

The above is the most precise, and is generally considered to be the most correct account of the gold discovery.

Another Version. § 8. Other versions of the story have been published, however, and the following, from an article published in the *Coloma Argus*, in the latter part of the year 1855, is one of them. The statement was evidently derived from Weimer, who lives at Coloma :

"That James W. Marshall picked up the first piece of gold, is beyond doubt. Peter L. Wimmer, [Weimer] who resides in this place, states positively that Mr. Marshall picked up the gold in his presence ; they both saw it, and each spoke at the same time—'What's that yellow stuff?' Marshall being a step in advance, picked it up. This first piece of gold is now in the possession of Mrs. Wimmer, and weighs six penny-weights, eleven grains. The piece was given to her by Marshall himself. * * * The dam was finished early in January, the frame for the mill also erected, and the flume and bulkhead completed. It was at this time that Marshall and Wimmer adopted the plan of raising the gate during the night to wash out sand from the mill-race, closing it during the day, when work would be continued with shovels, etc. Early in February, the exact day is not remembered, in the morning, after shutting off the water, Marshall and Wimmer walked down the race together to see what the water had accomplished during the night. Having gone about twenty yards below the mill, they both saw the piece of gold before mentioned, and Marshall picked it up. After an examination, the gold was taken to the cabin of Wimmer, and Mrs. W. instructed to boil it in saleratus water ; but she being engaged in making soap, pitched the piece into the soap kettle, where it was boiled all day and all night. The following morning the strange piece of stuff was fished out of the soap, all the brighter for the boiling it had received. Discussion now commenced, and all expressed the opinion that perhaps the yellow substance might be gold. Little was said on the subject ; but every one each morning searched in the race for more, and every day found several small scales. The Indians also picked up many small thin pieces, and carried them always to Mrs. Wimmer. About three weeks after the first piece was obtained, Marshall took the fine gold, amounting to between two and three ounces, and went below to have the strange metal tested. On his return, he informed Wimmer that the stuff was gold. All hands now