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TOWANDA:

Wednesday Morning, January 31, 1879.

"The Durrazian Siege,"—"The Sunny South,"—Mr. John C. Calhoun.

[From the N. Y. Sunday Atlas, January 14.]

To-morrow, if the sun should happen to shine, and the world should not be afflicted with the measles, will be Monday, the fifteenth day of the month of January, in the year of our blessed Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, one Thousand Eight Hundred and Forty-nine. And if it happen to be a day at all, it will be a "mighty big one;" for Mr. John C. Calhoun, of South Carolina, has promised to bring forward, on that day, his report on the subject of dissolving the Union. The Widow Greener regards the advent of that day with as much awe as she did the spectacles of the Reverend Ozzias Pollygot, when she related her Christian experience. To-morrow if all be ready and "a lever do not set in," Mr. John C. Calhoun—General Jackson, and the Globe used to call him John Calhoun, will make his report to the immortal committee of fifteen Caloos who are to dissolve the Union; and commence a "Durrazian Siege" on the cold and frigid north!

In other words, Mr. C. will offer to the committee of fifteen from the land of "chivalry," and the "sunny south," a report that he has prepared, the object of which will be to frighten and compel ten millions of the people of this Union to bow, and lick the hand of the Moloch of negro slavery—to compel ten millions of northmen who were born and bred in a land of freedom, to crouch to the impotent menace of the immaculate south, and aid in the extending the area of human bondage to the newly acquired and conquered territories of Mexico and California!

Mr. John C. Calhoun, and all of his aiders and abettors, we can avow, in advance, will, in all their labors of menace, and gasconade, find themselves most signally and sadly disappointed.

In reference to the report of Mr. Calhoun, a Washington writer, who appears to be well informed, foretells information which, just at this moment, is interesting.

"It is understood," says the writer in question, "that Mr. Calhoun and his coadjutors have finished and laid before the committee of fifteen, the proposed address, upon the position of the south, with reference to the question of slavery. It has been rumored that if the address recommended resistance in any form to the authority of the general government, Mr. Clayton, at least, would dissent from it, and make a counter report to the committee from which the five [the sub-committee of which Mr. Calhoun is chairman] derived their power to act. I infer that no counter report has been made, and that whatever course Mr. Clayton concludes to adopt will be made known at the meeting of the principal committee. If Mr. Calhoun shall not urge the coalition of southern members, which he seems to have very partially effected, to do something more than issue a mere manifesto of grievances, I think it will be on all sides admitted that the conclusion of the scheme is most lame and impotent. He has himself been issuing these manifestos at every session of Congress, since 1830, when he quarreled with General Jackson, and got up nullification. A parade of southern wrongs, in the shape of manifestos, is his regular advertisement; a sort of prospectus of his crimes—which are perhaps, the most important production of Mr. C.'s native state. However, it is pretty clear from the tone of out-door conversation that discretion and commonsense have entered into the declarations of the sub-committee, and that the adjourned meeting of January 15th, will do no harm, and at least do no good."

We do not care much what may be the final action of Mr. Calhoun, or that of the committee of fifteen. Be it, on the one part or the other, what it may, it will not be a matter of any especial consequence. It will not produce the weight of a feather one way or the other.

The people of the north west—all the non-slave holding states, as well as a portion of the people of the slave-holding regions—have firmly and unalterably resolved on one thing; and that is, that they will not be accessory to the propagation of slavery into any territory, that is not now covered with that terrible, of all curses. They possess the means, and the power, that will enable them to suppress the extension of slavery; and they mean to enjoy the one and the other, and carry the ends of justice and humanity into effect. With their aid and consent, another inch of slave territory will not be created. And if Mr. John C. Calhoun, or any body of gascons, and braggers and vapors that he may collect shall hazard the folly of attempting to frighten the north from its propriety and "firm resolve," he, and they, will find nothing but public ridicule and contempt for their pains.

The free people of the free states are not to be wheedled, hoodwinked, cajoled, or intimidated, by the "chivalry" of the "sunny south." They are not to be misled by the bluster of boldfats; they know their right and they will preserve it at all hazards. The time has gone by when they could be induced by the complaints of the spoiled children of the "chivalry" of the "sunny south," to compromise the dictates of duty, justice, and humanity, and bow down to the Baal of human bondage.

