

beds of rivers, and sometimes also from veins. In Mexico, the gold is for the most part extracted from alluvial soil by means of washing; and the particles vary in size, from that of dust to the weight of from five to six pounds. Another part of the Mexican gold is extracted from veins which traverse primitive mountains. The veins of native gold are most frequent in the province of Oaxaca, either in gneiss or mica-slate. This last rock is particularly rich in gold, in the celebrated mines of Rio San Antonio. These veins are about a foot and half wide, and contain besides the gold common quartz. The same metal occurs, either pure, or mixed with silver-ore, in the greatest number of veins that have been wrought in Mexico; and there is scarcely a single silver-mine which does not also contain gold.

On the coast of California, there is a plain of fourteen leagues in extent, covered with an alluvial deposite, in which lumps of gold are dispersed.

In the kingdom of New Granada in South America, gold is found in considerable quantity. It is obtained by the washing of the alluvial deposite in which it is contained. Gold veins have been found in the mountains of Guamoco and Antioquia, but their working is almost entirely neglected. The greatest riches in gold obtained by washing, are deposited to the west of the central Cordillera, in the provinces of Antioquia and Choco, in the valley of the Rio Cauca, and on the coast of the South Sea, in the *Partido de Barbacoas*. The alluvial grounds which contain the greatest quantity of gold in dust and grains, disseminated among fragments of greenstone and porphyry-slate, extend from the western Cordilleras almost to the shores of the South Sea.

The province of Antioquia, into which we can only enter on foot, or on the shoulders of men, contains veins
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