

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 large 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 from a single hole, and more recently \$2,000 were obtained in two days, after damming a considerable stream, nearly all being coarse gold.

Our informant is of opinion, and as a thoroughly practical man his opinion is entitled to the highest consideration, that the dry diggings in the Chaudière district will be found more productive than the streams. He says that on the whole the California streams have not repaid the expense of working them. He believes that the streams contain no more gold than has been displaced by the water from the rocks traversing them ; and that the whole country in their vicinity would be found as rich, and in many cases much richer, if mined in the same manner as similar lands are in California and Australia, by sinking shafts through the gravel down to