

## FROM ARIZONA.

### Mining in New Mexico and Arizona.

Correspondence of the New-York Times.

FORT BUCHANAN, Arizona, Saturday, Aug. 20, 1859.

This post derives importance from having been the first permanent post established in Arizona. It was first commanded by Maj. STEEN, of the Dragoons and has subsequently been commanded by Maj. FITZGERALD and Capt. EWELL; it is now under command of Lieut.-Col. REEVE, of the Infantry, and garrisoned by one Company of Dragoons and one of Infantry. The buildings belonging to the post are scattered over several acres of ground, having more the appearance of an emigrant camp than a military station; it is without form or shape, and as difficult to guard against a surprise as a thousand-acre prairie farm. Why it was ever put in the present shape none but its projectors have ever been able to tell.

The valley in which the post is situated does not furnish one-half the supplies required; a large amount are brought from the Rio Grande and from Sonora; this does not speak well for the agricultural resources of the country. I desire only to speak of it as a mineral country.

Near this place are several lead mines, of great value for the silver they contain; they are generally situated in a well-wooded and watered country, but often in rough and rugged mountains; those already prospected and worked are, the Patagonia, by Capt. EWELL and Mr. BREVORT; the Compadrie and French, by Col. TITUS & Co. Several others are prospected and have evidence of great richness.

Besides these mines there are several old ones, which bear evidence of having been successfully worked many years ago; what they are, or how rich they are, can only be ascertained by much labor in reopening them. The feeling is rather in favor of new mines to opening old ones. As far as parties have prospected, they have been more successful. Some, however, cling to the idea that great riches have been covered up in these old mines, and firmly believe the old history current in the country, "that the Apaches drove off the miners just as they had reached the richest part of the vein, and that the miners then put a *great door* on the opening and covered it up with earth." How far discoveries will prove the truth of these, to me myths, time will show; so far no door over rich veins have been found, although some rich old mines have been opened.

The Patagonia mine has been worked more extensively than any other in the neighborhood; the ore is easily mined and easily smelted, as it is almost entirely lead and silver; it is about fifty per cent. lead, each ton of ore containing from forty to seventy-five ounces of silver.

The mines now being opened by Col. TITUS & Co. contain ore adapted to the smelting process, and the company are now putting up extensive furnaces in a valley about ten miles from the post.

After a visit to some of the mines in this neighborhood I go to Arivaca, the property of the Sonora Exploring and Mining Company. They are reducing ore by both the patio and amalgamation process they have also smelted some rich ores. Their works are the most extensive of any in the country, I believe the only place where the amalgamation process has been adopted by revolving barrels.

The mines of this Company were among the first explored or taken up in the country, Col. POSTON and party having taken possession of them in 1857. Since that time several hundred tons of ore have been taken out, of richness varying from \$100 to \$2,000 per ton—specimens of ore having been found yielding as high as \$20,000 a ton.

I will endeavor to give you a description of these mines, and of the process of reduction by barrel amalgamation in my next.

The country is destitute of news. The excitement occasioned by the murder of Mexicans in the Sonoita Valley has died away. We now have only an occasional Apache excitement, which lasts but a day or so.

Capt. STONE's party is now in camp near here, awaiting advices from Washington. The whole country is unusually healthy.

B.