

THE GOLD FIELDS OF CANADA.

THE first discovery of gold in Canada was made by a woman, near the mouth of the river Touffe de Pins, or Gilbert, a tributary of the Chaudière, some forty years ago, but it attracted no attention. In 1834, another woman, taking a horse to water near the same spot, perceived, as she supposed, a stone glittering in the bed of the river, and thinking it curious enough to preserve, took it home with her. It was not however till the following year that she became aware of its value. Shortly afterwards the discovery was made public in *Silliman's Journal*, by General Baddeley, then a lieutenant of the Engineers, and one of the most active promoters of our society. He stated that the piece lately found weighed 10.63 grs. He was not aware that it had been chopped off a nugget, the remainder of which weighed 1056 grs. His information was, therefore, not calculated to arouse any other than scientific excitement. So little interest, indeed, did the discovery occasion, that no mention of the important event is made in either of the cotemporary newspapers. Had gold mining, however, been then understood as it has been since the discoveries in California and Australia have revolutionized the system of working, and abolished the old and cumbrous method, some excitement might possibly have arisen, and the mineral resources of our country have been developed long ago. As it was, the discovery was again almost totally forgotten, the only person, seemingly, who took any interest in it being the Seigneur, M. DeLéry.

One of the earliest reports of the Geological Survey, that of 1847-48, contains a long description of the geological formation which extends throughout the auriferous region of Canada, and points out its resemblance to the geological features of those