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THE SEWING GIRL.

There was a cheerless fire in an empty room,
On a cold December day,
And the biting wind, through a broken pane,
Had cruelly forced its way;
The chill of coming death was without,
The sky looked gloomy and drear,
And the feathery snow fell thick to the earth,
Meet shroud for the dying year.

And ladies wrapped in warm furs went past,
And men muffled up to the chin,
And the heart of the city beat quick and fast,
And noisier grew the din;
And children went up and down the street,
And the tiny snow balls tossed,
And delicate women and grey haired men
Rejoiced in the coming frost.

Still by the cheerless fire in that empty room,
On that cold December day,
There sat and sewed from morn to night,
One prematurely grey;
She rises some hours before the dawn,
From a short and troubled doze,
And through winter's cold and summer's heat,
She sits in that room and sews.

She hears the sound of no friendly voice,
She meets no loving smile,
More lone in that peopled solitude
Than Crusoe in his isle.
She sees the gay and the happy pass,
And she hears the ceaseless stir,
And she knows not one in these laughing groups
Bestows a thought on her.

And there, from morn to eve, she plies
That bit of shining steel,
And grudges the few short moments she gives
To snatch a scanty meal.
To make up lost time more rapidly move
Those fingers, shrivelled and thin,
For she measures her life by the yard she sews,
Her eras are worked turned in.

And winter passed, with its frost and snow,
And spring with its budding leaves;
And Time in his fervid glory came on,
With his wealth of summer eyes;
And out to the open country parts
The human tide o'erflows;
But still through the long bright summer days,
She sits in that room and sews.

Some are up on the breezy mountain-top,
Some down on the grassy lea,
Some sauntering along the pebbly beach,
Some are out on the open sea—
And rivers roll on, through the meadows green,
And the gentle wind south blows,
And wild flowers blossom in shady nooks,
While she sits in that room and sews.

And her thoughts; oh, who can tell her thoughts,
As the needle goes out and in;
Though calm and motionless, there she sits,
Her mind is busy within;
For many a bitter question then,
Her overcharged heart will ask,
As with aching head, and dazzled eyes,
She plods at her weary task.

"If joy and pain, in this nether world,
Must fairly balanced be,
Oh why not *some* of the pain to them,
And *some* of the joy to me?"
But she chid that bitter feeling down,
And knelt, and I heard her say:
"The night cometh on when no man can work,
Let me work while it is day,"

M. M.

TO A RUSTY DOLLAR.

Here I find you—black and rusty!
In my purse too long ye've laid;
Go ye hence, I will not trust ye,
Lest a witness ye be made:

Though already ye are cankered,
Ye shall witness bear no more!
After you too long I've hankered,
Go ye hence and bless the poor.

Go, and purchase food for orphans
Go and soothe the widow's woes;
Touch ye not the miser's coffers,
If ye do, he'll keep you close!

Should he do it, deal ye with him,
Never let his conscience rest
'Till he's humbled and made willing
Ye should go the poor to bless.

Go, and buy the Book of Heaven
For the ignorant and poor;
Though ye're small, if freely given,
Ye may multiply to more.

[*Cambridge Chronicle.*

GOLD—WHAT IT IS AND WHERE IT COMES FROM.

Road-mending is pretty general at this time of the year, and upon roads now being newly macadamized we may pick up a good many differing specimens of granite. On the newly broken surface of one of them four substances of which it is composed can be perceived with great distinctness. The more earthy looking rock in which the other seemss to be embedded, is called felspar; the little hard white stones are bits of quartz; the dark specs are specks of hornblende, and mica are the four constituents of granite. These are among the rocks of the most ancient times, which form a complete barrier to the power of the geologist in turning back the pages which relate the story of our globe. Layer upon layer—leaf behind leaf—we find printed the characters of life in all past ages, till at last we come to rocks—green-stone, porphyry, quartz, granite, and others—which contain no trace of life; which do not show, as rocks above them do, that they have been deposited by water; but which have a crystaline form, and set our minds to think of heat and pressure. These lowest rocks are frequently called "igneous," in contra-distinction to stratified rocks nearer the surface, which have obviously been deposited under water. Between the two there is not an abrupt transition; for above the igneous, and below the aqueous, are rocks which belong to the set above them, insomuch as they are crystaline, contain no traces of life, and lead us by their characters to think of heat and pressure. These rocks, on account of their equivocal position, are called metamorphic.

Under the influence of air, combined with that of water—water potent in streams, lakes, and seas, but not less potent as a vapor in our atmosphere, when aided by alterations in the temperature—granite decomposes. We noticed that one of the constituents of granite—felspar—was a comparatively earthy-looking mass, in which the other matters seem to be embedded. In the decomposition of granite, this felspar is the first thing to give way; it becomes friable, and rains or rivers wash it down. Capital soil it makes. When the constituents of granite part in this way, quartz is the heaviest, and settles. Felspar and the others may run with the stream, more or less; quartz is not moved so easily. Now as our neighbors in America would put it, "that's a fact;" and it concerns our gossip about gold.

