

interior.. Thus, in a great measure, it must remain, until Cariboo regains its pristine glory; for it is only by its wealth your own people can disenthral themselves from such a contracted existence, and field of operation; it is only by its wealth strangers can be induced to come in sufficient numbers to give life and vigor to the whole country. The principal point then I had to determine by my investigations was, whether this creek and the vast region it opened, and still represents, held out any immediate hope of accomplishing either of these things. I have already said, I do think so conscientiously, and I do not think I am mistaken.

The opinions prevailing in the public mind respecting this particular spot are altogether wrong. I was under the impression myself that there were only one or two very rich claims in Cariboo, all the other ground, like the basins in Idaho, being barren. I know that such is still the general impression in California. Yet on William Creek alone there must be over sixty good claims, independent of the Flume Companies and Hill claims, some of which, after six years' working still pay remarkably well, and all pay wages, which means, in other words, from \$8 to \$10 a-day. Last year, it is estimated that nearly *one-third* of these claims were not touched during the best part of the season, owing to the Bed Rock Flume, at the upper end, not being completed, and the Bed Rock Drain Flume, at the lower end, being filled up by the freshet. But in spite of these drawbacks, what was the result of the season's labor? The total yield of gold was larger than at any period since 1863, the golden year of the country. This season, the upper Flume will be completed, the lower one repaired, which will bring the whole creek into perfect operation by draining it thoroughly from one end to the other; and if these Companies secure the drainage against every possible contingency, the most important thing of all in successful mining (and it is their interest and duty to do so.) I cannot but conclude the yield next season will surpass 1863 by a large amount. I arrive at this conclusion from the best of all evidence, the history of every claim from first to last. To secure myself against mistake, I took the total receipts and total expenditure of each from the time it was opened to the present day, with the amount and character of ground left to work. I cannot, of course, give the whole, as it would be tedious, and consume more time than I can spare. Those, however, I select, are not chosen, it must be understood, on account of their great richness, but to show the steady yield of the ground. I will take the upper part of the creek first, beginning at the Canyon:—Black Jack Co., located in 1862, 6 interests; in two years took out \$200,000; total expenditure, in the dearest time, when labor was \$16 a-day, \$50,000; still the best claim on the creek for proper hydraulic washing. Cunningham Co., located in 1861, 4 interests; total receipts up to 1863, \$500,000; total cost, \$100,000; now making good wages sluicing. Tontine Co., located in 1864, 4