

erations immediately *under the city*, from 1,500 to 2,200 feet.

The *Enterprise* and the *Chronicle*—both daily and weekly papers—are published here.

The religious and educational interests are well represented by churches and schools.

There are a number of hotels in the city, at which the traveler will find good accommodations. The INTERNATIONAL is the principal one.

At both Virginia and Gold Hill, are located great numbers of smelting furnaces, reduction works and stamp mills, all thundering away, night and day. The fires from these works, at night, light up with a lurid glare all surrounding objects. There are no two cities in the world more cosmopolitan; here, meet and jostle, the people from every land and clime; the rich and the poor; the miser and the spendthrift; the morose and jolly. *Self* here predominates. "Rich to-day, poor to-morrow," is the rule. *All* gamble in mining stocks, from the boot-black or servant girl to the Rev. Mr. Whitetie, or the Bonanza-Nabob. The whole people are alive to each movement of the "stock indicators," as much as the "Snowballs" were in Baltimore twenty-five years ago on the lottery and policy business; 4-11-44 was their god; the *tick* of the "indicator" is the god of *this* people. The saying that "It is not birth, nor wealth, nor State—its git up and git that makes men great," has been thoroughly demonstrated by many of the citizens of Virginia City and Gold Hill.

EARLY HISTORY—The first gold mines were discovered in 1857, by Joe Kirby, and some others, who commenced mining in Gold Canyon (Gold Hill), and continued working the place with indifferent success until 1859. The first quartz claim was located by James Finney, better known as "Old Virginia," on the 22d of February, 1858, in the Virginia mining district and on the "Virginia Croppings." The old prospector gave his name to the city, croppings and district. In June, 1859, rich deposits of silver ore were discovered by Peter O'Reilly and Patrick McLaughlin, on what is now the ground of the Ophir Mining Company. They were engaged in gold washing, and uncovered a rich vein of sulphuret of silver, when engaged in excavating a place wherein to catch a supply of water for their rockers. The discovery was made on ground claimed by

Kirby and others. A Mr. Comstock was employed to purchase the claims of Kirby and those holding with him, hence, Comstock's name was given to the lode.

THE COMSTOCK LODGE—is about four miles in length, the out-croppings extending in a broad belt along the mountain side. It extends under Virginia City and Gold Hill; the ground on which these cities are built being all "honey-combed" or undermined; in fact, the whole mountain is a series of shafts, tunnels and caverns from which the ore has been taken. The vein is broken and irregular at intervals along its length as far as traced, owing to the formation of the mountain. It is also very irregular in thickness. In some places the fissure ranges from 30 to as high as 200 feet in width, while at other points the walls come close together. The greatest variation in width occurs at a depth of from 400 to 600 feet from the surface. The principal silver ores of this lode are stephanite, vitreous silver ore, native silver and very rich galena. Pyrargyrite, or ruby silver, horn silver and polybasite, are found in small quantities, together with iron and copper pyrites, zinc-blende, carbonate of lead, pyromorphite and native gold.

The number of mills in and around Gold Hill and Virginia, and at other points, which work on ore from this lode, is between 75 and 80. They are scattered around through several counties, including Storey (where the lode lies), Lyon, Washoe and Ormsby, from 30 to 40 in number being in Storey county. The product of the Comstock lode has been beyond that of any silver vein of which we have any record; furnishing the largest portion of bullion produced on the Pacific Slope.

From the *Mining Directory* of the American Mining Agency of Chicago, we learn that the gross yield of all the mines of the precious metals in the State of Nevada, for the six years commencing with 1871, have been \$176,734,150. The yield of the "Bonanza Mines" for the first nine months of 1877, were \$23,434,000, of which \$17,280,000 were paid out in dividends. This would make the yield for the year, at the rate of \$31,247,000. *Big medicine!* eh?

But let us return to Reno before we get to watching the "indicator:" and start once more for the West.

Leaving Reno, our course is south of west, up the Truckee River. The hills are