

# North Californian.

C. G. LINCOLN,.....Editor

OROVILLE.

SATURDAY, APRIL 25, 1857

## Mining Operations.

Last week we made a flying visit to some of the quartz and tunneling operations in and around Table Mountain. We first made a hasty examination of the quartz mill of Smith & Sparks. They are running eight stamps and two arastras, propelled by water. Their buildings are large, substantial, and very conveniently arranged. The lead is composed of a soft blue quartz, about a foot in thickness, and is very rich. Previous to the last year it was the only one in the county that had been worked successfully. The proprietors have expended forty thousand dollars during the last year, in buildings and machinery, and in opening the vein. Messrs. Smith & Sparks have a neat white cottage, with green blinds, garden, shrubbery, &c., and near by have a vineyard, and orchard, in which is a large variety of fruit trees, all looking finely.

We made our next halt at White and Natter's, Oregon City. They in connection with Col. Derrick, are engaged very extensively in quartz mining. They own a rich lead in Stove Pipe Ravine, on which are erected two arastras. Owing, however, to the difficulty of drainage it is not worked at present. With a steam pump and good machinery, this claim can be worked with great profit. These gentlemen own the Barton, Rider and Welch leads, near their store in Oregon City, upon which they have three arastras in full blast, day and night, which are paying well. They have also two arastras in operation in Coyote Ravine, near Cherokee Flat, located on a paying lead. In addition to these operations, Messrs. Simmons & Nesbit have four arastras at work very successfully on the old Buffalo

ledge, near Oregon City. A short time ago they took out one lump of quartz worth nine hundred dollars. Albert Grunnot has a water mill in Oregon Gulch, which crushes about eight tons per day. There is also a steam mill in Spring Valley, of twelve stamps, which is not in operation as yet this season.

We next stopped at Cherokee Flat, a rich and flourishing mining locality, during the four or five months of the year that water can be obtained. Messrs. Moore, McDaniels & Co., have an extensive trading post at this point; and about a mile distant on the West Branch, are situated their extensive lime kilns. The limestone is of a good quality, and inexhaustible. The quantity of lime which they will manufacture this season will be limited only by the demand.

This country bordering on Table Mountain, has been very prolific in gold, and seems inexhaustible. It was thought to be worked out several years ago, but every succeeding wet season has developed new claims, of surpassing richness. Could water be obtained in abundance through the year, this would undoubtedly be the richest mining section in the county, not taking its numerous quartz leads into consideration, and these will eventually constitute its principal wealth. It is the exceeding richness in quartz and placer diggings of the base of Table Mountain, and every ravine that runs out of it, that imparts hope and confidence to those who have been endeavoring to penetrate for long weary months to its inmost depths. We have not time to give an account of our visit to the celebrated Eureka and Consolidated companies' tunnels, in this issue.

# Sacramento Daily Union

Sep 26, 1857

QUARTZ MINING IN BUTTE COUNTY.—The *North Californian* of Sept. 24th says:

We noticed a few days ago the renewed activity in quartz operations, in the north-east portion of the county. To-day we will give some account of the quartz operations in another portion. The Columbia lead in Oregon Township, owned by Messrs. Smith and Sparks, we have often spoken of before. A great expenditure has been made in opening and draining the lode, but the quartz is very rich and has paid immense profits. A very expensive water mill was erected last season, with twelve stamps and arastras, arranged on the most improved principles, but owing to the scarcity of water, it has not been running for four or five months. Five hundred tons of rich quartz is piled up near the mill ready for crushing as soon as there is water to run the mill. About half a mile from this mill, the same gentlemen have opened another lead and put up a steam mill, which is the best arranged and most economical we have ever seen. The engine propels four arastras, elevates the quartz through a shaft sixty feet deep, and drains the works by means of a force pump. The whole cost of excavating, crushing and retorting, does not exceed six dollars per ton. This quartz is not as valuable as that from the other lead, but it pays well.

The next quartz mill in this vicinity is a water mill, owned by Albert Grummot, on Oregon Gulch, which is paying well. A little higher up the Gulch is the claim owned by the Table Mountain Company. This company is composed of several of our most enterprising capitalists, who are intending to erect a model quartz mill. Their agents have visited the quartz mills of Grass Valley and other localities for the purpose of profiting by their experience in its construction. The lead has been worked with arastras sufficiently to prove its richness. About a mile from this claim is the old Buffalo ledge, owned by Simmons & Co.; it has been worked for several years, paying a good profit. This summer a steam mill has been erected; we do not recollect whether stamps or arastras are used.

