

industrious, frugal and intelligent men, working their own mines with their own hands, with the capital of their own industry. "The Miner's Mutual Improvement Society" is an institution lately organized for the intellectual and moral improvement of its members, who are received by ballot with an entrance fee of 25 cts., and 12 1/2 cts. monthly dues. All sectarian questions are excluded. The first Thursday evening of each month is devoted to business and recitation; the second and fourth to debates, and the third to essays. It now numbers twenty-seven members, some of them men of sterling worth and talent. Men of influence should encourage such organizations, there is ample room for more. Young men trained in such schools are the nerve and sinew of society; they live for action, and make their mark in the world.

There is preaching about every Sabbath by ministers from Lunenburg; Lutherans, Wesleyans, Episcopalians, and Presbyterians, but no regular Baptists. Till recently interesting union meetings were held in a private hall, but the proverbial zeal of our Wesleyan brother S. had to set up the Wesleyan standard as a centre, and to bring all under his peculiar banner, by christening all the meetings over which he wished to sway an influence with the cognomen *We and Wesleyan* has exerted a repulsive rather than a union influence. This zealous brother, so as to monopolize the ground, has rented, in behalf of his Society "the Hall," at present the only suitable place for meetings, and made it exclusive, or nearly so, to the Wesleyan Society. More than one half the miners hold Baptist sentiments; the Baptist districts of Annapolis and King's being largely represented. I was requested to preach on Wednesday evening, and the notice was circulated; just at night however, we learned that the hall could not be desecrated with Baptist preaching. Our object was not to be thwarted, no sooner was one door closed than a wider one was thrown open. The Upper Aylesford Mining Company having a large building, after tea, filled it with seats, circulated the notice anew, and in a short time the place was filled to overflowing with earnest attentive hearers, while large numbers went away unaccommodated. We hope our brethren at the Ovens who represent so many praying houses and churches may take a high religious stand, and maintain social meetings of their own. This at present is a promising field, and it the miner's expectations shall be realized it will soon yield an ample support for a settled Baptist minister. We commend this field to the Christian sympathy and prayers of the churches. As there are no settled Baptist ministers in the vicinity it would be well for the churches at a distance, to send their pastors occasionally, to share the bread of life with those hard working, deserving men; it will make the churches no poorer: "There is that scattereth, and yet increaseth; and there is that withholdeth more than it meet, but it tendeth to poverty. The liberal soul shall be made fat: and he that watereth shall be watered also himself."—Churches that are so penurious and selfish of their pastors' labors as not to afford them an occasional Sabbath excursion away into the highways and hedges, need not be alarmed if they awake from their dream to behold "Ichabod" written upon their beautiful walls. The crumbs gathered from many tables, sanctified by the abounding sovereign grace of God may make a feast for the starving ones. I may add there is a Sabbath School; but as yet no Day school, applications have been made by different teachers but there is no school house.

THE MINES.

At present it is impossible to form a correct estimate of the value of the gold diggings. In a few days however the crusher will settle the perplexing question. Many companies are taking out large quantities of quartz, others not so venturesome, at present, are delaying to profit by the experience of others. The miners in general seem to be in good spirits, occasionally one sighs for home. The occasional sight of gold inspires hope. In passing a short distance from one of the mines just opened, suddenly the air was rent with three loud cheers, I hastened to the scene of excitement, it was a general jubilee, the outgushing of joy at their first sight of gold. This sight was in a piece of quartz not much greater than a large pin head. I looked at it through a powerful glass and very distinctly saw the gold. There is gold at the Ovens, but my impression is that fortunes are to be made and fortunes to be sunk in getting it.—Young men without large capital, had better stay at home, unless associated with some earnest enterprising company. In passing one of the mines opened last Winter, I picked up an old hatchet and with a few blows upon the rock not

two feet below the surface was rewarded with several pieces of quartz completely permeated with visible gold, this was from the Manning Lead. Americans, it is said, are purchasing all the claims they can, I understand one has succeeded in making a large purchase of land a little west, at Rose Bay. Miners are working for 80 and 90 cts. a day, and boarding themselves; some few may receive a dollar while others cannot get their board for their work. But men who will stay at the Ovens in this busy world and offer to work for their bread are not worth having. One gentleman of my acquaintance undertook to mine with some such but soon found it too dear mining, discharged them, and hired others. The miners have judiciously adopted the ten-hour system of labor. Some are still washing from the shore claims with good success, others complain of ill fortune. The present proprietors of the Cunard claim have just commenced washing for the present season. This claim with others on the Eastern shore has been much injured during the past Winter.—The stones blasted from the neighboring cliffs have been deposited by the water several feet deep over the washings; which now have to be removed. It is thought by some that the soil over the whole mining district has gold in it, as it has been found in several places. There is a bare possibility that even the slate may be worked at advantage, Doctor Gesner told me that he had personally taken gold from it.—Many of the miners from inexperience are working at great disadvantage, they have yet much to learn by practice and observation. There is a science in mining that can disarm it of half its toil. From the present carelessness in blasting the rocks we need not be surprised to hear of sad accidents. In passing the mines it is not uncommon to have showers of stones fall near you. A few days since a heavy stone fell through the roof of a house, and took up lodgings in the bed of one of the hotels.

