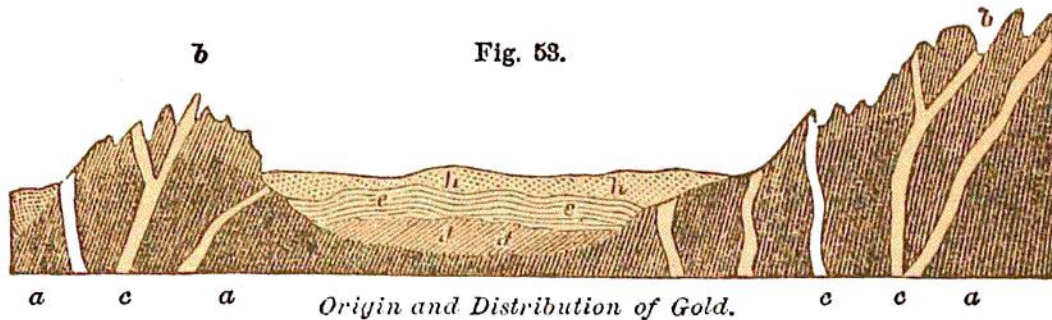


were in a course of deposition, but after that time, the protrusion of the eruptive rocks produced the gold. Since then aqueous and atmospheric agencies have worn down the auriferous strata, carrying the metal into the lowest places, and thus bringing it within the reach of man.



*a, a, a* represent the older slates, tilted up and metamorphosed by the intrusion of the veins, *c, c, c*, etc., which impregnated them with gold. Originally these slate mountains rose above *b, b*. By their erosion the Secondary deposits *d*, and the Tertiary deposits, *e*, were produced before the injection of the auriferous veins, *c, c, c*, etc. After their injection, the same erosion went on, reducing the mountains to the line *i, i*; and filling the low places with the deposits *h, h*, containing gold.

Thus it appears that gold was brought up from the earth's interior, a little time only (geologically speaking) before the appearance of man on the globe. Fishes and lizards, mollusks and crustaceans, did not need it; and therefore it was delayed till a being was about to be created who did.

The most important ranges of gold-bearing rocks are these: the Rocky Mountains, from Russian America through California and Central America, into parts of the Andes in South America; the Appalachian and associated ranges, from Canada to Alabama; the Uralian Mountains in Russia; and in Australia. The Californian ranges are the most productive. In 1854, 481,950 lbs. Troy of gold were mined in the whole world, of which the United States produced 200,000 lbs., Australia and adjacent islands, 150,000 lbs.; and the Russian Empire, 60,000 lbs.

With a few exceptions, working the original veins in which gold occurs has not proved remunerative, sanguine, as most gold-seekers are, that their fortune is made when they have discovered such a vein. But nature has done the work much better than man can, and collected in the lowest places gold in quantities, while in the rocks it is sparsely disseminated. Moreover, it is