

SOUTHERN ASIA.—The continent south of the great Himalayan chain in former times yielded gold in great quantities, and it is still found in many localities both on the continent and the islands of India, China and Japan, though in diminished quantity. It was obtained from washings. From India, Solomon is supposed to have procured \$1,500,000, and from Ophir, wherever it may have been, he brought over a million more.—The washings of the Burrampooter are still estimated to yield annually, about 3,000 lbs. troy.

AFRICA.—The golden sands of Africa and its quartz mines yielded in ancient times, a vast amount of very fine gold. Agatharchides who wrote, one hundred years before the Christian era, describes the mode of mining and amalgamation (very similar to that of the present day) which was followed by the Egyptians in working the mines of the quartz bearing rocks of the Red Sea, from the most remote periods. These mines were long ago abandoned ; but copper tools and skeletons of the wretched beings who were compelled to work them, are still found in the galleries and passages. Modern attempts to mine, by the Pasha of Egypt, and by the aid of Europeans, have proved very disastrous. The climate alone being a sufficient hindrance. But the sands of Africa still furnish annually about 4000 lbs. of gold.

GREAT BRITAIN.—In South Wales, the Romans mined extensively in the Silurian rocks, with but little return of gold. In Scotland, several hundred men were employed in washing gold from the sands in Dumfriesshire, in the reign of James V. For hundreds of years it was observed in the streams of Cornwall and Devon, and a few ounces are still obtained yearly by the miners. One piece weighed 15 dwts. 3 qrs. In Ireland, the Wicklow Hills are of the Geological type which furnishes gold, and one piece was found weighing 22 oz. Much excitement fol-