



THE GOLD MINES,
SCENERY CLIMATE
OF
GEORGIA
AND
THE CAROLINAS.

COMPILED BY

R. C. STONE,

FOR THE

GENERAL PASSENGER DEPARTMENT OF THE
ATLANTA & CHARLOTTE AIR LINE
RAILWAY COMPANY.

NEW YORK :
NATIONAL BANK NOTE COMPANY, TYPE DEPARTMENT,
53 BROADWAY.

1878.



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Gold Mines, Scenery and Climate

OF

GEORGIA AND SOUTH CAROLINA.

THE revival of gold mining in Northeast Georgia is calling attention to the remarkable attractions of this region, to the tourist, miner, invalid and emigrant.

It is only fifty years since the Cherokee Indians were removed from this territory, children of those having life estates are still living here; and the face of the country is but little changed since the main body left. The irruption of gold miners that caused their removal was diverted in 1849-52 to California, leaving relics of their work in up-turned beds of streams and shaft-punctured hill sides.

Agriculture took the place of mining, but not at all vigorously, and villages sprung up only at wide intervals. With the building, however, of the Air Line Railroad from Charlotte, N. C., to Atlanta, Ga., the country along the line of the road took on the usual aspect of railroad sections of new country; but the region lying between the railroad and the main line of the Blue Ridge Mountains has yet to experience the impulse and push of the age, and consequently all the native attractions of the region remain, with the additional one of good roads.

A fair idea of the country may be had by a trip over the Atlanta and Charlotte Air Line Railway, which is built on the southern highland bench of the Blue Ridge, at an altitude of 1,000 to 1,500 feet, skirting bald peaks, bridging great ravines, and overlooking at times fair, far-reaching valleys and the wide plains to the south, or giving views of the Blue Ridge, which rises almost constantly in sight in a parallel line north.

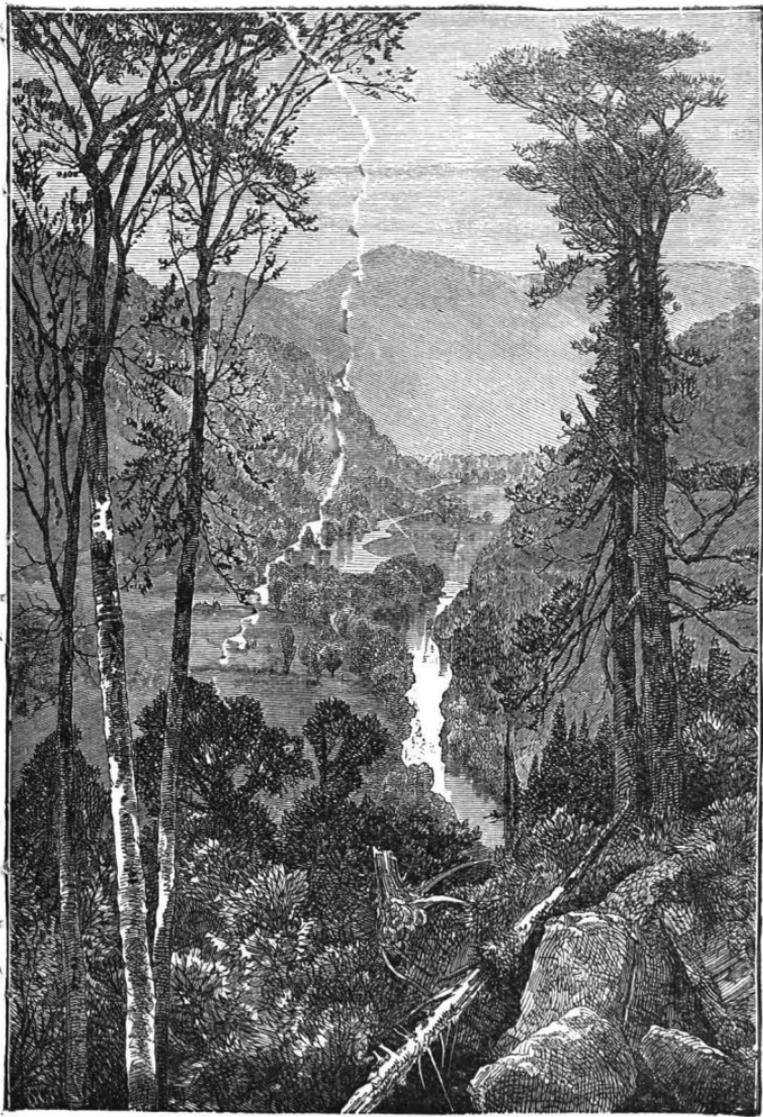
GOLD AND BEAUTY.

The portion of the Northeast Georgia which embraces the main developments in gold mining, and the most striking characteristics of mountain, valley and waterfall in the State, lies within Cherokee, Forsythe, Hall, Dawson, Lumpkin, White and Habersham counties, a belt about 100 miles long and 30 miles wide, north of and immediately along the Atlanta and Charlotte Air Line Railroad.

This region was the favorite part of the Cherokee's reservation, and to the eye it seems that no region on the globe can surpass it in extent and variety of beautiful and sublime views. The hackneyed comparison with Switzerland meets the traditional idea. In truth, the vision can here frequently sweep unbroken for more than a hundred miles over the most noble landscapes; mountains rise boldly 2,000 feet above valleys as high, large streams dash down glens and cañons hundreds of feet in less than a mile, and over all is the luxuriant vegetation and balmy air of a semi-tropical climate, toned by altitude.

Another charm is the musical Cherokee names that cling to the mountains and streams.

With all this beauty there is untold wealth. Already this region has yielded



GRAND CAÑON OF THE CATALOUCHE,
WEST. NO. CAROLINA,

MANY MILLIONS OF DOLLARS

in gold, and now promises, under the improved methods being extensively applied, to pay far more than ever.

The influence of the revival of mining is already felt in the increase of local business, but most in improved markets for farm products. Better and more farming will be constantly required, and these lands liberally reward the industrious.

[See article by the State Commissioner of Agriculture in Appendix.]

The prices of these lands are at present less than those of the far and inhospitable West, and there is no better region in the United States for such organized immigration as has developed the West.

THE CLIMATE

is nearly perfection. (See Prof. Gatchell's statement in Appendix) It corresponds, according to the Smithsonian Institute Reports, with that of Central Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Upper Missouri and Lower Nebraska, *i. e.*, the mean temperature is the same, but this mean is made by the warmer winters and cooler summers of Northern Georgia.

The public schools of this section are held in the summer, while in the northern States hot weather is forcing vacation, which the North Georgians take in the winter. For years this region has been a favorite summer resort of southern people, and, it cannot be too often repeated, the region has lost nothing scarcely of those advantages which most attract tourists and immigration, *viz.*: undeveloped and abundant natural resources, cheap lands and natural beauty. The country seems to have been lying fallow for the plow of enterprise, and offers

UNSURPASSED CHARMS

to the traveller satiated with the painted and dusty splendors of routine resorts, to the invalid seeking pure, high atmosphere and real repose; to the poor but industrious emigrant wanting to secure a home and support in the midst of civilization; to the artist seeking inspiration for

landscape or genre (for provincial characteristics abound), and to the miner for gold.

EASE OF ACCESS.

The ease and little expense of reaching almost any point on this belt, is probably one reason it has been overlooked so long, travellers usually insisting and emigrants expecting that they must go a very long distance and be at great expense to find such things as indicated above. The fact is, any prominent point on the belt may be reached in two days from New York, and to one who has not travelled in our Southern States, few trips can be found more continually interesting and pleasant.

Starting from New York and making Richmond, Va., the first *point d'appui*, there is choice of routes; overland, via Washington, D. C., or by the staunch and luxurious Old Dominion Steamers, three hundred miles by sea to Norfolk, past Fortress Monroe, thence 120 miles up the James River, every mile of which almost is linked with famous historical associations beginning with the first European settlements in America. After looking at the huge flouring mills and tobacco factories, and glancing at the historical treasures of the Capital of the Old Dominion, the traveller takes the Richmond and Danville train for Charlotte, N. C., where he arrives after 12 hours ride through the finest portion of Virginia and North Carolina.