Near this ledge are the works of Messrs. White & Nutter, which are paying better than anything else in the county. In the last six weeks, with four-mule power arastras, they have obtained \$12,000; expenses, \$3,000. The quartz is paying from \$100 to \$250 per ton. This fall they intend to put up an extensive steam mill, capable of doing a large business. The arrangements for hoisting the quartz and draining the drift, which is about sixty feet under ground, are admirable, but like most good things, have been very expensive.

There is a large steam mill at Spring Valley, two arastras in operation near Cherokee Flat, and several companies at work in quartz near Spanishtown, but we are not much informed in regard to them. The region of the country between Oroville and Spanishtown abounds in quartz veins, only a few of which, and only in places where they crop out, have they been prospected. These immense auriferous deposits are destined to give employment to thousands within a few years, but ages will not exhaust their wealth.

## Mountain Correspondence.

OREGON GULCH, BUTTE CO., Feb. 23.

EDITOR EXPRESS:—The late rains, which have furnished us a bountiful supply of water, have been of immense value to us and our good neighbors of Cherokee Flat. Indeed it came as a golden harvest and everybody and their friends seem to be busy, wearing their brightest smiles, and the peculiar jingle of cash is becoming decidedly refreshing. Among those I have heard of doing a land office business are Mr. Abb. Barton, Messrs. White & Hendricks, Messrs. Hendricks & Bay, and Messrs. Crawford, Seamore & Co. I understand this Co. took out over one hundred ounces last week, working four hands, one piece weighing fourteen ounces.

But amid our peculiarities we have those which cannot be looked upon as refreshing evidences of our refined tastes, notwithstanding wise men, and those making pretensions to a degree of refinement, have said that fighting whiskey, black eyes and bloody noses were unmistakable evidences of prosperity; and, if such be the case, we certainly have been in a most flourishing condition, for at Oregon City, for the last three months, fighting whiskey has been a circulating medium, and a great demand for coat-plaster; but until, last night, they generally passed off without any very serious results, when Mr. Sebe Simmons was stabbed in the right side by a man by the name of Pat Seaward. Mr. Simmons was standing with his back against the bar at the "Oregon City Saloon," when a fist-cuff began in which he had no part nor interest, when he received the stab, and it, fortunately, passed through a double of a thick coat or it would likely have proved fatal. Mr. Simmons is a peaceable and respected citizen of Cherokee Flat, and knows of no cause for the cowardly attack. The wound is very severe, though not dangerous. The would be assassin is yet at large, but they are after him and it is to be hoped he will be corralled and furnished public lodgings.

And, as another evidence of our peculiarities, we notice that Madam Van Hoppenburg and her three charming daughters have been entertaining our good folks at Oregon City for the last few weeks, and if we can trust appearances they are creating quite a sensation among the bloods. This Company are vulgarly called "Hurdy Gurdy," as they belong to the hand-organ and tambourine family, and I am inclined to think the flattering marks of esteem by which they are greeted, among this appreciative community, are decided evidences of the increasing popularity of this branch of vocal and instrumental music.

Among our numerous quartz operations, I am told that Messrs. White, Miller & Co., are taking out \$500 per day. The Table Mountain Co. is doing well. Messrs. Briggs & McElvain, are raising very rich quartz from their Bloomingdale ledge. The Pacific Star, is making preparations for an early start in the spring. Indeed, this most important branch of mining is increasing daily in importance with us, but the lack of capital is a decided drawback, and it is decidedly strange that monied men will let their money lie idle while there are opportunities of investing it so profitably, and so securely, and, too, of so much real benefit to the country.

But I have already overstepped the space allowed by good natured printers and as Pike Clipper, Esq., has always sustained a most affectionate regard for that fraternity, he will herewith close for the present, while he has the honor of signing himself,

Yours in a hurry, PIKE CLIPPER.

P. S.—Feb. 24th, Mr. Thomas Bockbill, a citizen of this place, was thrown from his horse this evening, on the Table Mountain about a half mile from the store of C. A. Simmons, Esq. His foot hanging in the stirrup, he was very seriously injured, an arm and leg broken, with pieces torn from his back. When found, he was insensible. C.



## Correspondence.

OREGON CITY.

EDITOR UNION RECORD:—Nearly twenty years have passed away into the invisible future since the glittering dust was first discovered in this beautiful State. Since that eventful period, many changes have taken place. Large and flourishing cities, smiling villages, and neat white cottages, have sprung up suddenly like Jonah's gourd—then disappeared like the mist of the morning before the rising splendor of the sun. The valleys have been exalted—the mountains and hills have been made low—the crooked made straight, and the rough places plain. Everything here is frail and unstable. "Passing away" is inscribed upon the pillars of nearly every mining camp in the State. But there are exceptions to the general rule.

