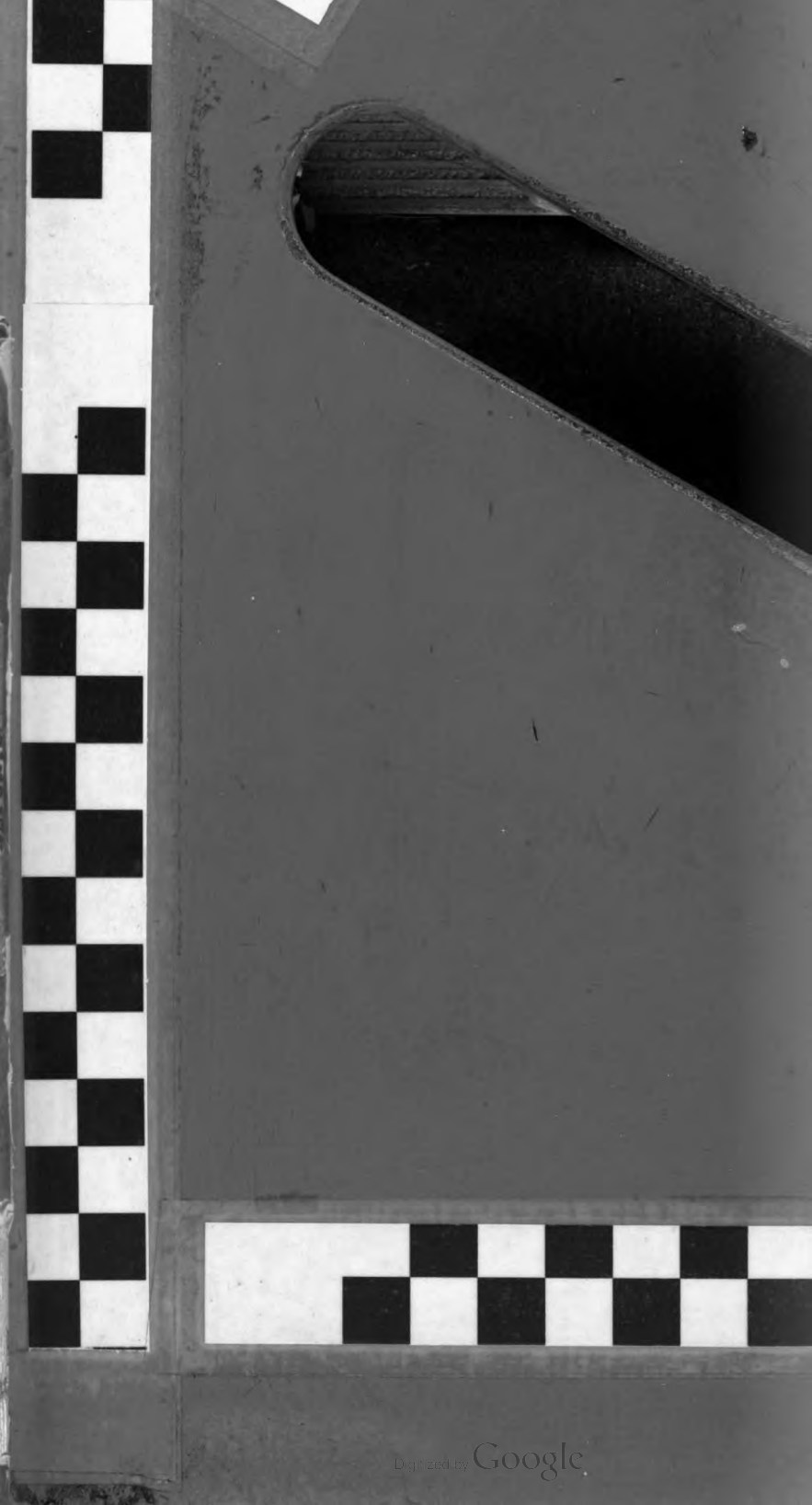

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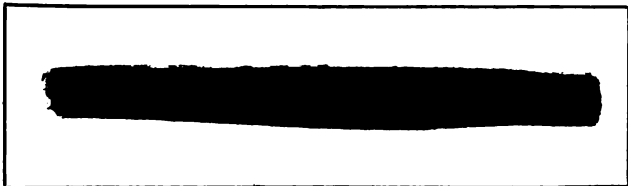
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IMPERIAL
BRAZILIAN MINING ASSOCIATION.

REPORTS

OF THE

DIRECTORS

ADDRESSED

TO THE

SHARE-HOLDERS.

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THE IMPERIAL BRAZILIAN MINING ASSOCIATION

FIRST
REPORT,

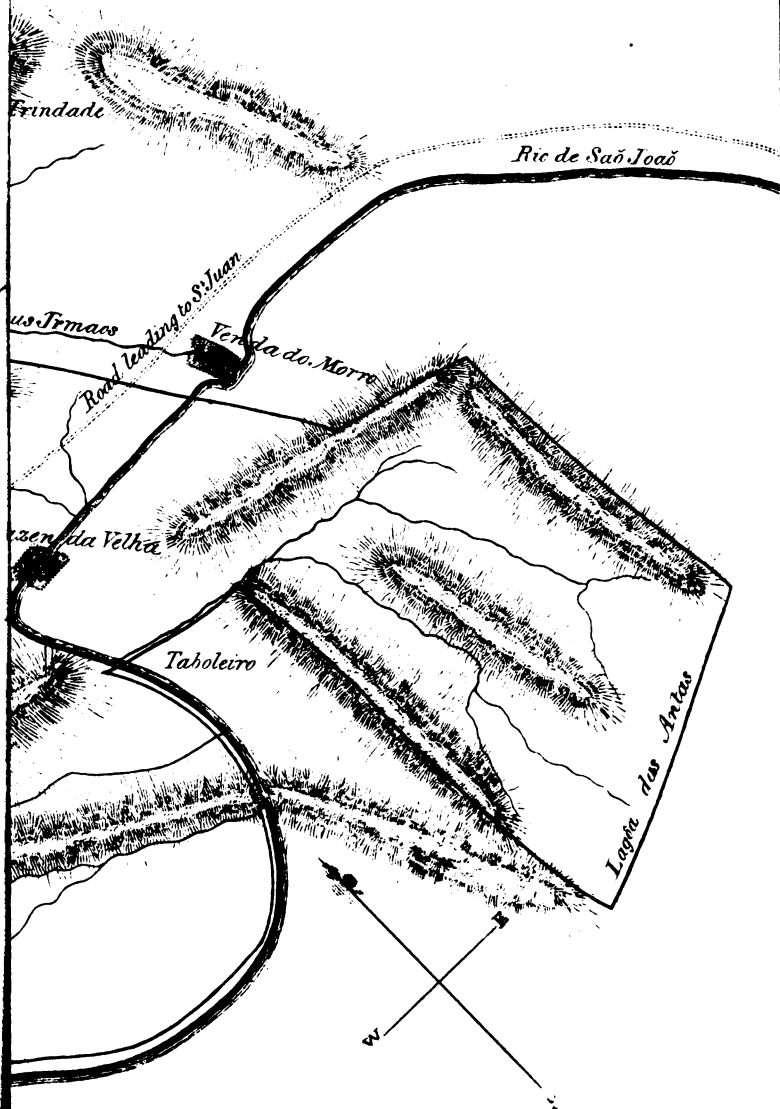
&c. &c.

THE Directors of the *Imperial Brazilian Mining Association* have much pleasure in laying upon their table, for the inspection of the Proprietors of Shares, such extracts from the Letters from Mr. Oxenford, and the reports of the scientific individuals who have been sent to the Brazils to assist in the selection of *Lavras* proper for the possession of the Association, as may tend to shew, first—the caution and anxiety with which the affairs of the Association have been conducted ; and, secondly, the bright prospect which seems to

open before them of a realization of a handsome return for the capital embarked. The Directors, anxious for the accomplishment of the objects contemplated by the Association, and feeling the responsibility which attached to them in the execution of their trust, induced Mr. Edward Oxenford, at a considerable personal inconvenience to himself, to proceed to the Brazils, in May last, accompanied by a Gentleman of superior attainments in chemical and mineralogical science, in order to determine, without loss of time, the spot where the operations of the Association might be most advantageously begun. Mr. Oxenford has, since his arrival in the Brazils, been unceasingly and exclusively engaged in the business of the Association, both at Rio de Janeiro and in Minas Geraes; and it is a pleasure to the Directors to be able to bear testimony to the zeal, ability, and promptitude with which he has fulfilled the anxious duties assigned to him, at the same time that it offers a guarantee to the Proprietors of Shares that the interests of the Association have been carefully protected,

The Extracts presented for the perusal of the Proprietors are as copious as the nature of such communications will admit ; and the Directors can assure them, that nothing has been omitted which could materially interest them, or serve to guide their judgment in the value of the property ; nor any thing added which could tend to heighten the prospect of advantage. They have withheld only such parts as, in their discretion, they think unnecessary to make public, and which have no reference to the “ Gongo Soco” Mine.

*9, Throgmorton Street,
January 2d, 1826.*





Extract of a Letter from Edward Oxenford, Esq. to Joshua Walker, Esq. M. P. Chairman of the Imperial Brazilian Mining Association: Dated Rio de Janeiro, 9th of August, 1825.

“Mr. Ferdinand Oxenford arrived on the 6th inst. and delivered to me a letter from Mr. Tregoning, [see Report No. 1, page 16.] our Superintendent, under date of the 8th July. Mr. Tregoning gives a description of the Mine of Gongo Soco, to which I earnestly beg to call your attention. The estimate he makes of the quantity of gold (ten cwt.) that he thinks might be obtained by the labour of 100 men in twelve months, is so enormous as to stagger belief, and induce the suspicion that the data upon which he founds his calculation must be erroneous. To ascertain this, I took considerable pains to discover the grounds upon which his opinion is founded, and it appears that he reckons the quantity of fathoms that 100 men could work in one year, and a pound of pure gold to each fathom. Notwithstanding several experiments were made in different parts of this mine, with an average of similar results, I cannot, I confess, without some distrust, contemplate products so enormous, so easily attainable, and by comparatively so few labourers. I should, however, but ill discharge my duty to the Association, if, by giving way to perhaps an over-wrought and ill-founded incredulity, I neglected to proceed immediately to the spot, accompanied by all the science and practical knowledge that the Board of Directors, with so much industry and expense, have embodied in the service of the Association. To direct this science and knowledge to the carat of the

gold—to the probable continuance of the calculated large produce of the mine—to the likelihood of its increase, decrease, or falling off altogether, will be an object of my greatest and immediate attention.

“The Owner of this Mine is Cappão Joao Baptista Mr. Ferdinand Oxenford endeavoured in vain to get him to make an offer; his reply was, I ask a million of cruzadoes, (about £90,000) but I am willing to treat with any person fully empowered. It shall be with me an object of immediate and earnest solicitude to obtain from him a written offer, with an option on my part for a specific date; and if obtained, this shall be immediately transmitted to you. On the day after to-morrow I intend setting off with Mr. Edwards for *Gongo Soco*.”

*Extracts from Mr. Edward Oxenford's Letters to the
Chairman.*

“*Ouro Preto, (late Villa Rica),*

August 28th, 1825.

“I have the honor to inform you of my arrival in this city on the 26th inst. The journey was rendered tedious, and, to me, of great anxiety, from the large amount of property of which I was the bearer.

“Understanding that the Owner of the *Gongo Soco* mine was in this city, I directed our course hither. He called upon me immediately, but the visit was merely ceremonial.

The President has assured me that he looks with a most favourable eye on our Association, and that he will forward our interests in every way in his power. My very recent arrival here, and the great numbers who have honored me with visits, must plead my excuse for present brevity ; and I will conclude with re-assuring you, that the utmost energies of my humble abilities shall be employed in making the purchase of our mines, and that I shall have the titles examined by the most eminent legal authorities of this Empire."

" Ouro Preto, September 2d, 1825.

