

It did not require, therefore, the recent discovery in the valley of the Sacramento to make their new acquisition valuable in the eyes of the American people. That event has not only enhanced its value to them, but has attracted to it universal attention.

In a former part of this work, whilst traversing with the reader the Southern Atlantic States, I drew his attention to the only region in the Union then known as the gold region. I described it as extending from the basin of the St. Lawrence in a south-westerly direction to the northern counties of Alabama. The length of this region is 700 miles, and its average width is from 80 to 100. In approaching Alabama, it diverges into Tennessee. It lies chiefly to the east of the Allegany Mountains, and between their different ridges. Some branches of it have been traced west of the mountains. Throughout the whole of this region gold is found in more or less quantity, the auriferous belt being richest in its yield in North Carolina and Virginia. But, as already shown, it has not proved itself sufficiently productive at any one point to be very extensively or systematically worked. The gold is generally found in the beds of the rivers or by their banks, the great bulk of that produced having been so by washing it from the deposit in which it is found. In some instances it has been found in lumps, embedded in slate and quartz. When I was thus describing this auriferous belt lying at the bases of the Alleghenies, the gold region of California was unknown to Europe. From the descriptions which we have since received of it, both in connexion with its geological formation and the state in which the gold is found in it, it appears to present many points of analogy to the gold region on the Atlantic side of