

## GOLD.

We certainly gather some extraordinary ideas about the Australian colonies occasionally from English papers, but we were not prepared for the following scepticism on the subject of the production of gold in Tasmania, which appeared in the *London Echo*. That journal says:—"Some extraordinary statements have been recently made as to the yield of gold from various mines to which the public are invited to lend the aid of their capital, but the reporters sometimes overshoot the mark. Thus, when we are told that a Company in Tasmania sent a 'cake' of gold to Launceston weighing 1202oz, which was valued at £4820, we can only express surprise that gold should be worth more in Tasmania than it is elsewhere. Another Company reports a yield of five ounces from the ton of quartz, an extraordinary result, which should send the shares up with leaps and bounds, perhaps to come down again when it is found that some mistake has been made. The investor should, therefore, be on his guard, for people who can find so much gold in quartz, and sell it at a rate higher than its market value, are not as a rule inclined to allow the public to participate in the benefit, and can usually find all the capital they need in a private way." Our contemporary would appear to be ignorant of the difference in value between "fine" gold and "standard" gold, but as the assay value given for Lefroy gold at the Melbourne Mint averages from £4 2s to £4 3s 6d per ounce, there is nothing extraordinary in the value placed on the "cake" referred to by the *Echo*, which was probably from a New Chum or West Chum crushing, and if the editor of that journal only knew that the Golden Point reef at Lefroy yielded about 14oz per ton for the first, and 7oz for its second crushing, the Royal Tasman reef, at Gladstone, over 20oz for its two trial crushings, and that in the other colonies yields of from ten to thirty ounces to the ton have not been uncommon in past years, and are even now obtained on a few claims, his amazement at the "extraordinary result" of 5ozs to the ton would calm down considerably. What the "market" value of gold really is would, however, puzzle him were he to learn that no two goldfields in this colony agree in the value of their mineral deposits. While Lefroy and Back Creek gold range as high as £4 3s 6d per ounce, Pieman £4 2s 6d, and Mathinna £4, Mangana gold is only worth £2 15s, Waterhouse as low as £2 12s, Gladstone about £3 9s, Beaconsfield and Blue Tier from £3 11s to £3 17s 6d, and Lisle about £3 18s 6d. We are not aware that one shilling of capital for any gold mine in Tasmania has been solicited in the Lon-

Tasmania has been solicited in the London market, for up to the present we have not found any difficulty in floating a company to work any gold-bearing reef yet found, but the *Echo* seems to be ignorant that thousands have often been spent before the value or otherwise of a reef can become known to either the owners or the public.

Some splendid specimens of stone from the Royal Tasman Co.'s reefs were on view yesterday at the office of the manager, Mr O. Meredith, and attracted considerable attention. They were received by the Avon on Saturday from the mining manager, in response to instructions from the directors to send some good average specimens from both the reefs on the claim, and consisted of pieces of quartz from one to two pounds in weight. If they are average specimens of the two reefs, all anxiety as to the Company's future may be set at rest, as they are literally studded with gold on every face, and the stone is very solid.

Notice is given that all shares in the Royal Mint Co. upon which the third call of 1s is not paid before the 13th July will be liable to forfeiture.

Application is made to register the Pactolus Company, Blue Tier, under both the Limited Liability Act and the No Liability Act, which appears to us to be a legal impossibility.

The adjourned special meeting of shareholders in the Providence Co. will be held at the office, Patterson-street, at half-past seven o'clock this evening.

## GLADSTONE.

*Royal Tasman.*—Mr L. J. Anderson, the mining manager, in his weekly report dated 25th instant, advises having sent some samples of stone from the main and parallel reefs to Launceston by the Avon, as requested by the directors. Having inspected the stone we may state that it is exceedingly rich in gold, which is freely distributed throughout the quartz. Mr Anderson writes:—"No. 2 shaft (i.e., the shaft on parallel reef) has been sunk 5ft (by two men) during the week—total from surface 42ft., in hard country, which, however, is changing for the better. I had a drill put in to the east side of the reef this morning to prick reef, and find it is coming back again to the shaft, as we struck quartz at 3ft and broke out some stone, every piece gold-bearing. In No. 1 shaft, fixing hopper in shaft, and have got out over 20 tons of good stone from the tunnel, and 45 from No. 2. The erection of the machinery is going on well; culvert over creek made ready for covering over. It is 132ft long, and 6ft by 3ft 6in. This will be a good job, and give me all the room wanted for tailings."

