to twenty-five per cent., and for the latter to thirty-three and a-half per cent. This arrangement not being found to answer, the improved royalty was bought up for a fixed sum. The company obtained also the right of working in the fief of La Barbe, through which the lower part of the Famine flows.

It began its operations on the Touffe de Pins, at a point about a mile from its mouth, where the river had gradually receded from its original bed, leaving behind it an extensive flat covered with eight or ten feet of *débris*. Here the company worked for several years, but so unskilfully and so lavishly that the receipts did not cover the expenditure. It is to be regretted that the first attempt should have been made under circumstances so little likely to prove successful, for the signal failure of the company helped to retard the progress of the mines. The Des Plantes was also worked in several places. At one spot, immediately above the first fall, a rich deposit was struck upon, which yielded, for several weeks, from three to ten ounces a day. Here also was tried the experiment of dry-digging. The deluvial deposit was washed from the hill-side far above the level of the brook, and, though not with such success as to encourage the company to proceed, yet with sufficient to prove the existence of so much diffused gold as would entitle any one to employ, with a confident hope of remuneration, some more rapid system of washing, such as the hydraulic process described by Mr. Hunt in the *Canadian Naturalist* of April last. This stream is peculiarly suited, likewise, for such an experiment, its bed being narrow and the enclosing hills steep, while a supply of water, with a head of seventy or eighty feet, may be had from a fall not half a mile distant from the old dry diggings.

It was on this stream and on the Famine that the company was working, when Lord Elgin visited the mines in 1853.

On the latter river but little was done, and that on so small a scale as not fairly to test its capabilities. As, however, it has