" With Cappao Joao Baptista, the principal Owner and Manager of the celebrated mine of *Gongo Soco*, I have had several long and interesting interviews. Reflecting on the means of evading the risk of the large sum he asks as the purchase money of this mine, I proposed to him to allow another investigation, in which Mr. Tregoning (the chief Miner) would have the benefit of the assistance of Mr. Edwards, (Assay Master,) and Dr. Gardner, (Physician and Mineralogist,) and in case of the result of their survey being favourable, to work it upon improved principles, and at the expense of the Association, for a certain number of years upon joint account. He immediately answered, that if I were not prepared to give a million of cruzadoes, (£90,000) there was no occasion for further investigations :

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that his only motives for selling were disagreements with his partners, and a desire of leaving this country: that the mine was so rich that, during his absence, no work was allowed to be carried on: and that if I wanted either power or will to come into his terms, other purchasers were to be found. Even under circumstances so decided and so adverse, I cannot but feel, that commanding so much practical mining knowledge and metallurgical science, my duty imperiously urges me to direct the combined energies of the Association to another survey. It is under this impression that I have entreated and obtained permission from Cappare João Baptista to make a fresh examination of *Gongo Soco*, and he has appointed to meet me there on the 16th instant. I shall be accompanied by Messrs. Edwards, Col. Gama, (the chief Agent and General Superintendent of the Affairs of the Association in the Province of Minas Geraes), Dr. Gardner, Captains Tregoning and Martyn, and Eady and Deeble, (the two latter miners.) The *Gongo* being fourteen leagues from hence, I intend setting off on the 14th instant. Setting aside report, to which, in a case of this magnitude, I should be inclined to pay a very qualified attention, it must be borne in mind, that hitherto, it is only from Messrs. Tregoning and Martyn's survey that we draw the conclusion of the stupendous riches of this important mine. Some confirmation indeed may be extracted from a circumstance that I understand took place about nine months ago, when Senhor (a person of high rank and authority,) wrote to Cappare João Baptista relative to the purchase of *Gongo Soco*: the price at which it was then offered was two hundred and forty thousand milreis; but, on the discovery of two new lodes of gold, the latter broke off the negotiation. It is to be lamented that Mr. Tregoning

(whose great discrimination and practical knowledge have, I understand from Col. Gama, astonished the Owners of the *Lauras* he has examined) should not possess the faculty of communicating to you, circumstantially, his interesting and valuable remarks. Unacquainted with mineralogical science and mining phraseology, I feel totally incompetent to relate to you any other than the results of his verbal communications. These are more favourable than could be hoped for by the most sanguine. He thinks he has discovered veins of gold running through the whole estate: he says that he tried experiments in twenty different places, and in each he found abundance of gold: he considers that they lose half their produce by their manner of working the mine, and that twenty of our men could do the work of the eighty now employed. Such are the reports he gives, and, *as such* I lay them before the Board. I cannot, however, describe to you the deep solicitude I feel upon this subject, and the anxiety with which I look forward to Mr. Edwards's and Dr. Gardner's report on this interesting mine."

"Ouro Preto, 30th Sept. 1825.

"I now proceed with my narration of my visit to the all important mine of "Gongo Soco." A bad cold caught at the inspection of another mine, kept me for several days in the house, and the personal attendance I gave both here

and at Marianna, on the legal gentlemen who were entrusted with the examination of the titles of the *Lavras* I wished to purchase, prevented my proceeding to *Gongo Soco* till the 19th inst. I however dispatched Messrs. Edwards, Tregoning, Gardner, Martyn, &c. on the 14th inst. according to my agreement with the Cappão Mor João Baptista, directing them to commence immediately the most careful and minute investigation, and to be prepared, if favorable, to point out to me the data upon which their opinion was founded. On the 21st inst. I arrived at the *Gongo*, with Col. Gama, and in the morning of the 22d Mr. Edwards delivered to me the inclosed strong recommendation and urgent request,* as the result of their careful, minute, and deliberate survey. The four gentlemen who signed that paper assured me, that they did not consider the sum at which they urged the purchase, as the test or quantum of value, but that on the contrary, they stated £100,000 merely because it was the amount named to them by the Cappão Mor as his ultimatum; whereas their own opinion of its value very far exceeded the sum demanded. I considered it part of my arduous and anxious duty to proceed with these gentlemen immediately to the rich lode they described, and to enter the levels, and trace, under the direction of Mr. Tregoning, as far as the human eye divested of science can do it, the progress of the lode, to witness the *jacatinga* (brown red oxyde of iron) struck from the vein, and personally to attend to the washings at the bottom of the bowl. All this I did, and at the result of the different washings I was filled with astonishment. I had the jaca-

* Vide No. 2, page 17.

tinga struck from many different parts of the vein, and the result of all the washings was certainly little short of a pound of gold. The lower level is a good deal flooded, and this circumstance, joined to those I described in my last, have, I suspect, induced the Cappao Mor to offer this property for sale. I deemed it of consequence, notwithstanding the water, to enter, with Messrs. Tregoning and Martyn, the lower level, that they might point out to me the continuance of the vein downwards, of which I began to have my doubts—Mr. Tregoning took with him an *alabanca* (a straight thick piece of iron, about four feet long) and driving down under the Cappao Mor's works, but in the direction of the same vein, he brought up several pieces of it, but of a more rocky substance; he had them pounded in a mortar, and the result of the washing was at least equal to that of the jacatinga. Mr. Edwards is firmly of Mr. Tregoning's opinion, that the lode continues with more than its present riches in a downward direction—on the surface of the top of the mountain the lode can be traced for about half a mile beyond the spot where the Cappao Mor has worked under ground, and it then runs into the adjoining estate called *Socorro*, which belongs to a Company mining in a different part. Mr. Tregoning clearly followed the lode to the very border of the Gongo property, digging on it where there appeared to be the smallest doubt, and even to the very peak of the mountain which separates the estates. The produce of the jacatinga dug from the lode proved as rich as that broken from the mine the Cappao Mor was working. The gold Mr. Edwards considers of the quality of twenty carats.* The

* 23½ carats is the quality of pure gold.

mine lately worked upon this estate has since the last discovery remained untouched, and a new stamping mill, which the Cappad Mor had just erected contiguous to it, at considerable expence, now lies idle. Messrs. Edwards and Tregening are of opinion, that the old mine is worth the money now asked for the estate. I will not detain you further by description, but refer you at once to the abler reports of Mr. Edwards, Dr. Gardner, and Col. Gama.*

“ I have felt the deep responsibility which attaches itself to the performance of the duties which have been assigned to me, and the great difficulties which must surround a person charged with so important a mission. With the greatest care and consideration therefore I have weighed the interests of the Association, and have determined upon purchasing the valuable mine of *Gongo Soco* for the sum of 300,000,000 Rs., say three hundred thousand milreis (from 65 to £70,000) on behalf of the Association. An option I found inadmissible and delay dangerous. I therefore concluded the Contract, of which I enclose a copy, and now present it to the Board for their ratification of the purchase. I congratulate myself in the reflection, that the terms on which I have made it are about £25,000 less than those so strongly recommended by the officers of the Association. Every exertion will be made in Rio de Janeiro to obtain the Emperor's sanction to the Contract, and I have the greatest hopes of success. You will observe, and I trust approve, the clause I inserted at the bottom of the Contract. Should the exchange experience any extraordinary rise from the Declaration of this Empire's independence, it will be much to our advantage to remit specie from England.

* Vide No. 3, 4, 5, pages 18, 24, and 30.

" The keys of the three levels at Gongo were delivered up, and all work suspended, on signing the Contract. Captains Tregoning, Martyn, and five men I left to keep guard over the property. Messrs. Edwards and Gardner have returned to *Ouro Preto* to prepare their apparatus for transport to *Gongo Soco*. Mr. Ferdinand Oxenford (the agent at Rio de Janeiro) has sent up the chemical utensils for the use of the Assay Master, and I am happy to say they have arrived without damage. The first parcels of mining implements (as pointed out in a list furnished me by Capt. Tregoning, which I sent from this,) are likewise on the road, so that we shall very soon be prepared to commence our operations. From this city I shall dispatch Messrs. Edwards and Gardner to examine three other mines, and to make their report thereon. All the principal mines of this province will then have been examined.

" The estate of *Socorro*, into which Mr. Tregoning clearly traced the rich lode running from the *Gongo*, and which the officers of the Association consider as important, I shall purchase if I can get it at a reasonable rate. It belongs to a Company, and I should have mentioned that Cappa^o J^o Baptista agreed to cede three shares he has in it, the price being included in the 300,000,000 Rs., to be given for the *Gongo Soco*: Cappa^o J. Baptista has undertaken to endeavour to negotiate the purchase for me, and I left in his hands a sum of money in order to pay the necessary deposits.

" It is my intention to form a committee of the officers of the Association, to decide on the spot such things as may occur of immediate necessity, directing them to hand to the Board a monthly account of their transactions; this I deem

indispensable, and must be of almost immediate adoption. The produce of *Gongo Soco* will commence on the day of its first working: and the various regulations for the conduct of the men; the security of the Association as regards the gold extracted from the mine or found on the estate; and a variety of local measures, must, I think, emanate from, and be decided by, the officers of the Association, till their confirmation or rejection be received from the Board."

REPORT—No. I.

From Capt. Tregoning (the chief Miner) to the Agents of the Association in Brazil; dated Gongo Soco, 8th July, 1825.

" 1st. A very noble house, and cottage for one hundred people; 2dly. A good water course in the mine; one good stamping mill, with a little alteration; 3dly. They say this estate is four miles long and four miles wide, with a large quantity of timber trees on it; 4thly. The mine is in the centre of the estate, the lode is open 100 fathoms long: the adit is about 10 fathoms deep, they have worked away about one half of the ground on the vein, and left the other half to keep open the mine, which ground we could very easily take away; they have not worked under the adit we suppose in consequence of the ground being rather soft for them to keep

it open ; there is more than ten thousand fathoms of dry ground on the course of the lode in these hills, a convenient place for a water engine to go under the adits ; there is more than 100 fathoms of ground opened over the adit, of which they tried samples for us to see, which would produce one pound weight of gold per fathom ; the lode is from 10 to 15 fathoms wide, the greater part iron, all of which is mixed with gold, but a vein that they work is in the centre of the lode, for about four inches wide, which is very rich. There is ground for 100 people to work in, and I think they would give ten hundred weight of gold in twelve months.

(Signed) WM. TREGONING."

No. 2.

" We, the undersigned officers of the Imperial Brazilian Mining Association, after a long, careful, and minute examination of the *Lavra* and mines of *Gongo Soco*, are of opinion that the said estate, from the extraordinary riches it possesses, not only in the parts already opened by the present owners, but also from several auriferous *lodes* which have been traced in various places, together with its compactness, its water courses, timber and mills, and the small comparative expence at which it may be worked, added to the rapidity of its returns, possessing advantages not to be equalled by any other estate in the province ; and notwithstanding the large sum of £100,000, besides the *Sima*, being the ultimatum of

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the owner, we are fully convinced of the real value of the property: that in our zeal for the welfare of the Association, we do not hesitate to recommend it, and do hereby strongly and earnestly recommend and urge Mr. Edward Oxenford to purchase the same for its benefit.

(Signed) T. W. EDWARDS.
W. TREGONING.
DANIEL GARDNER, M.D.
THOMAS MARTYN."

" *Gongo Soco, Sept. 22, 1825.*"

No. 3.

From Mr Edwards (the Assay Master) to Edward Oxenford, Esq.

" *Ouro Preto, 29th Sept. 1825:*

" SIR ;

"I arrived at *Gongo Soco* on the 17th inst. for the purpose of examining the mines on that estate, according to your instructions, and I take the earliest opportunity of communicating to you a brief outline of the result of the survey, together with my opinion thereon. From the great celebrity of the richness of these mines, I was extremely anxious to inspect the lodes at present in work, and their mode of operating, before I entered into an examination of any other part of the estate. About a mile from the village and residence of the

present possessor, I was conducted by his *Administrador* to the mines in work, situated on the most north west side of the property,* and about half a mile from the boundary, these lodes also running in that direction. In company with Dr. Gardner and Mr. Tregoning I immediately entered the lowest or southermost level, which extended about 60 or 70 yards, at the end of which we immediately discovered the vein of gold contained in this level, and having ourselves extracted about a quart measure of the *formação*† (the Brazilian term which I shall here adopt) of the metal, it was in our presence washed by a negro, in the usual way practised in this country, and produced about 268 grains of gold in grains of a large quality. A few yards more northward, running in the same direction, at an inclination of about 45 degrees, is another vein in the same lode which I also entered, and withdrew a *gamella*‡ full, which yielded, after being washed, about 348 grains: the coarser stones, &c. were not crushed, but thrown aside, some of which I caused to be pounded in a mortar, and yielded nearly as much gold as the finer particles had before done. About the same distance further northward is a third vein, which upon examination proved equally rich. From the very unscientific mode of operating, the greatest part of the ore is lost, for, from the fear of breaking into a communication with the under *levels*, and in order to support the sides and roofs, they are cautious in working any branches of the vein, instead of

* Vide Plan.—The house faces the north east.

† Formação is one or more veins of earth, sand, or stone, of different qualities found in the interior of the Lavras, and which always contain the greatest quantity of gold of the said Lavras.