If the "chivalry" of the "sunny south," doubt a part, or portion, of this, let it make up its mind to it by the question.

The north seeks not to interfere with any right or prerogative of the south. It does not seek or ask the emancipation of her slaves. It is content that she shall possess them; but she will not consent to degrade herself to the condition of her bondmen. The north cannot be enslaved.

Mr. Calhoun's report, we are satisfied, will be found to be an ultra abolition. The man is stark staring mad, on the subject of slavery; and if he have any friends in Congress, they will put him into a straight-jacket, and send him to a lunatic asylum, with as little delay as possible.

HEILY IMPORTANT FROM THE GOLD REGION!

OFFICIAL ACCOUNTS!

Gold found in Lumps of 16 and 25 Pounds!

[From the Washington Union, Jan. 21st.]

Extract of a letter from Thomas O. Larkin, Esq., late Consul, and now Agent for the United States, to the Secretary of State, dated at Monterey, Nov. 16th, 1848, and received in this city on Friday evening last.

The digging and washing of gold continues to increase on the Sacramento placer, or so far as regards the number of persons engaged in the business, and the size and quantity of the metal daily obtained.

I have had in my hands several pieces of gold, about twenty-three carats fine, weighing from one to two pounds, and have it from good authority that pieces have been found weighing sixteen pounds. Indeed, I have heard of one specimen that weighed twenty-five pounds. There are many men at the placer, who in June last had not one hundred dollars in possession of from five to twenty thousand dollars, which they made by digging and trading with the Indians. Several, I believe, have much more.

A common calico shirt, or even a silver dollar, has been taken by an Indian for gold, without regard to size; and a half to one ounce of gold—say \$8 to \$16—is now considered the price of a shirt, while from three to ten ounces is the price of a blanket. \$100 a day, for several days in succession was and is considered a fair remuneration for the labor of a gold digger, though few work over a month at a time, as the fatigue is very great. From July to October one half of the gold hunters have been afflicted either with the ague and fever, or the intermittent fever, and twenty days absent from the placer during those months is necessary to escape the disease. There have not, however, been many fatal cases.

The gold is now sold, from the smallest imaginary piece in size to pieces of one pound weight, at \$16 per troy ounce for all the purposes of commerce; but those who are under the necessity of raising coin to pay duties to the Government, are obliged to accept from \$10 to \$11 per ounce. All the coin in California is likely to be locked up in the Custom House, as the last tariff of our Congress is in force here in regard to the receipt of money.

"Could you know the value of the California placer as I know it, you would think you had been instrumental in obtaining a most splendid purchase for our country, to put no other construction on the late Treaty."

"The placer is known to be two or three hundred miles long; and as discoveries are constantly being made, it may prove 1,000 miles in length—in fact, it is, not counting the intermediate miles yet unexplored. From five to ten millions of gold must be our exports this and next year. How many more years this state of things will continue, I cannot say."

FLAG SHIP OHIO, BAY OF MONTEREY, }
[No. 26] }
November 24, 1848. }

Sir: In my letter No. 24, from La Paz, I recommended the retention on the coast of all cruising ships of the Pacific squadron, and pointed out how they could be kept in repair and manned without returning round Cape Horn to the Atlantic States. When that recommendation was made, I had no conception of the state of things in Upper California. For the present, and I fear for years to come, it will be impossible for the United States to maintain any naval or military establishment in California; as at present, no hope of reward nor fear of punishment is sufficient to make binding any contract between man and man upon the soil of California.

To send troops out here would be needless, for they would immediately desert. To show what chance there is for apprehending deserters, I enclose an advertisement which has been widely circulated for a fortnight, but without bringing in a single deserter. Among the deserters from the squadron are some of the best petty officers and seamen, having but few mouths to serve, and large balance due them, amounting in the aggregate to over ten thousand dollars.

There is a great deficiency of coin in the country, and especially in the mines; the traders, by taking advantage of the pressing necessity of the digger, not infrequently compelling him to sell his ounce of 2000 gold for a silver dollar; and it has been bought, under like circumstances, for fifty cents per ounce of Indians. To this state of dependence laboring miners are now subjected, and must be until coin is more abundant. Disease, congestive and intermittent fever, is making great havoc among the diggers, as they are almost destitute of food and raiment, and for the most part, without houses of any kind to protect them from the inclement season now at hand.

The commerce of this coast may be said to be entirely cut off by desertion. No sooner does a merchant ship arrive in any of the ports of California, than all hands leave her; in some instances, captain, cook, and all. At this moment, there are a number of merchant ships thus abandoned at San Francisco; and such will be the fate of all that subsequently arrive.

The master of the ship "Isaac Walton," that brought stores for the squadron to this port, offered, without success, \$50 per month to Calloa, and then \$20 per month home, to disembark volunteers so sent. We were obliged at least to supply him with four men whose terms of service were drawing to a close. This state of things is not confined to California alone. Oregon is fast depopulating; her inhabitants pour into the gold diggings, and foreign residents and runaway sailors from the Sandwich Islands are arriving by every vessel that approaches this coast.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,
THOS. AP. C. JONES,
Commander-in-Chief Pacific Squadron.

Hon. J. Y. Mason, Secretary of the Navy.

In addition to these statements, we find the following letter in the New York Herald. The editor also says he has a confidential letter, the intelligence in which is too astounding for belief, and he therefore does not publish it. The following is the first alluded to:

Our placer, or gold region, now extends over 300 or 400 miles of country, embracing all the creeks and branches on the east side of the river Sacramento, and one side of the San Joaquin. In my travels, I have, when resting under a tree and grazing my horse, seen a few pieces of pure gold picked up from the crevices of the rocks or slate where we were stopping. On one occasion, nooning or refreshing on the side of a stream utterly unknown to diggers or "prospectors;" or rather, if known, not attended to, one of my companions, in rolling in the sand, said, "Give me a tin pan; why should we not be looking in gold sands?" He took a pan, filled it with sand, washed it out, and produced in five minutes \$2 or \$3 worth of gold, merely saying as he threw both pan and gold on the sand, "I thought so."

Perhaps it is fair that your readers should learn that however plenty the Sacramento Valley may afford gold, the obtaining of it has its disadvantages. From the 1st of July to the 1st of October, more or less, one half of the people will have fever and ague, or intermittent fever, which takes them from the first day of digging until they have been one hundred miles from the "Placer," fifteen or twenty days. In the winter it is too cool to work in the water; but from next April to the following July, one million of dollars of pure gold, or more, per month, will be produced from this gold region, without digging more than three feet deep. Some work in the sand by washing it from the surface in a wooden bowl or tin; some gong it out from the rocks or slate; the more lazy ones roll about and pick up the large pieces, leaving the small gold for the next emigration.

At present, the United States receives but a small part of our "placer." You may believe me, when I say that for some time to come, California will export yearly, nearly or quite a half a million of ounces of gold, twenty-two to twenty-four carats fine: some pieces of that will weigh sixteen pounds, very many one pound. Many men who began last June to dig gold with a capital of \$70, can now show \$2,000 to \$15,000. I saw a man, to day, making purchases of dry goods, &c., for his family, lay on the counter a bag made of raw hide, well sewed up, containing one hundred ounces. I observed, that is a good way to pack gold dust. He innocently replied—"All the bags I brought down that way; I like the size." Five such bags in New York would bring near \$10,000. This man left his family last August. Three months' digging and washing, producing four or five bags of 100 ounces each, is better than being mate of a vessel at \$40 per month, as the man formerly was. His companion, a Mexican, who camped and worked with him, only had two or three cowhide bags of gold.

In this tough, but true, golden tale, you must not imagine that all men are equally successful. There are some who have done better; even to \$100 in a month; many \$1000 during the summer; and others, who refused to join a company of gold washers who had a cheap machine, and receive one ounce per day, that returned to the settlements with not a vest packet full of gold. Some left with only sufficient to purchase a horse and saddle, and pay the physician six ounces of gold for one ounce of quinine, calomel and jalap in proportion. An ounce of gold for advice given, six ounces a visit, brings the lever and ague to be rather an extensive companion. A well man has his proportionate heavy expenses, also, to reduce his piles or bags of gold. Dry beef in the settlements a 4 cents per lb., at the Placer, \$1 to \$2 per lb.; salt beef and pork, \$50 to \$100 per bbl.; flour, \$30 to \$75 per bbl.; coffee, sugar and rice, 50 cts. to \$1 per lb.—As washing is fifty cents to a dollar a garment, many throwing away their used up clothes to paying the washerwoman; that is, if they intend returning to the settlements soon, where they can purchase more. As to slaughtering, I have never seen a man at the Placer who had time to perform that operation. They do not work on Sundays, only brush up the tent, blow out the emery or fine black sand from the week's work. Horses that can travel only one day, and from that to a week, are from \$100 to \$500. Freight charge by launch owners for three three days' run, \$5 per barrel. Wagoners charge \$50 to \$150 per load, twenty to fifty miles, on good road. Corn, barley, peas and beans \$10 a bushel. Common pistols, any price; powder and lead very dear.

I know a physician who, in San Francisco, purchased a common made gold washer at \$200 or \$300, made of 70 or 80 feet of boards. At a great expense he boated it up to the first landing on the Sacramento, and there met a wagoner bound to one of the diggings with an empty wagon, distance about fifty miles. The wagoner would not take up the machine under \$100. The doctor had to consent, and bided his time. June passed over rich in gold; all on that creek did wonders, when the wagoner fell sick, called on his friend the doctor, whose tent was in sight; the doctor came, but would not administer the first dose under the old sum of \$100, which was agreed to, under a proviso that the following dose should be furnished more moderate. When a man's time is worth \$100 a day to use a spade and tin pan, neither doctor's or wagoner can think much of a pound of gold, and you may suppose merchant's traders and pedlars are not slow to make their fortunes in these golden times.

In San Francisco there is more merchandise sold now monthly, than before in a year. Vessels after vessels arrive, land their cargoes, dispose of them, and bring up the dust, and lay up the vessel, as the crew are soon among the missing. The cleanest clear out is where the captain followed the crew. There are many vessels in San Francisco that cannot weigh anchor, even with the assistance of three or four neighboring vessels. Supercargoes must land cargo on arriving, or have no crew to do it for them. Some vessels continue to go to sea with small crews, at \$50 per month for green hands. Old

hands are too wise for them, and prefer digging an ounce or two a day, and drinking-hock and champagne at half an ounce a bottle, and eating bread and beef at \$1 per pound. I have seen a captain of a vessel, who by his old contract in the port from whence he sailed, was getting \$60 per month, his cook \$75, and offering \$100 per month for a steward, his former crew, even to his mates, having gone a "prospecting."

Uncle Sam's ships suffer a little the same way, although they offer from \$100 to \$500 for the apprehension of a deserter. The Ohio, however, laid in the port of Monterey about a month, and lost only 20 or 30 men.

Col. Stevenson's regiment is disbanded; ninety-nine out of an hundred of whom have also gone "prospecting," including the Colonel, who arrived in Monterey last month from his last post, and was met by his men at the edge of the town to escort and cheer him into town. The captains, &c., have bought up country carts and oxen, tamed drivers, and gone to the place. Our worthy Governor, Colonel 1st dragons, &c., having plenty of carts, wagons, horses and mules, with a few regulars left, has also gone, but under better advantages, for the second or third time, to see the place and the country, and have justice done to his countrymen or himself. Commodore Jones, lately arrived at Monterey, supposed it to be the capital, headquarters, &c., but found not even the Governor's tent! Where headquarters is, may be uncertain—whether in Monterey, Sutter's Fort, or in a four mule wagon travelling over the gold region. Now, whether headquarters are freighted with munitions of war, &c., to clothe the suffering Indians, for the paltry consideration of gold, no one cares or knows. But the principle should be, that if privates can or will be off making their thousands, those who are better able should not go goldless.

Gold Deposits of Siberia.

At a time when the recent wonderful discoveries in California are attracting universal attention, a notice of the gold deposits of Siberia, which, from their recent discovery, great richness, and distance from the seat of civilization, offer obvious points of comparison with our own El Dorado, would seem to possess unusual interest.

The materials for the notice of the auriferous alluvions of Siberia, which I propose now to give, have been principally compiled from the invaluable repository of metallurgical knowledge, the *Annales des Mines*, and particularly from an article extracted from the *Gazette de Commerce* of St. Petersburg, inserted in the volume of *Annales* for 1843.

For some years previous to 1829, the attention of the Russian Government and private adventurers was devoted to working the auriferous alluvions of the western banks of the Oural Mountains. This works in this district made rapid progress, and establishments for washing the gold were successively organized among the mountains lying farther to the north. But it was generally considered that there was no hope of finding gold in Siberia, or the vast country on the other side of the Oural Mountains; and the directors of the principal mines of that country gave the sanction of their authority to these views. Notwithstanding this, two enterprising merchants, named Popoff and Rezanoff, determined to explore the slopes of the *contreforts* of the Oural chain, which extended their ramifications into Tobolsk. In 1829 they discovered some indications of auriferous deposits at the foot of the Altai Mountains, in the government of Tomsk; but the product of the washings was so small as to confirm the idea of the unproductiveness of the sands of Siberia.

In 1830, a distinguished engineer of mines having been made Governor of Tomsk, the auriferous sands of this part of the Empire were methodically explored by officers who had obtained experience in the Oural and a deposit quite rich in gold was discovered. This discovery entirely changed the ideas which had been entertained respecting the wealth of the soil of Siberia, and encouraged many private adventures to commence explorations for gold. In 1831, Popoff found in the valleys of the affluents of the Kiy many beds of auriferous sands, but only moderate richness. In 1831, Rezanoff discovered upon the borders of the Kondoutouyule a very rich deposit, which is yet celebrated for its productiveness. Upon this point the labors of the adventurers were concentrated for several years. In 1836, researches were extended towards the east, in the southern part of the government of Yeniseisk. There, in a country bristling with rocks, and almost inaccessible, a series of exceedingly rich deposits was discovered upon the shores of the Birozka.

But the treasures of this rich basin were not sufficient for the activity of the explorers, whose numbers constantly increased. In 1839, Rezanoff, with many others, penetrated the northern country, to the vast regions watered by the rivers Upper, Lower, and Rocky Toungousska. In 1841, between the last two rivers, they found a great number of beds of auriferous sands, remarkable both for their extent and richness, and which, in the immensity of treasures which they contained, surpassed all others before discovered.

We have no detailed account of researches since 1842; but at that period explorers were pushing still further north and east, and the reports which we have of the enormous increase of the products of the auriferous sands of Russia in 1846, show that the explorations were crowned with success. It is a matter of scientific interest, and it may be a matter of practical importance, as indicating the proper districts for research in California, to notice the nature of the mountains among which the principal auriferous deposits in Siberia have been found.

The middle of Siberia is furrowed by an almost uninterrupted series of imposing chains of mountains, dependent upon those of Central Asia, and designated successively from west to east, under the name of the Altai, Sayane, Dnorrie, &c. The important beds of auriferous sands have never been found upon the declivities of the principal chains.

Even in the high mountains, which have been explored with the most care, as in the district of the mines of Kolyvan, which abound in copper and silver, no auriferous beds have been found, except some which were too poor to be washed with profit. All the beds of auriferous sands important for their extent or richness, as yet discovered in Siberia, have been found upon the declivities of the *contreforts* of the principal ranges, or the lesser hills, which descend in numerous ramifications from the principal ranges. The declivities containing the gold are found scattered between the summits of the different systems of lesser mountains, and in the valleys which are sometimes parallel to the direction of the chain, or transversal to them. They are more often found upon the borders or in the beds of streams of water, or in marshes. Auriferous deposits are never found upon the crests of the lesser heights; and if they are discovered on the declivities, it is always at the foot.

The beds of auriferous sands repose in part upon the underlying rock, sometimes separated from it by a bed of earth composed of gravel and rounded stones, or a fat clay. Among the gravel are found fragments of rock of the nature of the formations which compose the surrounding heights—a proof that the sands have not been formed far from the localities where they are now found.