At Washington, or returning there, one can take the equally prompt and well appointed Virginia Midland Railroad, which bends to the west of Richmond through the most picturesque portion of Virginia, by Manassas, Culpepper, Charlottesville and Lynchburg to Danville, where connection is made with the Richmond and Danville R. R. to Charlotte. At Charlotte close connections are made with the Atlanta and Charlotte Air Line Rail Road for Atlanta, 10 hours distant. The whole distance between Atlanta and New York is made via the roads mentioned in less than 40 hours, and Pullman Palace Sleepers make the trip without change. While each of the connecting roads on this route is equally comfortable with the Pennsylvania between New York and Washington, the Atlanta & Charlotte is remarkable for completeness and excellence in all points of interest

to the traveller. The present management took possession of the road in April, 1877, since when improvements in both road bed and equipment have been constant until the road now ranks with the best in the country, and is probably the best in the South. The cars are new, sumptuous and fitted with Air Brakes, the road is singularly smooth and the service most attentive, polite and efficient. The eating houses along the line are owned by the Company and kept exceedingly well. In brief, the traveller misses nothing that relates to his comfort and speed on his journey, that he finds on the best appointed roads of the country.



DEVIL'S COURTHOUSE, WHITESIDE MOUNTAIN.

WEST. NO. CAROLINA.

ATLANTA.

The Capital of Georgia is now one of the most solidly built and thrifty cities in the country, though the war left nothing of it but a few deserted shells of houses. There is one hotel here which cost \$675,000 to build and furnish, and another lately built is quite as comfortable. A fine Custom House and Post Office is in process of construction, and one of the most complete cotton mills in the Union has been lately finished.

Fifty-three miles before reaching Atlanta, the traveller finds the pleasant town of Gainesville, the county seat of Hall County. This is the best point for first leaving the Rail Road for the active gold fields and most noted scenery of the state.

GAINESVILLE

has about 2,500 inhabitants, one-fifth colored, distributed over the hills in houses with large yards. It has an altitude of 1,200 feet, interesting environs, good hotels, a fair business, and is rapidly regaining an anti-bellum fame as a summer resort and educational centre. From one of the hotels a fine view may be had on clear days of the mountains 20 and 40 miles away. Very superior mineral springs are within one and two miles.

A good team is easily obtained here, and five hours' drive out on the Canton road will bring one to

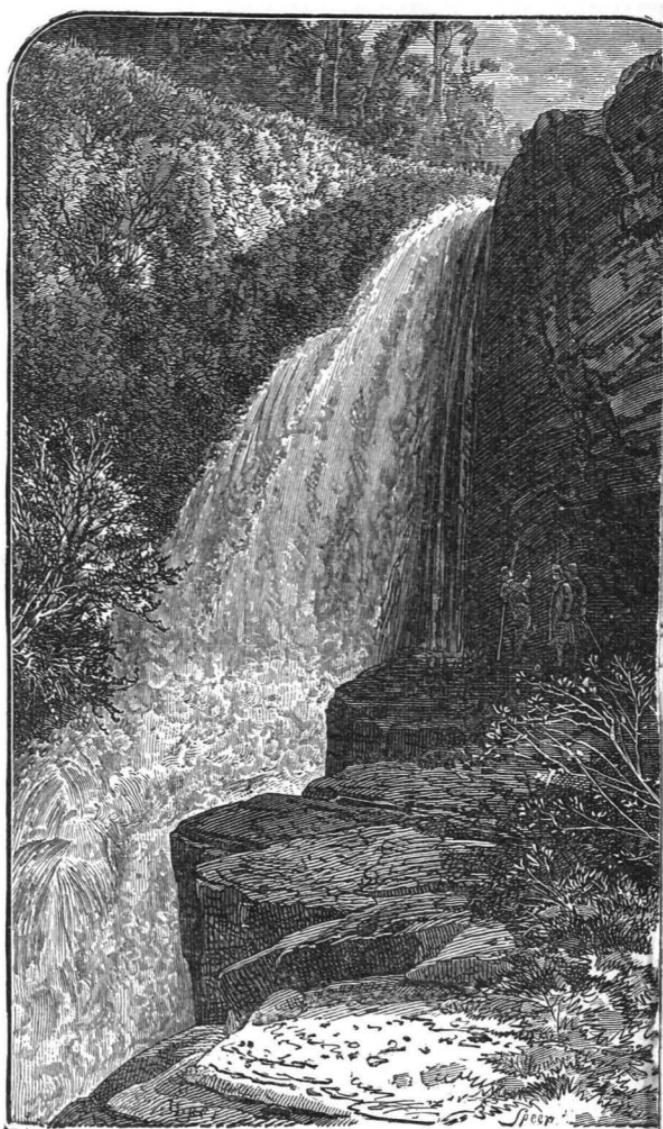

 THE FRANKLIN GOLD MINES

on the Etowah River, in the northeast corner of Cherokee County. This property is usually named on the old maps of the State, it having been for some eighteen years before the war, one of the leading gold mines of Georgia and the centre of an important mining district.

The history of the Franklin Mines is probably unique, the development of the property being the work of a woman.

In 1833, when what was known as the Gold Lottery (See Lotteries), a widow lady named Franklin drew a lot on what proved to be the main gold belt, and by a queer coincidence, her son-in-law, Mr. McDonald, afterwards

Governor of Georgia, drew a lot adjoining on the belt. A few years later Mrs. Franklin, then living in almost destitute circumstances in Athens, Ga., heard that gold had been found, and was being mined on her lot. She at once went to the property riding alone, on a mule, and found the report true. Warning off trespassers, she took measures immediately to mine the lot herself, beginning with the common pan. Rapidly as possible she extended operations, buying negroes, and additional lots on the belt, with her profits. As a result of her mining, Mrs. Franklin owned at her death in 1857, over 100 negroes, a large finely equipped plantation, over three miles of the gold belt and much other property. It is estimated that during the eighteen years she mined she realized by her primitive facilities from \$10,000 to \$50,000 per annum. Pending partition of her estate, the war and general prostration there, this property has lain idle until lately it was purchased by the Villa Rica Company, which is inaugurating extensive developments, including hydraulics on a large scale, the water to be forced by immense pumps over several hundreds acres of rich surface, washing it through sluices. As the property is traversed by the Etowah River, and has at its dam 1029 horse power (by measurement of the State Geologist) the facilities for the hydraulics and also for the hoisting and pumping of deep mining are superior. An important work projected by this Company, is the establishment of smelting works with sufficient capacity for reducing all the sulphuret ores likely to be soon mined in northeast Georgia. The need of such works and their value can be seen by referring to the chapter on Ores. From the Franklin residence the scenery is very striking. Beyond the well cultivated bottoms of the Etowah River on the North, rise the ridges that roll back and up to the Blue Ridge, and on the South to Sawney's Mountain.



DRY FALLS OF THE SUGAR FORK.
WEST. NO. CAROLINA.

ADJOINING MINES.

Adjoining the Franklin is the Pascoe mine, embracing only 5 or 10 acres of mineral ground, but for one-fourth of which \$100,000 in gold was refused when it was being worked. The Pascoe was mined deeper below water than any other mine in Georgia, but has been idle since the soldiers carried away its machinery in the early part of the war.

About four miles south of the Franklin is the Strickland mine, from which about \$300,000 was taken before the war, by three brothers, two of whom died from the effects of mercury taken into the system by carelessly retorting amalgam. The third is living. Nothing has been done on the Strickland mine since the war, but at the Oliver, adjoining, a working shaft is being sunk that belongs to the modern system of mining. A couple of hours' ride from the Franklin, on the belt southeast, passes several partially opened but idle mines, and reaches

THE SIXES,

the most productive placer in Georgia. The workings, long since abandoned, were confined to sluicing the gravel in a small creek bottom that traverses the forty acres, and the surface of the little ravines running into it. From these washings the best authorities estimate that over \$4,000,000 gold, was taken. One nugget was found here that weighed 1,492 dwts., and many were found ranging from 50 to 200 dwts.

From this locality there went in "Pikes Peak or Bust" days Gregory and Hillhouse, neighbors, who discovered and gave their names to the great lodes so called in Gilpin County, Colorado.

