

a small pin head, and most of it obtained today from one pan full of earth. As we have never remained at one camp longer than one day it will be readily understood that there is no opportunity to make a satisfactory examination in regard to deposits of valuable minerals. Veins of lead and strong indications of silver have been found.

* * * Veins of what the geologists term gold-bearing quartz crop out on almost every hillside, but in one place, and the only one within my knowledge, where so great a depth was reached, a hole was dug eight feet in depth, the miners report that they found gold among the roots of the grass, and from that point to the lowest point reached, gold was found in paying quantities. On some of the water courses almost every pan full of earth produced gold in small yet paying quantities. It has not required an expert to find gold in the Black Hills, as men without former experience in mining have discovered it at an expense of but little time or labor." And in conclusion, as if he had not already said enough to turn the heads of all the world, General Custer says, "I have never seen as many deer as in the Black Hills. Elk and bear have also been killed," General Custer returned to Fort Abraham Lincoln August 22d, having had no collision with hostile Indians.

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CHAPTER XL.

The Gold Fever - Movement Towards the Black Hills - Military Interference - Yankton's Hopes Dashed - The Gordon Party Evade the Soldier's - Henny's Expedition of 1875 - The Allison Commission to Treat for Cession of Hills - Fails to Make Terms - Views of the Indians - Military Withdrawn - Miners Rush to Gold Fields - Eleven Thousand in Sixty Days - Indians Resolve to Fight.

Custer's report, which was directed to the military headquarters at St. Paul, was given to the press on the evening of the 12th day of August. To appreciate the interest which it excited, the general condition of the period must be taken into account. Less than one year previous that black Friday of 1873 had fallen upon the country, bringing to thousands and tens of thousands of families, the end of the world, so far as their financial hopes were concerned. It may be said that the American people were throughout the land in the depth of despondency, even at the point