

## **The new gold mines of western Kansas, second edition**

### **Section 2, Pages 31 - 60**

This booklet contains a description of the gold mines in the Cherry Creek and Pike's Peak regions of Kansas Territory. It includes information on routes, camping places, equipment needed, and "everything important for the emigrant and miner to know." It has advertisements for businesses in St. Louis, Missouri, and Lawrence, Kansas Territory,

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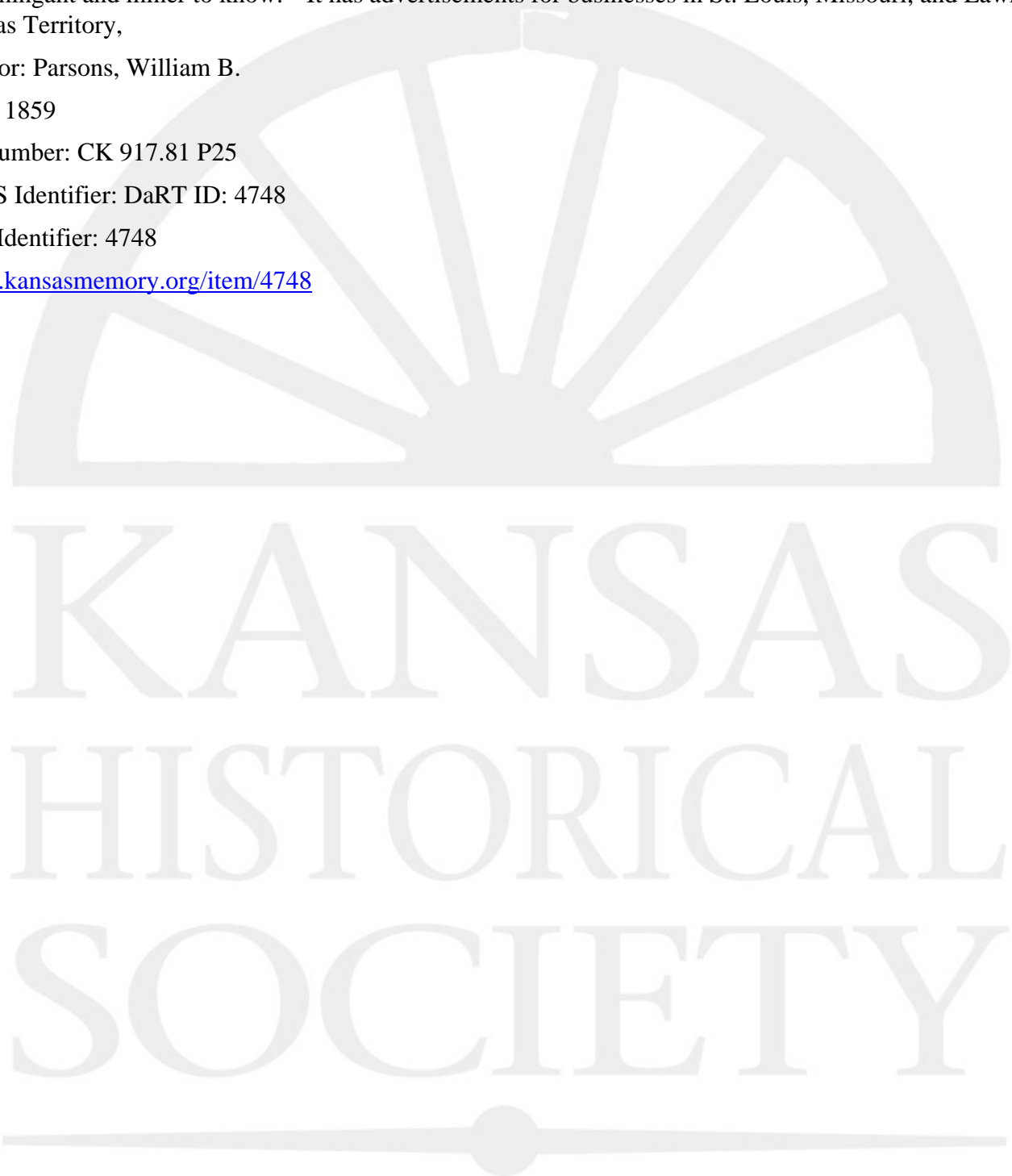
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WESTERN KANSAS.

31

will arrive at Lost Spring, sixteen miles from Diamond. The spring itself is rather difficult to find. A large basin will be noticed—the ravines defiling toward the northwest. Upon entering the basin, turn to the right, and the spring will be found on the lowest ground, under a bluff thirty feet high. There is no wood here, but buffalo chips are plenty, which answer the purposes of fuel very well.

From Lost Spring the distance is twenty miles to Cottonwood Creek, where is wood, water, and grass, and a trading post. Buffalo also begin to appear. Twenty-five miles, without wood, and with very little water in holes along the road, brings us to Turkey Creek.—There are several small creeks near to each other, and the writer was puzzled to know which was Turkey Creek. However, it makes but little difference, as the water in all is about the same, being stagnant, and no wood on either. Fifteen miles farther west is the Little Arkansas—the first stream on the road that is dignified by the name of “River.” the crossing of this stream was very bad in June, 1858, and always must be. A bridge was in process of erection when the writer passed, and will probably be finished before the spring of 1859. A trading post will be found here; running water,



wood and grass, and buffalo, in abundance. Little Cow Creek is thirteen miles farther on, and Cow Creek two miles farther still. A moderate supply of wood will be found on both creeks, and generally water in both. Plum Buttes, twelve miles from Cow Creek, can be easily recognized, being prominent, and plentifully inscribed with names and dates. No wood, and a very little stagnant water.

After traveling thirteen miles farther we reach the Arkansas River, and fine wood and water in abundance. Five miles up the river is Allison's ranche, at the junction of Walnut Creek and the Arkansas. Mr. Allison has a strong house and corral, built of logs set endways in the ground, forming a safe defense against the Indians. Arapahoes and Cheyennes will begin to show themselves; all will present papers, from which you will learn that "the bearer is a Cheyenne Chief, intelligent and brave, and earnestly desires a little flour, sugar, and coffee."

The best advice that I can give in regard to intercourse is, to treat them well invariably. If they come in bands of three or four, feed them,—or if in bands of two or three hundred, feed their chief men. Watch them constantly, or they will

steal every thing you have. Trade with them freely if you need their mocassins, robes or belts; but keep your arms in good order, and always ready for use. Be kind, and yet cautious, and you will have no trouble with them.

It is twenty miles from Walnut to Ash Creek, at which place there is wood, but the water can not be depended upon, as it becomes dry early in the season. Six miles will bring us to Pawnee Fork, where is plenty of wood and water. At this place the emigrant will do well to fill his canteen (as indeed he always ought to do), and his water cask, as water is scarce for a long distance beyond.

After leaving Pawnee Fork four miles behind, two roads will be found—one following the river, and the other leading across the prairie, cutting off some forty miles distance. The "cut-off" can be safely taken any time before the first of July; after that time it would be dangerous, on account of the scarcity of the water. From Pawnee Fork the distance to the next water—Coon Creek—is thirty-three miles, better traveled in the night if the weather is warm. There is no wood at Coon Creek. From Coon Creek to Whitewater (a very small amount of water) is twenty miles; thence,

to the Arkansas again, twenty-three miles. After striking the Arkansas, no dependence can be placed on finding wood until we reach Bent's Fort. There is a little timber in places, and some drift-wood, but it does not occur at right intervals for camps. Whenever you *do* find wood, put some in your wagons, or swing it under them.

No particular directions can be given in relation to camps upon the Arkansas. The road is at a distance from the river varying from half a mile to two miles; and the assistant wagon master should have a horse, and never fail to attend to the selection of camps. The only circumstance that will govern the choice of camps will be the supply of grass, as water can be obtained at one point nearly as well as at another. The prairies are very sterile—nothing growing in many places except cactus and sage brush; and if a train finds a tract of green grass on some bottom, or in some turn of the river, as early as three or four o'clock in any day, they had much better camp than proceed with the chance of their stock suffering.

From the point above mentioned, where the road a second time strikes the river, to the point where the Santa Fe trail crosses the river, is twenty-seven miles—the ruins of Fort Atkinson



WESTERN KANSAS.

35

being near the road. At this point we leave the Santa Fe trail, keeping upon the north side of the river. The distance thence to Bent's Fort is one hundred and fifty miles, the route being of the character already mentioned. Bent's Fort is situated at the "Big Timbers," and near the corner where New Mexico "jogs in" to Kansas. It is built of stone, in a rectangular shape, about 125 feet long, 100 feet broad, and 14 feet high; has two entrances—one upon the north, and one upon the east side; and is altogether a strong fortification for the purposes for which it was erected. From Bent's Fort to Bent's Old Fort the distance is thirty-five miles; wood, water and grass being moderately abundant. The mountains on the southwest are the Raton, and on the right, Pike's Peak.

The road continues upon the river fifty miles farther, and then leaves it, bearing to the right. Fifteen miles from the Arkansas it strikes the Fontaine qui Bouille Creek, at a beautiful grove of cottonwoods called Independence Camp. The last named creek has its source in the canons beneath Pike's Peak, and flows south into the Arkansas River, at an average distance of twelve miles from the base of the mountains. The highest eleva-

tion in the northwest, from the last mentioned camp, will be recognized as Pike's Peak. The road follows up the stream eighteen miles, and then leaves it, and bears to the right fifteen miles to Jim's Camp, which is fifteen miles east from Pike's Peak. At this place will be found a good supply of wood and very fine water. From Jim's Camp the distance is twelve miles to "Brush Corral," or the entrance of the "Pinery." The corral will be easily found. It was built by Col. Loring, of the United States army, who led a detachment destined for Utah over the route in May, 1858. The next camping place is O'Falley's Grave, twelve miles distant, the whole way being through the pinery, and marked by the various camping places of Colonel Loring—broken wagons and dead animals, all of which attest the difficulties of his march. O'Falley's grave is in an amphitheater of hills and rocks—a peaceful valley, watered by a beautiful stream. O'Falley was one of the victims of Col. Loring's march.