*North Tasman.*—The mining manager reports on 24th June:—"I have extended

reports on 24th June :—I have extended the tunnel 18ft for the week, making the total distance 218ft. I have stopped work in the shaft where I cut the reef, and logged up for a new shaft, which I intend to start at once. I have had to put the shaft men on getting timber for the tunnel, as the ground is getting quite soft, and making a large quantity of water, which shows we may expect a change before long. I will forward samples of stone from the reef by first opportunity.

*North Extended Tasman.*—The mining manager reports on 24th June :—I have sunk the shaft 20ft for the week, making a total depth of 35ft. The ground is perfectly dry, and intermixed with vertical quartz leaders. I am of opinion the reef is not far from the shaft.

*Grand Centre.*—The mining manager reports on 25th June :—We have been pre-

paring timber for the hut and top of the shaft, and slabs for latter. I have sunk the shaft 12ft. After my return from town I took a careful bearing of the course of the reef, and on trenching cut a strong leader, and I have commenced the shaft 10ft or 12ft further west to allow for the underlay, in case this should prove to be the reef.

*Progress.*—The mining manager reports on 24th June :—I have sunk the shaft 8ft for the week, making a total depth of 50ft. One of the leaders cut on the surface has just come into the shaft, and is about a foot thick, underlaying to the west, so that I expect they will make into one body of stone. I have to timber the shaft at present, as the ground is making water, and I intend to sink to the depth of 70ft before opening out.

*Lady Tasman.*—The mining manager reports on 24th June :—I have driven 7ft for the week, making a total distance of 33ft. The country for the last 8ft is nothing but broken up quartz, making a deal of water, which renders progress slow. I have started to sink for the Mint reef, which I hope to cut in a week or so, as I have cut it in trenching. This shaft is down 12ft, and logged up, country dry, and I intend to sink it 30ft.

*Grand Standard.*—The acting mining manager reports on 24th June :—The shaft is down 54ft, and I will open out towards the reef next week. There is no change to report in the ground, as we are still in slate country.

*North Royal Standard.*—The mining manager reports on 24th June :—I have sunk and timbered the shaft 7ft since my last report, making a total depth of 50ft from surface. The country continues the same, and still requires shooting. The water is a little heavier, and coming from the side on which the lode is, so I think I

the side on which the lode is, so I think I am not far from it.

*West Tasman.*—The mining manager reports on 24th June :—There is no change in the west drive, which I have driven 3ft further, making a total distance of 41ft from the chamber. On taking the bearing of the Mint reef, I find the lode bears more to the east of the drive, so I have stopped driving west, and have started to drive to the east, and have driven a distance of 11ft since the 21st, making the total driving for the week 14ft. The east drive is now in 25ft from the chamber.

*Black Prince.*—The mining manager reports on 24th inst. that in the trench on the S.W. line the quartz leaders are getting settled and uniting, and one is 18in thick. Some good-looking quartz has been cut in a trench about one chain from N.W., and 1½ chains from S.W. boundary.

*Royal Standard.*—The mining manager reports on 24th June :—During the week the drive north has been extended 5ft, making the total distance from shaft 35ft, and stone has been taken down about 3ft wide at the bottom of the level, from which a little gold can be obtained on crushing. In the south drive the stone has been followed east, and has now come down level with the bottom of the drive, with a sharp easterly underlay. It is not my intention to follow it further, as the adjoining company south will shortly commence cross-cutting, and thus prove that end of the mine. I will commence the north shaft as soon as possible.

*Golden Age.*—The mining manager, under date 24th June, reports :—We are now down 82ft with the shaft, and have it timbered up. I shall sink another 5ft for a well, and then open out at 80ft. The stone appears very solid. On the Royal Tasman No. 2 line of reef I have sunk 10ft on a leader, carrying gold, and have cut stronger stone in the trench, 24ft N.E., which is underlaying towards the first one, and I expect they will junction before getting deep.

*Fly-by-Night.*—The mining manager writes on the 25th June :—I have extended the eastern and western cross-cuts 10ft and 9ft respectively for the past week, making the eastern 25ft and the western 62ft from the shaft. In driving east I have crossed several small leaders ; the last one passed through is about 18in in width, in a nice slaty country. I hope ere long to send you some better news.

