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THEODORE HOBGOOD, Editor and Proprietor. CHARLES W. MALONE, Associate Editor.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 21, 1885.

MINING DECADENCE OUT WEST.

The Comstock, Eureka, and Other Mines - Speculation in 'Mining' Operators. (See Chicago Herald.)

No official report of the silver yield of the country for 1885 has yet been made public, but it does not need statistics to show that, so far as the region west of the Rocky mountains is concerned, the production of silver has fallen to but a fraction of former years.

The whole state of Nevada, indeed, is marked by abandoned shafts and tunnels, and strewn with idle and rusting machinery, while the population of the state has dwindled from 65,000 in 1880 to less than 40,000 in 1885.

Nowhere is this wreckage of the mining interests of the west more apparent than in San Francisco. Speculation in mines and mining stocks is as dead here as literature on the Congo.

The massive stone stock exchange, erected at a cost of \$1,000,000, stands desolate, its windows dotted with placards "To Let" and its great "toawood" doors yawning for victims.

The old operators, of the Ralston, Keene, Mills and Flood type, long since vanished from the scene.

With the decadence of speculation there has come, too, an end to sensational mining. There are no longer discoveries which set the public wild.

No Such Creatures as Coral "Insects." (See New York Post.)

This single coral animal (quite unlike an insect, and it is quite time for books to omit that designation—coral insect) is like the sea anemones, Actinias, or sea-flowers, some species of which we see on the rocks of our northern coast.

This little creature soon develops a hard covering or shell, secreting from its exterior a shell from the lime which is held in solution by the sea water, just as the clam or any shell-fish secretes the lime coverings are analogous to the skeletons of higher animals.

A great block many feet in diameter is no more than simply a congregation of many of these. When the little single coral is perfect in its lime tube, it buds, and increases itself thereby, adding constantly either in this way or by the emission of eggs.

Plumbago. (See Iowa Journal.)

Plumbago is the basis of stove polish, and comes mainly from the rich mines of Guaymas, Mexico. The plumbago comes from the mines in sacks weighing 150 pounds each.

The Nation: Nothing is more essential and dependable than the mud in which a nation rises up again.

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" " " " Pure Linen Hem-stitched Handkerchiefs at 25c.

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A special in Gauze Undershirts at 50c worth 75.

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