

have many specimens now before us, is great purity and exceeding coarseness ; some of it is much water-worn, and other specimens appear to have been only recently dislodged from the quartz matrix. The country generally exhibits broad exposures of slate, traversed by numerous quartz veins, and resembles in every respect the gold region of California, with the exception of the absence of volcanic evidences. We have now to announce the discovery of a large quartz vein in the Chaudière district carrying an usually large amount of gold in prills and nuggets, many of them weighing several ounces ; and the discovery of other leads showing similar indication of the precious metal, and proving conclusively that these quartz veins may be worked in Canada, as in Australia and California, with a prospect of very large returns. One mass of quartz taken from the large vein was thickly set with nuggets of gold from an ounce up to six ounces in weight, carrying the gold not in regular strings, but in isolated lumps throughout its substance ; a quantity of quartz estimated at five hundred weight having yielded to the discoverer seven hundred dollars worth of gold by the simple process of breaking out the larger pieces with a hammer ; and still containing a large amount of finer gold only to be obtained by crushing.

Our informant states that he saw nothing equal to this mass in the most productive quartz leads of California, and if the remainder of the vein from which it was taken is at all like it, its value is incalculable. It was discovered last year by some habitants of the district, who kept its locality a secret. It was from this vein that the large nuggets sold in Quebec last November were taken. We have before us some specimens, showing its exceeding richness.

The gold in the different streams varies much in character : in some it is exceedingly fine, as fine indeed as that of Fraser's River ; in others, and some of the smallest, it is coarser than that found in California, the fine gold being apparently the result of the decomposition of auriferous pyrites, and the product of quartz veins.

Hitherto the streams alone have been worked, and the operations on them were conducted with so little skill, that our informant is surprised that any gold was obtained ; as it was, the whole of the fine gold was washed away.

Yet, in one instance, 15,000 dwts. were taken from little more than half-an-acre of a bar ; in another, nine pounds weight were got