THE GOLD REGION.

We make the following extracts from a paper read before the Lyceum of Natural History in the City of New York, by Mr. Nash, in the hope that it may contain information of use to our readers in the district in which the precious metal is found.

The Gold Region is much more extensive than has been hitherto supposed; it commences in the neighborhood of the Coosa and Talapoosa Rivers, in the State of Alabama, and extends north-east through the western parts of Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, the middle parts of Virginia, Maryland, and finally a narrow strip or belt reaches the Delaware river, a few miles west of Trenton, New Jersey.

The width occupies the greater part of the whole great slope from the foot of the Blue Ridge, or Alleghany Mountains, to the small granite ridge seen along the borders of the diluvial formation or lower country,—through the southern country, from the Delaware to the Chattahoochee rivers. A narrow strip or vein only extends through Pennsylvania, which may be seen a few miles west of Philadelphia, on the roads either to Bethlehem or Harrisburg; but south of the Susquehannah, by far the greater part of the surface of the country between the Blue Ridge and the diluvial, is made up of gold formation. This formation stretches through near eight degrees of latitude, in a north-east and south-west direction: and in the State of North Carolina, is more than two hundred miles wide, from east to west, comprising an area of not less than eighty thousand square miles.

The traveller who passes through the Gold country, will see innumerable ranges of white quartz, scattered over the ground in the greatest confusion, on its surface generally, in a north-east and south-west direction. These are called, by the inhabitants of the country, *Flint Ridges*, and are the Gold Mines themselves.

To a person residing in the gold region, nothing can be more easy than to discover gold wherever it is to be found. Let him, in the first place, proceed to a flint ridge, especially if it is situated in the red soil: a common frying-pan and a spade, are the only implements necessary to commence operations: let him dig up a few spadesfull of the red earth lying near the surface, and among the masses of quartz, or flint; the frying pan being filled with this red earth, he may next resort to some rivulet or spring of water in the vicinity, and commence working the earth; water is to be pretty freely poured into the pan at first, and the whole quantity agitated; at the same time, the earth should be frequently stirred up, so that the water will more completely penetrate all its parts; let fresh water be constantly added, from time to time, as the earth is stirred and the pan agitated. This process being continued for a few minutes, all the earthy and ferruginous particles will have become suspended in the water, and floated away as fresh water has been from time to time added; what now remains in the pan, will be coarse pebbles and gravel: water should continue to be poured on these, whilst the pan is constantly agitated, which settles the gold to the bottom by the power of gravitation; the coarser pieces can be picked out by the fingers, while the pebbles by turning the pan partly down on its side, and skilfully agitating it, will, one by one float over the top, and off with the water, leaving the gold, if any, behind. This process is to be continued until the whole has disappeared. If, on carefully examining the bottom of the pan after the earth and pebbles have been thus washed away, a solitary speck of gold, however minute, is seen in the bottom of the pan, a *gold mine* has been discovered. The mine is in the flint ridge from which the earth was taken. Pits should now be sunk among the masses of quartz, and the earth washed; and if more gold is found, and that in any considerable quantity, a rich mine has been discovered; especially, if on breaking open the masses of quartz, gold is found disseminated through any of them in its native state. If the quartz or flint masses put on a honey-comb appearance, are flawed with little cavities, and contain the red oxyde of iron, either with or without pyrites, these are propitious *omens*; when one solitary speck is discovered on the surface by washing the earth, the mine is generally rich in gold.

I have conversed with gentlemen who have visited the mines in South America, and they inform me the gold is seldom found on the surface, even at some of the most valuable mines in that country. When mines are searched for, the miners commence on some flint ridge, or at a favorable locality, and dig down, often twenty or thirty feet without meeting with a