From O'Falley's Grave to the head of Cherry Creek the road is still through the pinery, fourteen miles; thence, thirty-five miles—water all the way to the Cherry Creek diggings. Cross the creek at the first road that leads across.

WESTERN KANSAS.

37

After traveling two miles, you will reach the Platte, which, followed up five miles, will bring you to the "diggings."

ROUTE No. 2, (SOUTH PLATTE).—Starting from Lawrence, this route lies up the valley of the Kansas, through Big Springs, Tecumseh and Topeka; crosses the Kansas six miles above Topeka, at Baptist mission, and passes through St. Mary's Mission, forty miles from Lawrence—country all settled, wood and water plenty. From St. Mary's Mission you pass on to Red Vermilion, twelve miles; Rock Creek, eighteen miles; Black Vermilion, twenty miles; Big Blue, eight miles; and meet the Leavenworth and Laramie military road sixteen miles farther, and one hundred and thirty-five miles from Leavenworth. The road to this place is known as the old California road, over which the overland emigration in 1849 and 1850 passed. At all the points mentioned, wood, water and grass are abundant.

From the point last named to the Cottonwood is six miles, and to Little Sandy is twelve miles; thence to Rock Creek again, seventeen miles. Wood, water and a store at this place.

The next point is Patterson's, eighteen miles

from Rock Creek. From Patterson's to McDowell's Rancho is twenty miles; thence to Russell's Rancho, or "Little Blue Station," twenty-four miles; water and wood being abundant the whole way. Mr. Russell has a fine stock of goods at this point, and emigrants in need of any supplies will find him prepared to furnish them, and they will, moreover, find him to be a gentleman, which can not by any means be said of every one you meet upon the plains. Four miles beyond this station the road leaves the Little Blue, and passes nine miles over a ridge destitute of wood and water. It there strikes the creek again, and follows it fifteen miles to Hume's," a mail station. Thence, twelve miles more brings us to "31 mile creek," after which we have twenty-six miles without wood, and with stagnant water only found in two or three ponds, until we strike the South Platte River, five miles from Fort Kearney. This is a military post of the United States, garrisoned by two or three companies of infantry and cavalry, and under the command of Colonel May of Mexican renown. Beyond Kearney a few settlements will be found, mostly mail stations. The road does not leave the river after passing Fort Kearney, except at a few points, being at an av-



erage distance of one or one and a half miles. The principal land-marks will be noticed in the table of distances.

Grass is not very abundant beyond Kearney, and east of the crossing of the South Platte, or rather *was* not very abundant in 1858, on account of the vast number of animals which passed over the road. It will probably be better next season. There is no wood of any account between O'Fallen's Bluff and Fort St. Vrain (see table). Water will be found without much difficulty the whole way.

Leave the mail road at the point where it crosses the South Platte, and, turning to the left, follow up the south side of the river *all the way to the mines*. The distance from the crossing to the mines is two hundred and thirty miles. The first Fort is fifty miles this side of the mines, the middle one thirty-eight, and the last one thirty. Cross Cherry Creek at the point where the Fort Laramie and Fort Garland road crosses the South Platte, and five miles beyond will be found the homes of the miners.



ROUTE No. 3, (MIDDLE, OR SMOKY HILL).—This route leads from Lawrence to Big Springs, fifteen miles; thence to Topeka, ten miles; Baptist Mission, five miles; Wabonsa, forty miles; Manhattan, twelve miles; Fort Riley, fifteen miles. Thus far it is through a country thickly settled, and well watered and timbered all the way, and crossing the river at Manhattan. From Fort Riley, pass up the Smoky Hill Fork, fifty-two miles, to Salina; and thence up the stream one hundred and thirty miles more, to the point where the Pawnee trail strikes the Smoky Hill. At that point, leave the Smoky Hill, and take a southwest course, thirty-five miles, to Pawnee Fork, and thirty-five miles more to the Arkansas, striking the river at the point where the Santa Fe trail crosses it, and twenty miles up the river from Fort Atkinson; thence follow up the river, as directed in the description of the southern route.

Pawnee Fork will be found about midway between Smoky Hill and the Arkansas, and water for stock in ponds and dry creeks along the road. Pawnee Fork is a clear stream, about forty feet wide, and one foot deep, and is the only place in the seventy miles where wood can be found—*bois de vache*, or buffalo chips, being abundant, however.



WESTERN KANSAS.

41

After arriving at the Arkansas, the route is the same as that before described. An improvement might be made in this route, by going from Big Springs to Brownville, thirty-three miles; thence to the bend of the Mormon trail where it turns north, thirty-three miles; thence southwest, sixteen miles to the Sac trail; thence due west, forty miles, to Salina; thence up the Smoky Hill, as before.

The routes given can all be varied somewhat, and in some cases, perhaps, with advantage. As an instance, the northern route might be altered, by going to Fort Riley; thence up the Republican and Little Blue to Hume's Station, as before mentioned, and onward by Kearney; but most of the emigration will pass over the routes described, and the question naturally arises with each person,—Which is the best one?