A mile below the Sixes is the once celebrated Cherokee mine, but nothing has been done on it for years.

Just above the Sixes some parties from St. Louis are opening a mine very systematically, having about 500 feet of development, a fine 10-stamp mill and a large saw-mill.

The main belt continues on into Alabama, where the Blue Ridge ends. [See chapter on Main Belt.]

Returning to Franklin and making an early start the tourist may visit some slightly opened gold properties on the belt for some four miles northeast of the Franklin, go

through Dawsonville to Amacolola Falls, and thence into Dahlonega by night. The total distance is about 50 miles, or 20 more than necessary to follow the gold belt directly to Dahlonega.

On this road, about six miles from the Franklin mines, is

THE LODGE ROCK,

a curiously carved block of granite, lying by the road. It has three nearly similar sides, each about $4\frac{1}{2}$ by $13\frac{1}{2}$ feet, tapering at both ends. It lies on one side, and the others have symbols carved on them. It is prehistoric, and experts say that each symbol is that of a particular tribe and that the rock marked the headquarters of all the tribes whose symbol was cut on it.

AMACOLOLA FALLS

is one of the most bewitching cascades imaginable. No matter how fatigued the appreciative and ambitious traveller may be when, plunging through the thickets across the little river he stands at the foot of the first rapids below the falls, he will follow the capricious stream up over all sorts of moss-covered, ragged boulders and abbatiss of water and wind-torn trunks of trees, up—terribly up—the long mile of chasm to the very summit. Here he will find the Amacolola River purling along the tableland in a cradle of ferns, alders and laurels, as if it had never a dream of dash until it glides smoothly over the first precipice and falls in a flood of round, opalescent drops on the shelving rock 50 feet below. This fall seems to intoxicate it with alternate rage and mirth, as it plunges and dances down 744 feet within less than a mile—a very Undine in one of her most wayward moods. From the crest of the falls there is an extended view down the valley out into the distant plain, pass lines of mountains that melt into the blue of distance, while through the branches of the trees there are vignettes of far-reaching and lovely landscapes, such as Durer put in his engravings.

DAHLONEGA,

(Pronounced by the Cherokees Tah-lon-e-gah, meaning yellow money.)

The first move of the stranger here should be to get on the roof of the old Mint, which commands a magnificent view of the surroundings, and take his bearings well in mind.

The first glance shows the whole town lying over the rolling ground below, its houses and main streets being aligned northeast and southwest, in conformity with the gold belt. The near environs seem a basin with sides of hill, growing into ridges and mountains. Northward stretches the Blue Ridge in several ranks, commanded by the peaks of Blood and Cedar. Northeast, Mount Yonah stands like a great bear, and far beyond the deep blue summit of Rabun, seeming part of the sky. Eastward, the symmetrical form of Walker is clearly defined. Westward, the Amacolola Mountains, and south and southeast the rakish-looking Findley Ridge.

To the north of town, the Yahoola River and Cane Creek bend toward each other; the latter then keeps a southerly course until it empties into the Chestatee—(Gold River) a couple of miles south of the observer, but the Yahoola bends to the east cutting a gap through Findley Ridge and flows down into the Chestatee just back of it. Yahoola is Cherokee for *a drum*, and the river is so called because of the muffled roar it makes, very distinguishable at night, with its rapid fall through the deep ravines that confine its course around the town.

THE HAND DITCH.

The most important mining work in the State, takes the water for its bed 6 feet by 4 feet from the head waters of the Yahoola, in an air line about seven miles north of Dahlonega. But the Ditch is over 20 miles long by the time it reaches town, at the north side of which it turns a branch off $1\frac{1}{4}$ miles to the Hand and the Benning Mills; on the south side it turns another branch off east $2\frac{1}{4}$ miles to the Findley Mill and then extends seven miles southwest to the Pigeon Roost or Barlow mine. This extension is just being completed at a cost of \$20,000. The main ditch has been completed some years, after years of labor and an expenditure of some \$200,000.

THE MAIN LODES

of this locality are known as the Pigeon Roost and the Black Sand or Findley. Their direction is in line with the Franklin lead and the main developments already mentioned.

They are from one half to three miles apart being nearest at Dahlonega. The Pigeon Roost passes through the west side of town.

With these points in mind, one is very much facilitated in visiting the works that make Dahlonega at present the centre of gold mining in Georgia.

THE TOUR

is best made on horseback, and should be begun at the Lawrence Mill, in the northeast corner of the town. This mill is being dismantled because the mine has been worked down to the sulphurets. From here it is about two miles north to the great iron tube, 36 inches in diameter, which conveys the water of the Hand Ditch over the Yahoola River. The banks of the Yahoola at this point are about 300 feet high, with an incline of 45°. Down and up these banks stretches the iron pipe 2,300 feet, with 600 feet of wooden pipe of the same size in the approaches. These wooden pipes, of which there are 7,055 feet in the main ditch, stand a pressure of 80 feet head, and are more durable than iron. They are made of 12-foot staves, cut by a moulding machine at the Hand sawmill, and are joined dry alternately under heavy iron hoops. The water keeps the wood moist, preserving it, and by expansion forces every joint water tight. This piping has helped materially in making the ditch a success, but for which the extremely low grade but inexhaustable ores of the locality could hardly be worked with profit. With this water at the rate charged, taken in connection with the Yahoola and Cane Creek water powers, the Hand, Benning, Findley and Barlow, can mine and mill their ore for even less than fifty cents a ton.

About one mile east of the Yahoola "tube" is the Benning mill, with 10 stamps that have been busy on the Black Sand ore for years, and near by the Hand, with 20 stamps, likewise employed. Between them, on the lode, a new 30-stamp mill is rapidly approaching completion.



VIEW OF "THE TUBE."

A mile south, on this lode where the Yahoola River cuts the Findley Ridge, is the Findley mine and mills, with 34 stamps.

The Ridge rises 493 feet almost vertically, just back of the mill, and at this point the great sand vein traverses the Ridge. At the point of this intersection the Ridge is so steep that a few feet of tunneling cuts the vein hundreds of feet from the surface at the top.

THE VEIN

itself is 20 to 50 feet wide, the whole mass bearing gold. The Hand Ditch comes around the head of the Ridge 325 feet above the mill, and until lately has been forced by a hydraulic ram 150 feet higher into a reservoir. Six miners, working in the open cut of the vein will break down 50 tons a day, or the usual mill run. Water is then let on from the reservoir or the Ditch and the whole swept on to the battery floor in less than ten minutes.

The Findley Company has purchased the Lawrence Mill and Engine and placed them on the west side of the Ridge where the hydraulic ram stood; the engine to run the mill and pump water into the upper reservoir and the mill to crush the ores on the west side. Extensive tunneling is also projected, to cut the Findley, a narrow vein which in a 160 feet shaft yielded years ago \$90,000 and more lately, some of the richest free gold specimens ever found.

Returning towards Dahlonega a quarter of a mile on the west side of the Ridge is the Neal or Fairmount Mine and Steam Mill, 10 stamps. Work was begun here by Pennsylvanians and progressed systematically and successfully until some personal troubles stopped it.

Crossing over to

THE PIGEON ROOST VEIN

On Cane Creek, about two miles southwest of Dahlonega, is Moore's Mill. A mile further on, the Pigeon Roost Extension of the Hand Ditch crosses Cane Creek by 2,300 feet of piping in a similar manner to the crossing of the Yahoola, the banks and slope being about the same. Near by on the Creek is Huff & Roberts 5-stamp mill at work and just below the remains of the old Pride Mill, a vast wreck. This

folly will compare in magnitude with the most costly and ruinous of the West. After the War, Col. Pride enlisted some prominent gentlemen, and bringing their money and his magnificent ideas, as a late member of Gen. Grant's staff, he applied both, lavishly expending some \$200,000, to the immense satisfaction of the natives. Many of whom are now using his costly Bartoli Pans as hog troughs, by way of kind remembrance.

The gold deposits are however of real and great value, and the owner Mr. Barlow, of New York, together with Col. Hand, is not only extending the ditch as above indicated, but opening a canal for water power and building a 20-stamp mill.