MINERS, LAND PROPRIETORS, AND GOVERNMENT.

It cannot be questioned, but the present "Gold Laws" are very inadequate to meet the demands of the place. Difficulties abound among many of the miners, land proprietors and the Government. The proprietors complain of government abuses, and the miners too are often put to large expense and are left without redress. In some cases parties have taken lots for mining purposes and paid the government for them, but in their absence the land proprietors, jealous of their own just rights, have leased the same lots for building purposes, on the ground that the government has made them no remuneration, and that the present laws are unconstitutional. Companies come from a distance to open their mines, and to their surprise find large buildings on them, the government has their money, their lots are occupied, they are robbed, thrown unexpectedly upon expense, and can find no redress. These things ought not so to be. Men have rights as well as governments, and the hard working men of our land who leave their friends and their farms, and sacrifice all the endearing comforts of home, to fare hard and toil hard and at their own expense, to experiment and develop the hidden treasures of our province, ought to be protected in these rights. Why is not the rising spirit of enterprise cherished, rather than crushed in the bud?

CRUSHERS, AMALGAMATOR AND CRADLES.

The crusher will be at work in a few days, multitudes are anxiously waiting its verdict.—This is an American establishment, favorably located on low ground, central, and easy of access. It is to be worked by a steam engine of twenty horse power. The crusher is warranted by the manufacturer to crush one ton per hour, but is expected to do more, and if the pressure of business shall require it, it will be worked day and night. In crushing the quartz it is not ground but rather beat to pieces by concussion. The crusher is a hollow wheel three or four feet in diameter made stationary, with a revolving wheel within, with quite short steel arms, intended to make twelve thousand revolutions per minute. There is a space of nearly an inch between the outer wheel and the arms of the inner one. As the quartz is beat to pieces in the crusher, its dust is forced upward several feet through a tin conductor and deposited in a room as large as a snug bed-room. This is then made into a paste and put into another wheel where it undergoes a grinding process, that every particle may be reduced to powder.—From this wheel it passes through a hollow revolving tube into the bottom of a large iron basin with quicksilver in it, with which the gold forms an amalgam, the quartz being lighter rises to the top and passes off. This amalgam is then put into a metallic retort where by heat the quick-

silver is thrown off in a vapor, which is passed through water and condensed and again made fit for use.

The cradles used in washing gold are most appropriately named. In their general outline they are just such cradles, minus the foot, as some of the washers have rocked their loved little ones in at home. At the head of the cradle is a tin sieve, under this is another of fine cloth. The sand is put into the tin sieve, water poured upon it, and the cradle rocked. The coarse sand flows off with the water and leaves the gold and the fine sand at the head of the cradle.

Closing Remarks.

In this sketch I give my own disinterested impressions from careful observation and judicious inquiry on the 20th and 23rd of this month inclusive. Others warped by personal interests, or influenced by preconceived opinions, or viewing the field from a different stand-point, may form a very different estimate, some higher, and some lower. Success to the gold diggers, may their hopes be more than realized, their lives be spared, their families be blessed, and their wealth be well invested for earth and heaven, for man and God, for time and eternity.

D. O. PARKER.

Liverpool, N. S., May 24th, 1861.

For the Christian Messenger.

Sherbrooke Gold Fields.

Sherbrooke, May 26th, 1862.

MR. EDITOR,—

Having some leisure moments. I have just thought of your request, and will try to give you a sketch of things, as I find them here.—The Gold fields are on the west side of the river from Sherbrooke, the ferry boats cross and re-cross every half hour, so as not to delay passengers; tickets can be had yearly or monthly; for the month, I pay twenty-five cents. You can cross as often as you please, for transient travelers I think two and a half cents, the distance can be little short of a mile. The Gold fields, I understand, are to be laid off six miles long by three wide, and cross roads every five hundred feet laid out. The cross roads run parallel with the side lines North and South, making the lots or areas at right angles, as I understand them.—The field is a very rocky barren district. It has once been covered with a small growth of fir trees, a very dense thicket with some scattering trees of hard wood and a few pines. At some recent period the fires have past over, and killed nearly all the green wood, the trees having so thin a soil these roots extend on the surface rocks. The winds have piled them in one complete mass—fuel for the raging fires should it reach them. I have just witnessed one on a small scale, and where the fuel was scarce, compared with the one described. We came very nearly being burnt out, removed all our stuff into the drain we dug while prospecting, and covered it over with earth. However, our shanty was saved by great exertion and we were allowed to return in admirable confusion, our clothes are not much improved by being thus earthed, our neighbours had a narrow escape but had plenty of men and water, and so their shanties were saved, some however like ourselves buried their effects. It was not a general fire but extended only amongst a few scattered shanties, but quite enough to show us what we might expect, should it get raging in a dry season of the year. I fear that fire will rage here, yet, before the season is over. Use what precaution they may water will be scarce, no brooks that I have seen, and wells will have to be dug to supply the miners. A meeting was held last evening to give the place a name, in order that we may have a Post office here; they have called it GOLDENVILLE. Many names were suggested but the adopted one was by mere incident, a young lady from Hants, writing to her brother humorously called it Goldenville. The idea took with the people, and now she has become God-mother to the place, I hope ere the Summer passes she will visit us. What a mighty influence the ladies have for weal or woe. The roads from the shore to the Crushers are rapidly improving. Speaking of the Crushers, we have but one in operation, the other one will be ready very soon, materials for one, an English one, are at the shore waiting the improvements to be made on the roads. There is one down the river about two miles, our neighbours are about to try both, they do not seem to be satisfied with the returns of the one here. It is just possible that the crusher is not to blame, this one is on the stamper principle. There is one down at Wine Harbor for here, intended to grind the quartz. The Americans here believe that to be the best kind. To give you an idea of the roads, the Company own-

ing the crusher at the shore has offered four hundred dollars to any one who would transport it to the locality required distance, about two and a half miles. You can form some idea of the badness of the roads, the bricks used in the construction of the crushers alluded to cost two cents a piece, the roads I think in a month's time will compare with any of our common roads; for foundation nothing can beat it and they seem to be doing their work well.

The Hon. Prov. Secretary and the Gold Commissioner have let out the road by contract.—The Financial Secretary is here now, lending his influence for his country's good—hard case to look on, and dare not touch the nuggets. We have Doctors, Lawyers, and Editors, and a sprinkling of the fair sex occasionally, some have just arrived and are going to make this their homes. I think I counted sixty shanties including the Crushing mills, two stores and a Restaurant from a small eminence near the intended Post office. I am nearer the shore by half a mile and can see many from this spot, we have two or more Shoemakers and two Blacksmiths, and still they come, and still they go. The miners here are of a very respectable class of persons, and go in for temperance principles, the great rush is for Hewitt's lead, McKay's lead and McKenzie's lead. Nickerson's washings and a few others are doing well. Many poor fellows go away disappointed having done a great amount of labor and got nothing; many are disappointed if they do not strike a rich lead at once. There is a very great quantity of quartz to be had, but how much that will pay for getting out is a question. Companies owning large claims are most likely to succeed if they are judiciously carried on. Many persons have done a great deal of labor on other men's claims. By not having the lines defined some have built on other men's claims to great disadvantage. I do not pretend to dictate to government what to do, but would tell them what any private Company or men should do, and that would be this, put on four more Surveyors and do the work up quick, and prevent any further losses to poor men, the government can as well pay four for a month, as one for four months, I have not one word to say about the present Surveyor, he is an obliging man, but cannot satisfy all parties by attending to their particular wants, the woods are very tedious for a surveyor to get through, and his progress must consequently be very slow.

I now will give you an idea of the services of the Sabbath, we have a Presbyterian who holds forth every other Sabbath, and Church Service occasionally, how often, I am not prepared to say, but I believe once a fortnight. I was pleased to hear on the last Sabbath evening a choir singing by twilight the beautiful lines—

And now another day is gone
I'll sing my Maker's praise.

It was such music as angel's might stoop to listen to. The Gold fields here are, as near to the happy Land as your incorporated city, perhaps some of our young ministers may be induced to preach to us here occasionally. Out door preaching is becoming fashionable, the congregations here are ten or more males to one female.

I have given you a rough outline, condense as you please, if anything here is interesting let other papers copy.

I am, yours truly,
EDWD. MCLATCHY.

For the Christian Messenger.

Obituary Notice.

MRS. ABIGAIL BAKER.

Died, on Victoria Road, Wilmot, May 10th, 1862, Mrs. Abigail Baker, aged 20 years. Our afflicted brother has been called, by the inscrutable order of Providence, to have two amiable wives removed from him before he was 28 years old. Each has left one infant son.—Both were to have been baptized on the same day, namely, May 1st, 1859. On that day however, the former, whose maiden name was Alice Morton, was buried. (See Obit. of her in C. M., June 8th, 1859, p. 182.) The latter, then Abigail Brown, was very sick at the time of the same malignant fever of which the other died. On her recovery she was baptized by the writer, August 14th, 1859. She was the last one of 145 that were added by baptism to the Lower Aylesford and Upper Wilmot Baptist Church in that year. Early in 1861 she was united in marriage with Mr. Baker, now called to mourn her departure. Our departed sister was evidently of a kind disposition; and was generally beloved from her childhood. After her conversion she ever evinced an ardent attachment to the people of God, and to the interests of religion. She delighted to meet with her brethren in Conference, and to attend on all the means of grace. When it became manifest that Sister Baker was about to be called from her beloved husband and babe, she expressed quiet resignation to the Divine will, and unwavering confidence in her Redeemer. As the Pastor was attending another funeral at the time of her burial, Rev. Abraham Stronach obligingly attended this, and preached an impressive sermon to a large assembly of sympathizing friends.—Communicated by Rev. C. Tupper.

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