The mountains are composed principally of phylolite, (a foliated rock,) chlorite and talcose slates, alternating with a calcareous rock without petrifactions. These rocks are pierced by numerous veins of quartz and protruded masses of diorite. The presence of the latter, an igneous rock, appears to indicate the points near which the gold may be found. It would occupy too much time to give a detailed enumeration of the different auriferous beds which are worked in Siberia. One of the most celebrated deposits is one called Vosskrenesky, in the basin of the Kiy, owned by the merchants Paladine and Rezanoff—the latter one of the first adventurers. This bed for several years produced 5 *zolitniks* for 100 pounds, or one part of the gold in seventy eight thousand of sand. A deposit which contains 13 *zolitniks* to 100 pounds, is worked with great profit. This immense bed, whose thickness is at no point less than five English feet, and in many places twenty-seven feet, lies at a depth of over thirty feet under sedimentary beds, in such a manner that the working cannot be carried on under the open sky, and the bed is consequently worked by subterranean galleries. This deposit, in 1842, had produced 330 pounds, equal to 14,520 pounds Troy of gold. The bed called *Synsky*, upon the borders of the Great Pekin which flows into the Oudeira, one of the latest discovered is yet more remarkable. The yield of this bed for one year has been 9 *zolitniks* for 100 pounds, or one part of the gold in 43,000 of sand; and it has yielded in that time 4,400 pounds Troy of gold. Although there are doubtless beds which, having a large extent, contain upon the whole greater riches, this deposit, by its relative richness, the quantity of metal which it contains, and the facility with which it is worked, is the most productive in Siberia. It belongs to a single individual, a merchant named Mianikoff, who has, by his good fortune and enterprise, in a short time become one of the wealthiest men in Russia.

It is interesting to see how insignificant the first attempts at working the sands of Siberia were, and how rapid the progress of the works has been. The following in round numbers are the products of several years after the first explorations.

In 1830	5 pounds, equal to 431 lbs. Troy.
In 1831	10 "
In 1832	22 "
In 1833	36 "
In 1834	65 "
In 1835	93 "
In 1836	105 "
In 1837	132 "
In 1838	193 "
In 1839	183 "
In 1840	255 "
In 1841	358 "
In 1842	631 "

In the year 1842 the auriferous deposits of the Oural Mountains produced 310 pounds. The whole product in Russia, in Siberia, and the Oural; for that year, was 40,557 pounds Troy. The production, since that period, increased in nearly the same ratio. Liplay, professor of metallurgy, at the schools of mines in Paris, estimates, from reliable sources, that the value of gold produced in Russia, from the auriferous sands, in 1846, would be equal to ninety millions of francs, which would make the weight of the metal equal to 78,000 pounds Troy, (thirty-nine tons.) He states that at that time many of the alluvions, worked with profit, contained only one part of gold in two millions of earthy material worked. Residues, worked at a former period, have been reworked, which contained only one part in four millions. Some idea may be formed of the labor required to produce this immense mass of treasure, when it is understood that the workings of that single year would cause the extraction, manipulation, and transportation of over fifty million tons of materials, which is more than the total weight of all the materials extracted and elaborated by the collieries and iron establishments in Great Britain. The increase of the gold workings in Siberia has demanded so much iron for tools, steam engines, &c., as to have had an important effect upon the exportation of the Russian iron.

More extraordinary single masses of gold have been found in the Oural Mountains than in Siberia. The largest mass (pepite) of gold in the world was discovered at Minsk in 1842. It was found in a bed of auriferous sands, at a depth of about twelve feet from the surface of the soil, under the foundations of the establishment for washing. Its weight was 36,020 kilograms—over ninety-six pounds Troy. Near this, fifty-two masses were found, weighing from one to seven pounds, according to Humboldt. The largest pepite of gold before known was found in Anson county, North Carolina; the weight was about fifty-eight pounds.

Before concluding this notice, I must glance at the administrative dispositions which are made for washing and regulating the labors of adventurers in the gold districts of Siberia.

An individual who wishes to explore the mountains of Siberia must have a license to that effect from the minister of finances. After he has found a deposit—and it may be remarked, that many search in vain and lose all the expenses of their explorations—a tract of land called a parcel is conceded to him by the Government. It is provided that a parcel shall not exceed certain limits, and that the same individual shall not possess two contiguous parcels. The duty claimed by the Government is from 15 to 25 per cent, according to the richness of the deposit, and the explorers are bound to pay four rubles for one pound of gold extracted, for the expense of a surveillance of the mine. Officers are appointed to lay out the parcels, and to see that all the gold obtained is registered in books provided for that purpose. The gold is first sent to the administration of the mines of Adai. After having been first assayed there, it is sent under charge of officers to the mint at St. Petersburg. There, a definite assay is made, which fixes the first value of gold, and the duty which the Government shall retain. This, with the expense of coinage, is deducted, and the remainder is sent to the proprietor in pieces of five gold rubles.

