

GOLD.

Gold is the heaviest of all metals excepting platina; it is neither very elastic nor hard, but so malleable and ductile, that it may be drawn into very fine wire, or beaten into leaves so thin as to be carried away by the slightest wind. Dr.—Black has calculated, that it would take fourteen millions of films of gold, such as is on some fine gilt wire, to make the thickness of one inch; whereas fourteen million leaves of common printing paper make near three quarters of a mile. According to Fourcroy, the ductility of gold is such that one ounce of it is sufficient to gild a silver wire more than thirteen hundred miles long. Such is the tenacity of gold, that a wire 1-16th of an inch in diameter will support a weight of 500 pounds without breaking. Gold may be known from all other metals by its bright yellow color, and its weight. Its specific gravity is 19.3; when heavier, it must be combined with platina; when lighter, and of a deep yellow color, it is alloyed with copper; and if of a pale color, with silver.

Arabia had formerly its gold mines.—The gold of Ophir, so often mentioned in Scripture, must be that which was procured in Arabia, on the coast of the Red Sea. We are assured by Sanchoniath, and by Herodotus, quoted by Eusebius, that the Phœnicians carried on considerable traffic in gold, even before the days of Job, who thus speaks of it, "Then shalt they lay up gold as dust, and the gold of Ophir as stones of the brooks."—Gold is found in Peru, as well as in several other parts of the world. It generally occurs in a metallic state, and most commonly in the form of grains. It frequently is met with in the ores of other metals, but is chiefly found in the sands of many African rivers, in South America, and in India. Several rivers in France contain gold in their sands. It has also been discovered in Hungary, Sweden, Norway and Ireland. Near Pomplona, in South America; single laborers have collected upwards of 200*l.* worth of wash-gold in a day. In the province of Sonora, the Spaniards discovered a plain fourteen leagues in extent, in which they

found wash-gold at the depth of only 16 inches; the grains were of such a size that some of them weighed 72 ounces, and in such quantities, that in a short time with a few laborers, they collected 1,000 marks, (equal in value to 31,219*l.* 10*s.* sterling,) even without taking time to wash the earth which had been dug. They found one grain which weighed 132 ounces, this is deposited in the royal cabinet at Madrid and is worth 500*l.* The native gold found in Ireland was in grains from the smallest size to upwards of two ounces. Only two grains were found of greater weight, one of which weighed 5, and the other 22 ounces. Gold mines were formerly worked in Scotland; and indeed now, grains of this metal are often found in brooks after a great flood. It has been said, that at the nuptials of James V., covered dishes filled with coins of Scotch Gold were presented to the guests by way of dessert. Standard gold of Great Britain is twenty-two parts pure gold, and two parts copper, it is therefore called gold of "twenty-two carots fine." Some have thought that Moses made use of sulphuret of potass to render the call-gold adored by the Israelites soluble in water. Stahl wrote a long dissertation to prove that this was the case.

Sarcastic Coin.—I have seen in the museum at Scarborough a sarcastic silver coin, of the 16th century, designed for the edification of the Church of Rome. On one side may be found the Pope's head under this triple crown, and over it, following the margin of the crown, in the usual style, is this inscription, *Ecclesia perversa tenet faciem Diaboli.* "A perverted church wears the face of the devil." Turn the Pope's head bottom upwards, and you have the devil's face and head in all his fury, which, in the other position, makes the Pope's bosom no one suspecting. On the other side of the coin may be found a Cardinal's head with a Cardinal's hat on, and over it of the margin, "*Stulti aliquando Sapientes.*" "Fools are sometimes wise." Turn the reverence's head downwards, and the silliest fool that can be imagined stares up on you.—*N. Y. Obs.*