

GOLD MINES

OF

WESTERN KANSAS.

THE existence of gold among the mountains of Western Kansas is said to have long been a secret of the Indians of that region, but until within a year no white person ever dreamed of the immense importance that country was soon to attain in the eyes of the civilized world. In the spring of 1858, three parties of men, who had heard rumors of the existence of auriferous deposits at and near Pike's Peak, outfitted for the purpose of explorations, to satisfy themselves of the truth of the rumors, and to make a general reconnoissance of the country bordering upon the mountains. The first party that outfitted was from the Cherokee country, and was soon followed by a party from Missouri, and the Lawrence (K. T.) company. The result of their explorations is already known to the world. At first, the accounts received from these parties were looked upon with distrust, and received with many grains of allowance. But some believed the truth of these statements, and numerous small parties immediately left for the "diggings." Accounts continued more and more flattering. Specimens of gold arrived; doubts were gradually dispelled; and at the present

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