

produced in 1878, so far as it could be ascertained, was 25,249 oz., valued at 100,000*l*.

The Commissioner of Gold-fields, in a report (dated 4th September), after referring to the impossibility of ascertaining the exact amount of alluvial gold obtained, and stating that the quantity returned was within the actual yield, thus proceeds :—Since the beginning of this year (1879), two important discoveries of gold in alluvial deposit have been made ; one, near Mount Arthur, named Lisle, and the other at the Pieman river, near the W. coast. At Lisle, mining operations are being carried on in a most active manner, and there cannot be less than 1500 men employed. The gold is in shallow deposit, easily obtained, and is of a good quality. It is roughly estimated that not less than 20,000 oz. have already been procured. As usual, the miners seldom sell more in the colony than provides funds to pay current expenses, and many send large parcels by private hand to Melbourne, where it realizes a higher price. Gold transmitted in this manner is seldom or never entered at the Customs, and the Customs returns of gold exported are therefore no indication whatever of the actual produce of the colony in that metal. On the W. coast a limited number of miners are engaged, principally on the river Pieman, and several hundred oz. of gold of a very superior quality have been procured ; but the almost inaccessible nature of the place, the extraordinarily rough and scrubby country, and the severely wet climate, have prevented any extensive prospecting during the winter months.

Several batteries have been erected at Beaconsfield to crush a species of auriferous conglomerate, locally termed "cement," with every prospect of success. No change worthy of notice has taken place in the condition of the mining industry on any of the other gold-fields since the close of 1878. The number of miners' rights issued since 1st of January, 1879, is 2300, and there are 2000 men engaged in gold-mining pursuits throughout the colony. The yield of gold from quartz since 1st January, 1879, was 14,500 oz., valued at about 58,000*l*.

Gold was obtained from Fingal in considerable quantities by odd stragglers with very rude machinery for years. A reef was worked by the Fingal Quartz Mining Co., which produced 20, 30, and 40 oz. per week ; but on erecting new machinery the affair failed.

*West Tamar district.*—The geology of the West Tamar district of Tasmania was described by Norman Taylor, in 1878. Gold is said to have been found in the Middle Arm Creek. The only reefs known to be auriferous are those at Brandy Creek, but at the time of Taylor's visit the only reef yielding good returns was the celebrated "Tasmania." Other reefs struck good payable-looking stone, but had to wait the advent of a long-promised crushing company.