PLACER GOLD MINING.

How It Is Conducted on the Bars of Snake River.

A correspondent of the San Frandescription of his investiga ion of mine operations on Snake river:

the items of information gathered your readers.

We stopped off at Ontario, a small but thriving town on the Oregon, side in Malheur county. Situated as it is in a valley about ten miles large scale profitably. The gravel courting crusade. wide, much of the surface as level varies greatly in value; assays from as a floor, it seems a most unlikely place in which to find gold, nevertheless it is there, distributed up cubic yard, the last being from a and down the valley for hundreds of miles; though as Missouri Jake used to say, "it is more than half from 50 cents \$1 per cubic yard in gravel" In some places the miner free gold, besides what is contained or prospector in search of a "grub stake," may rock out from \$1 to \$3 sand contains little value, but it is per day. These pay streaks are so associated with a non magnetic usually found about the upper ends | iron sulphide, which is said to asof the islands and the bends of the say well, some claiming as high as river. In some places bars several \$200 and \$300 per ton. Be this as hundred feet frem the river are lit may, they are certainly worth a stripped and the pay gravel hauled careful investigation and a saving to the river and washed. The of the gold they contain may go far overlay is a sandy loam, generally toward solving the problem of the about 5 or 6 feet deep, and produces profitable working of the fine gold good crops of hay, grain and pota- placers of Snake river. toes, with irrigation. When crops

are harvested, many of the farmers An Anti-Courting Crusadealong the river mining, gathering, gold beneath the same ground from The Bachelors' club is an adjunct which they have taken a crop of to the St. Joseph's T. A. and B. sopotatoes a few weeks before. The ciety at Bridgeport Conn., which plant most generally for washing has as members most of the conthe gravel, consists in part of a spicuous Catholic young men, and horse power Chinese pump, from occupies a handsome club house at which the water is lead to a shal- Main and Catherine streets. Some low box about three feet square, the | months ago the club was organized sheet iros bottom of which is per- and for a time the members were forated with about one-quarter inch very enthusiastic and lived up to holes. Tdese serve to distribute the pledge to give up best girls and the water over a finer screen placed | Sunday night calls. Many of them

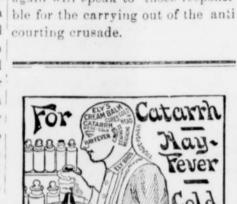
The holes in this incline screen trouble which threatens to break are abovt one-sixteenth of an inch up the society, the Bachelers' club, in diameter, about sixteen to each or half a dozen prospective wed square inch, over this screen the dings. The confirmed bachelors in ; gravel slides, being assisted by the the club within the last few weeks water falling over it from the screen | have noticed the absonce of many above, which washes the fine sand of the members from the club hous. and gold through it, whence it falls on Sunday evenings. Last Sanfrom 2 to 5 inches upon an amalga-, day night an anti courting crusade mator or silver plated copper table, was planned. At about 9 o'clock set on inclination of about 2 inces twenty members left the club rooms determined to bring the backsliding to a foot. Upon these tables the ones into the field. Some recongreater part of the free gold is noitering had been done, and when caught; the tailing being run thro' the crusaders left the club rooms a blanket or burlay sluice to save they divided into parties of three or what may have escaped. Some four and started for houses in difdispense with the Chinese pump by ferent parts of the city where they bringing in water from the irrigawere reasonably certain of finding tion ditches, thus cutting down exthe members they sought. One of penses considerably. It is a cheap each party would ring the bell, and and simple device and when not when the door was opened his comovercharged saves the gold quite panions would make their way effectively. Its capacity is from quietly into the house. The coat fifteen to twenty cubic vards per and hat of the young man they ten hours. There have been nusought would first be taken, and merous attempts made to winze then the pleasant evening the owner gravel from the bottom of the river was enjoying in the company of by means of hydraulic dredges, but, some young woman would be ended so far, these experiments seem to rudely by the domand that he achave resulted in failure, as the mill company them. If he demurred, and dismantled boats and scows he was forced to go. About a dozen tied up along the river will testify. houses were visited in different We noticed a rocker being industriparts of the city and sixteen girls; ously worked almost under the were made very unhappy. Three stern of one of these machine boats which it is reported had cost \$25,young men were taken from one 000. It secured a sarcastic rebuke house; two from another, and in to some one's mistake and misman- every house visited at least one was

agement. Those who stick to the found. One member was found banks and bars seem to be meeting hiding under a sofa and was draggwith encouraging results and are in ed out and carried away in triumph. a fair way to solve the problem of The girls and their mothers objectworking the pay gravel upon a ed to these summary methods, but large scale. We went up the river, the abduction was carried out so

