

History and Properties of Gold.

Gold has been known from the earliest ages of the world, and has been universally employed as a medium of exchange.

We hear of its having been used by the Hebrews, Egyptians, Greeks, Romans and other ancient nations, in about the same manner as it is at the present day. The first allusion made to gold in the Bible occurs in the 2nd chapter of Genesis, v. 11 and 12. But the earliest practical application of the use of gold appears to be that mentioned in the 24th chapter of Genesis, v. 22, B. C., 1857, where it is evident that the precious metal was not only known but wrought. Eleazer, the servant of Abraham, gave to Rebecca, the future wife of Isaac, an earring and two bracelets of gold. It is also mentioned by Moses in the 31st chapter of Numbers; where he says, "Only the gold and the silver, the brass, the iron, the tin, and the lead, everything that may abide the fire, ye shall make it pass through the fire and it shall be clean." The alchemists designated it by the name, and gave it the symbol of Sol.

It is the most precious of all the metals, possesses a beautifully rich yellow color, and has no perceptible taste or smell. When pure its specific gravity is 19.3, being, with the exception of Platinum and Iridium, the heaviest of all known substances. In its native state the specific gravity varies from 18 to 18.