‡ A large shallow bowl used by the miners in conveying the earth, &c. on negroes' heads, and washing for the gold.

making (what are called in the mining districts of England) whims. The lode containing these veins is about 40 yards in width, consisting of *jacatinga*,* which is a dark brown red oxyde of iron and manganese, very soft, and rather greasy to the touch, easily washed and worked. There are other lodes of a similar *formaçao* contiguous to this, all running towards the north west boundary of the estate, into that adjoining, called *Socorro*,† but in my opinion the lodes run backwards towards the south east, full as far as they do to the north west, the present owners having begun their mining in the centre of the lode, or where it was first discovered; for as long as it continued yielding gold in great abundance, they troubled themselves very little as to the duration or original commencement of the lode: this being the richest, and most easily worked, has caused them to neglect all the old mines, and other lodes, for upon examination of other parts of this estate, I found auriferous lodes of different *formaçao* traversing it in every direction. On the opposite extremity, to the eastward, which I conceive to be about half a league distant from the mines just spoken of, I found lodes entering this estate of the same *formaçao* as that of *Ouro Fino*‡ an adjoining *Lavra*, which is a continuation of the rich lodes of *Cocães*, and consists of decomposed quartz, mixed in strata with iron glance, and in the valley of the road leading to St. Juan is a lode of the *formaçao* *jacatinga* which I should be inclined to say is the commencement of the lodes of this formation, containing the rich veins already spoken of, at the north western extremity, and *not* where *they* discovered it; their discovery arises from accident, and not from

* The provincial term of the *formaçao*.

† Marked in the Plan *Serra do Socorro*.

‡ Vide Plan.

science ; where they first find the gold there they work, and whether they commence at the east or the west, it is very immaterial to them.

“ I next proceeded to the old and original mine in the *Morro Grande*,* where they appear to have worked much, and had erected a stamping mill, which was never put in motion, in consequence of the sudden discovery of the rich lodes on the north western extremity : this mine consists of a different *formaçao* to the others, the metal being found in thick veins of quartz, and reported on all sides to be very rich. One of our miners descended into it, and reports that he there discovered *six different lodes* ; the present possessors had only hitherto continued the old method of washing away the surface of the mine, and had just begun to attack the quartz formations, which they quitted at the period when I think it probable they had arrived at the very point of its riches.—On the left of the road opposite is another lode of a different *formaçao*, consisting of lithomarge and micaceous schist, running in the direction of the virgin woods, viz. north west, and which have never yet been touched. Hitherto I have spoken of the northern side of the estate, where lodes have been worked and discovered, leaving out any examination of about a quarter of a league of territory, situated on the north east side of the old mine, consisting entirely of virgin woods, and called (in the Plan which I have annexed) *Cangica* and *Corrego*.†

“ On the south western side, dividing the estate by the rivulet that runs through the village, I found in the garden

* Vide Plan.

† Vide Plan.

itself, belonging to the proprietor, two lodes, running towards the south west: and on the top of the hill above it, there are several *lodes* differing in their formations, some consisting of *jacatinga* and others of quartz; none of which have ever been attempted to be worked or opened. There is also on this side a fine calcareous formation, which might be turned to great advantage in supplying the estate and works with lime. In the valley, through which the rivulet runs, are several formations, containing gold in abundance, and which hitherto has been given up by the generosity and humanity of the owner to poor and worn out slaves, who make no other use of it but to wash in the stream, and collect the gold that has escaped from the slovenly and unworkmanlike manner of washing what is extracted from the mines in work. This estate in other points of view is unexceptionable, and perhaps its equal is not to be found in the province of *Minas Geraes*. It is nearly a ring fence, of about three quarters of a league from the north east to the south west, and rather more from the north west to the south east, very compact, and having fine virgin woods, particularly in the mining part of it, where no expence of carriage or labour would be incurred, and the quality of the wood itself so durable, that ages to come would find it perfect and sound: its *water courses* are good and in plenty; its *agricultural department* towards the *Fazenda Velha** is very fertile, having sufficient arable land to raise an ample supply for the negroes; and its *pastures* towards *Lagoa das Antas*† are rich and extensive for the animals employed in carrying the supplies, &c. necessary for such an establishment.

“There is, however, one point to which I must draw your

* Vide Plan.

† Vide Plan.

attention, and which, if attainable, would place the purchase beyond the limits of any speculation—I allude to the proximity of the lodes *now in work* to the boundary of the estate on the north west side; if an arrangement could be entered into for the purchase of the *Socorro* property, (which I believe it is called) it would be an advantage great in the extreme; it would not only put at rest any opinion or surmise as to the continuation of the lodes in that direction, but it would make the whole a compact, isolated property, without a competitor, or a chance of an intruder on any side: added to which, all reports speak favourably of the richness of that property; by purchasing which we should have the advantage of being enabled to drive adits on that side of the hill, which would drain with much greater facility the lower levels of *Gongo Soco*. — I feel no hesitation in saying, that in less than eighteen months the whole purchase money would be repaid; and I also believe it will be found a better secured and better titled estate than any in the Province, and is worthy the possession of a British Company.

(Signed) T. W. EDWARDS,
Assay Master."

No. 4.

*From Dr. Gardner, (Physician and Mineralogist,) to
Edward Oxenford, Esq.*

*“Imperial City of Ouro Preto,
September 29th, 1825.*

“Gongo Soco is situated on the northward and westward of the Imperial City, and Antonio Pereira, distant from the first thirteen Portuguese leagues, and about eleven from the last: it is situated in a beautiful vale, which opens to the traveller on ascending one of its adjacent hills, exhibiting the house and village, which is inhabited by the blacks of the estate, free creoles, and others, who live on the bounty of the possessor. The estate is about a league long, and half a league wide, in parts of a very irregular figure, as seen by the map copied by Mr. Edwards. On the right is a chain of auriferous mountains, covered with wood: on the left are hills and vales of verdant pastures, enclosed by distant mountains, forming to the idea and sight a complete circle: a rivulet runs through it, each side of which gives proof of the industry of the Cappão Mor, as not a part of the alluvial soil is left untouched. He confined himself only to the washing of the valley for years, in and about the rivulet, according to the old mining system in Brazil, it being but a few years that working in mountains has been introduced. Being an intelligent man, he considered that he was only washing

the refuse of some very rich mountain near, whose partial destruction had furnished this alluvial deposit, which being rich, he considered that the place from whence it came might be more so, and, on viewing the circular form of the place, he at length discovered a peak that gave evident signs of having been mechanically separated, and immediately determined on its strict examination. Fortune crowned him with success, and he found in its adjacent woods large lumps of gold in micaceous iron stone, and, in washing away the surface, he discovered a lode of about forty feet broad of the same iron stone, very rich, which had resisted the action of time, and was evidently part of the same lode whose mechanical separation had furnished the rich vale below with alluvial remains. The news spread far and near, and *Gongo Soco* soon became the *El Dorado* of Brazil—the village was very little time before it came to its present size; the inhabitants gaining their living by merely washing again the muddy deposit thrown away by the *Cappaç Mor*.

“ In 1818 he began to work more systematically, and to pursue the lode and its veins by levels, by which, at times, he discovered rich circular deposits (the confluence of veins) and took out such quantities of gold as to appear almost incredible; so much so, that in February, 1824, it is said, the quantity taken out amounted to 480 pounds avoirdupois.

“ These mines have raised the family from a state of mediocrity to that of great opulence, and the luxury we saw during our stay at *Gongo Soco* is a collateral proof of the richness of the source. The estate is so generally auriferous, that even in the common pastures, there are found pyrites of sulphuret of iron containing gold, giving a precipitate with the recent

solution of the muriat of tin ; and on the hill above the pasture could be discovered the dip of two lodes, which rise again on the adjacent mountains—the whole territory may be considered as golden : not only its lodes, but the surface is a complete deposit of auriferous alluvial matter.

“ Besides the mines and lodes already mentioned, the place possesses old mines on the summit of one of the mountains, in the chain already described on the right of the estate, even so high as it is, it was originally covered with alluvial soil (*cascalho*) of the pebble formation, which the original owner (Camara) washed away with great profit, and discovered an immense lode of auriferous quartz, which enriched him by merely reducing the stone to powder with a sledge hammer, but the Cappão Mor, possessing more information, erected a stamping engine, which he never used, as he very soon after discovered the other rich mines, and left the quartz lodes, comparatively rich and durable, to work those of the new discovery ; but, with the force brought on by the Association, both ought to be worked at the same time, and discoverers continually kept out to examine every spot of the surface, for there can be no doubt but that the whole chain of mountains on the right of the estate is also auriferous, and it accords with my opinion, that gold is found in the greatest quantity only to the setting sun or western position of surface.

“ What has been already stated should appear sufficient to stamp the character, and warrant the purchase of, *Gongo Soco* ; but as part of the information was obtained from persons somewhat interested, and, consequently, suspected, it is the duty of a reporter to examine more minutely existing facts, and the result of experiment.

“ We went, in company with Mr. Edwards and the Miners, to the new discovery of the Owner, to examine this phenomenon of riches coolly and dispassionately ; we were astonished, on arrival, at the particular blackness of the matrix or micaceous iron stone (perhaps caused by the presence of the oxyde of manganese) so different from the surrounding soil, and evidently forming the grand lode. We found three levels with doors to them, and locked : we entered the lowest, and, arriving at its extremity, a distance from fifty to sixty yards, the veins of gold and their course were plainly to be seen in the black matter ; the miners broke out about as much as a quart measure full, and we returned. This level being the lowest, some water accumulates. About ten feet above it, on one side, is situated the second level, and above that again, but not so far upwards, is the third, and almost superficial level, neither of them being so long as the lowest : these were also examined in the same way, and we returned to see the result of our experiment, which is placed at foot.

“ It has been alledged by the enemies of *Gongo Soco*, that the Cappão Mor wishes to sell it, because he knows that he has taken all out, or that the riches will very soon finish, having arrived at a primitive rock of gneiss below, on which the lode was supposed to rest and finish. This very serious accusation made the examiners more ardent in the search, and it was found that the lode has an inclination of about 45° to the horizon, the same being the inclination of the plane of the mountain upwards ; consequently, the lode accompanies the mountain, forming two planes of the same angle—one of the surface, and the other of the lode ; and

the same was found by us above, about four feet below the surface only, and there it was not stopped by any rock of gneiss or granite, none being in the vicinity. The breadth of the lode we have stated to be about forty feet; how deep it is, is, as yet, impossible to say, but it has the appearance of going very deep: it may sit on a rock of gneiss at last, but it is most probable to be on micaceous schist, the iron stone being of that formation. In the lower mines the veins were larger, and the iron stone more compact, and studded with gold, both being proofs of its duration and increase of value. From what has been said, it should appear that such accusation must fall to the ground. The only apparent drawback that I discovered to the purchase, was, that these mines are situated almost too near the end of the estate, and that the lode runs into the adjoining one of *Socorro*, but, by Mr. Tregoning's measurement, the course of the lode is yet half a mile within the limits of *Gongo Soco*, which will pay its purchase manifold, and give a handsome profit, not taking the least into consideration the auriferous quartz mines already described, which alone would warrant the purchase of the estate, with some diminution of price: consequently we are working on safe ground.

“ Another question offered itself to my mind, Why a man, possessing such a property, should wish to sell it, being enough for him and his heirs for ever? The answer given was, that there are fourteen heirs to the estate, that do not all agree, as is generally the case among so many. Some of the heirs wish to continue as a Company, others to receive their patrimony, and live on the place, and two, who have already received their portions, wish to be taken in again. The *Cappo Mor*

being opposed to all this, would have sold before, could he have found such able purchasers as the Association. Further, his house is an open hotel, for all those who wish to live well without paying for it, which falls heavy upon him. The difficulty of working the mines, according to Mr. Tregoning's opinion, will increase somewhat, from accumulation of water, &c. which perhaps may have operated towards the sale: and, lastly, the purchase money being a temptation, and bringing wherewith to satisfy the whole of the heirs, and relieve the Cappao Mor from such a disagreeable administration.

“ These reasons will, no doubt, find their proper weight, and they may be strengthened by the fact, that neither the Cappao Mor, nor any one else, can positively say when and where this rich lode will end

“ The carat of the gold of *Gongo Soco* is said to vary from nineteen to twenty-two, but the lowness of quality may be balanced by the greatness of the quantity, as appears from the quart of earth taken from the lower level, which, after washing in the slovenly manner that the negroes did, throwing one half away, gave from the

1st level——experiment 1st, of impure gold 268 grains.

2d level	{	..... 2d	..... 289	„
		..... 3rd	..... 159	„

The quart of earth was washed at the mouth of the mine, consequently there was no convenience for weighing, but it was generally computed to weigh five pounds, and we see by experiment 2, that it gave half an ounce, and forty-nine grains of gold, and there can be no hesitation in saying, that half that quantity was thrown away by the manner of wash-

ing, or that the quart of earth gave three quarters of an ounce of gold.

(Signed) DANIEL GARDNER, M.D."

No. 5.

From Col. Gama (chief Agent and General Superintendent of the affairs of the Association in Minas Geraes) to Edward Oxenford, Esq.