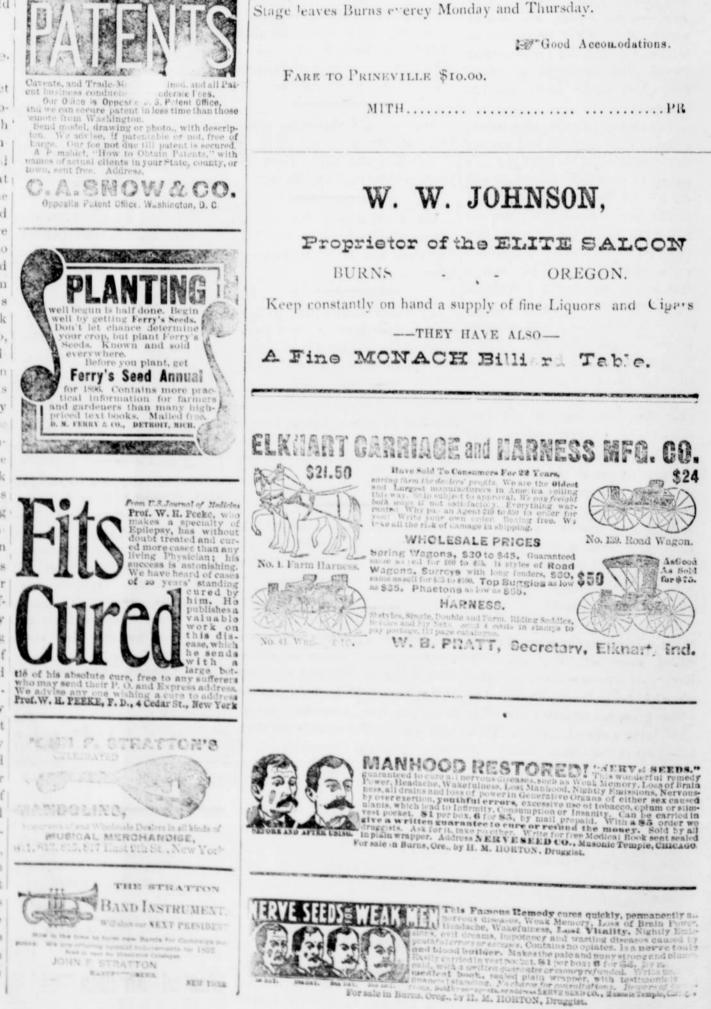
about fifteen miles above Ontario, quietly in each case that before cisco Mining and Scientific Press, and found considerable work going they fully realized what was going contributes the following interesting on with the machine above describ on the young men were in the ed. We regretted that limited time street Considerable ill feeling has would not admit of our going far- resulted from the crusade. but the Having just returned from a trip ther, as we were informed a Mr. bachelors declare they will continue up Snake river, p-rhaps some of Singer, a son of the famous sewing their trips until all the men they machine inventor, was operating have marked give up their Sunday in regardito the fine gold placers of upon a bar a few miles above with evening calls and come back into that section may be of interest to satisfactory results. It would seem the fold to live up to the pledge. that as long as tho gravel will pay The young women threaten to reto rock or work with the crude ap- taliate, and declare they never pliances now in use, there should again will speak to those responsibe some way of working it upon a ble for the carrying out of the anti

> a claim below Ontario running all the way from 14 cents to \$8.41 per narrow pay streak, but the greater part of the workable gravel will go in the black sand. The magne ic

at an incline of about 35 degrees. broke the pledge, and now there is



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