

came to our knowledge. Previous to that date, traces of gold were detected by analyses in specimens of quartz from Humber Arm, Bay of Islands, and also in an arsenical iron ore from Bonavista Bay. In 1880, some genuine specimens of free gold were discovered in quartz veins in the vicinity of Brigus, Conception Bay. Upon an investigation by the Geological Survey into the geological and mineralogical characteristics of the district, it was found that the quartz usually occurred in small irregular patches, or veins of segregation, cutting bands of hard felsitic slate and whin-rock, near the base of the so-called Huronian formation. Though a few larger veins of a more persistent character were met with in the same neighborhood, the gold appeared to be confined entirely to the smaller patches of quartz, which reticulated through the hard slate rock. The investigation resulted in the finding of several promising sights of free gold, in the form of small isolated nuggets, frequently deposited in little drusy cavities, surrounded by decomposed feldspar. On removing this soft material, the gold would fall out, being unattached to the quartz. In some cases, however, it was attached to, or disseminated through, the quartz itself and accompanying chlorite, which frequently composed a large part of the lode rock. It was found, however, on further investigation, that very few of the numerous small veins of quartz contained the gold, and that the body of the rock showed no gold, not even a trace, on being subjected to the usual tests. The veins, or patches of quartz, containing the metal were rarely of any extent, and a few blasts not infrequently resulted in the disappearance of the lode rock. Some considerable prospecting, and an attempt at mining, by crushing and washing the quartz, was entered upon, but failed in bringing to light any more promising indications. About the same time, gold was discovered in two other localities far removed from each other, and from the former. Some free gold was obtained in quartz veins at Bay of Islands, where it had previously been detected by analysis; but by far the most promising specimens yet discovered, were obtained at a place called Ming's Bight, on the north-east side of the island, situated on the peninsula of land separating Notre Dame Bay from White Bay. The proprietors of the Bett's Cove Copper Mine had commenced mining here on a copper deposit, and when about thirty or forty feet down, came across some thin veins of quartz and bitter spar pene-