The entire outlay for this work will be about \$30,000, or the cost of the Pride Engine. Another illustration of the improvements possible here, is the ten-stamp mill just completed for the Cincinatti Company, a half mile south. This is one of the most complete and efficient mills in the country, and was built under contract, ready for the belts for \$1,350.

The extent of the work now going on is indicated by the pay-roll of N. H. Hand & Co., of men under the superintendence of Capt. F. W. Hall. The total for August was 280 men.

Of Dahlonega itself, something should be said. Few places are more picturesque, healthy or pleasant for residence or visiting. It is about 25 miles from the Air Line R. R., has seen the usual ups and downs of a mining town, and abounds in quaint characters and traditions. Near the town are Mineral Springs of great efficacy, which either are not needed or suffice the residents for medicine, for in the entire County with 8,000 inhabitants, there are only two practicing physicians, and in its half century of history there has never been a suicide.

The State Agricultural College and Normal School now occupies the old Mint property with an average attendance of about 300 pupils.

Three miles north of town are the Cane Creek Falls, which are well worth visiting. The stream pours over shelving rocks in a partially broken fall of about 60 feet. The surroundings are attractive, and it is deservedly a favorite resort of the residents.

While at Dahlonga the visit to

AURARIA.

six miles southwest, should be made. This place, in the boisterous days when mining was active, was called Knucklesville, from the hard knocks given and taken all around, but John C. Calhoun, who was an enthusiastic gold miner and owned a very profitable mine in the vicinity, named it Auraria, and by that it goes. The older miners and residents, though, hold to the first name. The road from Dahlonga to Auraria is along the Pigeon Roost vein, and almost the entire distance has been worked over to some extent. Two miles north of Auraria still stands the "Station House," in which General Scott and a squad of United States troops were stationed to preserve peace between the Indians and whites and among the whites themselves, who were quarreling and fighting over the Battle Branch and other gold discoveries. At Auraria are the Wells and the Saltonstall mines. Both have mills. The latter, a new 10-stamp mill run by steam, and is owned by parties from Lincoln, Nebraska, who are opening their mine very systematically.

A mile west is the Battle Branch mine, on the Hightower River. This mine is now operated by the Dahlonga Mining Co. of New York, who have introduced the Little Giant, and are utilizing through it the water of their ditch, which is some 17 miles long, and furnishes a head of 100 to 150 feet, enough to tear off the slate rock and ore and whirl one into the River and the other into their 10-stamp mill on the River. The $2\frac{1}{4}$ inch jet of water out of the little Giant—which is simply a movable nozzle—at a distance of 30 to 80 feet bursts off the slate and ore like a blast and crushes both by grinding together the mass of debris it throws down.

South of the Battle Branch and near the river are, next, the Logan mill owned by Pittsburg people, then the Gold Hill property owned by Boston parties and the Baggs Branch owned by Cleveland O., people who are vigorously developing it.

From Auraria it is but 20 miles back to Gainesville and the entire route is marked with remains of mining operations

but nothing appears to be doing in them at present. Late-ly, Silver was mined within six miles of Gainesville and two Frue Vanners successfully used. In this County (Hall) diamonds have been found and one of value was cut in Europe and is now worn by a Gainesville lady.

Twenty-seven miles northeast of Gainesville on the Air Line Railroad is the next place of departure for mines and points of interest. This is fairly called.

MT. AIRY,

as it is 1610 feet above the level of the sea.

It is a bright, new, thrifty village and has a good livery stable and one of the coziest and most elegant hotels to be found in the South. From the verandah of the Mt. Airy Hotel are probably the most superb views of the mountains on the north, and plains on the south, obtainable from a building in Georgia. But from Grand View Peak, two miles from the hotel the views surpass those of almost every other point in the state. To the north the Blue Ridge stands in full view from Walkers Mt. into North Carolina, at least 150 miles. Stone Mt. 80 miles west is clearly defined although its peak is 800 feet below the observer while Yonah, Tray and other mountains 20 to 30 miles away show plainly their precipices and forest robes. Southwest there is an unbroken woodland to the horizon 60 to 80 miles is and strikingly like a view on the Ocean, but more like the Great Plains appear from a cleft in the Rocky Mts. So far Mt. Airy has proved a safe asylum to sufferers from hay fever and diseases of the throat and lungs, many of whom have been here their second season with decided benefit. This atmosphere resembles that of Colorado in clearness and tone, more than that of any place east of the Rockies, and seems a specific against soreness or aches from walking, climbing or riding.

Again taking a team and going about fifteen miles northwest, the celebrated Loud mine in White County is reached. This property embraces about 4,000 acres, mostly placer, which is now being sluiced in a small way, but a ditch is projected that will be adequate. Lot No. 40, (250 acres, see Lotteries in Appendix), has already yielded between \$600,000 and \$800,000. A single acre has yielded upward of

\$50,000, the old owner, Loud, taking out \$130,000 in three months by common sluicing. The gold of this mine is usually very coarse and heavy, and finely crystallized. The work here is under charge of Capt. Asbury, who has had large experience in gold mining, both in California and throughout the eastern field, and like all who have worked in both, avows a hearty preference for the Georgia field. From the Loud mine one nugget of over 700 dwt. was taken, and one was recently found weighing 172½ dwts. So far under the present management the regular yield has been about one dwt. to the square foot.

Four miles North-east of the Loud are the Sprague and the Lewis mines, lately purchased by a gentleman from Boston, who made a fortune in California mining, and who is projecting developments on a large scale.

Five miles further on is the large property of the Nacoochee Mining Company, now in charge of Prof. Bradley, a distinguished scientist. This Company has just completed a 20 stamp mill with several improvements, and is building extensive flumes and ditches in addition to the ditch it now owns and which is 11 miles long, costing some \$40,000.

The Reynolds Vein which produced on the surface over \$60,000, has been leased for ten years by this Company, which already owns 1,700 acres of mineral property.

The Nacoochee is about the Northern terminus of active gold mining in Georgia at present, and makes the eighteenth within a distance of 50 miles, which may be justly called first class properties, already or under fair way of becoming vigorous, large and profitable development, employing the leading improvements in gold-mining of the day and the best experience of both the eastern and western mining fields.

An immediate return can be made to Mt. Airy or one can go on two miles further to Yonah Mt., thence three miles to Nacoochee Valley, thence 25 miles to Tallulah Falls, and from here 15 miles back to Mt. Airy.

MT. YONAH,

or Bear Mountain is an outlying peak of the Blue Ridge, with an altitude of 3,168 feet. Its south-western side rises almost vertically 1,500 feet from the valleys. Just below its

heavily wooded summit that resembles a shaggy cap, is a bare precipice, that may be called the forehead of the mountain. From the crown of this precipice rather than the summit, the best views are obtained.

On the south-west the observer overlooks the broad and beautiful valley of the Tesantee lying between the Blue Ridge proper and outlying peaks. To the right the Blue Ridge ranges stretch southward until Cedar Mountain bars the vision. To the left lie Mossy and Blue Creek Valleys, commanded by Walker and Skitts Mountains, while seemingly far below looking like mossy mounds are the peaks of Pink and Long Mts.

Crossing to the north-east side of Yonah a full view of Nacoochee, "the loveliest valley of the South," is obtained, and rising above it and the lesser mountains the great mass of Mt. Tray 4,435 feet high.

Mt. Yonah was, by reason of its isolation and consequent grandeur, held in special reverence by the Cherokees, and many legends are linked with it. One of these is that Nacoochee—Cherokee for Evening Star—a beautiful Cherokee Princess, after whom the valley was named, fell in love with a Choctaw brave, traditional enemy of the Cherokee, and kept trysts with him. Her stern father captured her lover and had him thrown from the precipice of Yonah; Nacoochee escaping attention at the moment, threw herself after the unfortunate wooer, keeping eternal tryst with him. Another legend says that De Sota the cruel and rapacious, was compelled to intrench himself on Mt. Yonah by the united Choctaws and Cherokees, and only escaped by compromise after hard fighting and great loss.