Each one has some advantages peculiar to itself. The Santa Fe route is undoubtedly the best *road*, but it runs *across* the watercourses for a good part of the way, thus making numerous intervals without grass, wood or water—these intervals being small, but still inconvenient in case of unavoidable delay at any point between the creeks; and, besides, this route is the *longest*, and

leaves the settlements about one hundred and twenty-five miles from Lawrence. The northern route has better water and grass than the Santa Fe, and is some forty-six miles shorter; but the road from the crossing of the South Platte to the mines is very sandy and heavy—sufficiently so to compensate for fifty miles or more. The middle or Smoky Hill route is four miles shorter than the Santa Fe, and forty-two miles longer than the northern, but *it follows on the banks of streams the whole distance*, except about one hundred and thirty miles, thus enabling the emigrant to reach water at any point that he may desire or be compelled to. The grass is of the finest quality, and uninterrupted; and the country is settled by an agricultural population nearly two hundred miles from Lawrence. The mines are a few miles north of a parallel running through Kansas City or Lawrence. It will thus be seen, that by the Santa Fe route we pass a considerable distance *south* of a direct line; and by the northern route fully as far *north* of a direct line to the mines. By the middle route we take an air line, as near as the nature of the country will ever admit. A single glance at the map will suffice to convince any one that the most direct and natural route for post

WESTERN KANSAS.

43

roads to Western Kansas, or for a railroad to the Pacific, is, and must be, up the valley of the Kansas. Population and wealth work their way first along the watercourses. The largest and oldest settlements in the Territory are in the valley of the Kansas; and it will maintain its precedence in wealth and population, and in the development of agriculture and mineral resources. The author is not personally acquainted with this route, having gone out by the southern, and returned by the northern, but he has gained his information from Colonel Fremont's report, and the accounts of gentlemen of his acquaintance whose means of information have been extensive, and upon whom he can rely. The Kansas Stage Company intend to make an accurate survey of this route, and put a line of stages upon it in the spring.

The following is a tabular statement of the distances by the several routes :

MIDDLE ROUTE.

LAWRENCE, to—

Big Springs.....	15		Point where the Paw-		
Topeka.....	10	25	nee Trail strikes	130	279
Baptist Mission ..	5	30	Smoky Hill .....		
Wabonsa.....	40	70	Pawnee Fork....	35	314
Manhattan .....	12	82	Arkansas Cross'g.	35	349
Fort Riley .....	15	97	Bent's Fort.....	150	499
Salina .....	52	149	Thence, as described		
			in Santa Fe Route	207	706
			to the MINES....		

GOLD MINES OF

SANTA FE ROUTE.

LAWRENCE, to—

Yates's Crossing .	6	Walnut Creek...	5	224
Camp Creek ....	16	Ash Creek.....	22	244
[Kansas City to "110"—80 miles.]				
"110" .....	16	Pawnee Fork....	6	250
Burlingame .....	6	Coon Creek.....	33	283
Dragoon Creek ..	6	Whitewater .....	20	303
Bluff Creek.....	21	Arkansas .....	23	326
Elm Creek.....	8	Cross. Santa Fe tr.	27	353
"142" .....	4	Bent's Fort .....	150	503
Council Grove...	4	Bent's Old Fort..	40	543
Diamond Spring.	16	Huerfano .....	40	583
Lost Spring.....	16	Font. qui Bouille.	15	598
Cottonwood Cr'k	20	Road cross. Fon-	18	616
Turkey Creek....	25	taine q. Bouille}		
Little Arkansas ..	15	Jim's Camp ....	15	631
Little Cow Creek	13	Brush Corral....	12	643
Cow Creek.....	2	O'Falley's Grave.	12	655
Plum Buttes.....	12	Head Cherry Cr'k	14	669
Arkansas .....	13	Crossing .....	35	704
		MINES .....	6	710

NORTHERN ROUTE.

LAWRENCE, to—

Big Springs.....	15	McDowell's .....	20	187
Topeka .....	10	Russell's Rancho.	24	211
Baptist Mission..	5	Hume's .....	24	235
St. Mary's Miss'n	10	31-Mile Creek ...	12	247
Vermilion.....	12	5-Mile Creek ....	26	253
Rock Creek .....	18	Fort Kearney....	5	258
Big Vermilion...	20	17-Mile Point....	17	257
Big Blue.....	8	Plum Creek.....	18	293
Leav. & Laram. r'd	16	Cottonwood Sp'g	40	333
[Leavenworth to this point, 135.]				
Cottonwood Cr'k.	6	Fremont Spring.	40	373
Little Sandy.....	12	O'Fallon's Bluff..	5	378
Rock Creek.....	17	Cross'g S. Platte	40	418
Patterson's.....	18	Fort St. Vrain ..	200	618
		Cherry Creek....	40	658
		MINES .....	6	664



WESTERN KANSAS.

45

GENERAL TABLE OF DISTANCES.

