

Quartz is very abundant and is the gangue of the gold. Magnetic iron sand, sometimes titaniferous is rarely wanting. Topaz, Garnet, Zircon, &c., are abundant.

The question whether the deposits are the result of gradual and long continued action, which is still in operation, or of a drift period, similar to the "Northern drift," cannot be decided, but M. Scutchbury the Government Geologist and the Revd M. Clark favor the former hypothesis.

Mr. Whitney, writing in 1854, says: "The whole amount of gold hitherto obtained, almost without exception, has been from washing, and though numerous quartz mining Cos. have been formed, they have failed to accomplish any thing." But I find that as early as the following year, symptoms of exhaustion were evident, and general attention was being directed to quartz mining, and on referring to the Prospectus of the Mt. Egerton Quartz Crushing Co. issued in that year I find it stated: "The portion of the vein which the Co. propose working, varies from 12 to 24 feet in width, and like all other veins of a similar nature, *increases in richness the deeper it is wrought.*"

It is worthy of note, that at this time, Mr. Hopkins, an English Engineer of well known scientific attainments, gave it as his opinion, that there would be a gradual falling off in the yield of the diggings, and that *there were no quartz veins, worthy of being worked.*

But in 1863, we are able to throw a little more light on the subject. We know that in 1851, the total amount washed, was 30,000 lbs., and that in 1852, owing to the great increase of diggers, it reached 330,000 lbs., but from exhaustion in the diggings, the supply fell off in 1853 to 210,000 lbs.

Attention was then turned to quartz mining, and reefs, as the schistose and quartose formations are called in Australia, were discovered and worked by