

of mountains running parallel with the coast, some distance inland; and in the rivers which flow from these mountains, gold is found in considerable quantity. There is much hard rock in the river valleys: in this rock is a stratum of gravel and rounded pebbles, and in this stratum the gold is met with. In the province of Minas Gernas, gold occurs also in veins in the hard rock, and mining operations have recently commenced there. The Brazilian produce gradually rose in annual amount till 1753; it maintained a very high position till 1763, but since that time it has been declining. This decline is attributable to the exhaustion of the auriferous sands; the gold veins in hard rock have only recently begun to be mined, owing to the want of capital.

Other districts of America yield small portions of the precious metal. In Mexico the silver (which forms the chief wealth of the country) frequently contains gold, but not often in sufficient quantity to pay for the separation; there are also a few veins in the rocks. In Peru and in New Granada there are gold veins and washings in small quantity. In Central America there are washings which have become nearly exhausted. The Appalachian chain in North America gives rise to many rivers which flow into the Atlantic; and in the sands of a few of these rivers (chiefly in Virginia, Carolina, and Georgia) gold occurs in sufficient quantity to pay for working; the whole are said to yield about 3000 lbs. of gold annually, and there has been known to occur a mass weighing 28 lbs.

But the north of the American continent is "looking up," as gold speculators would say. Not only has California (of which more presently) suddenly acquired a golden reputation, but Canada, our own British Canada, has made a humble start in the same line of wealth. Within the last year or two, gold has been found in that colony; and no sooner was this discovery announced, than adventurers were found to flock thither, as they probably would to Spitzbergen, or even to the North Pole, if they were told that gold existed there. The latest accounts from Canada state that five hundred Americans have, during the summer of 1851, been roaming on the banks of a river in Lower Canada, where a little gold had been before found; and that others from New Brunswick were also in the same field of enterprise. Their success, however, has not been very encouraging. Still, as it is known that indications of gold have appeared over three thousand square miles of country in Lower Canada, there is quite sufficient to whet the appetite of gold-seekers. The gold is found in the beds of the streams, and in small pieces with quartz attached; but no auriferous vein of quartz has been yet found.

CALIFORNIA AND ITS TREASURES.

The wonders of California are, however, those which most press for notice; excepting, perhaps, the still more recent outburst in Australia.

If we look at a modern map of California, such as that which accompanies Mr. Bryant's Narrative, we see a very tempting yellow patch between the Rocky Mountains and the Pacific. If that patch is not real gold, it is at least intended to symbolise gold; for it marks the limits within which gold has been obtained. Between the Rocky Mountains and the ocean there is another mountain ridge, parallel with the coast; there is thus formed an oblong basin or valley between the two ranges, nearly north and south; and for a distance of nearly 600 miles (35° to 42° N. lat.), the rivers of this valley have no outlet whatever except at San Francisco, where a gap occurs in the coast ridge. It is thus that nature has made San Francisco an important place, independent