

can be had for the trouble of picking it up, but little of research will be vouchsafed to the inferior metals. The auriferous regions extend over the whole Province, from the United States frontier to the 53rd degree of north latitude. For a width of from one to two hundred miles gold is found, but specially in the beds of the great rivers, the Frazer and the Thomson, the Peace and the Ominica, and in the rivers and creeks flowing into them. The *detritus*, borne down by freshets, had created banks and bars, which on the subsidence of the water were found to abound with gold. The precious metal was literally to be had for the "picking of it up." The wonder was how it should have remained so long undiscovered, for the Indian, now as keen and as greedy as the white man in his quest for gold, must for ages have passed it by unnoticed. Cornwallis, a miner and geologist who published in 1858, and who accompanied the first rush to the diggings in 1856-7, relates how men, though surfeited with gold, still craved for more, wearied and wasteful, and yet not satisfied; how, in the space of three hours, on a mud-bank in the Frazer, with a geological shovel, (we presume very much of a trowel,) he collected to the value of fifteen dollars worth of gold dust, (p. 189); how men who were realizing from three to five ounces, or from forty-eight to eighty dollars per man, working for six hours, abandoned the substance before them for the shadow in the distance (p. 198); raging to reach the fountain of supply, the mine and the matrix remains undiscovered even now. On, on, on, *excelsior* was the universal cry, and the results were marvellous. It is stated, in a pamphlet published with the sanction of the Government, in 1864, that in 1860 "the most important creek in Cariboo was Antler, which yielded, at one time, at the lowest \$10,000 a day. On one claim \$1,000 were taken out of the sluice boxes as the result of a day's work. But Williams' creek eclipsed this—Steel's

claim gave in one day 409 oz.; the total obtained on its area of 80 by 25 feet being \$105,000. In 1861 the only mining was surface digging; but in 1862 the mining assumed a new character, and shaft sinking, drifting and tunnelling, were vigorously prosecuted, a system of mining which can be carried on throughout the year."

Happily for the country, the days of surface diggings, of washings and scrapings, of easy gains and wicked waste, have passed away, and have been succeeded by systematic mining and the employment of capital, scientific skill, and steady labour. Mr. Langevin speaks cheerfully of the prospects of mines at the extremity of the Cariboo road: "At a depth of from 100 to 150 feet under ground, and with shafts communicating with galleries, each more than 200 feet long, is the 'Lane & Kurtz' mine,' owned by an American company with a capital of \$500,000, which, though stopped for a time by subterranean inundation, is expected yet to reward great sacrifices by a rich harvest of gold." The Columbian Blue Book for 1870 gives the yield of gold for the year from the mines of Cariboo, Silionet, Columbia, Gale and Lytton, at \$1,333,745, without counting the quantity of gold carried out of the country in private hands.

The golden shower which immortalized Danæ gave, at first, but a doubtful reputation to British Columbia. In either case less of greed, and far less of guilt, might have accomplished better things. For a mining population will, of itself, never make a country; the gold which is not squandered in waste and wassail, is carried out of it. We find by authentic returns, that from 1862 to Sept. 1871, gold to the extent of \$16,650,036 has been shipped from British Columbia by banks, registered and known, to which amount should be added at least \$5,000,000 carried out of the country by miners themselves. This outflow might be arrested, and utilized *in transitu*, as suggested by Mr. Langevin, by the re-establish-