*" Imperial City of Ouro Preto,
September 29th, 1825.*

" SIR,

" It being incumbent upon me to give you all the information I may possess regarding the *Lavra* called *Gongo Soco*, belonging to the widow and heirs of the late Captain Mor Joze Alves da Cunha Porto, I shall proceed to do so, founded upon some facts within my own knowledge, and upon the best reports concerning the importance of the said *Lavra*. Manuel de Bittencourt was the first miner, who, it appears, originally established himself, and worked in the neighbourhood of the said *Lavra*, having discovered a great quantity of gold in the river Caite, and other streams emanating from the ridge of rocks which at present form the aforesaid *Lavra* of *Gongo Soco*. It is known that the said Bittencourt, a native of Portugal, from whence he came poor and in a miserable condition in search of a better fortune, began with his own hands to wash the gold in those places, about 80 years since, and with such success that in a few years he was enabled to purchase a number of slaves, and to

obtain the legal concession of many tracts of those mineral grounds, which he went on working with great profit, so much so, that his opulence was remarkable in this country. At his death he bequeathed the *Lavras*, together with all his other effects, to his nephew, Colonel Manuel de Camara, whom he had sent for from Portugal, and whom he named his sole heir; this latter prosecuted the mineral labours, and they being always attended with success, both his inheritance and wealth were increased, notwithstanding his great expense in his extravagant and magnificent way of living. His late uncle had confined the works to the bed or channel of the river *Cuite* only, and to its banks, as also to the streams from the chain of mountains which lie contiguous to it, but Colonel Camara not only continued the works upon the low grounds, but carried his views to the summit of the mountains themselves, from one of which, wherein he discovered very rich veins of gold in a quartz rock, he extracted a great quantity of that metal by means of some mines which he opened on the mountain, and where even now, they say, there exist some rich veins of gold. At his demise his sons and heirs took possession of his house and goods; I cannot dwell with minuteness on the detail of their affairs, not knowing well how they managed them; thus much I know, that misunderstanding amongst them, joined to idleness and dissipation of property, soon drove them to poverty and indigence, so much so, that the *Lavras* were bought at a public sale by the aforesaid Captain Mor Jose Alves about twenty years ago. This gentleman worked very little in them, bestowing almost all his attention on those he possessed in the Plains of Brumado, about three leagues off, and it was only towards the end of his life, seven or eight years ago, that his attention was roused towards the impor-

tance of employing all his resources in the working of the *Lavras* in the place called *Gongo Soco*, where his son-in-law, the Captain Mor João Baptista Ferreira de Souza Coutinho (the actual administrator and one of the principal partners in the said *Lavra*) had lately discovered unequivocal proofs of its enormous riches. The death of Captain Mor José Alves took place about this time, and from that period his widow and heirs date the commencement of their golden age, as in the short period of five years they have risen considerably from the mediocrity in which they lived to a state of wealth, under the administration of Captain João Baptista, who as I have said, first discovered great wealth in the openings and streams from the rocks, which are the continuation of that in which Col. Camara had formerly discovered the veins of gold in the bed of quartz, and on which he had so very advantageously opened some mines as I have before stated.

“ In the journey I performed with Mr. Tregoning, for him to inspect and survey the richest *Lavras*, and those most suitable for the establishment of the Imperial Mining Association, we directed our course to the aforesaid *Lavra* of *Gongo Soco*, where we arrived on the 6th July, and on the following day Mr. Tregoning examined the three mines, which at present are worked there : he entered them accompanied by Mr. Ferdinand Oxenford and myself, and having caused three or four handfull of the earth to be taken up in our presence, the same was washed in the *batea*,* and produced one ounce of gold.

* Batea is a wooden bowl of a conical shape, of about sixteen or seventeen inches in diameter, where the mineral earths are washed.

"The experiments you witnessed on the 23rd instant in the said mines, produced, in my opinion, double the quantity of gold in proportion to the earth that was washed and purified, and increased still more the opinion I had formed of the immense wealth of this *Lavra*. You must have remarked the little extent to which the works were carried on, the smallness of the mines we inspected, and the extent of ground belonging to this *Lavra*, through which ground it would seem the same veins run that we worked in the three mines, for an extent of more than a mile, from the mines to their confines at the *Lavra* called *Quintoens*, (Socorro).* If the same rich veins of gold run through all this extensive tract of land, it is but reasonable to expect the extraction of many millions of cruzadoes, when we consider the large sums the three mines have yielded in their small compass of ground; for it is conjectured, that within the last five years, one to two millions of cruzadoes† have been extracted from them: and I know from a person on whom I can rely, that last year in the months of February and March only, Captain Joao Baptista got 13½ arroves‡ of gold from the said mines.

"Notwithstanding that almost all the mountains and grounds of this *Lavra*, as well as that part of it which seems to be most important, and through which runs the auriferous vein for more than a mile from the site of the mine at work to the boundaries of the estate, are untouched and unworked, it would, in my opinion, be a most important acquisition to the property of *Gongo Soco*, to have the *Lavra* and mineral grounds of *Quintoens* (Socorro), through

* *Vide Plan.* † A cruzado is about 400 reis.

‡ An arrove is about 33lbs. avoirdupois weight.

which the same vein follows, annexed to it. I am informed, that on the grounds appertaining to *Gongo*, there is some timber fit for buildings, and that from the neighbourhood within a few leagues distance, this article can always be procured.

"I have now stated all that I know about this *Lavra* of *Gongo Sôco*, which really is, and always was from its discovery, looked upon as the richest and most important in all this province, and for this reason, I recommend it to your consideration

I am, &c.

(Signed) IGNACIO J. NOGUEIRA DA GAMA."

No. 6.

CONTRACT OF PURCHASE.

"Be it known to all men to whom this Instrument of Agreement (or by whatever other name it may be better designated in law) may come, that in the year of the nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ one thousand eight hundred and twenty-five, and the fourth of the Independence of the Empire, on the 24th day of September, at the estate of *Gongo Sôco*, where we the undersigned Edward Oxenford and Joao Baptista Ferreira de Souza Coutinho are present, an offer was made by the first named party, after his having

duly examined the nature and extension of the estate of *Socorro applicação da Parrochia de St. João de Morro Grande*, consisting of dwelling houses and inclosures, woods, forests and lands, held by crown grants and title deeds, and also mineral grounds and waters, to give three hundred thousand milreis, in cash, in the city of Rio de Janeiro, to the order of the second named party José Baptista Ferreira de Souza Coutinho, for himself, and as attorney possessing full powers from the widow and sons of the late Captain Mor Jozé Alvarez da Cunha Porto, within three months from the date of these presents, as the full price of all the aforesaid property, in manner following, that is to say: one hundred thousand milreis on his arrival at the said city, and two hundred thousand milreis within six months, and to pay besides the duty on this Contract. And the second named party engaged for himself and in virtue of the powers from the widow and co-heirs of the late Captain Mor Jozé Alvarez da Cunha Porto, to sell the aforesaid estate for the price offered, and to deliver the title deeds of all this property within the same period of three months, and also a public record of this Contract, previously obtaining the necessary formalities of the Imperial Rescript and permission from the Board of the Orphans Court. And that moreover he would forthwith stop his works upon unbroken grounds, only washing and purifying the produce already extracted, and such as may exist in the channels of the *Lavras*; upon the condition that the expenses of watching and keeping the auriferous grounds on the said estate shall be for account of the Imperial English Association from this day forward. And we reciprocally promise to each other not to recall this Contract, as it is made with a full knowledge of its nature and with our free will. For the due observance of which we have caused this Instrument to be drawn in

duplicate, both of which copies we have signed in the presence of the witnesses Jacinto Joze Pimenta de Figueiredo and Francisco de Salles Pereira.

“ I declare that one hundred thousand milreis are to be paid at Rio de Janeiro in silver coin, at the time of the delivery of the proper title deeds, and after the obtainment of the Imperial sanction to the sale, and to the equalization of the company of the undersigned with that of Joze Alexandre Carneiro Leao as far as regards this estate. The two hundred thousand milreis are also to be paid at Rio de Janeiro in silver currency, allowing the necessary time for its arrival from England.

Gongo Soco, 24th September, 1825.

Signed { EDWARD OXENFORD,
JOAÕ BAPTISTA FERREIRA DE SA. COUTINHO.

Signed { JACINTO J. PIMENTA DE FIGUEIREDO, } Witnesses.
FRANCISCO DE SALLES PEREIRA.

R E P O R T

OF THE

DIRECTORS

OF THE

IMPERIAL BRAZILIAN

Mining Association,

TO THE

GENERAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS

HELD

Pursuant to the 42nd Article of the Deed of Settlement,

ON THE

9th DAY OF MARCH, 1826.

SECOND REPORT.

THIS being the first General Meeting of the Shareholders since the formation of the Association, the Directors lay before them a brief sketch of their proceedings. Although it would have been very agreeable to the Directors at this early period of the Association positively to have announced to the Shareholders that actual operations had begun, and that an immediate profitable return for the money already paid was in their hands, nevertheless they confidently believe that long previous to the present moment such operations have commenced, and are in beneficial progress. The nature of the undertaking, however, having been distinctly stated in the Prospectus, and the delay which is naturally attendant upon a negotiation for the proving and purchasing mineral grounds, will have prevented

the Shareholders expecting a more rapid accomplishment of their object: the caution and circumspection with which the Directors have thought it a paramount duty to proceed, and the minute investigation of every property which they have required at the hands of their officers and agents, to guard against a precipitancy which might have involved and compromised the interests of the Shareholders, have likewise served to retard the apparent progress of the Association; but the event fully justifies the delay. For this caution the Directors wish to take no merit to themselves, because their duty called upon them for its exercise.

Immediately on its establishment, and in pursuance of the objects for which the Association was first formed, the Directors lost no time in instructing their agents at Rio de Janeiro to obtain the most particular information in respect to the lands in the province of Minas Geraes most desirable for the possession of the Association; and to put themselves in immediate communication with Colonel Ignacio Jozé Nogueira da Gama, (who had formerly held an important post in that province, and

was intimately acquainted with its local advantages and most valuable properties,) in order that they might be prepared to point out to the Superintendent, on his arrival at Rio, the lands to be surveyed. Col. da Gama, a personal friend of Mr. Edward Oxenford, and of great importance to the interests of the Association, was at the same time requested to accept the responsible situation of Secretary in the province of Minas Geraes, to which he readily consented, resigning his military rank, and abandoning a lucrative official employment, for the sake of becoming attached to this Association, of the prospects of which he has always entertained the highest opinion. This gentleman has already proved himself the zealous and faithful friend of the Association, and his services have been most important. Letters were also addressed to the various Ministers of the Emperor of Brazil, announcing the formation of the Association in consequence of the Emperor's grant, and claiming their protection ; thus in every way preparing for the arrival of the persons whom the Directors might engage as officers and miners of the establishment. To the proper selection of these latter, the Directors then immediately turned their

attention; and empowered Mr. Michael Williams, of Truro, (one of the Directors) to engage a superintendent, two captains of mines, and thirty-one miners and artisans, and to purchase such implements and utensils as might be necessary for the purposes of mining. Those persons and utensils were dispatched to Rio de Janeiro partly by the first packet opportunity, and partly by a vessel hired for the purpose by the Directors, and arrived in Rio in April last. As soon as the necessary arrangements were made, this party, accompanied by Colonel da Gama, and Mr. Ferdinand Oxenford (one of the agents at Rio) proceeded to Minas Geraes. A most laborious and close investigation and survey of several lands were made, but none offered as advantageous to the Association, until those of *Gongo Soco*, *Antonio Pereira*, and *Catta Preta* presented themselves. Many reputed valuable properties were found to be unfit for the possession of the Association, and the further treaty for them declined.

The Directors having their attention constantly rivetted to the great interests committed to their charge, and having maturely weighed the subject,

were of opinion, that it would materially serve those interests, and had become, in fact, essential to them, that Mr. Edward Oxenford should proceed in person to the Brazils, accompanied by a competent Assay-Master. The object of Mr. Oxenford's mission was twofold: first, to see the views and intentions of the Association, under the present terms of the grant, carried into due effect; and secondly, to obtain an extension of the privileges of the Association to the purchase or hiring of lands which do not come under the description of *terras abandonadas*, and a reduction of the duties to the crown, which are fixed at a higher rate than those of Companies established subsequent to this Association. Mr. Oxenford and Mr. Edwards sailed in May last for Rio, and on their arrival, having laid the foundation for a favourable result to the negotiations for the foregoing objects, directed their course immediately to Minas Geraes. The Shareholders have already been apprized of the proceedings of these Gentlemen, and the scientific officers of the Association, in a Report laid before them on the 2nd January last. It is now a source of the highest gratification to the Directors to be able to congratu-

late the Shareholders on the sanction of the Emperor to the Contract of the Purchase of the *Gongo Soco* estate having been obtained. This property, which is described by Mr. Oxenford, Col. da Gama, and the officers of the Association, and universally acknowledged by every person acquainted with the local history of Minas Geraes, to be of the most valuable kind, is now in the possession of the Association.

