

WEEKLY MISCELLANY.

Devoted to the Intellectual and Moral Improvement of the Young.

Vol. 1. Halifax, N. S. Tuesday, August 4, 1863. No. 7.

PUBLISHED WEEKLY, AT \$1 PER YEAR
IN ADVANCE, BY

W. Cunnabell, 155 Upper Water Street.

Subscriptions received by the Agents, and at the
office of publication.

HALIFAX, N. S. AUGUST 4, 1863.

MORE ABOUT GOLD.

According to our promise in last No. we resume the subject of Gold. Continuing with accounts of its existence in Asia, Africa, California and Australia.

In Asia, especially in the southern districts, there are many mines, streams, rivers and wastes, which contain this metal. But little or no gold comes from thence to Europe, because the inhabitants place their fortune in treasure, and love to hoard it up. Africa and Spain were the sources of the greater portion of gold possessed by the ancients. What now comes from Africa is always in dust, showing that it is obtained by washing the alluvial soils or sands of mines; for which three or four districts are remarkable. Mungo Park—the celebrated African traveller—stated that the gold spangles are usually found in ferruginous small gravel buried under rolled pebbles. Previous to the discoveries in California, Brazil, Choco, and Chili were the regions which furnished most gold. That of Mexico is in a great measure contained in the argentiferous (silver bearing) veins, which traverse the rocks of gneiss and mica slate. The rivers of the province of Caracas, to ten degrees north of the line, flow over golden sands. Peru has been found not to be rich in gold ores; the mines called *pacos di oro* consist of ores of iron and copper oxides, containing a considerable quantity of gold.

The accident, in 1848, which first revealed the treasures of California, was the widening of the tail race of a saw mill. The wheel was taken out to allow the water to move freely, and a great body of earth having been carried away by the torrent, laid bare many shining particles, which, on examination, proved to be gold; and several little lumps were picked up. Captain Suter, the owner of the mill, with his surveyor, Mr. Marshall, commenced a

search together and collected an ounce of the ore from the sand, without any difficulty. The captain, at the same time, with his knife, picked out a lump of an ounce and a half from the rock. The news spread, and there ensued such a stir in the States as was quite without a parallel—numbers of every age and occupation pushed for the land of promise.

In Australia the discovery of gold to the westward of Bathurst, about 150 miles from Sydney, was made known by a dispatch from the Governor to the Colonial Secretary, on the 18th September, 1851—stating that many persons, with only a tin washing dish, had obtained from one to two ounces per day. On the 25th May following he wrote that lumps had been obtained varying in weight from one ounce to four pounds: and again, on the 29th May, he wrote that gold had been found in abundance, that people of every class were proceeding to the locality, that the field was rich, and from the geological formation of the country, of immense area. On the 17th July a mass of gold, weighing 106 pounds, was found imbedded in the quartz matrix, about 53 miles from Bathurst, and much more; justifying the anticipations formed of the vast richness and extent of the gold field of that colony. This magnificent treasure, the property of one Dr. Kerr, surpassed the largest mass found in California, which was 23 pounds, and the largest found in Russia, which was 70 pounds, now in the Museum of St. Petersburg.

One party of persons got at the same time £400 value in ten days, by means of a quicksilver machine; and a party of three, who were unsuccessful for seven days, obtained in five days more fully 200 ounces. So early as 19th August, 1851, Governor Sir C. Fitzroy reported to the Home Government that gold to the value of £70,000 had been already collected; and on the 21st that 3,614 ounces had that morning arrived at Sydney from Bathurst, worth upwards of £12,600.

In August, 1851, Lieut. Governor C. J. Latrobe announced to Earl Grey, from Melbourne, the discovery of large deposits of gold in that district of the colony, and

in a parliamentary blue book, issued 3d February, 1852, it was stated that 79,540 ounces of gold, worth £257,855 7s., had been previously forwarded to England, and that the gold fields of the colony of Victoria rivalled the first discovered gold fields of New South Wales.

That we may not detain our young readers too long at a time, on one subject, we shall continue this in another article, which we trust they will find fully as interesting as the present, or the preceding one in our last number.

POWER OF SMALL THINGS.

Trifles are not to be despised. The nerve of a tooth, not as large as the finest cambric needle, will sometimes drive a man to distraction. A mosquito can make an elephant absolutely mad. The rock which causes a navy to founder is the work of a worm. The warrior that with good death in a thousand forms may be killed by an insect. Small pleasures make the sum of human happiness. The deepest wretchedness often results from a perpetual continuance of petty pains. A single look from those we love often produces exquisite pain or unalloyed pleasure. The first glass of wine that was drunk led to all the horrors, miseries and crimes that have sprung from drunkenness, and darkened the earth for centuries.

Mosquitoes.—Everybody is interested to know how to drive away mosquitoes. Camphor is the most powerful agent. A camphor bag hung up in an open case-ment will prove an effectual barrier to their entrance. Camphorated spirits applied as perfume to the face and hands will prove an effectual preventative.

THE EFFECTS OF AGITATION.—It is a remarkable fact that trees which are regularly shaken every day in the green house grow more rapidly and are stronger than others which are kept unagitated.

HARMLESS CURE FOR WARTS.—Dissolve a pennyworth of sal ammoniac in a gill of soft water, and wet the warts frequently with the solution.

Learning is wealth to the poor, honour to the rich, and a support and comfort to all classes in old age.