The washing of the gold is effected upon inclined planes of different constructions, which are set in movement by horses, hydraulic wheels, or steam power. The machines and processes have been carried to a high degree of perfection, as may be seen by the small per centage of gold in sands which are now worked with profit. The laborers belong principally to the class of convicts; but as the country is traversed by detachments of cosacks, and all the laborers are under the surveillance of officers of the Government, perfect order and system prevail in the establishments.

The importance of this enterprise to Russia is incalculable. Developing national industry in a desolate country, which would otherwise have been almost unknown and wholly unimproved, and creating an immense capital, which, taking another direction is enjoyed and improved throughout the whole Empire, perpetually supplying a currency, and filling the treasury of the Empire without impoverishing its subjects, it has been to Russia one of the greatest sources of its national prosperity, and has tended materially to the permanence of the most powerful Empire on the continent of Europe, whilst so many other governments have tottered and fallen around it.

The view of this great enterprise which we have now taken is peculiarly interesting to us, when a similar and almost parallel enterprise is presented to us on the shores of the Pacific. It shows us, if Siberia can be any example, that the sands of California are not to be exhausted in a few months but that a field for systematic and well organized labor is there opened, whose products may be doubled for years to come. It has been said, that he who finds a mine finds a workshop; the history of the Siberian mines shows that the richest deposits of gold are no exception to this rule, which would not be forgotten by the Californian adventures. It is singular that such wonderful natural resources should, about the same time, be opened to two people of different races, and occupying the extremes of geographical position and political relations. The influence of our race and institutions will be seen in the improvement which we shall make of the resources.

A GREEK FUNERAL.—I remember when they buried that bright eyed Greek maiden, snatched suddenly from earth, when her young heart was as light as her face was fair, they arrayed her, so rigid and motionless, in the gay dress she had never worn except for some great feast or gala, as though this, more than any, were a day of rejoicing for her: and thus attired, with her long hair spread out over her still bosom, all decked with flowers, they laid her uncoffined in the grave. At her feet they placed a small flask of wine and a basket of corn, in accordance with an ancient Greek superstition, which supposed that for three days and nights the disembodied spirit lingers mournfully round its tenement of clay, the garment of its mortality, wherein, as a pilgrim and a stranger on the earth, it lived and loved, it sinned and suffered. As soon as the first symptoms of decay announce that the curse of corruption is at work, they believe that the purer essence departs to purer realms. Before the grave was closed, whilst for the last time the radiance of the sunset cast a glow, like the mockery of life, over the marble face of the poor young girl, her friends as a last precaution, took measures to ascertain that she was actually dead, and not in a swoon. The means they always take in such instances to ascertain a fact which elsewhere would be insured by a doctor's certificate, is touching in the extreme: the person whom, whilst alive, it was known the deceased loved best, the mother, or it may be the young betrothed who had hoped to place on her head the gay and bridal crown, instead of the green laurel garland of death, advances and calls her by name, repeating after it the word "ella" (come) several times, in a tone of the most passionate entreaty; if she is mute to this appeal; if she is deaf to the voice dearest to her on earth, then they no longer doubt that she is dead indeed; they cover up the grave, lift their eyes to heaven where they believe her to be—for the Greeks do not hold to the doctrine of purgatory, and having made the sign of the cross, they depart in silence to their homes.—But a year after, on the anniversary of the death, they return to the grave, and kneeling down, lay their lips to the sod and whisper to the silent tenant that they love her still, and she is yet remembered and regretted.

A Spaniard youth complained that his sword was too short. "Lengthen it," rejoined his fencing-master, "by going a step nearer your antagonist."

Mrs. Partington says that her minister on thanksgiving day, preached about the "parody of the probable son."

For one man who sincerely pities our misfortunes, there are hundreds who sincerely hate us for our success.