KANSAS CITY, to—

"110" .....	80	
Council Grove .....	49	129
Bent's Fort .....	416	545
MINES .....	207	752

KANSAS CITY, to—

Lawrence .....	45	
Fort Riley .....	97	142
Bent's Fort .....	402	544
MINES .....	207	751

KANSAS CITY, to—

Lawrence .....	45	
Fort Kearney .....	258	303
South Platte crossing .....	160	463
MINES .....	246	709

LEAVENWORTH, to—

Lawrence .....	35	
Council Grove .....	87	122
Bent's Fort .....	416	538
MINES .....	207	745

LEAVENWORTH, to—

Lawrence .....	35	
Fort Riley .....	97	132
Bent's Fort .....	402	534
MINES .....	207	741

LEAVENWORTH, to—

Marysville .....	130	
Fort Kearney .....	149	299
South Platte crossing .....	160	459
MINES .....	246	705

NEBRASKA CITY, N. T., to—

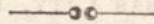
Fort Kearney .....	180	
South Platte crossing .....	160	340
MINES .....	246	586

ST. JOSEPH, Mo., to—

Fort Kearney .....	190	
South Platte crossing .....	160	350
MINES .....	246	596

QUINDARO, to—

Lawrence .....	35	
<i>(Daily Stages, running over a good Road.)</i>		



V I.

DIRECTIONS AND TOOLS FOR MINING.

THE person that imagines that he is about to realize a princely fortune by mining, and have an easy task in doing it, will find, on trial, that he was never more mistaken in his life. Some men whom the writer has seen on their way to the mines, were indulging the pleasing reflection that, by damming some stream and turning it from its course, they will find nuggets in the bottom like paving stones, or that the discovery and exploration of some cave will reveal stalactites and stalagmites of the alluring "mammon of unrighteousness" waiting to be broken off and "bagged."

Deluded mortals! Days of severest labor will be the realization of their dreams. The author has done a little of almost every thing, from chopping cord-wood down to preparing hand-books for travelers, but has never yet found anything that draws on the physical part of him like mining. Let every man make up his mind to work, or to come back from the mines poorer than when he went. Some will undoubtedly make fortunes in a day, but they are those lucky ones who will blunder into a fortune at some time or other, anywhere.

The methods of mining will be easily and quickly learned by experience; but some directions will be expected, and hence will be given. But first, a few words in regard to tools.

A shovel of the ordinary kind, a strong pick and a pan are absolutely necessary. The pan for washing is made like a common ten-quart milk-pan, only the sides are more "flaring," and have a rim around the top, by which the pan can be more easily handled. Besides these, a "Long Tom" and a "cradle" or "rocker" are used. A description will be attempted that will enable a mechanic to manufacture them.

1. *The Cradle*.—Imagine a baby's cradle with one rocker smaller than the other, so that the

foot of the cradle will be lower than the head; then knock out the foot-board, and fasten a bar across the top of the cradle about as far from the head as the cradle is wide, in such a way as to make a support for a sieve to rest upon; then make a box, with a sheet-iron bottom, with holes three-fourths of an inch in diameter punched in it, which will make the sieve. This rests on the top of the cradle, and over the square place at the head before spoken of.

Then, under the sieve, "cleats" must be nailed upon the side of the cradle, and on the inside, inclining toward the "head" in such a way as to support an "apron" or frame covered with cloth. Now nail a bar, one inch high, across the bottom of the cradle, in the middle, technically called a "riffle bar," and another three-quarters of an inch high, across the foot, and the cradle or rocker is done. The operation of the tool is simply this: the dirt is placed in the sieve, and water conducted into it—the cradle, at the same time, being constantly rocked. The dirt and gold is thus separated from the gravel, and washed through the sieve—the apron receiving the dirt and water, and being inclined toward the head, as described, prevents the gold from going out from the cradle

with a rush. The stream then flows off the apron, strikes the bottom of the cradle, and turns to run toward the foot. The gold being heavier than the sand, will sink against the bars, and the water and dirt will run out. The gold will of course be mixed with more or less black sand, and may be washed out at the end of the day with the pan.

2. *The Long Tom*.—This is simply a trough, fourteen or sixteen feet long, fifteen inches wide, and six deep. The side boards should extend fifteen inches beyond the bottom at one end, and be beveled up like the front end of a sled runner. On this extra length of side boards, a piece of sheet Iron, perforated as in the rocker, is to be nailed, and fastened at the same time to the bottom. Besides this trough, a box must be provided, similar to the cradle, without the sieve and apron. The Tom is then placed in an inclined position, the end on which the iron is nailed being the lowest. Under the lower end the "riffle box" is placed, the dirt shoveled into the trough, and a stream of water let in at the upper end. As the water passes through, the dirt is stirred and mixed with it, and the fine dirt and gold passes through the sieve, and, filling into the box, is caught as in the rocker, and may be

washed out with the pan at the end of a day or half day, as in the case of the rocker.

Besides these ways of separating and saving gold, sluices are often used, which are nothing more than a succession of Long Toms so arranged as to employ a large gang of men. Quicksilver is also used for saving the gold—it being mixed with the dirt, forms an amalgam with all the gold contained in it, and may be separated by heating. More may be learned in regard to the methods of mining by one hour's experience in the mines, than by reading directions during a week. Novices will find the excitement of the business passing away somewhat after a day or two, and will be satisfied to clear off a large space of surface dirt—make all water arrangements complete, and whatever they do, do well, so as to work to advantage when it begins to pay, rather than get some gold the first day, and be obliged to “lay by” for repairs every other day, or two or three hours each day.

WESTERN KANSAS.

51

VII.

CONCLUSION.

SUFFICIENT information has herein been communicated to enable the emigrant to successfully accomplish the journey to the gold-bearing regions of the West, and realize any *reasonable* expectations. The author does not wish to be understood, however, to say that no person can fail to secure a fortune. On the contrary, he expects to see thousands returning in a year or two discouraged and dissatisfied, as men came from California after a few months' experience there. Sickness, misfortune and death will overtake and conquer many—crime, idleness and extravagance will involve in ruin hundreds besides their followers—the vice and hideous deformities incident to new countries grown suddenly populous, will be seen in this the newest one of all. The exodus of honest, patriotic, peace-loving citizens will be side by side with that of the gambler, horse-thief, and the more accomplished metropolitan desperado—and the shouts of honorable industry will be mingled with the curses and vile jests of the abandoned of every age and sex. But the good will surpass the evil. A country uninhabited save by wan-

dering tribes, whose delight is blood and plunder, will be filled by an enterprising people and made to blossom as the rose; its broad fields, clothed by nature in all the beauty and richness of garb that fits it for the homes of intelligent people, their children and children's children, will be subdued; the mountains will be compelled to disgorge a portion of their illimitable store of valuable metals and precious stones; and, better than all else, a new star will be added to the galaxy of States—a new member introduced into the confederacy, which, by its peculiar position, will assist the unity and symmetry of the whole. What the political complexion of the new commonwealth may be, it is impossible to predict. Undoubtedly, however, it will open a new field for the elucidation of the great principle of squatter sovereignty, which, since its promulgation, has produced such satisfactory results. The people will most certainly regulate their domestic affairs in a way that will suit themselves—and as certainly will it suit them to avoid wranglings over abstract principles which avail them nothing, and turn their attention to those things which are of vital importance to the well-being of a State. They will lay the foundations of the institutions of learning



and religion, and thus prepare themselves, in the only possible way, for future usefulness and power. They will build cities and towns—locate and maintain good roads—encourage manufactures, and thus create a home market for their produce. They will desire communication with other portions of the continent, and to this end will build railroads and telegraphs to the East and to the West. All these things will not, however, be the fruit of a day. For a time men will work underground for riches, forsaking all other branches of industry; but the matter will soon be regulated. When it *is* so regulated, the most desirable object will be accomplished. The citizens of the new State will be no disturbers, for in their far inland home, depending for ingress and egress upon the older portions of the Union, they will see that their only hope and reliance is in the integrity of the political body of which they must sometime be the heart—the center. They will form a conservative, continental commonwealth, and as soon as they shall have emerged from their pupillage, and taken their place in the confederacy of States, their banner, unfurled from their lofty mountain battlements, will say alike to the dwellers on the the Atlantic and Pacific shores, “Behold our

mountain land! the place where Freedom first seeks a refuge from the wiles of tyranny, and from which she will be last driven out—Patriotism and heroism are at their highest standard in mountain lands!”

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VIII.

RECENT INFORMATION FROM THE MINES.

IF the public has entertained any doubt in regard to the productiveness of the Kansas Gold Mines after the perusal of the preceding chapters, the evidence given to the public since their publication must effectually dissipate such doubt. The foregoing chapters were published in December, 1858, and nearly every thing therein set forth was founded on the author's personal observation and experience. Since that time, so many men of sound judgment and well-known veracity have arrived from the gold mines, and, *without exception*, certified to their productiveness, that to doubt their value and importance, would be absurd. *The existence of gold in California, and in paying quantities, was not so well attested eighteen months after its discovery, as it now is in*



*Kansas, after less than six months.* The amount of *reliable and unimpeachable* testimony in possession of the author, would, if published, fill a volume.

The men who have given in their accounts of the yield of the mines, are nearly all well-known to the citizens of St. Louis, western Missouri, and Kansas; and no sane man in those sections, for a moment, questions their statements.

If any thing better than the following extract is asked for, to demonstrate the *reality* of the mines, the author frankly confesses that he will be obliged to give it up. Men that would ask more would disbelieve though one were to "rise from the dead." The extract speaks for itself:

*Memorial of the St. Louis Chamber of Commerce to the Honorable the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled,*

GENTLEMEN: Your memorialists, the St. Louis Chamber of Commerce, would respectfully represent that it is of very great importance to the States lying within the Mississippi Valley, that the Federal Government should, with as little delay as possible, establish in the city of St. Louis a Branch Mint, or, in the event of that requiring too much time to be got in working operation, an Assay Office. The fact that the region of country on the head waters of the Platte and Arkansas rivers, to the extent of three hundred miles north and south, and forty to fifty miles east and west, is richly covered with gold deposits of great purity and fineness, is so well established that it will no longer admit of a doubt. The reports that have been received from that country during the past four months, come from gentlemen so well known in the West for truth and veracity, that to disbe-

lieve them would be to set aside all the rules of evidence that are recognized in civilized communities.

As early as 1835, Mr. Eustice Carriere, a French trapper was lost from his party in that region, and wandered for several weeks through the country, during which time he collected numerous specimens, which he carried with him to New Mexico; and although he was unable to find the streams where he collected the specimens, when he subsequently attempted to do so with a party of Mexicans, and was severely beaten by his companions, under the belief that he did not wish to disclose their location, the more recent discoveries by other parties prove that Mr. Carriere was correct.

