

Where They Are (Quartz Mines)

It has long been matter of observation that but few quartz veins have ever been found in the immediate vicinity of our leading drift mines. This class of deposits, so far as surface exposure is concerned, is noticeably absent in and along Slate Creek basin and about Bald Mountain, Sierra county; around You-Bet, Red Dog and Liberty Hill, Nevada county, and along the Forrest Hill divide. Placer county, all prominent drift-mining localities. The deep placers at these several points having been extremely rich, it has, by some of our thoughtful students of the geology of this region, been surmised that the quartz lodes were not here wholly wanting, only that they failed to come to the surface—in other words, they exist, but are deeply buried under the diluvial drift that once covered to great depth this portion of the foothill country.

This theory seems very reasonable, since it is hardly to be supposed that the quartz belt, elsewhere so conspicuous along this range, should have been intermitted at these, the richest points in placer deposits along its whole course. Nor have they been, as recent developments tend to show. During the past year large and valuable quartz veins have been uncovered in several of the drift mines on the Forrest Hill divide though there are no surface indications of quartz in the vicinity. Preparations are being made to work some of these deposits, which, of course, can be done at little expense, tunnels having already been driven to them.

It will not be strange if quartz veins should be struck in other of our drift mines. They, no doubt, extend continuously along the main gold belt, and if not everywhere encountered in drifting, it will be because the work of exploitation has not been carried sufficiently far down or may not be prosecuted at the exact point where they happen to exist. The uncovering of quartz deposits in the hydraulic washings has in this State been of frequent occurrence. "What is considered an important development of this kind took place not long ago on Scott river, Siskiyou county, the vein here exposed being a very powerful one, and portions of it rich in free gold, A mill is about to be put up for crushing this ore, some of which has already been worked with excellent results. Since the bars along Scott river were exhausted, the channel of that stream has been the theater of the most extensive river-bed operations ever carried on either here or elsewhere. Wherever worked, the bars as well as the bed of that river have yielded largely, and, although the gold that enriched both came originally from the quartz veins in the vicinage, few of these show more than the faintest outcrop, some, like the one above mentioned; no outcrop at all. What new source of California's hidden wealth shall next be revealed we wait to record.

Mining and Scientific Press, V. 54 6/11/1887, p. 377