Below the oldest rocks there lie hidden the sources of that volcanic action which is not very correctly understood. Fortunately we are not now called npon for any explanation of it; it is enough for us that such a force exists; and thrusting below, forces granite and such rocks (which ought to be quite at the bottom,) through a rent in the upper layers, and still up into the air, until, in some places, they form the summit of considerable mountains. Such changes are not often, if ever, the results of a single, mighty heave, which generates a great catastrophe upon the surface of the earth: they are the products of a force constantly applied through ages in a given manner. In all geologic reasoning we are apt to err grossly when we leave out of our calculation the important element of time. These lower rocks, then—these greenstones, porphyries and granites, sienites and serpentines—thrust themselves in many placee through the upper strata of the earth's crust, in such a way as to form mountain ranges. Now it is a fact, that whenever the oldest of the aqueous deposits—such as those called clay-slates, limestones, and greywacke sandstones—happen to be superficial, so as to be broken through by pressure from below, and intruded on by the igneous rocks (especially if the said igneous rocks farm ranges extending at all from north to south,) there gold may be looked for, Gold it is true, may be found compined with much newer formations; but it is under the peculiar circumstances just now mentioned that gold may be expected to be found in any great and valuable store.

In Australia, the gold discoveries, so new and surprising to the public, are not new to the scientific world. More than two years ago, in an "Essay on the Distribution of Gold Ore," read before the British Association, to which our readers will be indebted for some of the facts contained in the gossip, Sir Roderick Murchison "reminded his geological auditors that, in considering the composition of the chief, or eastern ridge of Australia, and its direction from north to south he had foretold (as well as Colonel Helmerson, of the Russian Imperial Mines) that gold would be found in it; and he stated that, in the last year. one gentleman resident in Sydney, who had read what he had written and spoken on this point, had sent him specimens of gold ore found in the Blue Mountains; while, from another source, he had learnt that the parallel north and south ridge in the Adelaide region which had yielded so much copper, had also given undoubted signs of gold ore. The operation of English laws, by which noble metals lapse to the crown, had induced Sir Roderick Murchison to present to Her Majesty's Secretary of State that no colonist would bestir themselves in gold mining, if some clear declaration on the subject were not made; but as no measures on this head seemed to be in contemplation, he inferred that the government may be of opinion, that the discovery of any notable quantity of gold might derange the stability and regular industry of a great colony, which eventually must depend upon its agricultural products." That was the language used by Sir Roderick Murchison in September, 1849; and in September, 1851, we were all startled by the fact which brings emphatic confirmation of his prophecy.

But it is not only about the Blue Mountains, and other districts, where the gold is now sought, that geologic conditions under which gold may be sought reasonably are fulfilled. Take, for example, the Ural Mountains. In very ancient times the Scythian natives supplied gold from thence; and gold was supplied also by European tribes in Germany and elsewhere. Most of these sources were worked out, or forgotten. Russia for centuries possessed the Ural, and forgot its gold. Many of us were boys when that was rediscovered.—The mountains had been worked for the iron and copper by German miners, who accidentally hit upon a vein of gold. The solid vein was worked Ekatrinburg—a process expensive and, comparatively, unproductive, as we shall presently explain. Then gold being discovered accidentally in the superficial drift, the more profitable commenced. It is only within the last very few years that Russia has discovered gold in another portion of her soil, among the spurs of the Altai Mountains, betwen Jenae and the Lenisei, and along the shores of the Lake Baikul. This district has been enormously productive, and, for about four years before the discovery of gold in California, had been adding largely to the gross amount of that metal annually supplied for the uses of society. The extent of the new district now worked is equal to the whole area of France; but all the gold-bearing land in Russia is not yet by any means discovered. The whole area of country in Russia which fulfils the conditions of a gold-bearing district is immense. Eastward of the Ural Chain it includes a large part of Siberia; and also in Russian America there is nearly equal reason for believing that hereafter gold will be discovered.

Before we quit Asia, we may observe, that the Chinese produce gold out of their soil; and although many of the mountain ranges in that country tend from east to west, yet the conditions of the surface, and the meridional directions of the mountains too, would indicate in China some extensive districts over which gold would probably be found in tolerable abundance. Gold also exists in Lydia and Hindostan.

Now to pass over to America, where, as we have already said, the Russians have a district in which gold may some day be discovered. In many districts along the line of the Rocky Mountains, especially in that part of them which is included in the British territory, gold may be looked for. The gold region of California has been recently discovered.—Gold in Mexico, where the conditions are again fulfilled, is not a new discovery. Gold in Central America lies neglected, on account of the sad political condition of the little states there. There is gold to be found, perhaps in the United States, some distance eastward of the Rocky Mountains. Certainly gold districts will be found about the Alleghanies.—Gold has been found in Georgia, North and South Carolina, and Virginia; it exists also in Canada, and may, probably, be found not very far noth, on the British side of the St. Lawrence. In the frozen regions, which shut in those straits and bays of the North Pole, to which early adventurers were sent from England on the search for gold, gold districts most probably exist, although the shining matter was not gold which first excited the cupidity of our forefathers. Passing now to South America, New Granada, Peru, Brazil, LaPlata, Chili, even Patagonia, contain districts which say, "Look for gold." There are one or two districts in Africa where gold exists; certainly in more districts than that which is called the Gold Coast, between the Niger and Cape Verd; also between Darfur and Abyssinia; and on the Mozambique Coast, opposite Madagascar. In Australia, the full extent of gold treasure is not yet discovered. In Europe, out of Russia, Hungary supplies yearly one or two hundred thousand pounds worth; there is gold in Transylvania and Bohemia; the Rhine washes gold down into its sands from the crystaline rocks of the high Alps. The Danube, Rhone, and Tagus, yield gold also in small quantities. There are neglected mines of gold in Spain!

To come nearer home. In the mining fields of Leadhills, in Scotland, gold was wash-