The Catholic missionaries have frequently found specimens in the possession of Kansas Indians, and others who annually visit the country for hunting.

Col. William Bent, who has been trading in that country for many years, says that the existence of gold has been known to the Indians ever since his residence among them. He made many inquiries after the discovery of gold in California, and has ever since been satisfied of its existence. The Indians, however, have always remonstrated against the knowledge being communicated to the whites, for the reason that the country is their richest hunting grounds and their best wintering quarters; and as one old chief told Col. Bent, if the white men found the gold they would take from them their "best and last home;" and their jealousy has guarded their secret until a very recent period.

In 1851, a party of emigrants from Missouri, Arkansas, and the Cherokee Nation, on their way to California, found gold while passing through the country, and a proposal was made at that time to stop and prospect; but having families with them and no means of affording them shelter and protection, they finally proceeded to California, and the developments of the gold deposits in that State prevented their return. Notwithstanding the stimulus given to public feeling and curiosity by their reports, nothing was attempted or accomplished until last season, when the settlement of the troubles in Kansas, left many persons in the country who had become habituated to excitement and adventure, and were looking out for some new field on which to exercise their latent energies. Reports of the existence of gold deposits in the region of Pike's Peak and Cherry Creek, having reached Lawrence, K. T., a party fitted out at that place, in May last, and started for the purpose of exploring the new mines; another party from Arkansas and the Cherokee Nation, stimulated by the old reports, started for the same des-



## The new gold mines of western Kansas, second edition

### WESTERN KANSAS.

57

tion; while a third party from central Missouri, under the direction of a member of the California company of 1851, took up their line of march for the same auriferous region. These parties have been prospecting the country during the summer, and the reports that they have returned to the States have stimulated others to make personal examination for themselves, and the last advices we have from there, represent that from one thousand to fifteen hundred men have been in the country during the summer and fall; and the results of these examinations have been coming to us during the past four months.

Capt. A. Smith, of Florence, who spent four days in the mines, returned with sixty dollars worth of gold—the result of his own digging.

Mr. Graeter, of Omaha, returned from the mines, bringing the most encouraging reports from the miners.

Mr. Richman, of Council Bluffs, spent some six days at the mines, the last of October and first week in November, and brought back twenty dollars' worth of "dust." He says that the miners who have been there long enough to get permanently located and at work, are making, without the aid of "Long Toms," or "Rockers," from two dollars and fifty cents to twenty dollars per day; while he was there he saw three dollars and fifty cents' worth of gold washed out of a single panful of dirt.

Mr. Courtright, of Council Bluffs, writes from the mines: "The prospects are good—the country has been prospected from here to the Arkansas, and gold has been found everywhere. The miners have made from two dollars and fifty cents to twenty dollars per day since I arrived here."

W. R. Reed, Esq., of Council Bluffs, who arrived at the mines the 30th of October, writes: "About two weeks before I got here there were some men going to the States; they showed me \$100 of the stuff. The man who carries this letter has \$12½ of the gold. There can't be any mining done this winter. I believe that the gold is here. There are some men at work and are making from \$1 to \$3 per day, that is on the Platte. Messrs. M. A. French, Wm. Smith, J. D. Miller, and A. Voorhies, of the Lawrence Company, left Cherry Creek digging about the first of October. They all brought with them rich specimens of gold, and fully corroborate the statements of Messrs. Parsons, Smith and Brittain, who arrived about ten days before; when they left the mines the Lawrence Company were still prospecting and continued to find gold in quantities varying from ten cents to one dollar and fifty cents per panful. The latter amount was only found occasionally. Some of the company had gone up on Dry Creek, a stream emptying into the Platte ten miles above



## The new gold mines of western Kansas, second edition

the mouth of Cherry Creek, and had met with good success. The average yield per panful being  $37\frac{1}{2}$  cents. Mr. Rooker, who was mentioned in Mr. Brittain's statement as working with a rude rocker made of a hollow log split, was still taking out about four dollars per day. He is quite an old man and somewhat feeble, and works slowly. Mr. Wm. Hartley, of Wabashe, took ten panfuls of dirt out of the place where Rooker is digging, and washed from it \$4 75 by weight. The old miners there who have been in California and Australia, think that the "show" is a good one.

Messrs. W. G. and J. O. Russell and V. W. Young, arrived in St. Louis a few days since from Pike's Peak. They brought with them specimens of gold, four ounces of which they sold to Messrs. Clark, Brothers & Co., of this city, who forwarded it to the Assay Office, New York, and have just received the report of the Assayer. The quality of this gold is 988-1000 fine, and the value \$19 21 per ounce as it came from the mines, and \$20 02 per ounce after melting and cleaning. The Messrs. Russell left the Georgia mines on the 9th of February last, with the view of prospecting in the region of Pike's Peak. They arrived at their destination on the 23d of June last, and were the first to put a shovel in the sand at Cherry Creek. Since June they have been engaged in mining and prospecting, with uniform success. They are old miners, having worked for years both in California and Georgia, and being thoroughly conversant with mining operations, their opinion in regard to the Cherry Creek diggings is entitled to much consideration. They say that with the present rude implements at the mines, from three to ten dollars per day can be made easily, and when proper machinery is introduced the amount can be increased four-fold. The gold is of a rich quality, and appears to be of inexhaustible quantity. The woods in the vicinity of the mines abound in all kinds of game. The soil is highly productive; coal has been found at the base of the mountains on the Platte, in seams of from one to twelve feet thick. The statement of Messrs. Russell relative to the abundance of game, and the productiveness of the soil is corroborated by all the statements that have come under our notice. The Messrs. Russell have returned to Georgia with the intention of forming a large company to go to Pike's Peak gold region in the spring. The specimens of gold they brought with them, according to the assay by the United States Assayer in New York, alluded to above, are very rich. Messrs. Hartley, Brant, Churchill and Dickson, who arrived in Lawrence on the 9th of November, from Cherry Creek mines, fully corroborate the statement of Mr. French and others. Mr. Robinson, who