The Directors have also great satisfaction in calling the attention of the Shareholders to a Report of the subsequent purchases made by Mr. Oxenford of the lands of *Antonio Pereira*, called *Matta Cavallos*, and *Tacuara Queimada*, and of *Catta Preta*, contiguous to the important estate of *Gongo Soco*, and from their locality preventing any interference from other parties. These estates form altogether a very extensive district of most valuable property, replete with auriferous ground, and which promise the most solid advantages to the Association. The estate of *Antonio Pereira* has long been one of great celebrity—tradition ascribes a value to it which exceeds belief; but

the Directors relying solely on the sober and deliberate judgment and report of their own officers, have every reason to congratulate the Shareholders on the purchase of so rich a property. It is in this particular instance that the application of science will have its important effect where the ordinary suggestions of an untutored mind have failed. The introduction of stamping mills to obtain the precious metal from the harder substances (a process, it would appear, unknown, or at least unpractised, by the native miners) will form a new and important feature in the system of mining in the Brazils; and, in addition to the present practice of streaming and washing, which has been confined to the softer kinds of earth, will be probably a source of a great increase of wealth, if the opinions of Mr. Edwards, Dr. Gardner, Captains Tregoning and Martyn be borne out, and from their great mineralogical acquirements there is no reason to doubt their accuracy. In preference, however, to any comment of their own, the Directors have submitted extracts from the letters of Mr. Oxenford and Colonel da Gama, and the reports of Mr. Edwards, Dr. Gardner, and the miners, upon the subject of those purchases.

In addition to the present establishment of miners, and that as much efficient force as possible may be applied, the agents of the Association at Rio were at the time of the last dispatches (7th January) in treaty for 100 Germans to proceed immediately to Minas Geraes ; so that in a very short time the Directors have every reason to expect the whole of the mines will be in a state of productive return:

It may here be observed, that the use of expensive machinery is not required ; and that the produce, from its value, being compressed into a small compass, it can be brought with ease, safety and dispatch to Rio de Janeiro.

EXTRACTS, &c.

REGARDING THE MINES OF

ANTONIO PEREIRA

AND

CATTA PRETA.

*Extract of a Letter from Mr. Edward Oxenford, to the
Chairman, Joshua Walker, Esq. M.P. dated Ouro
Preto, 2d Sept. 1825.*

“ The far famed Lavra of *Antonio Pereira*, the former site of so much civil slaughter, and if report be credited, the present deposit of incalculable riches, is the next subject to which I beg to solicit your attention. In so doing I most sincerely rejoice that I am no longer left to my own feeble resources, but that I can refer you for information to the enclosed reports of Col. Gama, Mr. Edwards, and Dr. Gardner. With the accounts given by these gentlemen of the well known tradition and popular opinion relative to the riches of this

mine I perfectly coincide, having myself spoken with many people who remember the catastrophe, and were ocular witnesses of the ruin they describe. My mind, however, misgives me, when on reading these reports I find no account of lodes of gold running through the estate, but observe that the whole chance of success rests on the truth of a story, which though I cannot doubt is founded on fact, still may be greatly exaggerated. Notwithstanding the recommendation of Col. Gama, Mr. Tregoning, Mr. Edwards, and Dr. Gardner, I do not feel inclined to risk the capital and labour of the Association on an hypothesis which may or may not be well founded. An account of a lode of gold discovered and traced by the eye of science would present to my mind something substantial, a solidity not impressed upon it by the lore of traditionary riches.—I hope that the charge of apathy, vacillation, or unnecessary delay, will not be brought against me for refusing to purchase on the reports I enclose. I yield to no one in anxiety to get possession of our mines, and make returns upon our shares ; and I hope gentlemen will reflect on the responsibility of my situation, and on the culpability of suffering my own impatience or that of others to hurry me into acts of blind precipitation. To-morrow I purpose proceeding to *Antonio Pereira* with the same party I intend taking to *Gongo Soco* ; for although I am unacquainted with mineralogical science, and perhaps incapable of forming a just opinion of the correctness of its inferences, I still consider it incumbent upon me to see that the data upon which these are founded have actually an existence. A new and more minute survey of *Antonio Pereira* I deem indispensable. I wish the Lavra to be examined throughout, and the Report upon it to treat solely of its present merits, abstracted from traditionary story : I wish the surveyors to

proceed upon their duty, casting into oblivion all they have ever heard respecting this celebrated mine, for I confess, that without some further encouragement, without advantages being pointed out to me, which of *themselves* promise to pay the labor and expence of working this mine independent of the chance of obtaining the riches said to be buried in it, I shall not consider the purchase for the benefit of the Association."

*Extract of a Letter from Col. Gama to Mr. E. Oxenford,
dated Ouro Preto, 29th August, 1825.*

"I shall now proceed to speak of the Lavra of the plains of *Antonio Pereira*, called *Matta Cavallos*; the most famed, without exception, of all that belong to the district of this city, and distant from it two leagues, by the winding way across the rock of Ouro Preto, to those plains, which are constructed in the openings of great mountains or rocks, supposed to be ramifications of the *Ouro Preto*. This Lavra belongs at present to Manoel Joze Dias. The former proprietor, the late Capt. Simão Ferreira (from whose time it dates its great reputation), succeeded in making an excavation of more than one hundred spans in height, and began to drain it by means of water wheels. It is well known that this man when he came to the auriferous *formaçao* at the bottom of the said excavation, found gold in such extraordinary abundance, that he had only time, in the two hours

which remained of that day, to extract a few *batêas* (bowls) of the said *farmação*, which produced 1800 octaves of gold. He was preparing to proceed next morning in the extraction of that immense wealth, but it happened that that very night all the ground round the excavation gave way, thereby reducing to ruins the whole of the works, and burying under its weight one foreman and ten slaves, who had remained at the bottom of the excavation for the night to guard the gold. This happened about twenty-five years ago, and since then it has not been possible to discover again this rich and desirable *formaçao*, on account of the great difficulty in opening a *Lavra* in such a place where the ground is sandy and loose, and where many other attempts of the said Simão whilst he lived always miscarried.

“The present owner Manoel Joze Dias has endeavoured to do something also in the same way, but has never succeeded ; and therefore, persuaded of the hopelessness of the undertaking, has devoted all his attention to the mining of his other *Lavra*, the *Taguara Queimada*, contiguous to the former, on account of the facility of its works.

“These facts, and the account given of them, serve only, I think, to shew the wealth that has been extracted from the *Lavras* of *Antonio Pereira* : all of them in the skirts and low openings of the great mountain I have mentioned above, as appertaining to the rock of *Ouro Preto*. These same low places, which have been only partially worked, exist at present almost untouched ; and I believe that even those spots that have been worked have not been opened very deep, and therefore, it may be expected, that they still contain a good deal of gold ; and as it seems that such large quantities of gold extracted from the said low places at different times,

and even now, have been obtained from the said adjoining mountains, which have never been mined, I think it my duty to recommend to you, as very important, the purchase of the aforesaid mountains and Lavras of *Antonio Pereira*, which, joined to the portion abovementioned, of the rock of Ouro Preto, will form, together, a large and good establishment, having within its reach a supply of provisions, and other advantages that are to be derived from the two neighbouring cities of Ouro Preto and Marianna. The gold of all these Lavras is usually upwards of 23 carats.

“This is all the information I can give you regarding the said Lavras, and which information is founded upon actual and notorious facts.

I have the honour to be, &c.

(Signed) IGNACIO JOZE NOGA DA GAMA.”

Report of Mr. Edwards, (Assay Master,) addressed to Edward Oxenford, Esq.

“Ouro Preto, 12th September, 1825.

“SIR,

“In compliance with your directions, I have examined the Lavras at *Antonio Pereira*, and the result I herewith furnish you.

“ The Lavras of *Antonio Pereira* are distant about eight miles in a westerly direction from Villa Rica, now called *Ouro Preto*, and are situated on the foot of a high mountain, running from N.N.W., to S.S.E., the upper surface of which is encrusted with a rich oxyde of iron and manganese to the depth of five to fifteen feet. The Lavras that have hitherto been worked by the present possessors are situated in the lower declivity of this mountain, the soil of which consists of *decomposed schist, oxyde of iron, and manganese, white quartz, with a strata of mica slate, iron glance, and a brown red oxyde of iron called in this country jacatinga*; in this formation the gold is found in grains, and only when accident in the course of their washings has brought them in contact with the real lodes, have they attempted to work them, for the old method of washing is more conformable to their ideas of labour, than attacking a solid mass of quartz;—notwithstanding, the gold found in this soil and the immediate neighbourhood of the lodes has been very considerable, and it still continues to yield it in abundance. Upon other parts of the estate they have endeavoured to obtain it by sinking perpendicularly, and which, while they could keep out the water, gave them a very handsome return, but as soon as the water appeared, their mine was lost.—Not having *machinery* to assist them in withdrawing the water, or *science* sufficient to guide them to follow the various lodes that exist on this estate, they are induced to abandon immense wealth.

“ There is a small rivulet that has its origin in one of the mountains belonging to this property, which runs nearly through the whole estate, and which stream has caused to these people the destruction of their mines and riches, and which may be turned to the greatest advantages in future

operations, when conducted with science, and the more modern mode of mining.

“ Having inspected the Lavras, mines, and manner of washing now in use, I made a *close and strict survey* of every part of the estate, and I find the lodes to cross it in a variety of places in the direction of W.S.W. to E.N.E., continuing, in my opinion, from the estate to the back of the lodes of Ouro Preto, out of which so much wealth has already been extracted. The dip of these lodes under the valley being very considerable, in addition to the abhorrence the natives have of working quartz, has caused them to lose sight of them altogether, and they never calculated upon the same lodes re-appearing on the opposite hills; this is the fact, for I have personally discovered a lode at the north side of the estate, a small quantity of which having been washed by one of the miners, produced several grains of gold, and which had never been observed by the owners.

“ It is my decided opinion that the whole of this estate contains the precious metal in a degree not yet calculated upon. Where there are so many *practical miners* belonging to the Association, it would be presumption in me to point out the most advantageous mode of working it; but it appears *evident and clear*, that by erecting stamping mills on the before-mentioned stream, in order to crush the quartz as well also as the auriferous stones, and which have been for years thrown aside, and by sinking a shaft in order to drain and prevent the accumulation of water in the old mines, which hitherto have not exceeded the depth of fifteen fathom, the rich veins of gold would be recovered, and enormous wealth would in a very short time be extracted, that would amply and fully satisfy the most sanguine expectations, in the event of the Association becoming the purchasers of this estate.

“The Lavras of *Tacuara Queimada*, joined to that of the far famed mine of Manoel Jozé Dias, better known by the name of *Antonio Pereira*, would make a compact estate; the latter has been noticed by every traveller who has visited the mines of this province, and the reports of the many living witnesses of its incalculable riches, places the advantage of purchasing it, in my opinion, beyond a doubt. I have studiously avoided noticing the various reports which may have reached me of the wealth which this property contains, knowing that you must be in possession of them: ocular demonstration has convinced me they are not without foundation.

“I shall make a collection of specimens of the different ores, with their matrix and formations, together with its assay and carat weight ascertained, for the Board of Directors.

I have the honor to be, &c.

(Signed)

T. W. EDWARDS,

Assay Master.”

Doctor Gardner's Report

“Conforming with the wish of Edward Oxenford, Esq. expressed in his letter, dated Rio de Janeiro, 10th of July, 1825, Dr. Gardner has endeavoured to arrange a Report upon the Lavra of *Antonio Pereira*, which he hopes may be useful to the Association.

“The first Lavra or Mine, (if it may be so called) that he visited was that of *Antonio Pereira*, situate some eight miles to the northward of the Imperial City of *Ouro Preto*,

through a country (after leaving the village of *St. Sebastian*,) less mountainous than other parts in the vicinity of the Imperial City, the superstratum of which being generally ferruginous clay, with primitive, and partly decomposed schist, until a nearer approach to the far famed *Lavras of Antonio Pereira*, where the roads are literally composed of rust, or a peroxide of iron, announcing the vicinity of a mountain of compact iron stone, of specular hæmatites, and stalactitic iron, together with much manganese; arriving at its summit the Geologist cannot pass without contemplating the grandeur of the scene below: he must form to his mind immense mountains, perhaps once seated on the very place he stands, that have slipped down and filled a deep ravine underneath, carrying with them immense riches which are said to be yet contained in the valley of *Antonio Pereira*, and leaving a mountain of iron. The adjacent village, like all others in the mining districts, was built in consequence of the riches of the place, and together with the surrounding country has taken the same name, like that of *Ante. Dias* founder of *Villa Rica* and other villages on the *Rio Doce*. That this village and the suburbs of *Antonio Pereira* have been very rich is shewn by the work done, and by the fact that the inhabitants have dismantled their houses in many places, for the purpose of breaking up the ferruginous stones of which they were composed to get out the gold, and are now actually rewashing the earth and stones thrown away before as useless; no part being thought worth working in older times, that was attended with any difficulty.

