

has signified his opposition to two of the directors and implied his approval of others, the board, at a full meeting to-day, unanimously passed the following minute:—Resolved, that "The board desire to express their appreciation of the chairman's conduct in presiding at the meetings of the company in December and this month, which was perfectly legal, as well as being in strict accordance with their own views of what ought to have been done on both occasions. The directors also wish to state that if the shareholders should desire any of them to resign their seats at the board they would like to know on what grounds their resignation is considered desirable in the interests of the shareholders." The board have much pleasure in learning that the anticipations they have held out to the shareholders are being rapidly realised. The following is a summary of recent telegrams in proof of this, while the succeeding extract from Mr. Macrae's letter, which arrived to-day, furnishes confirmation of the satisfactory progress now made. (Here follow Mr. Hamill's telegrams which we have already published.) The board conclude by saying, "Since this circular was in type the second of Mr. Hamill's remittances of 1,000£. has, since the year began, come to hand, thus making 2,000£. already received from Colorado, and leaving 1,000£. on the way."

#### DIAMOND FIELDS COLLIERIES CO.

The formation of this company furnishes another illustration of one industry creating another. But for the development of the diamond mines of Africa it is certain that this company would not have seen the light of day for a period indefinitely remote. The introductory observations to the prospectus refer with truth to the fact that the unparalleled rapidity with which an enormous colony has sprung up since the diamond discoveries in Kimberley and the district has had the effect of almost completely denuding the country of timber within a wide radius, and wood is now brought from a distance of 150 miles. This rapid exhaustion of wood supplies has been a grave matter for the inhabitants of Kimberley and the neighbourhood. This company has therefore been formed to supply Kimberley and the surrounding country with fuel. Extensive mining rights have been acquired in the district of Kronstadt, in the Orange Free State, South Africa, where not only the "black diamond" but diamonds of the gem description appear to have been found. The prospectus states that "upon this property valuable discoveries of coal have been made, the mine is now being worked, and it is expected that immediate dividends will be paid. Diamonds have been discovered upon the property, but the payable value of the ground for these stones not having been fully ascertained, the directors will for the present confine their energies to working the coal seams which underlie the property." The colliery is described as being in active operation, and it is estimated that the annual profit on the whole of the capital (120,000£.) will be equal to 45 per cent. There are no royalties. The vendor has arranged the terms of purchase, viz., 76,000£., 40,000£. in shares and the balance in cash.

#### CORRESPONDENCE.

[We do not hold ourselves responsible for the Opinions or Statements of our Correspondents.]

#### THE GOLD COAST.

To the Editor of "THE MINING WORLD AND ENGINEERING RECORD."  
SIR,—After thanking you for your kindly appreciative review, in the *MINING WORLD* (March 3rd), of certain two volumes, I venture to hope that you will allow me space for a remark or two.

Capt. Cameron and I have only just "collaborated;" for "Wandering in West Africa," published in 1863, I alone am responsible. The book, though it borrowed much from Bosman and Barbot, had one merit, that of soliciting public attention for the gold mines. A decade or so afterwards I published in the now defunct "Ocean Highways" (February, 1874) a long paper describing two trips on the Gold Coast, including a ride from Accra to the Volta River, and especially noticing the gold.

You remark, "It will be seen by Mr. Gowans' statement that he entirely joins issue with the authors on the subject of the labour market, and that he can get any amount on the spot." Mr. Gowans adds (*MINING WORLD*, February 24th, 1883), "I think it will be ruinous to employ Chinese labour"—curious to one who knows the history of California. Sincerely congratulating the Gold Coast Company upon having secured the services of so active and able a manager as Mr. Gowans, I can hardly go to him for African experience. He has been a year or so in the country: Capt. Cameron has spent six or seven, and I date my studies from 1853. The whole West Coast, Liberia included, is crying out for coolie labour, and the French of Senegal have effected the navy importation; already their trains are beginning to run. We questioned every one who could enlighten us, and we did not hear a dissenting voice, except from Government officials, whose predilection for *quieter non movers*, for letting sleeping dogs lie, for reporting things pleasantly, and for ignoring unpleasantness is but too well known. Mr. Gowans only repeat our words when he says that hands abound, and if he look only to his own diggings at the present moment he may depreciate immigration. But when the five working companies grow to fifty, managers will sing in another tone; and it is to this development that my friend and I look forward. Meanwhile the rest of the West African Coast is a luxuriant waste for want of coolies.

Two correspondents have sent me an extract from the *Mining Record*, of New York, dated February 3rd, 1883. Its mistakes are as numerous as its lines. So far from "painting in rose-coloured tints," we carefully drew from the life. Let the writer read the reports sent home by a thoroughly trustworthy and experienced miner, Mr. Ross, still working, I believe, on the "Akankoo" concession. It is amusing to be told that I should have changed opinion after hydraulic study in California, when California first taught me "hydrauliclicking." Most of the Gold Coast "bush" is second-growth, far more easily cleared than that of the Californian foot hills when they were attacked by the "Argonauts of '49." The Yuba ridge of the Sierra Nevada

was as densely wooded as most parts of the Gold Coast, and the further we go north we shall find fewer trees, more grass and a greater quantity of gold. In the days of dynamite and clasmasite, disforestation is an easy matter, and wood burns freely in the open before the rains. That any amount of water can be obtained, not by "digging a water-hole," but by Norton's Abyssinian tubes and by damming the nullahs, must be evident to all observers. We have said that if cisterns were wanted they can be made on the summits of all the hills. Let it be noted, too, that the rainy season lasts three to four months out of the twelve. During this time every bed rolls a torrent, and the top soil, being thoroughly sopped, is easily removed without blasting. I deny that a fall is necessary, and assert that a force pump of sufficient power will do as well as a hydraulic "monitor." The writer "anticipates little better results from these (Gold Coast) ventures than from their Asiatic predecessors." He purposely ignores the difference, it being simply that these are admittedly poor, while those are rich. Finally, I take courage by observing that the Gold Coast, which threatens to oust California from her present prominence, is deemed worthy of Yankee jealousy.

