bonanza, has apparently satisfied every one that the abandonment of the lower levels is done in good faith, and not with the view of "freezing out" any interest. The thousand rumors of "strikes" in the deep mines that we have so often heard of, and advised our readers to disbelief, were simply started by insiders, with the hope of being able to get rid of their shares.

That the great Comstock will be altogether abandoned for many years to come is not at all probable. Its fabulous bonanzas and profits in the past will cast shadows into the future, and we may expect some day, when a mining "boom" is raging, to find willing believers in a great hidden bonanza at the bottom of these mines, which may again be pumped out and explored.

— *Engineering and Mining Journal.*

### Noticeable Articles

Readers interested in following the course of English politics, and especially of the seemingly interminable Irish question, will find much that is interesting in the vacation numbers of the English magazines. The answer to the Irish demand for separation, came in Mr. Gladstone's complete overthrow,—a defeat which came from the favor which his Irish policy seemed to show to that demand. In the August number of the *Fortnightly*, Mr. Mahony,—an Irishman, to judge by his name,—in a paper entitled "Is there Hope for Ireland?" says:

"The Separatists have come too late. For eighty years agencies have been working for union below the surface of political history or the records of governmental failure. Busy hands and hearts have been through generations weaving a complex web of affinities, of commercial, financial, social, domestic ties between the two islands, which binds them indissolubly together." On the other hand, Mr. Arthur Arnold, a "Home-Ruler," in the same number, does all he can, in a paper entitled "The answer to Mr. Gladstone," to minimize his defeat, and to show that the English people are really in favor of Home Rule. The present writer, during a pretty extended tour in England this summer, endeavored, by diligent reading of English newspapers and conversation with such Englishmen as he met, to form an opinion on the subject; and he came to the conclusion, in spite of Mr. Arnold, that the answer of England was a pretty distinct one. It is difficult to determine exactly what is meant by the phrase "Home Rule," for it means very different things in the mouths of different men. If it means separation, the Irish might as well cry for the moon. If it means a quarter measure of local self-government, that will undoubtedly come,—but it will come as a part of a whole system of measures for the reform of local government in all parts of the kingdom; for local government is everywhere in such confusion, that Englishmen may well envy the simple system by which we divide up governmental work between town, county, state, and national organizations.

In another paper in the same number, entitled "A New Departure," the writer says, I think justly:

"The reply of the constituencies must be regarded as absolutely conclusive. It has left everything else in doubt; and the party questions that have been looking up for years have been ignored; but this, at least, is settled beyond controversy,—that the Parliament now about to assemble will have nothing to do with Mr. Gladstone's schemes."

The confusion of parties in England is curiously like that existing in this country at this moment, and the lover of the study of political science,—what more interesting study can there be?—can have no more interesting bit of work offered him than the one he can get by following the course of political discussion in England during the coming winter.

The same number contains a pleasant paper on "Deer-stalking," which will interest sportsmen; and another on "Switzerland as a Holiday Resort," which pleasantly recalls to the present writer the days when, with knapsack on his back, and legs a good deal younger than now, he walked over the Grimsel Pass to the Rhone Glacier, and afterward from the Rhone Valley past Leukerbad, up the wonderful Gemmi Pass clear over to Kandersteg, in a single day. Rightly says this paper: "Pre-eminently is Switzerland, in its scenery and in its air, the holiday land of health. That tonic, steel-strong air of the glaciers is bracing, is exciting, a strengthener of the nerves, a developer of muscle. . . . You are happier in fine, pure air; your powers are sub-