

Speaking of places where gold has been found, he mentioned—"California, between the Sierra Nevada and Sacramento and San Joaquin rivers."—(p. 251.) On page 252 he says: "The gold rocks and veins of quartz were observed by the author in 1842, near the Umpqua river, in Southern Oregon; and pebbles from similar rocks were met with along the shores of the Sacramento, in California, and the resemblance to other gold districts was remarked, but there was no opportunity of exploring the country at the time." Mr. Dana unquestionably discovered the existence of gold in California, either by direct vision or by inference, but it was a mere nominal discovery, creditable in a scientific point of view, but of no practical use. He did not find diggings that would pay, nor did his announcement set anybody to work to hunt for such diggings. His merit, in so far as California is concerned, may be compared to that of Murchison's similar discovery of auriferous rock, or rock indicating auriferous wealth, in Australia. It did no good, and nobody paid any attention to it, until the paying diggings were found by Hargraves, many years later. As Hargraves is the hero of the Australian, so is Marshall of the Californian gold discovery.

**Larkin.** § 6. Before giving the account of his discovery, however, I will quote the following passage from a letter, written on the fourth of May, 1846, by Thomas O. Larkin, then U. S. Consul at Monterey, California, to James Buchanan, Secretary of State under President Polk:

"There is said to be black lead in the country at San Fernando, near San Pedro, [now Los Angeles county]. By washing the sand in a plate, any person can obtain from \$1 to \$5 per day of gold that brings \$17 per ounce in Boston; the gold has been gathered for two or three years, though but few have the patience to look for it. On the southeast end of the Island of Catalina, there is a silver mine from which silver has been extracted. There is no doubt but that gold, silver, quicksilver, copper, lead, sulphur and coal mines, are to be found all over California, and it is equally doubtful whether, under their present owners, they will ever be worked."

**Marshall the true Discoverer.** § 7. James W. Marshall, in a letter dated January 28th, 1856, and addressed to Charles E. Pickett, gave the following account of the gold discovery: