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INDIFFERENCE.

TO E. B. S.
(A Truth-Seeker.)

What is Indifference, thou seek'st to know?
It's meaning, I would truthfully define.
Is it an earth-born trait? Is it divine?
Does it retard the growth like poison slow,
Like secret enemy, like subtle foe?
And dim the light which should within us shine,
Reflecting gifts and graces that combine
To glorify Life's earnest aims below?

We would not dare that attribute extol
Which cools the ardor of Love's sacred flame,
Which stills the pulse, the sympathetic sigh,
And fails to stimulate the seeking soul!
'Tis egotism with another name,
And born of earth, descends not from on high.

ANNA HUBBARD MERCUR.

February, 1900.

NORTH CAROLINA GOLD MINES.

Several Located in This County Within a Few Miles of Carthage.

The glowing accounts of the rich finds of gold in Alaska, and the graphic descriptions of the different "diggings" and the routes taken to reach them, which have filled the columns of the press during the last few years, have made the average man very well informed regarding that far-off Eldorado; but there are comparatively few of our readers who know that we have a treasure-house almost at our very doors.

Of all the states in the Union, but few are so rich in natural resources as is North Carolina, with its mines of coal, iron, copper, silver, diamonds, emeralds, rubies and many other metals and precious stones. In early times this state was noted for its gold mines, and up to the time of the discoveries in California was the greatest gold producing state in the country.

Moore county is located on the southeast corner of the gold-bearing belt in this state, and there are a number of mines but a short distance from Carthage, the county seat. Work in most of these mines has been abandoned, but Mr. J. H. Huffstickler, our village blacksmith, who has done considerable mining in this county, informs us that the Belle and Burns mines hereinafter described are being operated on a small scale.

The following article is taken from *Bulletin No. 3*, issued by the N. C. Geological Survey in 1896, and will doubtless prove interesting to our readers.

"At what time gold mining was first undertaken in North Carolina cannot be ascertained, but several traditions, which carry a large probability of truth, would seem to indicate that the auriferous character of the section was known before the Revolutionary war. One of the localities in this state, which it is believed was worked before that struggle began, was the Oliver mine in Gaston county. The Brewer mine in Chesterfield county, South Carolina, is another; and the "Aborigines" shaft, at this latter place, is still pointed out where work was done earlier than any known records. Information has recently been received of the successful operation of the Parker

mine in Cherokee county, N. C., by the Cherokee Indians long before the coming of the white pioneers into that section. They obtained only nugget gold and their art was entirely inadequate to the winning of the fine dust gold.

"The first authentic find was on the Reed plantation, in Cabarrus county, where a 17 pound nugget was found in 1799. Its value was not suspected at first, but when it was ascertained to be gold, a systematic search was undertaken and a large number of nuggets were unearthed.

"Success at this mine stimulated search elsewhere; nugget gold was found at the Dunn mine in Mecklenburg county soon afterwards, and curious stories are still current of the common uses to which these nuggets were put by the local gunsmiths.

"By 1825 gold mining on a vigorous scale was carried on along the entire

seams also occur. The rock has much the appearance of being a schistose, metamorphosed eruptive; propylitic alterations were observed. The strike is N. 55 degrees E., and the dip 75 degrees N. W. In the upper part of one of the old shafts the schists were observed to bend over with the slope of the hill, from the normal dip to an anomalous S. E. dip, which was as great as 45 degrees near the surface.

"The mine was abandoned and no ore visible when the property was visited in 1894. It is stated that the mineralized schists themselves constitute the ore, which exists in several narrow belts containing siliceous seams from 1-8 to 4 inches in thickness. Mr. Richard Williams, the former superintendent, reports that the pay streak was from 4 to 8 inches wide, lying against the foot wall, and that 1-2 to 2 feet of the material in the foot wall side was mined and milled,

ble of being profitably worked.

"It is mined in large open cuts, 20 to 100 feet wide, to a depth of about 50 feet. The cuts extend along the strike for a distance of about 1-5 mile. This is on Moody Hill; some work has also been done on Brown Hill.

"The selection of places for exploitation has been almost exclusively determined by the results of mill runs of the ore, or by panning; and while this method of work has been wasteful in some respects, it was probably the best method available. The cuts are scattered about promiscuously, without much evident connection or relation, and are usually very irregular in outline.

"It is stated that the average ore yields \$2.50 to \$3 per ton, free gold; and at intervals schists of high grade have been found, and may be encountered at any time.

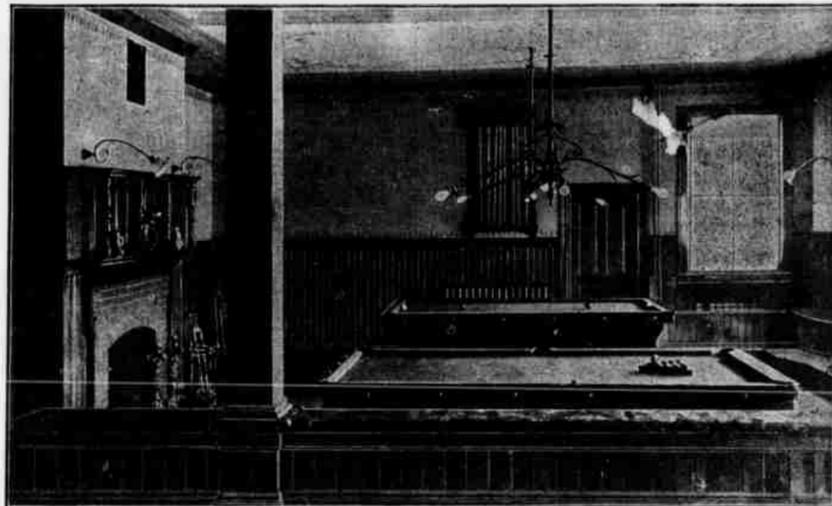
"Iron sulphurets also occur in the schists, but they have not yet been treated, as little, if any, of the work extends below the water level. The rock is also intersected by quartz veins in all directions, but they are presumably barren. Some of the quartz contains included fragments of the country schist. Several interesting specimens were exhibited by the superintendent at the time of our visit. These were small pieces of the soft, unsilicified schist, also free from quartz stringers, containing free gold.

"The mill house is equipped with 5 Crawford mills, which treat 8 tons of ore per 24 hours. Three of these were in operation (Nov., 1894). This mine has been operated for more than 40 years. Under the old, and for the most part successful, methods the work was on a small scale, the machinery inexpensive, the capital small, the management economical, and the attention to business was unremitting. And these circumstances will not unfairly indicate the conditions of successful work for all the mines of this group in the future.

"The Cagle mine is situated about 3-4 mile north of the Burns, and the country rock and ore are similar. The strike is N. 27 degrees E., and the dip 55 degrees N. W. The mine was formerly operated by a series of inclined shafts, on the dip, to a depth of 160 feet.

"The Clegg mine is 1-4 mile west of the Cagle, on the west side of Cabin creek. It has the same character of ore, though the body is larger, and of relatively lower grade. It has been worked by open cuts.

"The Brown mine is on the northeast edge of the district, on the road from Moffitt's to Richardson's mill. It has been worked for a distance of 300 yards, and to a depth of 40 or 50 feet. The dip is very flat; the ore body is three feet thick, but the "pay streak" was a comparatively narrow seam of rich quartz, which, it is stated, finally narrowed down to such limits that it could not be profitably worked.



BILLIARD ROOM, HOLLY INN.

Appalachian slope, from Virginia to Alabama. The placers or like deposits were first worked, then the gossan outcrops of the veins, where slight skill with few and cheap appliances were adequate to the work. The exhaustion of these easily worked stores was effected about the time of the discovery of gold in California and there was a large exodus of miners to that territory. The mining work had not recovered from the retarding influences of this exodus when the civil war came and put an end to all work. At the close of the war but one gold mine in North Carolina was in operation. Since then there have been spasmodic revivals and depressions in gold mining throughout the state, and at the present time (1896) everything points to a healthy growth of the industry.

"The gold mines in Moore county are situated in the northern and western part of the county, not far from the northwest boundary of the Jura-Trias basin. They are as follows:

"The Belle mine is in the northern part of the county, 8 miles N. N. W. of Carthage. The country rock is chloritic schist sometimes garnetiferous. Small calcite

yielding as much as \$30 per ton. The entire vein matter, averaging fully 4 feet in width will run \$12 per ton.

"There is very little sulphuret present, and the free gold is very "leafy," which has caused great difficulty in working the ores by the ordinary modes of amalgamation. In the northwestern part of the county is a group of 9 or 10 mines, comprised in an area 2 miles wide from northwest to southeast, and 6 miles long from northeast to southwest. These limits indicate the productive part, but the actual auriferous area is considerably more extended.

"The Burns (or Burns and Alred) mine is situated 11 miles W. N. W. from Carthage on Cabin creek. The freehold and land tracts comprise more than 300 acres.

"The country rock is a sericitic, chloritic schist, in part silicified. The strike is N. 20 degrees E., and the dip 55 degrees N. W.; the joint planes dip 35 degrees S. E.

"These schists are filled with quartz stringers and lenticles. It is difficult to say what is ore and what is not, for the rock is everywhere auriferous, though not everywhere capa-

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