It is tantalizing to read of the water-cannons, which level mountains, and to see, by "Hydraulic Mining in California" (*The Century*, January, 1883), what Americans and Chinese are doing on the other side of the ditch, while Britishers stand squabbling instead of setting to work. "A fine people," quoth Prince Bismarck, "but somewhat running to fat." If we are to oust California we must mend our manner of labour. A correspondent assures me that he has lately inspected the magnificent property called Apatim, and has found "hardly 50% worth of work to show for the lavish expenditure." I need hardly repeat our description of "the way the money goes." As is clearly proved by the Gold Coast Company, an honest and hard-working manager is the one thing first wanted. The three unfortunates who have thrown away their lives, and have sacrificed the interests of their companies, will serve as examples of "how not to do it."—I am, &c.,  
RICHARD F. BURTON.

#### EAST WHEEL ROSE.

SIR,—Although I was pleased to see "Investors" letter in your last issue, as an evidence of the interest the shareholders take in this valuable property, yet if the writer has any fear of those operators whom he castigates so unmercifully, I think such a feeling is to be deprecated. I am a miner and a mine owner, and know something of matters of this nature, and I would venture, with your permission, to point out one or two things to the shareholders. We have a property, which in the old days, when the science of mining was but imperfectly understood, and mechanics, as applied to mining, was in its infancy, paid enormous profits, and enriched its large shareholders beyond the wildest dreams of avarice. I believe I am not wrong in saying that the shares, 50% paid, were dealt in at 1,800£. per share. The lodes which were then worked were at that time not proved, nor worked on in the larger section of the area included in the present lease. In particular I would name Myddleton's lode, from which was taken by far the larger portion of the ore which was piled on the dressing floors of Old East Wheel Rose. Now mark this—the very lodes which enriched the old proprietors, and made the name of the mine a synonym for wealth wherever the English language was spoken, have been actually cut, and are being at this moment worked upon, in a portion of the area included in the lease, which gives us a run on the lodes that positively dwarfs the ore ground worked in the old palmy days, when shares were sold at a premium of over 2,000 per cent. And we, the present shareholders, are the actual owners of all this wealth. Then let us look at the cost of getting and dressing the ore. In the old days everything had to be done by manual labour. A level or a cross-cut would, by very good men, be driven at the rate of, perhaps, four fathoms per month. Now, with rock drills, twenty-eight fathoms can be easily managed at a less cost, and the establishment and pumping charges remaining the same, whether you drive one fathom or 100. Then the ore was dressed by hand (by women and children), if 35 per cent. can be called dressing. Now, with the new machinery, 100 tons can be dressed where one ton was before, and dressed up to *eighty per cent.* Why, then, should shareholders worry themselves as to the action of jobbers and dealers—bulls and bears, who send prices down for their own sweet purposes? Sure, 'tis their trade to depreciate a stock that they may buy it back cheap. True, they weed out the weak shareholders, but then it is very weak indeed of shareholders to be so weeded out. I conclude that *bona fide* adventurers bought their shares with a view to dividends, as I bought mine. Well, we shall have dividends, and sooner than some seem to imagine. I can imagine the state some of those gentlemen who have been so eager to get rid of their shares will be in in about three or four months time, when the mine enters the dividend list. To use an old Cornish phrase, "They will wish their cake dough."  
With most Englishmen the last test of a man's sincerity is, "Will you bet?" Well, sir, I never bet except on a certainty. I consider this a certainty, and I am open to give 5s. per share down for the call of East Wheel Rose shares at the end of June, at 33s. 9d. per share.

I enclose my card and address, should any of those gentlemen who cry "Pooh, pooh!" like to take up the challenge.—I am, &c.,  
AN OLD MINER.

#### COLORADO UNITED MINING CO., LIMITED.

SIR,—During the week I have received some reliable information relative to these mines, which, in justice to the shareholders, should be made public.

One correspondent writes:—"I have just received the *Mining Journal* of the 3rd February, and have read the report from the mine. The mineral in the back of the 12th level is larger than reported, also in the end of the 13th level, which has greatly improved."

Another correspondent writes:—"Taylor's stope in the 12th level sending up 14 car loads of solid ore per week; 13th level still improving in size and grade, 11 inch streak solid. I saw ore broken on Saturday good for 2,000 ounces of silver per ton."

I may add that I value this ground in the 13th level (if the pay streak is 11 inches) at 300£ sterling per fathom, or a sum exceeding the best points of Dolcoath, the greatest mine this generation has seen.

My word to the shareholders is "sink and drive," expend a little money in an air compressor and rock drills, and you will soon see your shares at 10£ each, as then your present reserves of 1,000 fathoms will soon be doubled; and, I would remind you, that the value of a mine does not so much depend upon the dividends paid, as upon the amount of reserves laid open.

I notice that the last official report from the mine gives 493 sacks of clobber ore for the week. This is the largest return we have had for years past.—I am, &c.,  
AROLD J. SMYTH.