

any water to raise, as this is the most expensive part of the process the ore is very rapidly mined, after the water is drained off. The remuneration given to the proprietors of the steam-engines, is one-fifth of the ore raised; this was the sum paid to the old company, and the same was stipulated to be paid to the parties who undertook the same work in 1829.

Mines are to be bought at all times, on reasonable terms; for the miners often desire to retire from business, or wish to sell for the sake of profit, or are not able to carry them on from want of capital. There is, however, one difficulty a purchaser has to contend with, for the mines are almost always held in small shares among a number of relatives, many of whom refuse to sell their small interest. This makes the mines less desirable property, as difficulties almost invariably occur with these small proprietors.

No miner who has worked with reasonable prudence, steadiness and a sufficient capital, has failed to do well since the year 1834. The produce of the mines of the Cerro from that time, has not varied much from one year to another, as will be seen by the table heretofore given. The undertakings which have been carried on upon an extensive scale, are those which have prospered most. There were many difficulties that the first mining companies had to encounter, that others need not again apprehend; the local interests are better understood and would be more respected; a better knowledge of the people prevails, and of the modes of mining; and the people themselves have lost some of their prejudices against foreigners. Persons may now be obtained to assist in the direction as well as to afford advice to the agents who may be entrusted with the affairs of the company, so that the prospects of success in the operations are decidedly more favourable than they were fifteen years ago. But although the actual operation of mining may be more advantageous, yet the country in its political and commercial character has very much deteriorated, and it is to be apprehended, that but little capital will be invested in it until there is a great change in its rulers as well as in its people and until government, the laws, and good order, become as well established as they are in Chili. All the friends of Peru, seem, however, to be well satisfied, from appearances, that the day is not far distant when she will see the restoration of permanent tranquillity.

To return, after this digression, to our party: they had much agreeable conversation with the Chilian officers, and passed a pleasant evening. As I have before spoken of the accommodations, it is needless to say that they were not improved.

On the morning of the 24th, the thermometer stood at 36° in the