

of gold in mica-slate, also wash-gold, or gold dust, as it is sometimes called, in alluvial deposits.

The largest piece of gold ever found in Choco, weighed 25 lbs. It is said that a piece of gold was found in Peru, near La Paz, in the year 1730, of the weight of 45 lbs.

Humboldt, to whom we are indebted for the preceding particulars, in regard to the gold of Spanish America, informs us, that the total annual produce of the gold-mines of the Spanish American colonies, amounts to 25,026 lbs. Troy.

A very considerable proportion of the gold of commerce comes from the Portugueze possessions in the Brazils. In that country, it is collected by washing from the sand of rivers, and the other alluvial deposits. Gold is found almost every where throughout that vast country, along the foot of the immense chain of mountains which lies nearly parallel with the coast, and extends from 5° to 30° of south latitude. From this country nearly 30,000 marcs of gold are annually exported to Europe; so that the total produce of gold from the Spanish and Portugueze colonies in the Americas, may be stated at 45,580 lbs. Troy*.

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* If we understand correctly the accounts given by early writers, the quantity of gold amassed by the ancients must have been prodigious. Thus, in the 1st Book of Kings, chap. x. verse 14. we are told, that Solomon received 666 talents of gold (more than 27 tons weight) in one year; and in the 21st verse of the same chapter, it is said, "And all King Solomon's drinking vessels were of gold, and all the vessels of the forest of Lebanon were of pure gold; none were of silver; it was nothing accounted of in the days of Solomon." Diodorus says, that the tomb of King Simandius was environed with a circle of gold three hundred and fifty cubits about, and a foot and a half thick. Semiramis erected in Babylon three statues of gold, one of which was forty feet high, and weighed a thousand Babylonian talents. For these statues there was a table or altar of gold forty feet long, and twelve feet broad, weighing fifty talents.