“The territory of *Antonio Pereira* is of great extent, not only comprizing the Lavra occupied by the descendants of *Simaõ Ferreira* where great treasure is said to exist, but

many others. That which recommends these Lavras particularly to the attention of the Association, is the generally believed existence of an immense treasure hidden in the former bed of the water course of an old ravine. The circumstantial evidences in favour of this belief are many—it is said that about thirty years since, these riches were discovered by Antonio Pereira or his descendants in the following manner: on making a shaft about ten fathom deep, they found the deposit getting continually richer, and being tempted by such increase, and persuaded that the rich formation was below, they continued digging without securing the shaft properly, solely intent on obtaining the riches; that on one evening they discovered the vein, or formation, and in an hour before night came on, they took out 2,800,000 Rs. worth of gold; the owner full of joy ordered them to desist, being persuaded that in the morning his fortune would be made, but his foreman more impatient and desirous to enrich himself, went with about seven negroes at midnight, and began digging again, when the whole of the superincumbent mass fell in and launched them into eternity. To this tradition in all its general bearings there is not a dissenting voice, and many are living who know the fact, the only difference being as to the quantity of gold taken out on the evening preceding the disaster, which varies from the value of seven mil-cruzadoes (2,800,000 Rs.,) to twenty (8,000,000 Rs.) Many attempts have since been made by the same family to reach again the desired spot without effect. Simão Fereira made an opening or shaft of great diameter, secured in the best manner he was able, descending gradually; he erected a chain pump worked by negroes to take off the water, but going deeper, such was its increase, that he found the pump of little use, when he formed the intention of commencing below the spot about

1500 braças, and bringing up an open water level to the shaft, for the purpose of taking off the water: this open level was the cause of his failure, for the rains, which at seasons continue for three months, and the natural water of the level, rendered it impossible to continue the work, as it was no sooner done than it fell in from the looseness of the soil. He died without completing it, after expending much, and becoming in debt fifty-four mil cruzadoes or 21,000,000 Rs. Family dissensions and lawsuits paralyzed the whole until Manuel Jozé Dias, the present owner, who married the daughter of Simão, began again in the full persuasion of the fact, to drive a water level about the same distance from the mine, but profiting by the failure of his wife's father, he made a conduit of stone four hundred and eighty paces in length, ten palms high, and four broad, but tired out, disgusted, and finding no income, he has abandoned the mine, and is now working at a washing situated in the same territory, leaving, as he declares, only 900 paces of canal yet to form to arrive at the confluence of the waters, which is about ten fathoms below the surface, and near to the expected treasure.—That these men have been disappointed, that they have expended much without success, is no proof of the non-existence of a rich strata below; it almost amounts to a proof of the fact, seeing, that not only the wife's father, after expending and becoming in debt 54,000 cruzadoes, the son-in-law should attempt the same on better principles, but not being so ardent, and having less property, gave it up to seek that which will hardly defray the expences of his family. The present owner has worked the mine to a certain depth with profit, finding the gold in a peroxide of iron and clay, seated on the foot of a dolomite rock that runs into the ravine under

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the surface; in fact the richness of the place is proverbial for fifty leagues round. Reasoning analogically, every thing appears favorable: the soil is the same as in other rich Lavras: the great abundance of iron, of glance reduced to sand, cascalho, the peroxide of iron already named, and the super-stratum of decomposed schist that occupies the upper part of the amphitheatre, form a geological proof of the existence of gold. The topography of the place stands forward as one of the most prominent proofs of the fact, if we take a view of the high rock of dolomite almost perpendicular behind the house; we may suppose it was the barrier that stopped the falling mass that split from the iron mountain opposite, and filled up the ravine. On a closer inspection we find, that the house stands on nearly the most projecting part of the rock, and that this projection continues and runs into the old ravine below, under the surface, in front of the house; this must have opposed any rolling mass from going further, formed an eddy, raised the waters of the ravine, and thrown the river to the opposite side, which situation it kept until very lately. On inspecting such a situation, a miner would expect a greater deposit of gold than where the place is less interrupted, even supposing the theory not to be correct, and the filling up of the ravine to be caused by an alluvial deposit only, the work of immense time; even so, such a situation is likely to be the most rich, from the interruption experienced by the precipitating of the waters against the foot of the rock: the present depth of the valley will lead to the same conclusion, how much more so when in the original state of a ravine! Such then is the situation of the rich spot pointed out by the public, and the owner of the place, and such are the reasons in favor of its existence.

.....

"The purity of the gold obtained from the different Lavras in and about *Antonio Pereira* is various: that of the mine in question is said to be 23,3 carats, 24 being purity itself; as to the quantity of gold that might be obtained from it in a given time, it is impossible to form a just idea, having no established data to calculate from. *Antonio Pereira* is well situated for the purchase of provisions, and communication with the city of *Marianna*, and the Imperial City of *Ouro Preto*; to the former there is a cart road.

.....

I remain, &c. &c.

(Signed) DANIEL GARDNER, M.D."

Extract of a Letter from Mr. Edward Oxenford to the Chairman, Joshua Walker, Esq. M.P. dated Ouro Preto, 30th September, 1825.

"SIR,

"My last respects were dated the 2d instant, and I now, in the prosecution of my duty, continue to lay before you the measures I have adopted relative to the objects of my mission.

"On the 3d instant I proceeded to *Antonio Pereira*, accompanied by the Gentlemen stated in my last. The result of a most diligent and minute survey of several days, was a decided opinion expressed by the examiners of the great

value of this property, independent of the tradition already related to you. On ascertaining the result of the survey, and receiving the recommendation I inclose, I immediately proceeded to treat for the purchase of "*Matta Cavallos*," "*Tacuara Queimada*," and "*Sociedade Grande*." The Law of "*Partilhas*" clouds with obscurity the title-deeds of the landed property of this Empire, and oppresses the purchaser with the greatest doubt and anxiety. I regret to say that this is so much the case with the Lavra of "*Sociedade Grande*," that I felt it my duty to decline the purchase. The Lavras of "*Matta Cavallos*," and "*Tacuara Queimada*," have likewise a flaw in the title, which, though they have been sold four times in their present state, will deter me from the purchase, unless some measure can be adopted to make the proprietorship of the Association rest upon solid and undisputed grounds. The Gentleman whom I have consulted and appointed to make the legal investigations on behalf of the Association, is Senhor Doutor Theotônio Álvares de Oliveira Maciêl; he is a member of the "Conselho do Governo" of this Province, possesses considerable political influence, and is a first rate lawyer.

"Senhor Sayão, a Dean of the Chapter of Marianna, did me the favour of committing to paper what he knows and witnessed of this Lavra. Copy of his detail I inclose.

"From this city I shall dispatch Messrs. Edwards and Gardner to "*Barra*" and "*Crasto*" to make their report on the same; and likewise to examine the mines of "*Bernardo Vasco*" and "*Catta Preta*;" all the principal mines of this province will then have been examined."

Extract of a Letter from Mr. Edward Oxenford, to the Chairman, Joshua Walker, Esq. M.P. dated Ouro Preto, 10th October, 1825.

"SIR,

"On the 30th ult. I had last the honor of addressing you, and I now inclose the title-deeds, &c. relative to the purchase, for account of the Association, of the Lavras of "*Matta Cavallos*" and "*Tacuara Queimada*." You will observe that I have given 3,000,000 Rs., beyond the 6,000,000 Rs., the price of the first offer, and that the money has been appropriated as follows, viz.

4,000,000 Rs. (about £850) half silver and half paper have been paid to Manoel Jozé Dias to enable him to buy off the heirs of Simão Ferreira.

5,150,000 Rs. (about £1100) in paper have been deposited in the public coffers to be paid Manoel Jozé Dias when he presents the concurrence to the sale of the said heirs of Simão Ferreira; the time limited for his so doing is six months. The 150,000 Rs. over is the premium on silver, agreed at 6 per cent. it is reckoned on 2,500,000 Rs., being half cash and half paper.

"For the 4,000,000 Rs. paid down, I insisted on a security; and, as you will perceive, have obtained the guarantee of Senhor Jozé Ferreira de Oliveira, one of the most wealthy and respectable merchants of Marianna. I congratulate the Board on having taken possession, on behalf of the Association, of a Lavra, which, from a combination of circum-

stances, is perhaps the most noted and most interesting of this Empire. I hope the Board will approve of the method adopted to place the validity of our title beyond the possibility of future doubt or embarrassment. They will not, I trust, consider the sum expended as too great for this object. My feeling is, that this purchase is a subject for great mutual congratulation. If there be any merit in making it, or in the strict scrutiny the titles have undergone, it belongs principally to Colonel Gama; his great local and traditional knowledge, his extensive influence, his zeal, I might say enthusiasm, for the service, render him a coadjutor of paramount importance.

“Three out of five of the heirs of Simão Ferreira will immediately sign their relinquishment of every claim; the length of time stipulated is to get at the other two, one being at “*Canto Gallo*,” the other at “*Matto Grosso*.”

“I beg in this place to observe, that I have departed from the original intention of the Board, of buying virgin lands to begin their operations upon, from the opinion of Mr. Tregoning, that the erection of houses, stamping mills, &c. the cutting of water courses, &c. would far exceed in expence the sum which I have given for the Lavras with these necessities included; besides which, Mr. Edwards is of opinion, that where gold has been found on the surface, it will be obtained in greater quantities in the bowels of the mountains; and that it is safer to work upon tried than untried ground.”

Copy of Senhor Sayão's Detail, referred to in Mr. Oxenford's Letter of the 30th September.

"The Lavras of *Antonio Pereira* are situated on the bed of the river *Gualacho*, which empties itself in one of the bays of the river *Doce*, on the plains of *Antonio Pereira*, between two very auriferous mountains, from whose steeps, the rains loosening the earth, carry down of necessity a good deal of gold to the said bed, besides what it originally contains in itself. This is confirmed by the following facts, which however romantic they may appear, are nevertheless strictly true.

"Former possessors in endeavouring to extract gold, and having reached the proper spot where the lumps and grains of that metal are to be found mixed up with the earth and sand, met with the misfortune that from one of the sides of the excavation a large piece of the rock got loose and fell, filling up all the space below, so that no gold could be extracted. The late Rev. Francisco Vieira da Silva, a very enterprising man, with great labour and much expence, had almost succeeded in breaking and removing that enormous mass of rock, when he died, in 1792 or 93; and his brother Simão Ferreira completed the task in the year 1795 or 96; when the place being cleared and free from obstruction, he, in the course of one evening, extracted at least 5,000 cruza-does, reckoning the value of the gold at the legal rate of 1,200 Rs. per octave, and determined to prosecute on the next and following days the extraction of the wonderful quantity of gold that he saw. But unfortunately that same night, the earth that had been dug up, and which lay in heaps on

the side of the excavation, gave way, and filled the place so rapidly, that the foreman and slaves who remained in it to watch, were buried in the ruins. Simão Ferreira applied himself to clear the place again, and in one day extracted 3,000 cruzadoes; but immediately after that the water burst in, and filled it so completely, that in spite of water-wheels that were used to drain it, it became a pool of water, which has been its condition ever since, and only from its circumference has gold since been extracted."

"WE, the undersigned, Officers of the Imperial Brazilian Mining Association, having carefully surveyed and examined the Lavras of "*Matta Cavallos*," "*Tacuara Queimada*," and those adjoining, commonly called "*Lavras da Sociedade*," do hereby recommend the same to Mr. Edward Oxenford for purchase, on account of the said Association.

(Signed) WM. TREGONING,
THOMAS MARTYN,
T. W. EDWARDS,
DANIEL GARDNER, M.D."

"*Imperial City of Ouro Preto*,
9th September, 1825."

CATTA PRETA.

*Extract from Mr. Edward Oxenford's Letter to the
Chairman, dated Marianna, 31st October, 1825.*

" I returned on the 28th instant from the survey of the old Mine of *Catta Preta*. By the recommendation of the Officers of the Association I have bought it, with the houses and forests, for 24,000,000 Rs. the sellers paying the *Siza* ; two nooks of land which destroy the compactness of the estate must likewise be bought ; the price will not, I should think, exceed 2,000,000 Rs. The sellers calculate the houses on this property capable of accommodating four hundred men ; half this number will perhaps come nearer the mark. The reports and recommendation of the Officers shall be forwarded to you by next post. The title deeds are under the examination of our lawyers. The purchase of this estate puts the Association in possession of a cordon running about fifty miles N.W. from *Antonia Pereira* to *Gongo Soco*, through which run the most celebrated lodes of this Province."

.....

*Mr. Tregoning's Report upon the Estate of Catta Preta,
dated 1st July, 1825.*

1st. Is a good house, and several cottages ;

2ndly. The estate is about three miles long and two miles wide, with plenty of timber trees on it, and a good stream of water.