## The new gold mines of western Kansas, second edition

### WESTERN KANSAS.

59

went out to the Cherry Creek diggings from Pottawatomie county last spring, returned about the first of November, bringing with him \$6,000 to \$7,000 worth of gold, the result of two months' work of himself and two other men. He intends to return to the mines in the spring, and re-commence operations there.

Mr. A. J. Davis, who left the gold regions on Cherry Creek on the 12th November, says that miners were washing out with a pan, from four to five dollars per day, and that his own experience in prospecting satisfied him that at least that amount could be made with a pan, and that from ten to twenty dollars per day or more could be realized with the aid of "sluices" or "Long Toms." He says that the finest gold is found on the banks of the Platte as low down as St. Vrain's Fort, and the lands grow richer as you approach the mountains.

Mr. D. D. Hoage, who went to the mines from Bellevue, some time in October, writes that from the Platte river all along the base of the mountains, three hundred miles north, in the beds and on the bottom lands of the streams, which make out of the mountain ravines and canons, gold is found in large quantities; and is being dug with rude implements even in the most unfavorable season for mining; and adds, in any place you please to dig you can find the gold in quantities never less than two cents to the panful of dirt.

Mr. George S. Simpson, an old mountaineer, who has lived under the shadow of the Rocky Mountains for eighteen years, writes that he has known of the existence of gold in the mountains about the head waters of the Arkansas, Platte and Green rivers, for more than fifteen years. He says that so far as he has been able to learn, the miners, though they are now quite successful, have not been prospecting in the right quarter to find large deposits of gold. He is of opinion that gold exists more plentifully in the mountains stretching southward from the Arkansas than in the range north of that stream.

Mr. John Harrison, of Belvidere, Illinois, went to the mines early in October. He says he scraped up some dirt on the banks of the Platte, and washed for about two hours with a pan, and took out about one dollar and fifty cents. He then went to Cherry Creek and washed from eight panfuls of dirt one dollar. He then went round where others were prospecting, and they all told him that they could average from two to ten dollars per day with pans, and if they had the proper implements to work with, they were of the opinion that they could make it pay well. He says he was in California in 1852, and from what he saw in the new mines, he thinks there is as much gold there as in Cali-



## The new gold mines of western Kansas, second edition

fornia; and that it is situated so that it can be taken out with much less expense, one great advantage being the abundance of water.

Mr. Oscar H. Totten, of St. Louis, writes from Auraria, under date of 20th of November: The gold is here, and men are now making from eight to twelve dollars per day with pans and rockers; but the best prospects have been found in the mountains and can not be worked this winter on account of the cold weather and want of water. That this will prove a second California, I have no doubt, and I think we will have a population of some 50,000 persons by next fall. All that are now here are satisfied with the prospects and the country.

Mr. W. W. Wimer, son of the Hon. John M. Wimer, late Mayor of St. Louis, returned from the mines a few days ago, and says there is plenty of gold there. His opinion is that the largest deposits will be found in the mountains.

Mr. John G. W. Coonce, of St. Louis, who was an old miner in California, writes from Fountain City near Pike's Peak, that there is gold all about that town, but not enough to pay to work at present, as the weather is too cold. He adds, I am of the opinion that there are just as rich deposits here in this country as in California.

Capt. West returned from the mines about Christmas, and reports that he prospected all the creeks in the gold region, and found gold to exist in every one of them. He says miners are averaging ten dollars and a half per day, with very indifferent tools to work with.

Mr. Josiah Hinman, late of Beloit, Wisconsin, writing from Montana, near Pike's Peak, under date of November 7th, says: There is gold here, but our means of getting it are limited. Some of our men, however, are making ten dollars per day, and as high as thirty to forty dollars per day have been made.

Mr. John Bueil, writing from the mines under date of 10th of November, says: Opposite my cabin miners are making from five to eight dollars per day. They carry the dirt some twenty yards to the river.

Hampden L. Boon, Esq., writing from South Platte, under date of 2d November, says: So far as gold is concerned, I would remark that we have found gold on all the streams where we have prospected; on the Fontaine qui Bouille, on Cherry Creek, and on the Platte. The question is at length settled with us, it is a fixed fact that there is gold here. I do not say we have found it in abundance, neither do I believe that it is here in very large quantities, but yet sufficient to pay a laboring man from five to ten dollars per day. Not more than fifteen rods