

The quartz matrix claims, to consist of half a mile each in the course of the vein, with an average breadth of a quarter of a mile on each side, reserved for building and other necessary purposes. Application fees of £50 for each quartz matrix claim, were to be paid in the first year ; and the royalty, instead of a monthly license fee, to be ten per cent. on all gold produced. The duration of the lease to be twenty-one years, and surety to be given for the due payment of royalty, and twenty persons, or an equivalent in horses and machinery to be employed within twelve months. These regulations were either in themselves so intolerable to the class of persons who flocked to the diggings, or were so injudiciously enforced, as to lead to general dissatisfaction, and armed resistance to the authorities, terminating on 3rd Dec., 1854, in collision between the miners and military and police, at Ballarat, when twenty of the miners were killed and about sixty wounded.

A commission of enquiry considered that the malcontents were to some extent justified. The royalty was reduced to three per cent., and the licence fee to a payment of £1 per annum. Subsequent acts of the local parliaments have authorized the enactment of regulations, by the local mining boards at the various gold diggings ; and these have all the force of law on receiving the subsequent approval of the Governor. The local regulations consequently now differ from each other materially according to the nature of the gold deposits, in each district. The imperial government has also conceded the right of the mint. The export duty, which was, at first, two shillings and six pence sterling per oz., is still enforced at the reduced rate of two shillings per oz.

Before concluding the remarks on Australia, it may be mentioned, that quartz mining has to a large extent superseded alluvial diggings ; to carry which out,

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