3dly. There is a large lode that runs the long way of the estate ; this lode is from ten to twenty fathoms wide, very soft, composed of iron and manganese ; gold is mixed all through the lode, and has been worked all the width for twenty-five fathoms deep ; they drained the water with chain pumps, and the stuff was drawn up with a water-wheel on small wheel carriages ; but this large pit has been filled up with stuff from the washings on the side of the hill. Farther up in the hill there is another lode parallel with the former ; it has been worked 2 or 300 fathoms long ; there was no person to inform us of the depth, neither could we see the bottom because of the stuff fallen in ; we were down in several places twenty or thirty fathoms deep ; there are several arches left to keep open the mine ; the whole of this stuff was brought up in bowls on men's heads. This lode is from three to six feet wide, composed of hard spar, nearly all of which was broke with gunpowder. Report says this was left off rich, but could not follow it because of water. I like this lode as well as any that I have seen. There is a good advantage for a water engine, stamping mills, &c. to work this lode effectually. The primitive soil is a fine kellas.

(Signed) WILLIAM TREGONING.

*Colonel Gama's Report.**"Ouro Preto, 15th October, 1825.*

To Edward Oxenford, Esq.

" SIR,

" I have the honor to wait upon you with the following information regarding the Lavra called "*Catta Preta*," on the plains of *Inficionada*, distant from this city between six and seven leagues, and belonging to the heirs of the late Manoel Joze Fernandes de Oliveira.

" I am informed that the first owner of this Lavra, by a purchase he made of it from the natives of the province of *San Paulo*, who discovered the same upwards of a hundred years ago, was Major Antonio Correa Sardinha, who mined the rivulet of the same name, and the river *Pericicabá*, as well as the square of the said plains, fronting the place where the principal church now stands ; who, after having held it for about sixteen years, more or less, sold it for twelve arroves of gold (58,982,400 Rs. at the then current rate of 1,200 Rs. per octave of gold), to Captain Mor Manoel Jorge Coelho, Paulo Roiz Duraõ, and other partners, and retired to Portugal, his native country, with great wealth. Some time afterwards the said Duraõ bought his partners' shares, and became owner of the whole Lavra. Colonel Manoel Fernandes de Oliveira, father to the present owners, afterwards bought this property. He worked for twenty-three years, having commenced in 1780 ; and I am told that in the years 1786 and 87 he extracted 20,800 octaves of gold, from the excavation he made in front of the house, of more

than a hundred spans in length, called *Buraco de Santo Antonio*, after having first worked in the excavation (180 spans in depth) which he made in the years 1780 to 85, in the place called *Caldeirão*, also fronting the house. At the death of the Colonel, his heirs went on mining the said Lavra, but with slender profits, especially of late, which I ascribe not only to the insufficiency of their means to work the mines, the gold, as it is said, existing very deep in the earth, but also to their want of scientific knowledge to direct the works properly; for, according to the opinion of some of the best experienced miners in this country, the same auriferous veins, upon which the two aforesaid excavations were opened, run through and cross the grounds belonging to this Lavra; and it is very probable, they say, that in some places they contain immense wealth.

“Founded upon this supposition, and on the information I possess of the great quantity of gold this Lavra produced in former times; my knowledge of the great extent of its grounds, which are unworked, together with its situation, and the neighbourhood of the mountain of *Caracá*, which has always been very auriferous, I invited Mr. Tregoning to make his experiments on the said Lavra; and they took place on the 30th June, 1st and 2d July of the present year, when we were there, as he no doubt has informed you. The gold of “*Catta Preta*” is of the finest quality known, and upwards of twenty-three carats.

“Regarding provisions, I do not think there is much cause for apprehension, except in years of sterility. Timber for building can be obtained from a distance of six to eight leagues, and the sellers themselves bring it always in carts.

"This is all the information I have to give you on this subject.

I am, &c. &c.

(Signed) IGNACIO J. NOGA DA GAMA."

Report from Dr. Gardner, Dated 2d November, 1825.

(Addressed to Edward Oxenford, Esq.)

"The Lavras of "*Catta Preta*," "*Catta Velha*," and "*Catta Grande*" are among those that were first worked by the *Paulistas* (natives of *San Paulo*), about the year 1690. The river *Pericicabá* forms the front and principal boundary of the estate; its greatest length runs nearly north and south for a Portuguese league; its eastern and western boundaries are not so well defined, being of different widths. The estate possesses three descriptions of auriferous lodes, or veins; the first is of quartz, the second of blind coal, in parts of plumbago, or carburet of iron, commonly called black lead; the third lode, or rather formation of gold being in an aluminous earth, coloured red by an oxyde of iron.

"The first species of lode in quartz is the most plentiful, and the least worked, probably on account of its hardness. It does not merely consist of one main lode, but many, in parts as stratum, superstratum; they are of different perpendicular heights, or thicknesses, from one to five feet, and in parts their horizontal width is from forty to sixty feet; others are not so wide; they do not all run in the same

direction, having met with obstacles during their course through the primitive rock in which they are embedded, or the fissures wherein they were deposited having originally taken that form caused by the same opposition. They run nearly the whole length of the estate, two of them passing under the house, extending to the mountain called *Pai Tomé*, where they again subdivide, and take many courses, and appear to run through the mountain in angles from 30° to 90° . At the upper part of this mountain it is said there are old mines which cannot have been worked these fifty years, from the thickness of the timber that obstructs their entrance; and in many places the decomposed rock has given way and has a similar effect. In this mountain this description of lode has been more worked than in other parts of the estate, and it is impossible to say to what extent, from their being closed up, particularly on the eastern side of the mountain. The lodes in this place appear to be richer in gold than in the more northern parts of the estate, the quartz having more colour, and containing mechanically mixt a large portion of the peroxide of iron, one of the general companions of gold. These lodes are all seated in what the Brazilians call "*areiaõ*," similar to sand stone, but it is evidently decomposed gneiss.

"The second kind of lode, called *Preta*, from its blackness, is situated in the Lavra called "*Catta Preta*;" is of plumbago, and an intermediate variety between it and graphite slate; it runs also north and south, underneath, and in places much below the first lode. An apparent line of separation might be drawn between the two lodes, their inclinations to the horizon being in positive opposite directions, forming an obtuse angle of about 120° , running east and

west; their inclinations to the perpendicular being the same as the quartz lode in the northernmost part of the estate, running together from north to south for nearly the whole extent of the estate, but going very deep to the southward, and perhaps it is lost entirely a little out of the estate, as an amphitheatre and barrier is formed by the adjacent hills that run abruptly east and west; but this depends greatly on their structure, quality and form. This lode has been worked by the present owners for these twenty years; they are now working the most superior part of it with negroes, the lowermost part along the valley and near the house being already taken out. The width of the lode is about thirty feet; but on the northernmost dip of the hill towards the *Pericabá* it is wider, and somewhat embarrassed by Ironstone, Chlorite, and Cyanite. Its thickness can only be determined by report; the owners say very great: as far as could be judged it should appear to be about five feet. This lode is only rich where it is in mixture with milky quartz, which deposit is interspersed through the whole without order or regularity of direction, and it is evidently the effect of the destruction of quartz lodes from the very high cordillera of the mountains of *Carassa*, distant about two leagues. This second lode appears to be the richest, and being soft, suits the Brazilian manner of working, but the first is the most lasting; and the intelligent miner will never spend time in washing away a mountain to get to a lode, when he can sink down to it in much less time, and with less labour and expence.

“The third lode, or formation, is situated in “*Catta Velha*,” and is the oldest part worked of the estate. It is a clay, or an aluminous decomposition, coloured by a peroxide of iron, holding in places the same substance hardened,

or not so much decomposed, but sufficiently so to resist the action of washing or streaming. These stones are in many heaps on the place, and by stamping will yet yield gold. This lode is stated to be very rich, and certainly much work has been done by the first possessor. Nothing can be said as to its size and depth, the earth having fallen in. Its course would appear to be more easterly than the other two lodes, and, like the milky quartz in the plumbago one, is evidently a precipitation from the *Carassa* mountain. Twelve negroes were employed in washing away the upper strata to get to the lode below. At the end of this Lavra is that of "*Catta Grande*," in which the formation of plumbago appears in parts, but as it has not been worked for a long time, and is so much overgrown with underwood, it was impossible to examine it minutely. There are on the estate two principal water courses, and three lesser ones, well supplied, and belonging to the property, together with a *Sesmaria*, or grant of virgin land, from whence these waters spring.—On the whole it is a good estate; notwithstanding it is an old one, and much worked, there is more yet to be done, and is strongly to be recommended to the attention of the Association. It has the advantage of being in a line of connection between *Antonio Pereira* and *Gongo Soco*. There are virgin lands in its vicinity that can be purchased, at public auction, of the judge or fiscal for the dead and absent, for a trifling sum; and behind those are crown lands of the mountain of *Carassa*. Nothing would appear to remain, but to determine the relative value of the different lodes, by a comparative and strict analysis of them, for the miner to form an exact idea which is the best to commence to work upon.

I remain, &c. &c.

(Signed) DANIEL GARDNER, M.D."

Report from Mr. Edwards (Assay Master).

To Edward Oxenford, Esq.

" *Marianna*, 30th Nov. 1825.

" SIR ;

" Accompanied by Dr. Gardner and Mr. Tregoning, I inspected the Lavra of *Catta Preta* on the 20th ult., the result I herewith hand you.

" The Lavra of *Catta Preta* is situated in the immediate vicinity of the town of *Inficionado*, distant about six leagues from *Ouro Preto*, and four from *Antonio Pereira* ; and directly under the immense mountain of *Cattas Altas*, a continuation of the range of the Cordilleras, in whose vicinity alone for a certain distance all the gold hitherto discovered in South America is to be met with. This Lavra has hitherto furnished an abundant supply of that metal. We found the lodes here of two formations ; one very large and inexhaustible in quartz, forming an inclination of about 45° to the west ; and the other of *jacatinga* (oxyde of iron and manganese) running parallel, and only separated from the quartz formation by a small stream, at a similar inclination to the east. The extent of this property I beg also to draw your attention to, being considerably larger than any I have yet met with ; very compact, and forming nearly an oval, and has other lodes traversing it on various directions ; and I have reason to think, that the auriferous lodes of all the Lavras on this side the mountain, run through this estate into their grand depot of the enormous *Cattas Altas*. Under these circumstances, together with the various local advantages it pos-

sesses, having sufficient timber, water courses, and accommodations for our miners immediately to commence their operations, I would strongly recommend that this Lavra should be purchased for the benefit of the Association ; as, independent of its locality, which possesses advantages greater than any I have yet seen, its contiguity with *Antonio Pereira*, and being in the direct line with *Gongo Soco*, it forms a line of country very desirable to be obtained, and wherein the auriferous lodes are found to be more rich and valuable. I shall not now occupy your time by saying any thing of the mineralogical character of this estate, but confine myself to the foregoing more important description of the auriferous quality of its Lavras ; but cannot refrain from stating, that it furnishes almost within its own limits every description of mineral production found in this district ; and for the mineralogist opens a wide field for his research ; this, I presume, arises from its contiguity to the mountain of *Cattas Altas*, which appears to be the centre and receptacle of every species of mineral.

I have the honour to be, &c. &c.

(Signed) T. W. EDWARDS."

" WE, the undersigned, officers of the Imperial Brazilian Mining Association, after a careful and laborious examination of the Lavra of *Catta Preta*, in the neighbourhood of *Inficionado*, are of opinion, that the said estate, from the rich auriferous formations it contains, together with its extent, woods, and situation, with respect to its water-courses being so well adapted for erecting stamping mills &c. at a small expence, would be a desirable addition to the

estates already purchased for the Association ; and do hereby earnestly recommend Mr. Edward Oxenford to purchase the same for their benefit.

Ouro Preto, 1st Dec. 1825.

(Signed) T. W. EDWARDS,
DANIEL GARDNER, M.D.
WILLIAM TREGONING."

*Extract of a Letter from Mr. Edward Oxenford to the
Chairman, Joshua Walker, Esq. M.P. Dated
Marianna, 3rd December, 1825.*

" SIR ;

" I last had this honour on the 31st of October, since which period the rainy season has commenced with a violence almost unprecedented, swelling the rivulets into torrents, and nearly annihilating the communication between this city and the surrounding country. In consequence I have had nothing worthy of notice to inform you of, as the waters impeded the measurement of the estate of *Catta Preta*, and until that was judicially effected, no titles could be conveyed sufficient to satisfy my mind with their legal validity ; a period of upwards of 90 years having elapsed since the last demarcation of its boundaries. I determined, therefore, to petition the proper authorities for its remeasurement, and for a summons to all the proprietors of the adjoining estates, to enforce a declaration of their objection (if any) to the limits which I deemed of the greatest importance to have legally established. The result I now lay before you in the enclosed notarial copy of the original document, relative to the

measurement of the *Catta Preta* property ; and in doing so, I cannot refrain from congratulating the Board on its great extent. It contains, besides its *Sesmaria* and *possessões*, five hundred and five *Datas* of mineral ground, each *Data* consisting of thirty *braças*, or fathoms square. *Sesmarias* are granted for agricultural purposes ; *Datas* for mineral.— I shall petition to alter the tenure of the original grant, and to obtain a licence to mine on the *Sesmaria*. A *sesmaria* contains a quarter of a league square. The nooks of land, which, as I before mentioned, destroyed the compactness of this estate, have been bought, for account of the Association, for 400,000 Rs. For further particulars, I refer you to the following documents under this cover, viz.

