

Produce of the Gold-Fields.

Sir,—I am very happy to observe, in to-day's *Argus*, some hopes of the real state of the gold-diggings being *at length* fairly represented. This will, I trust, check the increase of the distress now, and for some time past, witnessed amongst the innumerable gold-seekers who have been induced to come to this colony, led away by the high colored accounts of "Our own Correspondent," &c., and for which to a certain degree, the press is morally responsible.

It is a notorious fact, and can be proved by figures, that the gold-fields have been gradually falling off in the yield of produce since October last. There were at that time about 80,000 persons, producing upwards of 110,000 ounces weekly; whereas at the present moment upwards of 120,000 persons scarcely produce 35,000 ounces (!) weekly, and even this amount is on the decline. Yet, in the very face of these results, the gold-fields are still represented in the most encouraging manner. I do not mean to say that a few more discoveries may not be made in different parts of the colony, which may afford a profitable occupation to a large number of industrious diggers for many years to come; but when we consider the scattered, and very superficial character of the gold-fields, the rapidity of their exhaustion, and the absence of any mines on which to fall back, I *do* maintain that there is nothing to justify the extravagant estimates which have been, and are being, made of the *extent* and *permanency* of the metallic wealth of this colony. All the intelligent diggers, and agents of the respective gold-field, will bear out and confirm my views on this point; and I am sorry for the sake of thousands who are landing here daily, that the truth has been so long concealed, and now appears in all its startling nakedness.

I am, Sir,
Yours respectfully,
EVAN HOPKINS.

27th June.
P. S.—The extravagance of the successful diggers are things of the past; great prizes are getting scarce, and in a very short time these gold-fields will be brought to the ordinary level of all gold-producing countries.—E. H.

Letter says amount of gold is declining in gold fields, 1853

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