

### Exciting Mining News.

Some time ago we made brief reference to projected mining operations at Volcano Canon near Michigan Bluff, by a San Francisco company of which James H. Keown, formerly a resident of Iowa Hill, but latterly of San Francisco, is Superintendent. Subsequently we noticed the transportation of a large amount of heavy machinery through our town en route to the above named point. We are now in receipt of most encouraging—we might say startling—news from that quarter. But before repeating current reports let us take a retrospective view of the situation. It is now nearly or quite twenty years since the first attempt was made to sink a shaft to the bedrock at or in the immediate vicinity of the point where the operations of the Hazard company are now in progress. It has been a cardinal point of faith with most of the old miners of that section, that in the neighborhood referred to there was a deep and vast "main channel," of unquestionable richness, from which the Michigan Bluff, Bird's Valley, Bath and other rich deposits of that region were simply "outlets," "overflows," "outside channels" or something of the sort. Year after year attempt after attempt was made to test the soundness of these theories. But, for want of sufficient capital and proper appliances for overcoming the water difficulty, none of these attempts were permanently successful, although, in spite of successive failures, the prospects and indications were of a character to strengthen rather than weaken the faith of the mining community. In spite of repeated failures a mere impression became a matter of firm and unalterable faith. Keown had operated with varying success, in the adjacent Iowa Hill section. For years he had been aware of and a sharer in the popular belief that there was a large and rich channel at the point under consideration. Travel where he would, throughout California, Nevada, Utah, Arizona and all the mining country of the Pacific Coast, his mind was never entirely free from this subject and the ghost of the Volcano canon enterprise would keep rising up to haunt him. At last he decided on the only course that seemed practicable for laying the troubled phantom. He embarked of his own means, induced a number of San Francisco friends to do likewise, obtained by purchase and location a large tract several hundred acres—in the vicinity of the ground referred to, procured first-class machinery of such power and capacity as to make success an assured certainty if it was possibly attainable and went to work with a bull-dog determination to test that ground or burst the Hazard company. After many accidents, annoyances and backsets the machinery was got into good working order, all of the operations at the mine went like clock-work, and last week Keown's faith and energy met with an abundant reward. A deposit of auriferous gravel was struck which is described as equal or superior to any of those which gave world-wide fame to Iowa Hill, Forest Hill, Michigan Bluff and adjacent camps in the flush time of '52 to '56. The San Francisco members of the Company were sent for, went up, feasted their eyes on the glorious sight and had a grand glorification. In mining circles—we mean among old miners of "the Divide"—it is confidently believed that this channel is of immense breadth and sweeps around back of Forest Hill, and that its continuation will undoubtedly be struck by Peyton Powell in the slope which he has been trying to sink at the old Wheeler claim. If this theory should prove correct and if Powell should strike anything approximating the richness of the Hazard Company's developments, it is inevitable that a wonderful impetus will be given to mining enterprise on the Forest Hill divide.

Placer County Stars and Stripes,

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