

### Tracing Ancient River Channels.

Editors Press :—Your correspondent, H. Cleodenen, in the issue of the Mining and Scientific Press for Feb. 11th, seems very enthusiastic over the important discovery he has made, a discovery, as he says, which has hitherto “baffled the skill and capital of the world to find out ;” and I sincerely trust that the gentleman will be induced to communicate his discovery through the Mining and Scientific Press to the world, which is badly in need of such important information to establish their faith in gold mining, especially gravel mining in Nevada county.

After spending several years in the scientific exploitation of ancient auriferous river channels, and knowing how valuable such mining claims are when they are found under favorable conditions, in the right situation, and when managed by those who know how to work them, I have no hesitation in saying that a real discovery of this kind is of importance. But it is a well known fact to all mining men who have been called upon to spend money in searching for and working such placer claims, that all the mining population who have stood by their claims for the last 30 years in the counties where those ancient rivers exist, are each and all endowed with just this scientific faculty, and whose faith in holding on to their claims through all those years has been the result of just such a discovery as Mr. C. mentions.

And it almost looks like an insult to those old miners of the 40's and 50's in Plumas, Sierra, Nevada, and Placer counties, to tell them that the above discovery has just been made. How many scores of such placer-mining claims do I know which the owners have stuck by for all those years, and spent the assessment work in keeping the lines brushed, and who have refused tempting offers from capitalists, and all because they are so highly gifted as to know just how many millions of dollars lies within their claim. Now to tell them that this knowledge is a new discovery is certainly very tantalizing to say the least. Of course it may be new to Mr. C., but it is not new to the miners of the Sierras; and any capitalist who would like to invest with certainty in such class of mines will have no difficulty if they are willing to pay a fair price, and apply to any respectable mining engineer acquainted with those districts.

If Mr. C. will kindly communicate his discovery to the Press, I will be very pleased to criticize the same, and add a little more of my experience on the subject.

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