NACOOCHEE VALLEY

is certainly deserving of all praise for loveliness. It seems to soften the outlines of the mountains that cluster around it as if striving for its favors. Hardly less beautiful are Santee and Duke's Creek Valleys which enter it. The three making a total length of some 12 miles, in the form of a **Z**. Nacoochee proper is about three miles long, at the head are the handsome grounds and residence of Capt. Nichols, a gentleman thoroughly versed in the traditions and history of the section, and knowing all about the local

hunting, fishing and scenery. At the lower end of the valley is the summer residence of Mr. George Walton Williams, of the well known southern firm of Williams, Birnie & Co. His brother Charles has kept the Post Office here for 49 years. A pleasant hotel is to be found about the middle of the valley.

The ride of 25 miles to Tallulah Falls, like almost every mile through this country, is varied and engaging. The roads are good even after heavy rains; but if they were execrable and the distance double, both would be forgotten at sight of the Falls.

TALLULAH FALLS

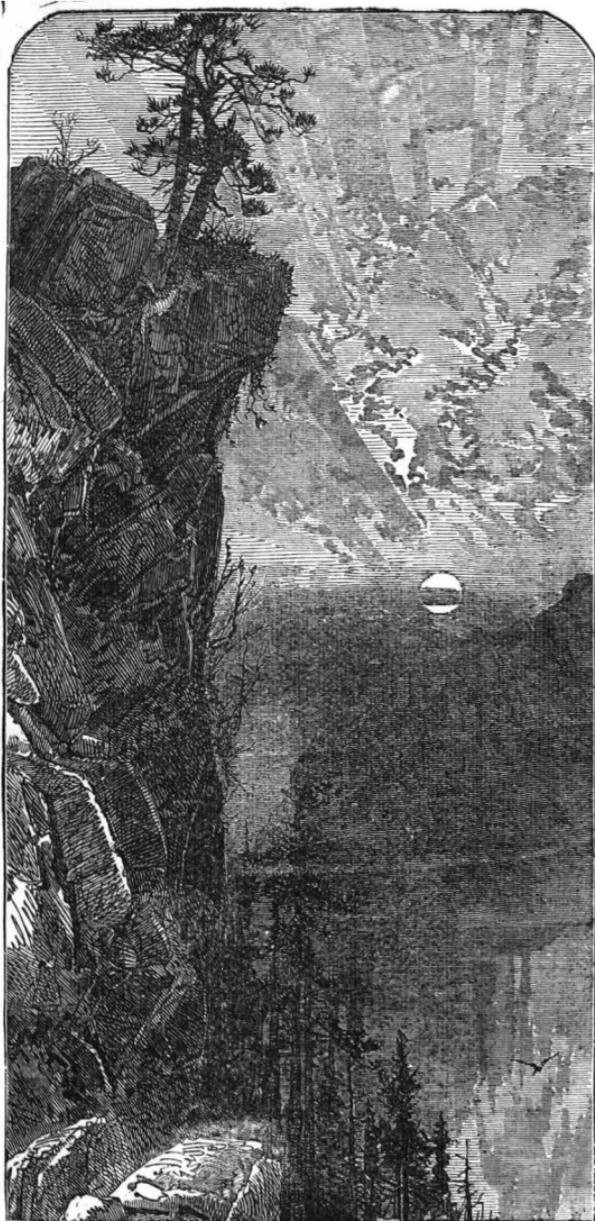
may be fairly classed with the most effective scenes of Nature, those which make undying impressions.

Here within three-quarters of a mile the Tallulah River falls 450 feet; the main falls being the Ladore, 46 feet; Tempestia, 81½ feet; Hurricane, 92 feet; Oceana, 46 feet and Bridal Veil, 25 feet. The Indian word Tallulah signifies *terrible*, and this is indeed a terrible river in this part of its career.

The awful charm of its tempestous course hangs over the long mountain mass that takes its name, and through which the river has cut a tortuous chasm, 100 to 1,500 feet deep; the middle falls cutting through a peak whose cleft side rises sheer fifteen hundred feet above the water. Much of the wildest action lies 400 to 1,000 feet below the crest of the cañon, and the eye is confused and the mind awed by the rush of water, beetling precipices and fearful chasms that extend below broken to the view by forests of pine, hemlock, elm and other trees that cling to the shelving rocks and fissures and cover the bottoms, looking like ferns and shrubs.

Below the falls is the "chasm" where a vast amphitheatre is cut. Out of this the river disappears in what seems the jaw of the mountain, the high projecting banks being indented like the jaw of a shark.

The spirit of adventure can have full play at Tallulah Falls. There are a hundred trails to grand features, each with enough dangerous possibilities to fascinate the most daring.



GRAND CHASM OF THE TALLULAH.
NORTH EAST GEORGIA.

No sketch, photograph or description can convey but the merest suggestion of the impressions made by even a hasty survey of the entire falls. The terrific motion; thunderous, re-echoing sound, appalling depths and heights will awe the most blasé. Acquaintance only adds reverence and admiration; there can be no familiarity with the mighty cascade.

Fortunately, it is still in its native grandeur, and too great to be soon marred with roadways and stairways. A large hotel is near enough for comfort, but not near enough to disfigure.

TOCCOA FALLS

are about the same distance from Tallulah as Mt. Airy, 15 miles, but it is best to return to Mt. Airy and take the railroad to Toccoa, a bright little town with good hotel and livery stable, and from which it is only two miles to the Falls. Around Toccoa are several mineral springs and pleasant resorts. Toccoa Falls, or rather Fall, is a clear leap of the little mountain river over a precipice 185 feet high. The clear water falls into a boulder-walled pool, where it rests, then rattles on through the laurels and alders. The place is picturesque, and much frequented by picnic parties and tourists.

At Toccoa we take our leave of Northeast Georgia. More extended tours than the one indicated might be taken in this region without any abatement of attractions.



TOCCOA FALLS.
NORTH EAST GEORGIA.

THE GOLD BELT

which is so prominently developed in the section described extends far both northeast and southwest, On the southwest, into Tallapoosa County, Alabama, through Cobb, Paulding, Haralson and Carroll counties, Georgia, in each of which there has been extensive and profitable mining, but with few exceptions, only as placer or guleh mining.

The best known mines in Alabama were the Abacooche and the Pinetuckee, neither of which have been worked since the war.

The first mine of note found on coming thence into Georgia is the Bonner, in Carroll Connty, which is credited with a yield of a half a million dollars. In the same county are the Villa Rica mines, 16 miles northeast of Carrollton, once famous placers, employing hundreds of miners, but idle now.

Mining extended 30 miles northeast on this belt to Ackworth, in a slight way. Near Ackworth the Payne mine was at one time a noted producer, and adjoining this property the Kendrick Company are now making extensive developments, and have up a 10-stamp mill.

About six miles north of and parallel to this belt, is another, on which the first developments of note, coming north, are found in the Eighth District of Carroll County, and extend up to the Draketown mines in Paulding County, where there are now some mills doing well. From here eight miles northeast are the Burnt Hickory mines, 10 miles northeast of which is the extensive Altoona property, now worked by a Boston company. From here desultory workings extend to the Sixes and the mines already described. It is the opinion of Major Smith, one of the best authorities on Georgia gold mining, that the ores of the Burnt Hickory lead run into copper near Canton, while the gold deposits bear off easterly to the Franklin formation. Northeast of the Nachoochee mine, in White County, there are no developments of note on the main belt in Georgia, but the same formation in general extends on through South and North Carolina to Louisa County, Virginia.

The main developments in the Carolinas are in the neighborhood of Charlotte, North Carolina, which will repay a

visit by the tourist interested in mines. At Charlotte, Prof. Hanna at the old mint, now U. S. Assay Office, will give full information of the North Carolina Mines, which he estimates are now producing \$160,000 per annum.

En route, however, the Kings Mountain Mines, two miles from the station of that name on the Air Line Road, should be visited, for here only on the Eastern Slope can be seen a regular Comstock shaft and machinery for deep working.

THE ORES.

