but about one o'clock the start was made, and by eight Wolfboro was reached, in a penetrating drizzle, no "grub" in the canoes, wet blankets, and not one of the crowd had the faintest idea where shelter was to be found. However, the Gastronomer found a place at the Bellevue Hotel, and there they stopped over night.

In the morning the sun rose clear and bright, and his presence was fully appreciated by the dampened cruisers. Once more the bows of the canoes pointed campward, and finally, after a long, hot paddle, home was reached.

Soon after this camp was broken, and the different participants in this most pleasant outing returned once more to the bosom of their families.

The writer feels as if he owed an apology to the "other mess,"—the Commodore, Purser, Surgeon, and Minstrel,—but being an intimate friend of the Chaplain, from whose accounts this narrative is written, he cannot help but know more of those deeds in which the "Rev- erend" figured.

The Closing of the Comstock Mines.

No more important announcement has come to us recently, than that which says it has been decided to abandon the lower workings of some of the great Comstock mines, and allow them to fill with water. The report says:—

"Orders have been received from San Francisco to stop all work in the Chollar mine, and to immediately strip all levels below 2,400 feet. The orders also necessitate the immediate suspension of all operations in the lower levels of the Hale & Norcross mine. This action is the result of the flat refusal on the part of the trustees of the Savage mine to pay their one-third proportion for keeping the pumps in motion at the combination shaft. The lower levels in both mines will be abandoned and flooded as soon as the ponderous pumps are shut down. The stoppage of work in these mines throws several hundred men out of employment, and, it is believed, sounds the death-knell of deep mining on the Comstock."

It is well known that for some years past the expenses of the Comstock mines have exceeded their production, and that the stockholders have been losing money, whatever the managers of the mines, who are also the owners of the mills, may have done.

Great and expensive efforts have been made to find a new bonanza, but apparently without result; we say apparently, for nothing is ever known with certainty concerning what has been found in a Comstock mine, until it suits the management to make it public.

The great depth attained by the mines, and the high temperature encountered, make the work of exploration and mining very expensive, so that it requires what in other districts would be considered a "bonanza" to pay expenses.

It is true that immense economies have been effected through the pressure of poverty, and that mining and milling, though still expensive, are much less so than they were formerly, and less than in some other districts where the difficulties are much less. If an old-fashioned bonanza were discovered in the Comstock, and could be worked as economically as the mines now are, which of course could not be expected, it would return a very much larger proportion of its output in dividends than did the former bonanzas. Unfortunately there appears to be little prospect of any new pockets being discovered; and if the mines are to be allowed to fill with water up to the Sutro tunnel level, then, indeed, must the last hope be abandoned; for the work will now be confined simply to extracting such portions of the large bodies of low-grade ore as are in the upper levels, and will pay to work. The final abandonment of the great lode would then be but a question of a few years. As a local paper says, "The abandonment of deep mining destroys the last glimmer of hope of future 'deals' in Comstock mining shares."

The continued failure to open or make known a