DISTRIBUTION OF GOLD.

Gold has been almost universally distributed over the Globe. From the remotest antiquity, it has been known and esteemed one of the most precious metals. It is probable that the property which contributes most to its intrinsic value, viz., its *indestructibility*, and its being found *native*, or in a pure metallic state, almost on the surface, led to its early discovery.

Gold is *invisibly* diffused through the soil, from which it is eliminated by plants, and from this source there was procured from the ashes of grape vines, grown on the Seine, as much gold as made several Napoleons. Gold is found scattered through alluvial and diluvial deposits, in *spangles*, one thousand of which will not weigh a grain, and in *pepites* or "nuggets" of every variety in form and weight. The Australian nugget in possession of Dr. Kerr, weighs 106 lbs. troy of pure gold. The Pepite deposited in the Russian School of Mines, weighs 97 lbs. The Californian nugget 28 lbs.

There is also "a mine for the silver, and a bed for the gold which men refine."

Gold occurs in nature in the following forms :

1. Alloy of Gold and Silver, with traces of Iron, Copper and other Metals.
2. Porposite—Gold and Palladium.
3. Rhodium Gold—Gold and Rhodium.
4. Gold Amalgam—Gold and Mercury, with a little silver.
5. Graphic Tellurium ore—Telluride of Silver and Gold.
6. Aurotellurite—Telluride and Antimonide of Gold, Silver and Lead.

The *first* combination furnishes almost the whole of the gold in the world, and till lately nine tenths of it were procured by washing diluvial or alluvial deposits.