Gold is first found in the region described, pure or nearly so, in grains and nuggets mixed with the alluvial deposits, next, imbedded in quartz-veins with slate or granite walls; These veins are usually well defined, are some times found in groups of 3 to 6 within 500 feet, and vary in width from a few inches to 5 and 6 feet. From the surface down on the vein 50 to 100 feet or as far as atmospheric changes can oxydize or consume the sulphur, the gold is found more or less free and pure, or in condition to be extracted by pulverizing the quartz, holding it and catching it with quick-silver or in sluices. Below the effects of the atmosphere the sulphur holds the gold with copper or iron, and roasting or smelting is necessary. So far there has been no attempt worthy of notice in the field, to work the sulphuret ores, because furnaces are costly and the sulphurets are always below water level, requiring more efficient hoisting and pumping facilities than can be moved by hand or horse-power. While the free gold or stamp-mill ores range on average from \$1 to \$8 per ton, the sulphurets assay averages vary from \$40 to \$200 per ton. The latter are unquestionably the richest, most extensive and permanent ores of this country as of both California and Colorado, and when like developments are made, the Georgia sulphurets, by analogies of all geological and metallurgical laws, will prove as valuable to the miner as the sulphuret gold ores of the two great mining States named.

LOTTERIES.

Mention has been made of Land Lotteries. In 1777 an Act was passed in Georgia, granting to every free white person the head of a family, 200 acres of land and 50 acres for

each member of the family (including negroes), not exceeding 10 in number. This law was known as the "Head Right" law and was renewed in 1780. The Head Right Country in Georgia, includes all territory south of Franklin, Banks, and Jackson Counties, and east of the Oconee River.

After the Revolutionary war the remaining portions of the state were acquired by successive treaties made by the Federal Government. The land thus acquired, was distributed by successive Lotteries among the free white citizens of the State over 18 years of age, widows and orphans were included. There were eight of these Lotteries. The gold territory described, was acquired from the Cherokee Indians and distributed principally in Lottery No. 4 under the Act of December 19th, 1819, and Lottery No. 8, or the Gold Lottery under Act of Dec. 24th, 1831. The territory distributed by Lottery No. 8, was divided into 40 acre lots; that distributed by Lottery No. 4, into lots of 490 acres and 250 acres.

APPENDIX.

THE GOLD REGION OF GEORGIA.

By DR. GEO. LITTLE, STATE GEOLOGIST.

The Gold region of Georgia is almost co-extensive with the area of "metamorphic" or crystalline rocks of the State. It is bounded on the northwest by the Cohutta and Dug Down mountains, and on the south by the edge of the "lowlands," along a line joining Columbus, Macon, and Augusta. It extends into Alabama on the west, and into North Carolina and South Carolina on the north and east. Not all of this large area is actually gold-bearing; but the barren portions are comparatively small, and together amount to much less than half of the whole. At a few points in the southern half of this large area, good mines have been opened; but much the larger share of the work done has been in the northern and more mountainous portion. This is probably, consequent partly upon the greater facilities for working where the grades are steeper, and partly upon the fact that, in the flatter portion the outcrops are more covered up, and, therefore, have attracted less atten-

tion. It is believed that the southern portion includes as rich, and perhaps as numerous, mines as the northern.

The gold occurs under three distinct conditions: *First*, As sand, ("dust") or pebbles, ("nuggets,") forming integral portions of the deposit of sand and gravel along the streams, which sometimes extend as high as 100 feet or more above the present stream-levels. *Secondly*, As grains, strings or masses, forming integral portions of extensive beds or schists, which are sometimes accompanied by layers of quartz of greater or less thickness, but are sometimes entirely destitute of the least particle of quartz. *Thirdly*, As a part, or the whole, of the mineral contents of quartz veins.

Much the larger part of the gold thus far mined in Georgia has been obtained from the stream-deposit above mentioned—mostly by the simplest and rudest methods of washing in sluices, rockers and toms, and but a little by hydraulic washing. The richest portions of the deposits have, of course, been looked for; and probably the larger part of them has been mined over, though so roughly that the piles of tailings, will, in nearly every instance, pay the costs of rehandling. At few points, however do the miners now average, by this method of mining, more than ordinary wages—75 cents per day to the hand. Since this is the only kind of mining that can be prosecuted without more or less investment of capital, it is at once evident that there is no inducement for an influx of mere "prospectors," with no capital beyond their hands and shovels,

Of the auriferous schists above mentioned, it is in most cases profitable to work only the uppermost portions, above the level of natural drainage, since these parts alone are so decomposed and disintegrated as to be readily and economically handled. Some portions of these masses will doubtless be found rich enough to pay for following "in depth"; but no attempt of this sort has yet been made. Such masses have been worked, at three or four places, by sluicing and hydraulicing, after running canals at high levels and at large expense. There are large areas suitable for this kind of work; and the laws of the State expressly authorize the running of canals for that purpose. It will require large capital to secure such ground and bring it into paying condition; but large returns can be calculated on with con-

siderable certainty. Where the schists thus washed out carry much quartz, the gravel from the washings can, in most cases, be profitably crushed in stamp-mills. Since the whole cost of handling such disintegrated ores does not necessarily exceed fifty cents per ton, even very low-grade ores can be profitably worked.

The gold-bearing quartz veins are quite numerous, and many of them have been worked, in a rough way, down to water-level; but, with hardly an exception, they have been deserted as soon as the water became at all troublesome—partly because of the increased trouble and expense, partly because the presence of undecomposed sulphids interfered with the saving of the gold. A few of these veins are now being worked, in Union, White, Lumpkin, Dawson, Cherokee, Paulding, Haralson, Carroll, Meriwether and Lincoln counties, with returns of from \$2 to \$20 per ton, and assays from rich “chimneys” running well up among the thousands. The veins vary in thickness from a few inches to ten feet or more. To work veins, on any but the smallest scale, requires large investments of capital; but good profits can reasonably be expected from careful and intelligent work.

TEMPERATURE OF N. E. GEORGIA.

FROM A PAPER BY PROF. H. P. GATCHELL, M.D., OF MICHIGAN.

To those who prefer, in winter, a more accessible region and a milder temperature, the towns along the Air-Line road present some desirable points. The climate along a portion of the route is between the severe winter-cold of the North and the protracted and relaxing summer-heat of the low country of the South. Its latitude favors mildness of winter and its altitude coolness of summer. It is characterized by a meteorological peculiarity found nowhere else from the Rocky Mountains to the Atlantic.

The winter-mean of 44 degrees Fahr., beginning on the coast of North Carolina just north of Pamlico Sound, crosses the line between North and South Carolina, near the 79th meridian. From the point of crossing it extends almost due west parallel with and near to the State line, till it reaches

the 83d meridian, where it takes a south-west direction, entering the State of Georgia near Toocoa, a little below the 35th parallel of latitude. Continuing its south west course, it enters the State of Alabama near the 33d parallel. From this point it takes a devious but, in general, westerly course to North western Texas, terminating at length on the High lands of Mexico, along the lower course of the Rio Grande; though another line of the same temperature is found, near the coast of California and upon that of Oregon.

The summer-mean of 72 degrees Fahr., beginning on the Atlantic coast at New York city, after winding its way into the valley of Virginia and crossing the Blue Ridge to the Piedmont country at its eastern base in the latitude of Lynchburg, follows the base of the mountains till it enters South Carolina, near the point where the winter-mean of 44 cuts the 35th parallel. With this latter mean it almost exactly coincides through South Carolina and Georgia as far as the 34th parallel, near Duluth, on the Air-Line road. There it turns to the north-west. Having reached Sandusky city at the west end of Lake Erie, it pursues an irregular course through Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Iowa and Dakota to the base of the Rocky Mountains a little south of the 43d parallel. Passing south a little east of Denver and a little west of Pueblo, it reaches the Mexican line, whence it diverges to the west, and approaching the Pacific coast in the latitude of Los Angeles, and reaching it not far south of San Diego.

The peculiarity to which I alluded is this, that for about 100 miles in northwestern South Carolina and northeastern Georgia, the summer-mean of 72 nearly coincides with the winter mean of 44.

Nowhere else this side of the Pacific coast does so cool a summer accompany so warm a winter. This favored tract is in part near and in part along, the Air Line road.

Professor Kerr, the accomplished State Geologist of North Carolina, treating of the influence of the Appalachians on the country to the east of them, writes as follows:

“The prevalent sweep of the great westerly continental current preventing the access of the damp and chill sea air from the east and northeast; the cold northwest winds being arrested and broken up in their passage across the numer-

ous ridges of the Appalachians, among which they are tempered by mingling with the warm southwest currents that roll up the interior valleys; and the humid southwest wind (pluvius auster) being drained of its excess of moisture and tropical heat in the ascent of the long gulf-ward slope, and later, the high tablelands and lofty chains of the same mountain system on the northwest border, so that none of the great continental currents from the northeast, northwest, or southwest reach this region till they are bereft of their original and disagreeable characteristics."

To no part of the country shielded by the Appalachians are the remarks of Prof. Kérr, so applicable, as to the middle portion of the southern Piedmont.

N. E. GEORGIA,

FROM MANUAL BY THOMAS P. JANES, A. M. M. D.,

State Commissioner of Agriculture.

This division embraces nineteen counties, stretching from the Savannah and Tugalo rivers in the east, to the Cohutta range of mountains in the west. It is that part of the State which possesses the greatest elevation, the average being 1,500 feet above the level of the sea, while there are peaks which rise to an elevation of near 5,000 feet. The region is metamorphic, or composed of rocks changed from their original condition by heat and pressure. The geological formations are granite, gneiss, mica, and hornblende schists; soils red and gray, resting on a basis of firm clay, usually red but sometimes yellow, white and blue mixed with gravel, the latter chiefly on lowlands. The clay, or subsoil, is usually found from four to six inches below the surface on uplands, from one to two feet in the valleys, and from two to six feet in river bottoms. The original forest growth is, chiefly, red, black, post, and white oaks; chestnut, black-jack, hickory, short-leaf and spruce pine, cedar, dogwood, black-gum, walnut with poplar, ash, elm, sycamore, birch, sweet-gum and white-oak on the lowlands. This is the great auriferous region of the State, the net yield of gold being equal to that of any section of the Union, California not excepted. Copper, lead, magnetic iron ore, mica, asbestos, marble, ruby, serpentine, corundum, are

also found in considerable quantities, and may be mined with profit

The lands are generally rich and productive, the yield depending wholly on the skill used in their cultivation. The staple field products are Indian corn, wheat, oats, rye, barley, clover, the various grasses, and sorghum cane, while in the southern portion of the division cotton is grown to a considerable extent. The average yield per acre, under fair cultivation, is: corn, 20 bushels; wheat 15 bushels; oats, 25 bushels; rye, 8 bushels; barley, 25 bushels; hay, from 2 to 3 tons; sorghum syrup, 75 gallons; cotton, 400 pounds in the seed. Under high culture, two, three, and sometimes four times this production is realized. Tobacco, buckwheat, and German millet can also be grown with great success. The planting and harvest times of the division are as follows: corn, planted 15th March to 15th May, gathered in fall months; wheat and other small grain sowed in October, harvested in June and July; cotton planted 15th April to 15th May, gathered in fall months; sorghum planted in April, cut in August. A very large proportion of the laborers, both farm and mine, are white; wages of former, \$8 to \$10 per month; of latter 75 cents to \$1 per day; ordinary mechanics, \$1 to \$2 per day, according to skill.

The fruits best adapted to the section are, the apple, cherry, pear, grape, plum, in all its varieties, peach, gooseberry, raspberry, strawberry,—the last named producing equally well in all parts of the State with like cultivation. Almost every variety of vegetables attains to great perfection.

The climate is unsurpassed on the continent for comfort and salubrity during nine months of the year. The mean temperature in summer is 70°, Fahrenheit, in winter 35° highest temperature 90°, lowest 8°—periods of greater heat and cold being exceptional. Snow falls usually from two to three times during the winter season, especially in the northernmost counties, to a depth varying from two inches to six inches. In the southern tier of counties, there are occasional winters without a fall of snow.

Springs and running streams abound in all parts of the district; water powers unsurpassed; spring and well water free-

stone, and not excelled in any country. Mineral springs—sulphur or chalybeate—abound in nearly all the counties of the district. That portion of it—the eastern—to which railroad transportation has been opened, is annually visited by thousands, many of whom spend the entire summer and part of autumn at its watering places and pleasant villages. It may be said of this, and indeed of all other sections of the State, that the people are anxious for new settlers, and are ready to give a cordial welcome to honest and industrious immigrants from all countries, including our own. Lands can be bought at low prices and on favorable terms, as regards the payments—in the mountains from \$1 to \$5 per acre, and in the valleys and lower portions of the district from \$5 to \$10 per acre.

SUMMARY
OF THE
MINING LAWS
OF
GEORGIA.
BY
HON. W. B. PRICE.

1. In all cases where any partnership, corporation or individual, may be actually engaged in the business of mining iron, copper, gold, coal, or any other useful metal or mineral, or in making copperas, sulphur, saltpetre, alum, or other articles of utility, the said partnership, corporation or individual shall have the right of way for either a railroad, turnpike or other common road of travel across the land of others, upon paying reasonable compensation for damages, etc. Upon disagreement the damages are settled by arbitration, with right of appeal to the Superior Court.

2. Mining Companies may divert water courses for the purpose of following any of the foregoing operations. And the damages incident to the diversion are, likewise to be arbitrated in same manner.

3. The owner of any mine shall have the right to enter upon any land intervening between the mine and the water-power upon which the same is dependent, and to cut thereon such ditch, canal, or tunnel, or to construct such flume, or other aqueduct, and to build such dam as may be necessary to control such water-power. The damages to be as-

certained by three arbitrators to be appointed in the following manner: one by the applicant for the privilege, one by the owner of the land, and one by the Ordinary of the county. Appeals may be taken from the award by either party dissatisfied to the Superior Court of the County, and the question settled by a jury as in other cases. But no appeal prevents the work from proceeding, provided the amount of the award is first paid.

4. The owner of any mine shall have the right to enter upon any land, and to cut and open thereon such ditches, canals and tunnels, or to construct such flumes or other aqueducts as may be necessary to drain his mine, or to carry off and drain away the water, and tailings of such mine or mining operations. The damages, if any to be assessed, by arbitrators as in other cases with like privilege of appeal.

5. *Unlawful mining.* If any person shall dig or take away from the land of another any gold, bullion, silver or other metallic substance, with intent to appropriate the same to his or her own use, without having previously obtained permission of the owner of such land so to do, he shall be guilty of misdemeanor, and on conviction shall be punished by a fine not to exceed \$1,000, imprisonment not to exceed six months; to work on chain-gang on the public works, not to exceed 12 months. Any one or more of these punishments may be ordered in the discretion of the Judge.

6. *Punishment for injuring Mining Works.* If any person or persons shall unlawfully, wilfully and maliciously cut, break down, destroy, or in any manner hurt, damage, injure, or obstruct, or shall counsel and assist, or advise any person or persons in any manner to hurt, damage, injure, obstruct, break down, or destroy any ditch or ditches, canal, flume, dome, tunnel, made, constructed, erected, or used to control and convey water to any mine for mining purposes, or any of the appurtenances to such ditch or ditches, canal, flume, dome or tunnel, such person so offending shall be liable to be indicted for a misdemeanor, and on conviction, shall be fined or imprisoned, or both, at the discretion of the Court.