### CHEROKEE FLAT.

Ten years ago, there were but few families around this community, and a number of useless creatures called *bachelors*. But the darkling clouds have disappeared, and the golden rays of civilization, improvement, and glorious success, have shone upon it. Thank fortune, many of the old bachelors and their miserable, low, dirty, smoky huts, have vanished away, to give place to dozens of families. Under the new dispensation (or ladies' dispensation), we have neat white houses, beautiful gardens, with fruitful trees, delicious fruit, and fragrant flowers; and, above all, good society. Under the soft and gentle reign of Spring, all begins to smile; life in a thousand ways breaks forth; all is verdure, and fragrance, and beauty; all is joyous. What variety of colors, what harmony of sounds! The valleys stand thick with rising corn, and the little hills rejoice on every side.

### THE MINES.

If, by some supernatural power, we could raise the Table Mountain from its natural bed, and place it away down in the burning sand of New Mexico, or the sage brush of Nevada, or the towering mountains of the Arctic Ocean, there would be more excitement about it than there was when the rebels of the Sodom of the United States fired on Fort Sumter. Mining in this county is in its infancy, and the work of exploration hardly begun. The territory between Morris Ravine and Cherokee is immense. Valuable depositories will yet be found all along Oregon Gulch and under the

# Weekly Union Record

## 3-3-1866

Table Mountain. We believe, and we have good reasons to believe, that there is one of the richest leads in the State running under the Table Mountain. All we need for the development of rich mines is capital, and the right kind of men to use it. Then old Butte will soon pass through the fiery furnace to a glorious success. We are glad to see that quartz mining, the great interest of our State, has been aroused from its slumbers, and we believe soon will be firmly established as one of the most permanent and paying pursuits in the county. A tendency of improvement of former abuses is visible in some parts of our county. Companies are being organized on business and not on speculative principles. The fiendish spirit of speculation has been crushed.

### CAMBRIAN MINING COMPANY.

This Company is composed of practical miners and mechanics. They do nearly all the work themselves. They are not required to pay one hundred and fifty dollars per month to an inexperienced band (as is often done) to superintend their works. They have one of the best mills ever introduced into this county. They have a monster pump, with nine-inch pipe. They commenced pumping last Monday morning. The slope is down some eighty feet from the surface. The lead is from twenty to twenty-four inches thick, and the indications are that it is rich, and that they will soon reap a golden harvest. The new mill is situated on the east and west branches of Oregon gulch, near Oregon City, six miles north east from Oroville.

Yours truly, J. J. P.

# The Weekly Butte Record

## April 7, 1866

**SCHOOL FUND:**—The following is the apportionment of the School Fund to the various School Districts of Butte County, for the Quarter ending April 1, 1866 :

Names of Districts.	No. of Children.	Am't.
Bangor.....	46	\$8 28
Bidwell.....	53	9 54
Butte Valley.....	90	16 20
Central House.....	33	5 94
Cherokee.....	97	17 46
Chico.....	227	40 86
Dayton.....	76	13 68
Delaptsin.....	69	12 42
Evansville.....	47	8 46
Eureka.....	37	6 66
Forbestown.....	49	8 82
Hamilton.....	47	8 46
Kimshew.....	69	12 42
Live Oak.....	81	14 58
Lone Tree.....	93	5 94
Mesilla Valley.....	44	7 92
Morris Ravine.....	26	4 68
Mountain Spring.....	51	9 18
Mud Creek.....	80	14 40
Oroville.....	291	52 38
→ Oregon City.....	42	7 56
Pine Creek.....	91	16 38
Rio Sico.....	50	9 00
Rock Creek.....	98	17 64
Salem.....	27	4 86
Sandy Gulch.....	58	10 44
Stoneman.....	24	4 52
Union.....	32	5 76
Upham.....	25	4 50
West Liberty.....	30	5 40
Wyandotte.....	94	16 92
	2117	\$381 06

**OREGON CITY.**— We learn from J. J. Powell, Esq., that the Quartz Mill at this place is now in running order, and will soon be at work crushing rock. The shaft on their ledge is down some sixty feet, and is filled with water by the recent rains and floods, and is being pumped out preparatory to re-suming operations.

# Butte Record

## 4-7-1866

OREGON CITY.—We learn from J. J. Powell, Esq., that the Quartz Mill at this place is now in running order, and will soon be at work crushing rock. The shaft on their ledge is down some sixty feet, and is filled with water by the recent rains and floods, and is being pumped out preparatory to resuming operations.