

will be made which will establish the fact of that part of the country being—as we have always believed it was—equal, in mineral wealth, to any part of California or Mexico.

Extracts from Letters.

“ Camp, Si-mil-ka-meen, October 8, 1859.

“ * * * I am detached with 14 men at the N. W. B. station on the Si-mil-ka-meen, about 12 miles from its mouth. * * On the 6th my sergeant showed me the result of six pans which he washed, and we found it to be worth 6 dollars. On the 7th two men obtained 20 dollars each; others from 5 to 15 dollars. We have no tools or conveniences, and the men knew but little about digging gold. I give you the simple facts, and shall make no comments. * * * It is much coarser gold than they found on Fraser River, some pieces weighing 2.50 dollars.

“ This river is very incorrectly mapped, as it is 150 miles long with numberless tributaries. It is a swollen mountain-torrent till the middle of July, so that it is late before it can be worked. It is my opinion that this gold was washed out of the hills contiguous, this year, as these diggings thus far have been on the *surface only*. You know that gold will always, if you give it time, find its way to the bed rock. I do not know that they will be developed soon as we shall leave here in ten or twelve days, and it will not be safe for a small party to attempt to mine. These Indians want a severe thrashing, and then the country can be travelled with safety. Our command has kept them civil, otherwise there would have been the devil to pay as usual.”

“ Camp Osoyoos, W. T., October 10, 1859.

“ * * * As many gold-fevered letters were doubtless despatched by the regular mail, it may be important to the exciteable population of your city to have correct accounts from the diggings. It is true that a rich placer, yielding from 10 to 30 dollars a day to the hands, has been discovered, 10 miles above the forks; but the gold is confined to a single locality, the extent of which is not more than 25 by 10 yards.

“ White, whom I sent out to prospect the stream for 4 or 5 miles above and below the placer, has failed to find it in remunerative quantities at any other point. It seems to be the opinion of experienced California miners that, rich as the placer is, it will be worked out in less than two weeks, and that there is no more gold on the river worth mining.

“ I mention all this in order to prevent men who may have heard exaggerated accounts from coming this fall. Possibly next spring or summer, miners might come and discover something better, but to come from the Dallas now would end in nothing but suffering and disappointment.

“ I was always confident that gold existed in the mountains of this territory, and expected a discovery by some one of the many expeditions which went out last spring.”
