

What Some of our Mines are Doing, Bath

A correspondent sends us the following, which he assures us is correct to the letter—even to the one inch wide of solid gold! The locality mentioned is well known as one affording very rich placer mines. We give the manuscript as we received it:

Without going across the mountains or into adjoining Territories to look for rich claims, we will here mention one of our cement or gravel claims and its yield. In a little obscure place called Bath, in Placer county, is a mine called "The Paragon," the owners of which were but recently all poor men, having no capital except their own labor and perseverance. Some years since they commenced running a drift into the hill, and have kept steadily at work, until now they employ fifty men and run a 20-stamp mill, crushing this cement. The length of the lower tunnel, for draining, is now 2,250 feet, while the upper works are being drifted or breasted some 1, 200 feet, having shoots and dumps at various points for discharging the cement from the pay streak above, down into the main tunnel below, some twenty-five feet. This drains the works above, where the men can work comparatively dry. The claim itself is 8,000 by 800 feet. The work done thus far is the best and most systematic in the State; is thoroughly tested, and there is half a million dollars in sight. Ahead of their work the gold can be distinctly seen in every drift by the light of a candle. The company consists of four men, who are dividing the sum of over \$6,000 every month regularly, and the mine can be made to pay more than twice that amount by adding 20 stamps more; which would give them at least \$150,000 per annum over all expenses. They have now on hand 40,000 timbers and lagging, 1,300 cords of wood, cut and housed, with a tract of timber land containing thousands of cords more, and a large dwelling-house. The working department is complete, with twelve or more cars, good rail tracks, over 300 picks, and all the necessary working apparatus.

This may, perhaps, be called one of the very best mines of its class in California. The strata now being worked is not on the bed-rock, but from twenty-five to forty feet above. It is very even, having a gradual incline toward the front of the hill, and, unlike many others, does not form a basin toward the center. The gravel, however, is richer in the back part. That the cement is richer on the bed is proven by the adjoining claims, which are about forty feet below, and are yielding some very heavy gold. It is supposed that at least three pay streaks exist in this deposit. The whole hill will pay, from top to bottom, say 300 feet. When it is all worked millions of dollars will be realized. The fall from the bed-rock to the canon below is some 600 feet; so that altogether it is as if nature designed this spot as one that will furnish us with the precious metal for half a century to come.

Adjoining the above are other claims belonging to individual companies, all of which pay well when worked. Mr. Rausch has a very rich hydraulic claim, which has been washed off some 200 feet back, the gravel being about 100 feet deep thus far. The same gentleman has also struck a quartz lead excelling in richness anything ever seen in California, there being a pay streak of one inch wide of solid gold through the pay quartz, which is two feet or more thick. This is not in the gravel claim, but about a mile distant. The claims called the "Rough Gold" and the "Golden Gate," both cement claims, are good paying ones, so that there is not a single failure of any mine at the locality of Bath, in Placer county.

Mining and Scientific Press, V 15, 10/26/1867, p. 258