

NOVA SCOTIA (GOLD DISCOVERIES).

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RETURN to an Address of the Honourable The House of Commons,
dated 5 June 1861;—for,

A “ COPY of DESPATCH from the Governor of *Nova Scotia*, relative to GOLD
DISCOVERIES there.”

Colonial Office, }
13 June 1861. }

C. FORTESCUE.

(No. 32.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from the Earl of *Mulgrave* to his Grace
the Duke of *Newcastle*, K. G.

Government House, Halifax, Nova Scotia,
18 April 1861.

My Lord Duke,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship, that some months ago I was informed that a discovery of gold quartz had been made in the eastern district of the county of Halifax, but on sending to the spot for the purpose of investigating the truth of the report, it appeared that, although some minute particles of gold had undoubtedly been found, yet that the quantity was so small as to be scarcely worthy of consideration.

Within the last week, however, it has been reported to me that a fresh discovery, which appears to be of much greater importance, has been made not very far from the same spot.

The place where gold has now been discovered is situated close to Tangier Harbour, about 40 or 50 miles to the eastward of Halifax.

I am informed that already between 20 l. and 30 l. worth of gold has been obtained, and I herewith forward to your Grace a specimen, both of the gold and the quartz rock.

As soon as the information was received, orders were sent by my Government to the Deputy Surveyor of the district, to proceed at once to the spot, with directions as to the course which he was to pursue, a copy of which I enclose.

Should it appear from further investigation that this discovery is likely to prove of importance, I shall myself visit the place, in order that I may ascertain what arrangements may be necessary to maintain order and regularity among those who will soon be induced to resort to the locality for the purpose of searching for gold.

The country about Tangier is rocky and barren, and the population in that district is very small, but being close to the sea-shore, there would be little difficulty in furnishing supplies to any numbers should the amount of gold discovered be such as to induce a large influx of persons.

The thing most to be feared is, that the hopes of large gain will induce many to neglect their ordinary avocations, which, in a country like this, where the population is thin, cannot fail to act injuriously on the colony, especially at this season of the year, when every one engaged in agricultural pursuits ought to be occupied upon his farm.

Whether this discovery may ultimately prove of importance or not it is impossible as yet to say, but sufficient gold has been found already to direct considerable attention to the district, and I doubt not that, before long, many persons