

That Black Hills Platinum Mine.

NEW YORK, April 22, 1875.
To the Editor of the *Herald*:

I enclose herewith a letter just received from General Van Vliet, a highly intelligent officer of the United States army, formerly and for many years stationed in this city, which furnishes additional information upon a subject which is attracting public attention. Truly yours,

THURLOW WEED.

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE MISSOURI, OFFICE OF THE CHIEF QUARTERMASTER, FORT LEAVENWORTH, KAN., April 17, 1875.

Thurlow Weed, Esq.:—

MY DEAR SIR—I read with great pleasure your remarks on our old friend Father De Smet. Over twenty years ago my home was on the prairies. I passed several years between the Missouri river and the Rocky Mountains, and it was while leading that life I became acquainted with Father De Smet. I only refer to this in connection with the precious metals in the Black Hills. One day, in 1851, at the dinner table of our friend, Colonel Robert Campbell of St. Louis, the conversation turned on our wandering in the mountains, when Father De Smet related the following incident, which occurred in the Black Hills beyond the Cheyenne: One day while among the Indians a chief came to him and showed him some pieces of metal which he had in his bullet pouch. As soon as the father saw it he recognized it as platinum. In company with the chief he visited the place and discovered a large mine of this metal. He said it was of great extent and untold value. He made the Indian promise never to divulge the secret, for if he did the white people would clear the Indians out of the country. He also promised to keep the secret. He told us that he had carefully described the location of this mine, and that when he died the secret would be with his church.

Father De Smet could not have been deceived, and I firmly believe that there is a valuable platinum mine between the Yellowstone and the Cheyenne. As this metal is worth \$115 per pound avoirdupois and silver only \$18, you will understand the fortune that awaits some lucky man. Yours truly,

STEWART VAN VLIET, U.S.A.
—New York Herald.

The British Mission. — Elder Peter Barton writes to the *Millennial Star* from Sheffield, April 3—

"Since we held our district meeting, and the course of lectures were delivered by Elder John Squires, the newspapers have inserted several articles about the 'Mormons in Sheffield,' written by our opponents. In presenting your letter for publication, which contained a statement of facts, and refuted many of the statements made by 'A Gentile,' the editor promised to publish it if divided into three parts. The first part was published March 27th.

"My faith is that there are yet some honest hearted people in Sheffield; we have had a goodly number of strangers at our meetings of late.

"Elder Squires left here March 23d, and I accompanied him to Killamash to visit brother Wm. Hill and family. The evening being fine we had an outdoor meeting; stood against the church yard gate; very attentive congregation no interruption. Elder Squires and myself each spoke for about thirty minutes, thanked them for their kind attention, and returned to brother Hill's and stayed there that night. Next morning Elder Squires left for Nottingham. I concluded to stay and have another meeting.

"About 6 p.m., I went along the street near the church, accompanied by Brother Hill, and invited the people to come and hear us. On our return to the church, we saw a minister and congregation singing in the street. They passed us and went up the street opposite the church, and commenced to sing. I was informed that they would have to return on their way to chapel. When they had finished singing, the Spirit prompted me to commence meeting. I read aloud a hymn, and before I finished the minister and congregation came along and stayed by us. I and Brother Hill sang, and after offering prayer, I called on Brother Hill, who spoke a short time and bore his testimony to the truth. I then

spoke for about fifty minutes, and was truly blessed with the Spirit of God. I spoke a little on the first principles of the Gospel, the gifts and blessings enjoyed by the Church of Christ, and the necessity of those who officiated in the Holy Priesthood to be called of God, etc."

Elder Barton goes on to say that he had a very attentive congregation, and before the close of the meeting he and the minister had a discussion for nearly two hours, and parted friends. The street was crowded with people, and the meeting was the general topic of conversation the next day throughout the town and down in the coal mines.

NEWS NOTES.

"Black Hills or bust," says the *St. Louis Globe*. Probably both.

Corn is so scarce in mountain counties of Kentucky that hogs are dying from starvation.

In Russia a commission is to examine the expediency of reducing the number of holidays.

The Emperor of Japan will pay a visit to France in August, by way of Suez and Marseilles.

Our two German afternoon cotemporaries turned up their toes to the daisies last week. The past year or two has been very hard on infant journalism.—*St. Louis Globe*.

An organized gang of railroad robbers has been detected at Logansport, Indiana. Their operations have extended over several months past, and amount to thousands of dollars.

16,889 persons were banished from Russia to Siberia between May and October last. 1,080 women and children over fifteen years of age, with 1,269 young children, voluntarily accompanied the exiles.

A man claims to have been confined to his house by a "cik spel." His spell was bad enough, but if men are to be confined for such a reason, Josh Billings will never lecture more.

A noticeable event recently in Paris was the marriage, at the church of St. Leu, of a Chinese mandarin, Li-Chao-Pee, Professor of Chinese to the International Association of Professors, with a young French lady. The Marquis d'Hervey de Saint Denis and M. Rudy, two of the most eminent Orientalists of Europe, "assisted" the bridegroom on the occasion.

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JOHN W. LOWELL & CO.

Salt Lake City, March 4th, 1875.