

THE GOLD DISTRICT AT TANGIER.

As the Tangier district was the gold field earliest brought to public notice in the Province of Nova Scotia, so does it still remain one of the most interesting in the promise of good results to systematic and economical mining. The crowd of adventurers who peopled the hills of Tangier in 1861 and 1862, on the course of the "old South Leads," has indeed disappeared, and the evidence of their unsystematic and ill-applied labor, now scars the hills with numerous grave-like pits, filled with water, and perilous from imperfect covering. If many, in their *auri sacra fames*, found here only a place to bury their hopes, others, more fortunate, were rewarded with splendid wages for their personal labor. The ill-considered system of allotting claims, at first adopted by the Colonial Government, in a manner compelled the early adventurers to abandon their labors, as soon as the surface water accumulated in the open pits or shallow levels, beyond the control of a single bucket or other primitive contrivance. Even the most fortunate adventurers were soon drowned out by the accumulated waters from adjacent claims, abandoned by less successful neighbors. Nearly all these early efforts at individual mining are now abandoned, and the claims have since been consolidated in large companies.

The value of the Tangier District, in the opinion of Mr. John Arthur Phillips, of London, is thus expressed in his Report to the Nova Scotia Land and Gold Crushing and Amalgamating Company, in London, 1862: