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GOLD IN NOVA SCOTIA.

The information respecting the gold regions of Australia and California, brought home by Nova Scotians, who had visited these countries, was in many instances the real cause which led to searching for gold in this Province. It being made known that gold was found in rocks similar to those of many districts in Nova Scotia, attention was turned to them, and the discovery of gold in our quartz mines was the result.

The earliest discovery made known to the public, occurred during the summer of 1860, on the North East Branch of the Tangier River. The discoverer, John Pulsiver, of Musquodobeit, having heard of the gold-bearing quartz of California, was induced to make a search; and, with some Indians whom he had hired, found several pieces of gold quartz in a brook at a place now called the Mooseland Diggings. When this discovery became known, a number of persons gathered to the spot, for the purpose of prospecting; but not finding gold in remunerative quantity, the place was abandoned before the close of the year.

In October of the same year, Peter Mason, a fisherman and land owner near the head of Tangier harbour, while passing through the woods near his own house, and on his own land, stooped to drink at a small brook; and noticing a particle of shining yellow metal, in a piece of quartz, he picked it up and examined it. He had heard of the discovery up the river, and concluded that he also had found the precious metal. Upon this circumstance becoming known, a number of people from the vicinity flocked to the locality, and commenced a search. But the ground being frozen, and Mr. Mason unwilling to allow any one to prospect on his land, little was done toward discover-

ing any further evidences of gold until April following.

Gold was also discovered at Wine Harbour, in July, 1860, by Joseph Smith, on the South West side of Indian Harbour; where he found a few small specks in the sand. And in the same month of the following year, while prospecting on the North Eastern shore of Wine Harbour, he found a small piece of gold-bearing quartz, in front of what was allotted to him as his free claim, which led to the "Smith Lead."

1861 was the decisive year of discoveries, establishing the reputation of Nova Scotia as a gold-producing country. In April Mr. Anderson, deputy surveyor, pursuant to instructions, proceeded to Tangier, and formally took possession of the district on behalf of the Government, immediately laying off mining lots. Nearly one hundred were soon leased, and in a short time six hundred men were actively engaged on the ground in prospecting and mining for gold. Their reported success occasioned a continued increase of prospectors, until the discoveries made in other parts of the Province attracted large numbers to these places.

At Sherbrooke, during the summer, Nelson Nickerson, who had visited Tangier, while engaged in making hay, about a mile and a half West of the North West Arm of St. Mary's River, noticed quartz rocks scattered over the land, in different places that had become exposed to view by the action of extensive fires that had raged through the forest at different times, for many years previous. By examining and breaking quartz he found gold, and was so much encouraged by the quantity obtained, that it became the principal business of himself and family for some time, which they managed to keep secret. But about the 1st of October his neighbours began to suspect that he was finding gold somewhere in the forest, and accordingly watched him closely. On the 15th day of the month he was discovered by the sound of his hammer, and on the 18th, when this fact became generally known, over two hundred men assembled

on the ground, who, it is supposed, on that day, obtained gold by breaking quartz, to the value of \$400.

At Isaac's Harbour gold was discovered on the 14th of September, by Joseph Hynes, on what is now called the "Free Claim." In prospecting in the West Division, he found several fine specimens of auriferous quartz; and, on the same evening, John Latham and others found several pieces of gold-bearing quartz on the Burke Lead. In the East Division gold was discovered by two Indians, on what is now called the "Mulgrave Lead," a short time after the discovery on the West side.

At Renfrew quartz veins were discovered in the summer, by John McPhee, near William Thompson's mill, but he does not appear to have found gold. Towards autumn, William Thompson accidentally found small particles of gold in a piece of loose quartz in the bed of the brook near his mill. The discovery attracted very little attention at the time; but in April, 1862, Andrew Parker, who was attending the mill, noticed a small vein of quartz on the bank of the brook, containing gold in unusual quantity. The news spread, and a few days afterwards a rich lead was found on a brook, about half a mile distant from the first discovery. A rush of gold seekers took place, and Renfrew was proclaimed a gold district without delay.

We must reserve the continuance of this interesting subject for our next publication.

A DISAPPOINTMENT.—When Ibrahim Pacha visited the Bank of England, some years ago, he seemed somewhat disgusted with the governor. That gentleman put a roll of notes into the pacha's hand, and told him their value was £1,000,000 sterling. His highness, with a chuckle, was about to consign them to the pocket of his capacious trousers, when the governor made a snatch at them and put them into the drawer again; the pacha very naturally thought them a *backshish*, or present. The interpreter failed in pacifying his master, who made a remark in the Egyptian vernacular, equivalent to the English sentiment, that "it was a scaly trick."