

THE GOLD FIELDS OF THE WORLD.

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It has been said by them of old, "the love of gold is the root of all evil," and the Bard of Avon has sung:

How quickly nature falls into revolt,
Where gold becomes the object:
For this the foolish overcareful fathers
Have broke their sleep with thoughts, their brains with care,
Their bones with industry,

And the finale

Are murdered for our pains.

But, however, much the inordinate desire for gold and its abuse, may have been denounced by poets and moralists, the common sense of mankind has arrived at the conviction, that gold has been an instrument of much positive good, and that its acquirement and increase by individuals and communities, are not only legitimate but praiseworthy, as calculated to promote individual comfort and happiness, as well as the order, peace, prosperity and civilization of nations. And of late the discovery and opening up of gold fields has been the study of philosophers and statesmen.

As very vague and erroneous views have been prevalent on the subject, it is proposed to give here briefly, the natural history of gold, and our present knowledge of the gold fields of the world, and to show how that knowledge may be practically applied to develop the gold fields of Canada.