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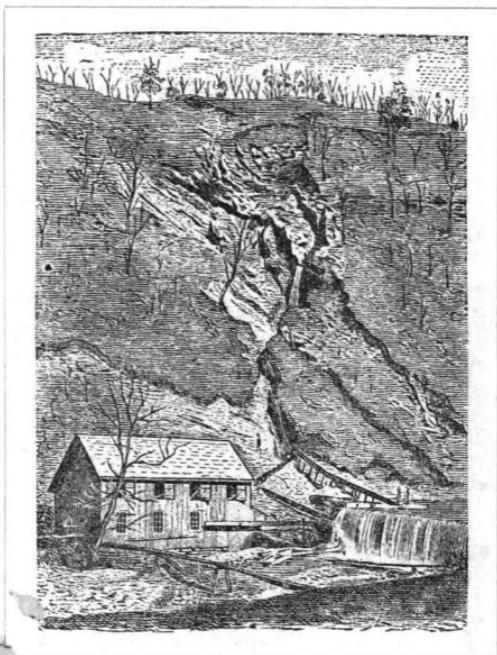
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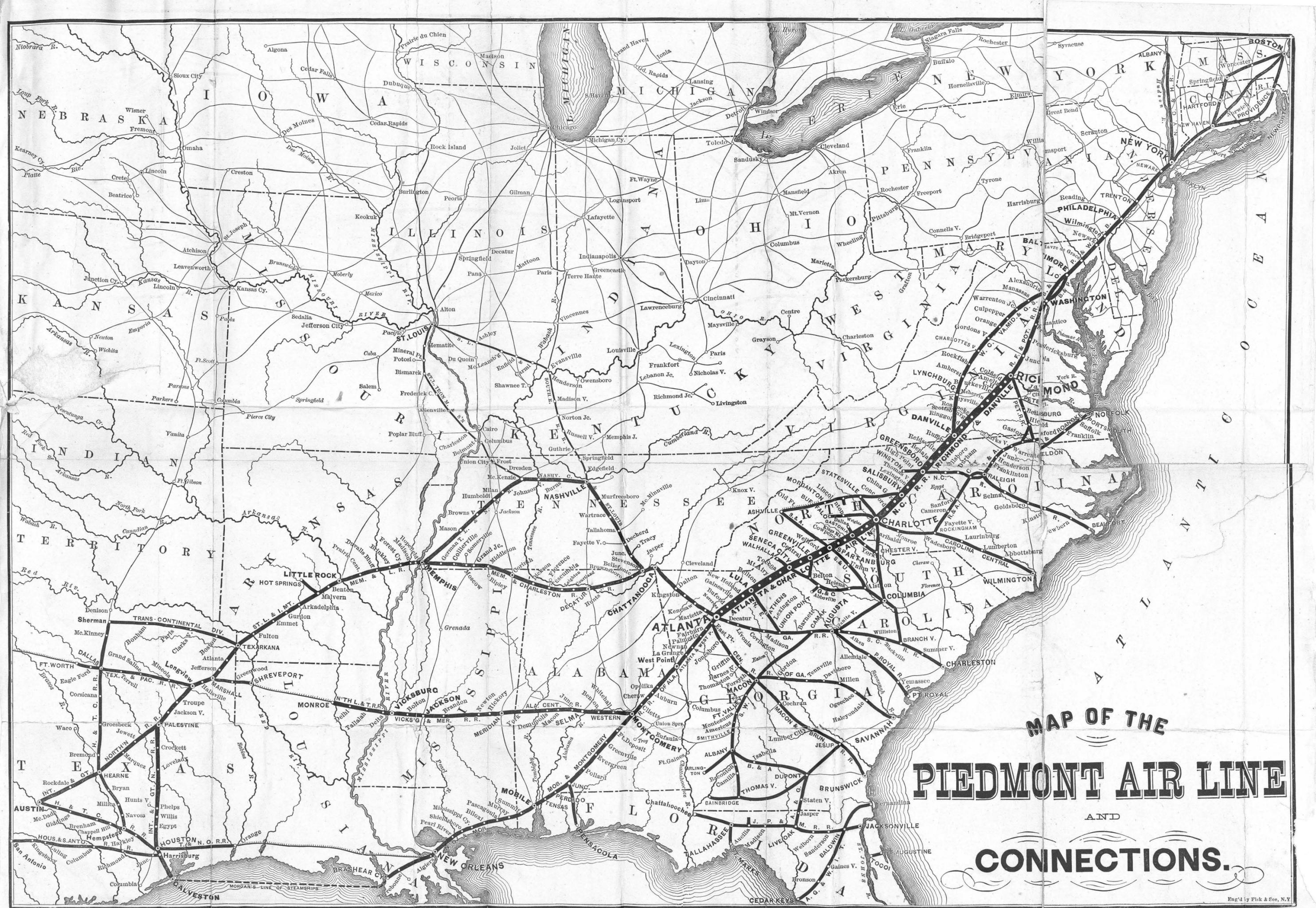
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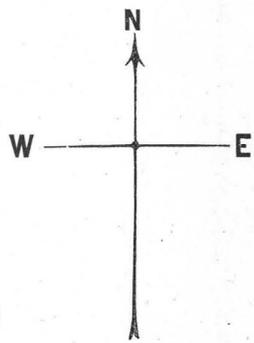
FINDLEY GOLD MINE.



MAP OF THE
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AND
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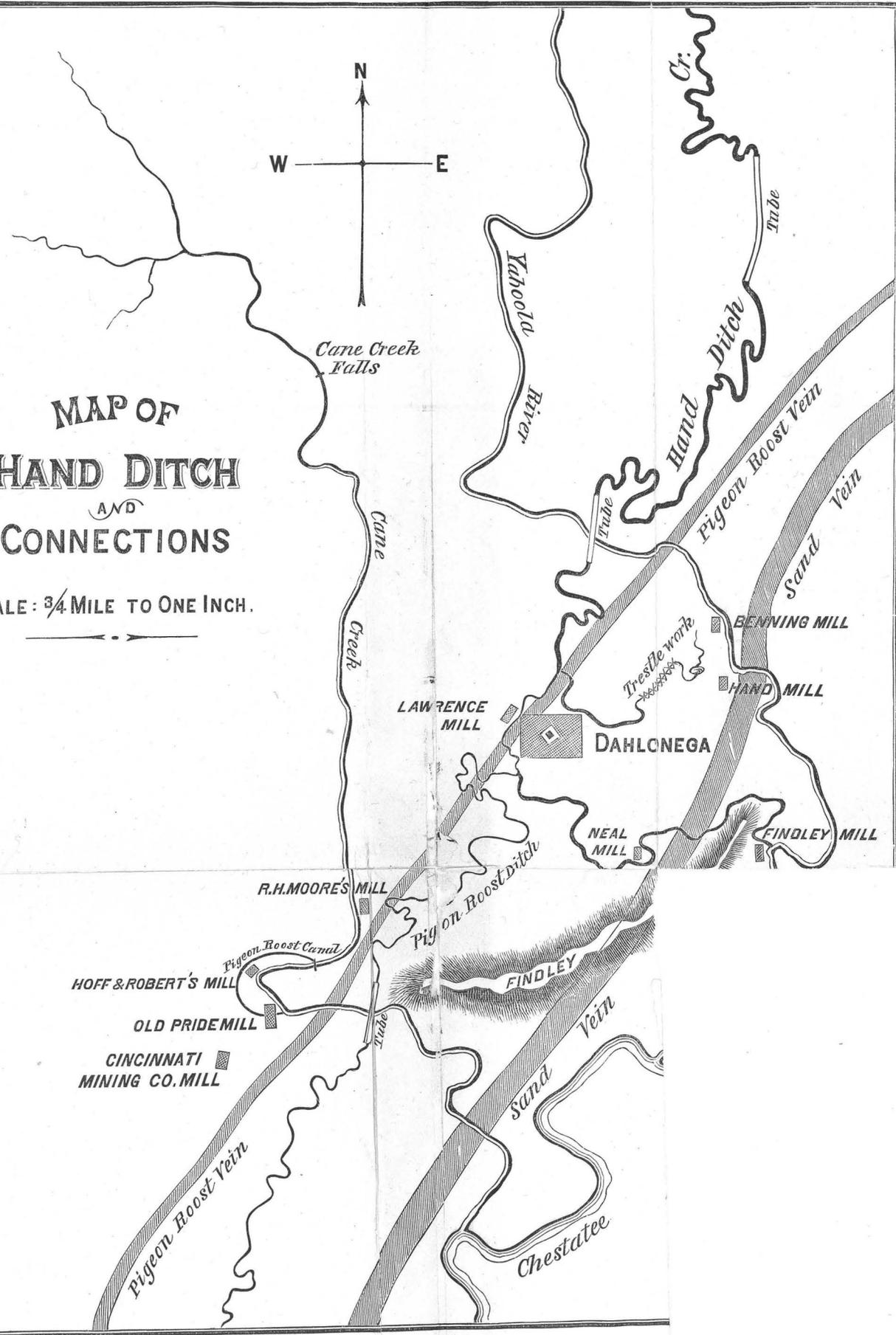
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From Over



MAP OF HAND DITCH AND CONNECTIONS

SCALE: 3/4 MILE TO ONE INCH.



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