#### MUSSEL ROE.

*Blue Bell.*—The mining manager reports on 24th June :—“ I have sunk the shaft 12ft for the week, making the total depth 24ft, all timbered. There is very little change in the ground ; the water is a little on the increase, but not yet sufficient to interfere with the sinking.

a little on the increase, but not yet sufficient to interfere with the sinking, and I hope to go a good distance without meeting with much water." Mr W. Creelman reports on the 24th June:—I have this week bolted down the pump-horses, put the pump-shaft and driving-wheel in place, also pinion and cam shaft, and made and erected stage for feed tanks, and put in sills for laying feeding stage for battery. I have also prepared part of the frame for the building, bolted down the horse for counter shaft, and commenced to make the bob for the pump.

**Grand Flaneur.**—The mining manager reports on 24th inst.:—The shaft has been sunk 10ft for the week, making a total depth of 45ft from surface. There is no change to note in the country, which is blue slate—the prevailing strata in this part. The water is increasing in the shaft.

#### LEPROY.

**West Queen's Birthday.**—The mining manager reports on 25th June:—Since my last report I have driven south 15ft, and passed through several strong breast heads, but not struck any stone. On Saturday I took the bearings of the lode, and brought it to bear 16ft to the north of the shaft. I then put the men to rise on a slide, which is thrown to the south, and has an underlay of 3 in 6; after rising about 2ft I came on the lode, dipping to the west. I have seen gold in the stone, but have not broken into the reef sufficiently to prove its size or quality. I shall commence to drive west on Monday next to catch the underlay of the stone; then I hope to report more favourably.

**Land o' Cakes.**—The mining manager reports on 25th June:—I am happy to say the appearance of the reef so far driven on, viz., 7ft, going east, has now widened out to over 3ft, with the same prospects. Several gentlemen who have seen it express themselves highly pleased, and compare it to the Chum stone.

**East New Chum.**—The mining manager, under date 27th June, reports:—I have extended the south drive a further distance of 9ft, making the total distance from shaft 105ft. There is no change to report.

**East Chum Extended.**—The mining manager, under date 25th June, reports:—I have extended the cross-cut 10ft for the week, making the total distance from shaft 67ft. There is no change to report.

**Caledonian.**—The mining manager reports on 27th June:—Since my last report the 80ft level west has been extended 7ft, making a total of 68ft from cross-cut. The lode is very much the same as last reported. I have had so much water to contend with that I have only been able to keep one shift driving, and I want to push on this drive to get

only been able to keep one shift driving, and I want to push on this drive to get the run of stone that is in the drive from No. 2 shaft, and is there dipping west.

**South-West Chum.**—The acting mining manager reports on 27th June:—During the week there has been 10ft driven,

making a total distance of 18ft from shaft. There is no change to report since my last.

**Chum Consolidated.**—The mining manager reports on 24th June, that the shaft is down 23ft, and timbered from surface.

**East Golden Era.**—The mining manager reports on 27th June:—The shaft is finished and we started baling on Saturday, and had all the water out in eight hours. I will recommence sinking to-day with three shifts of men and horses, and expect to have the shaft down to the required depth of 200ft in five weeks from date.

**Great Extended West Chum.**—The mining manager writes on the 27th June:—I have sunk for the week 19ft, making a total of 220ft, in very good country for sinking, and water no trouble. I have had a good deal of quartz in the shaft all the week, and have cut one leader running east and west; it is still in the shaft, and is carrying a deal of mineral, but I have not seen any gold in it. I will sink the shaft to a further depth, and open out at 250ft.

**New Native Youth.**—The mining manager writes under date the 27th inst.:—I have very little change to report. West of the bar I am in 20ft, stone carrying a little gold, and the ground getting a little softer, and a little more water making in the face. The drive north along the bar east is in 38ft, ground soft, with pug and grit intermixed. I am taking out a block of stone that was left between the 200ft and 250ft levels east of cross-cut; it is opened out to 11ft, showing a little gold.

