

of the rock, the other side has it powerfully strong. Third, its practical results. Mr. F. has determined the exact locality of the gold in a large number of places on this flat (Murphy's), and described the line of its direction before it was dug, as many will testify. He has given very accurate judgment of the probable amount in many instances. It is true that in some cases where he has directed, they have come to the rock without finding gold, but the attraction continues or increases. Holes have been sunk nearly 30 feet deep, and the deeper they go the stronger is the attraction. The attraction varies in quickness according to distance, and but little in apparent strength. Mr. F. is convinced and I fully concur with him, that vastly the largest deposits of gold are deep and below the rock, and that to be obtained, mining must be substituted for surface washing.

I have been very intimately acquainted with Mr. Fletcher's operations and experiments, and think I am fully conversant with his views. I fully believe Mr. Fletcher to be incapable of practising a deception upon the public, but is a very retiring modest man. E. SPRAGUE.

CHURCHES OF SONORA.—The Roman Catholics were the first to establish a church. They had religious services in the winter of 1849-50, and even planned the church edifice. In the summer of 1850, a small adobe building was erected, which was found afterwards to be in the street and was torn down. A wooden building was erected in the summer of 1851, and still another in the spring of 1853. The foundation stone of the last was laid by Mr. Peter Mehen on the 22d of April 1853. This is the building now occupied every Sunday by this denomination.

The Methodist Church South sent Rev. Cyprian Gridley as a missionary to Sonora in 1850. His first sermon was preached on the 29th of September. Rev. Joseph S. Malone succeeded him, preaching his first sermon on the 14th September, 1851. He was succeeded on the 16th of May, 1852, by Rev. William H. Long, whose connection with the church was dissolved on the 19th of July, and Rev. Mr. Malone re-occupied the pulpit. He left in April 1853, for the Atlantic States, and Rev. Morris Evans filled his place until the spring of 1855, when the Rev. O. P. Fitzgerald became the pastor. The church edifice was erected in January 1852.

The Methodist Episcopal church was organized under the preaching of Rev. David Deal, whose labors commenced on the 7th of March, 1852. By his active exertion a large and handsome church edifice was erected in June of the same year. He was succeeded in the spring of 1854, by a Dr. Hadley, who soon left a position for which he had no qualifications of head or heart. The Rev. J. W. Brier succeeded to the vacancy, preaching alternately here and at Columbia. In the spring of 1855, the Rev. Isaac B. Fish succeeded Mr. Brier.

The first Presbyterian Church was organized in the summer of 1853, under the preaching of Rev. Silas S. Harmon, a missionary from the Howe Missionary Society. He commenced his labors in April 1853. A large and beautiful edifice has been erected, which was dedicated in the spring of 1855.

The Israelites have held regular meetings

since September, 1851, although as yet they have no synagogue erected.

D. P. BALDWIN.

GEO. WILLIAMSON.

BALDWIN & WILLIAMSON, Attorneys at Law.

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