

METALS AND THEIR ORES.

Precious Metals—Gold.

Rumors of the existence of gold in several parts of the island had been long circulated, but up till about ten years since, no *bona fide* find of this noble metal, that could be thoroughly relied upon, came to our knowledge. Previous to that date, traces of gold were detected by analyses in specimens of quartz from Humber Arm, Bay of Islands, and also in an arsenical iron ore from Bonavista Bay. In 1880, some genuine specimens of free gold were discovered in quartz veins in the vicinity of Brigus, Conception Bay. Upon an investigation by the Geological Survey into the geological and mineralogical characteristics of the district, it was found that the quartz usually occurred in small irregular patches, or veins of segregation, cutting bands of hard felsitic slate and whin-rock, near the base of the so-called Huronian, or Lower Cambrian formation. Though a few larger veins of a more persistent character were met with in the same neighborhood, the gold appeared to be confined entirely to the smaller patches of quartz, which reticulated through the hard slate rock. The investigation resulted in the finding of several promising sights of free gold, in the form of small isolated nuggets, frequently deposited in little drusy cavities, surrounded by decomposed feldspar. On removing this soft material, the gold would fall out, being unattached to the quartz. In some cases, however, it was