**West New Chum.**—The mining manager reports that the scraping from the ripples and plates for the week ending 25th inst., was 522ozs. amalgam from 200 tons of stone. [This information should have appeared in our issue of yesterday, the delay being caused by the carelessness of a junior to whom the particulars were given.] The mining manager reports on the 27th June:—At No. 3 level the western drive is in 24ft from the cross-cut, making 11ft driven for the week. The reef is 4ft wide between walls, with a belt of solid stone on the head wall carrying gold. The eastern drive has also been extended 11ft for the week, making a total of 33ft from the cross-cut; the reef is now 2ft wide and more settled. The winze near the cross-cut is connected with No. 3 level, and I have made a start stoping in the back of



have made a start stoping in the back of No. 3, the reef being 4ft 6in wide, but broken. At No. 2 level the reef in the western end is 2ft 6in wide, and well defined, but I think poor as yet. The total distance driven from cross-cut is 167ft. The winze, No. 2 from the cross-cut and 90ft from the Chum boundary, has been idle this week on account of the water being troublesome in it, but it has a fine reef in the bottom. The stopes both in Nos. 1 and 2 levels are still productive. At No. 1 level I am driving at the western end but have no change to report. On the surface the pumping engine is being pushed on with, and the loading is now being built in to receive the engine bed. All the machinery is in good working order.

**Windermere.**—The mining manager reports on 25th June:—During the past week I have extended the tunnel 8ft. The stone has been rather small for the last few feet, although it is making thicker in the top of the drive, and to all appearance will soon return to its usual size. I have also completed the shaft from the surface to the level, and secured it at the bottom in the tunnel. The depth from surface to roof of tunnel is 47ft. As the main shaft is to be now started I shortened hands as soon as the shaft was completed, and will get the site for the main shaft, timber, etc., ready. I have posted notices calling for tenders for sinking it.

**New Chum.**—The mining manager reports on the 25th June:—I have got the pumps at work again all right, and have again started at the sinking. For the week I have driven the western level 17ft, the reef 4ft wide; the eastern level I have driven 10ft, country hard, reef 1ft wide. The reef in the stopes averages about 3ft in width.

**West Chum Extended.**—The mining manager writes on the 27th June:—I have driven west 15ft for the week, without any change, making a total distance of 125ft from the cross-cut. I have taken the men off this level for the present and put them on to rise east of the cross-cut. I have driven east 11ft, making a total distance of 100ft. In this face I have 15in of stone, with gold all through it, and still making larger.

**Golden Era.**—The mining manager writes on the 27th June:—The drive going east is in very soft running country. I have opened out, and am driving alongside of it for a few feet, when I expect to have an improvement in the country, and will then break into the lode and drive on it again.

#### BACK CREEK.

**Just in Time.**—The mining manager reports on 25th June:—The shaft is now down 18ft in nice slate country, and I will commence driving on Monday north

down 18ft in nice slate country, and I will commence driving on Monday north and south. The idea is to prove the claim by sinking shafts at intervals of 50ft or 60ft, and drive from one to the other, and thus cut anything running east and west.

**Try Again.**—The mining manager reports on 25th June:—The south-east drive in the south shaft has been extended 11ft for the week, making the total distance from shaft 21ft. The pug is still met, with an occasional bunch of quartz in it. The water is increasing very much this week. There is no work being done in the north shaft on account of one of the men being away. I have made 50ft of ladders, and put them in the south shaft, and there is also enough timber cut to slab the north shaft.

**Holdfast.**—The mining manager reports on 25th June:—Since writing last week I have extended the drive a further distance of 14ft, making the total distance from shaft 24ft. I have passed through several small leaders, and one I passed yesterday was between nine inches and a foot wide, heavily charged with pyrites, but no gold. The country is getting a great deal softer the last two days, and water increasing in the face.

#### BEACONSFIELD.

**Florence Nightingale.**—A cleaning up took place at the Tasmania battery yesterday of a crushing of 200 tons of quartz from this claim, which gave a return of 832oz amalgam (405oz from boxes, 427oz from plates and ripples.) The amalgam is not yet retorted. The mining manager reports the stone in the stopes continues about the same size and quality.

#### BLUE TIER.

**Welcome.**—The mining manager writes on the 25th June:—The rubbly wash in which I reported getting gold run out, but made again much stronger, but of a browner colour, from which I have got fine gold. It is exactly like the Victoria stone they had the crushing from, with this difference, that this in the Welcome lies almost flat, while the Victoria had a gentle underlay. I expect to get better prospects when it turns to go down, which it appears now to do.

#### DENISON.

**Royal Treasury.**—The mining manager, under date 23rd June, reports:—I have made arrangements with sawyers to cut

timber, and the contractors commence on Monday (27th inst.) to sink the main shaft.

#### GOLCONDA.

**Mount Wilson.**—The mining manager reports on 25th June:—I have started to cross-cut for the reef, and will sink a few feet in No. 2 shaft next week to see if the reef continues the same course.

will be in the boat next week to see if the  
reef continues the same course.

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