“ Notarial copy of the conveyance and sale of the estate of *Catta Preta* to the Imperial Brazilian Mining Association.

“ Mr. Edwards’s Report on the estate of *Catta Preta*.

“ Dr. Gardner’s ditto.

“ Col. Gama’s ditto.

“ Recommendations to purchase ditto.

“ Mr. Tregoning and the greater part of the miners are now on their journey to *Catta Preta*, to commence immediate operations ; having quitted *Barra* and *Crasto*, in consequence of the survey not having proved sufficiently favourable to justify me in renting it for the benefit of the Association. I enclose a dissuasive document to that effect from the surveyors.”

SUCH are the reports and opinions of the officers of the Association: they will prove that the proceedings have been marked with prudence, and a proper degree of activity, and that as much progress has been made as the nature of circumstances would admit.

The accounts of the Association have been audited and signed: hitherto, of course, they only exhibit expenditure. The Directors have endeavoured by every means in their power to economize the resources at their disposal, and have the greatest hopes, that their next Annual Report will shew results of a more favourable and flattering nature. In the mean time the Shareholders may firmly rely upon the Directors holding a steady and prudent course; that the interests of the Association will be narrowly watched, and that the objects for

which it was formed, will be pursued with energy, zeal, and integrity.

The Directors have recommended to the Trustees, in whose names £20,000 were placed by Mr. Oxenford, on the 28th December, 1824, pursuant to the public advertisement of the 10th December, to return that sum to the order of Mr. Oxenford.

The Directors cannot conclude this Report without expressing their sincere thanks to the Shareholders for the confidence they have shewn, and the patience with which they have awaited the result of their labours. Many obstacles and difficulties have opposed themselves, but the Directors have persevered fearlessly in their object, supported by the good opinion of their Proprietors, and have now sincerely to congratulate them on the point, so important to the great interests of the Association, at which it has arrived. To the indefatigable assiduity, intelligence, and ability of Mr. Edward Oxenford, the Association is deeply indebted for the very favourable position in which its affairs are now placed ; and the Directors would not fulfil the duty they owe

the Shareholders, nor satisfy their own feelings, if they did not thus publicly acknowledge how much Mr. Edward Oxenford is entitled to their esteem, gratitude, and approbation, for all his persevering exertions.

*The Emperor's Sanction to the Contract of
Gongo Soco.*

Translation.

PETITION FROM OUR AGENTS TO THE EMPEROR.

“Sire,

“The humble Petition of Ferdinand Oxenford, and Warre Raynsford and Maziere, Agents in this City to the Brazilian Mining Association in the Province of Minas Geraes, *Sheweth*, That your Petitioners having received information from Edward Oxenford, principal partner in the said Association, at present residing in the Imperial City of Ouro Preto, of his having purchased the Lavra of Gongo Soco, for the sum of three hundred thousand milreis, subject to the condition of having the sale approved of by your Imperial Majesty; your Petitioners request the favour of your Majesty's Imperial approbation, to enable the parties to conclude the contract; And should the Imperial approbation of your Majesty not be requisite, your Petitioners then humbly request your Majesty will be graciously pleased to signify the same to the President of the Government of the said Province of Minas Geraes, to do away any doubt that may exist on the subject, and that the Association may pay the sum of one hundred thousand milreis into the National Treasury, as they are obliged to do, as security for the payment of future Imperial duties, according to the provisions of the Decree of the 16th September, 1824, and thus commence their operations on the said Lavra.

And your Petitioners will ever pray,” &c.

THE EMPEROR'S ANSWER.

(Copy)

“ HIS MAJESTY THE EMPEROR
attending to what Ferdinand Oxenford and Warre Raynsford
and Maziere, Agents in this City to the Brazilian Mining
Association in the Province of Minas Geraes, represented to
him in their Petition, requesting the Imperial approbation
of the Purchase which Edward Oxenford, one of the Partners,
has effected of the Lavra of Gongo Soco, in the said Pro-
vince, It is his pleasure to approve the said Purchase in
the manner they request; the Association, however, are
to fulfil the conditions contained in the Decree of the
16th September, 1824.

Palace of Rio de Janeiro, 7th January, 1826.

(Signed) **“ VISCOUNT OF BARBACENA.”**

It agrees with the original.

(Signed) **“ THEODORO JOSE BENECARDI.”**

*First General Meeting held at the London
Tavern, 9th March, 1826,*

JOSHUA WALKER, Esq. M.P. IN THE CHAIR,

Attended by all the Directors (Mr. Oxenford excepted),

After the Report was read by the Chairman,

It was proposed by William Oxenford, Esq. sen.
and seconded by William Laforest, Esq.

That the Report now read be approved.

It was proposed by William Laforest, Esq. and
seconded by John George Denman, Esq.

That the thanks of this Meeting be given to
the Chairman and Directors for the zeal and
attention they have paid to the concerns of the
Association.

It was proposed by William Hamilton, Esq. and
seconded by Henry Cunliffe, Esq.

That the cordial thanks of this Meeting be given

to Edward Oxenford, Esq. for the judicious, able, and zealous manner in which he has so successfully exerted himself to promote the interest of this Association.

That a Copy of the above Resolutions be sent to Edward Oxenford, Esq. by the first Brazil Mail.

JOSHUA WALKER, Chairman.

Mr. Walker having quitted the Chair, it was moved by William Laforest, Esq. and seconded by John George Denman, Esq.

That the thanks of this Meeting be given to Joshua Walker, Esq. for his very able conduct in the Chair.

All the Resolutions were carried unanimously.

THIRD REPORT,

Being extracts from Mr. Edward Oxenford's letters, and translation of one from Colonel Gama, read by the Chairman of the Imperial Brazilian Mining Association, at a Special General Meeting of the Shareholders, held at the London Tavern, on Tuesday, the 6th June, 1826.

From Mr. E. Oxenford's Letter to the Chairman.

*Dated Ouro Preto,
19th December, 1825.*

“From the City of Marianna under date of the 3rd instant, I last had the honor of addressing you.— I then informed you that in consequence of H. I. Majesty having refused his sanction to our working the important mine of Gongo Soco, I intended to proceed thither, to request its owner to consider our contract as pending until

I had tried the effect of a personal application at Rio de Janeiro. From this journey I am just returned, having succeeded in its object, even to the point of inducing the Cappão Mor to submit his titles, &c. to examination, and to pass, at Villa Nova Da Rainha, a regular public writing of sale and purchase, subject, however, to his Majesty's approval. Our lawyer, Senhor Doutor Theotônio, being unwilling to risk himself on the road during the rainy season, I was compelled to procure other legal advice, and fixed on Senhor Doutor Antonio Augusto Monteiro de Barros, member of the Legislative Assembly, and Ouvidor of Sabará. Being most fortunately acquainted with this Gentleman, who was at Villa Nova Da Rainha on his annual circuit, I rode over from Gongo Soco to request his assistance, which he very kindly afforded, and under his auspices a document of sale and purchase was drawn up and entered upon the public books, founded upon the basis of the private contract I before have had the honor of transmitting to you. The notarial copies cannot be got ready to send you by this post, but by that of the 31st instant I hope to be able to forward them to you. On my arrival at this city, I received the very opportune communication from Rio de Janeiro, that a favourable opportunity had been seized on to press upon his Majesty to reconsider the application relative to the obtainment of His Imperial Sanction to our working Gongo Soco. It is understood that His Majesty consents to grant his approval of the Contract, and will take into consideration the propriety of allowing us to proceed without the onus of the additional five per cent.

.....

From the same to the same.

Dated Ouro Preto,

31st December, 1825.

“I have to state in answer to that part of the Board’s dispatch of the 7th October last, relative to opposition to our undertaking on the part of the land owners of this province, that the very reverse is the fact. Our establishments are viewed by all classes with a most favourable eye; our miners have been received throughout the country with the greatest kindness and hospitality, and numbers of people are preparing to move to our estates to establish themselves in their several trades, expecting to reap the benefit of the capital it is calculated our presence will circulate.”

.....

“On my journey to Gongo Soco, I visited the Company’s house and estate at Antonio Pereira, and stopped two days at Catta Preta. The men are employed in cutting timber for the carpenters, who are making, under Mr. Tregoning’s direction, mud boxes, wheels, &c. &c. indispensable, I understand, to mining operations. I have ordered the entire and substantial repair of all houses and outhouses.”

.....

“I now hand inclosed “Publica Forma” of the purchase for account of the Association, of one third part of the Lavra

of Socorro, for 3,000,000 Rs. This sum is for three Shares bought for account of the Association by the Cappão Mor; the other three, forming a total of one third of the estate, are what he gives up with Gongo Soco. The proprietors of the remaining twelve-eighteenths of this Lavra have become most exorbitant in their demands since our examination and purchase of Gongo Soco; they are sinking shafts all over the estate, in the hope of discovering the Gongo lodes, but hitherto without success."

.....

From the same to the same.

*Dated Ouro Preto,
3rd January, 1826.*

.....

"My heart is set, perhaps too much so, on the success of our enterprize; and every day's observation tends to increase my conviction, that its permanent and brilliant success depends entirely on the judicious selection by the

Board of its officers ; on the sagacity of its regulations relative to the security of the property, and description of labourers ; and upon the rigid economy which ought to govern our proceedings.

“ *Antonio Pereira* is the “ El Dorado ” of the old ; *Gongo Soco* of the young. *Catta Preta* presents the prospect of a steady and sure return, with the chance, from its auriferous locality and vast extent, of yielding a discovery equal to *Gongo Soco*. Many who witnessed the almost incredible mounds of gold at *Antonio Pereira*, do not hesitate to give it the preference over *Gongo Soco*, provided we can get down to its wealth. Mr. Tregoning appears to think nothing of its difficulties ; I confess, however, I should like to have the opinion of a good English engineer on the best manner of draining it, before mining operations are commenced.”

.....

From the same to the same.

*Dated Ouro Preto,
17th January, 1826.*

“ The call for laborious exertion and serious reflection becomes more urgent as we approach the moment of setting at work the important establishment which the firmness and constancy of the Board has now brought to the verge of trial.”

.....

M

"I feel this call so strongly ; I perceive so clearly that the interests of this great though infant establishment peremptorily require my presence to give it its first impulse, that I have made up my mind to the necessity of the case : and have sent orders by this conveyance, to give up my London concerns, determined to superintend the first effects of the simultaneous action of the great body we are about to set in motion."

.....

"By the inclosed letter from Manoel Joze Dias, you will observe that the legal difficulties which might have embarrassed our operations at Antonio Pereira, are on the eve of being surmounted. The longer I live in this province, and the more people I converse with, who witnessed the catastrophe attending the history of this important mine, the stronger is my conviction of the enormous deposit of gold within its bowels. Many well informed people do not hesitate to give it the preference over Gongo Soco, their scepticism as to our power of extracting its wealth forming their only doubt of its value. Mr. Tregoning appears confident of success ; he however, may over-rate his powers, or under-rate the difficulties. A variety of self-evident reasons, besides the all powerful ones of justice and humanity to the men who are to be employed in the perilous excavation, appear to me to demand that a Civil Engineer should be sent from England, to give on this, as well as on other matters, the benefit of his counsel and services.—An engagement for one year might be sufficient, and if the Board should adopt my view of the subject, it will behove them to dispatch with all convenient haste, a person *practically* an engineer, and well acquainted with hydraulics."

.....

"19th January.—I have received the Emperor's sanction to my purchase of Gongo Soco; a copy of the Decree the agents advise having sent to you per Princess Elizabeth Packet."

.....

"Dr. Gardner and Mr. Lagden move on Antonio Pereira to-morrow morning, with one hundred labourers; from thence they will proceed by slow journies to Gongo Soco. The Capp^{ao} Mor has nearly removed his effects, and in a day or two I shall set off to take legal possession on behalf of the Association. This I shall do with all due solemnity, accompanied by a regular notary, who will furnish a judicial document of the "Acto da Posse." As three of the partners in Gongo are at Rio de Janeiro, I think this ceremony indispensable."

.....

From the same to the same.

*Dated Ouro Preto,
23rd January, 1826.*

“ I shall delay no longer proceeding to Gongo Soco to take possession, and to place the whole of our force in immediate action.”

(In a subsequent letter dated the 7th February, 1826, Mr. Edward Oxenford states it to be his opinion, that in the month of September considerable assistance may be calculated upon from the mines.)

.....

“ 7th February, 1826.—I have now the pleasure of informing you of having succeeded in purchasing another third of the Lavra and estate of “ *Socorro*,” and my satisfaction is greatly increased in having been able to do so at the comparatively small sum of 5,000,000 Rs. (about £1000) in silver, the buyer paying the *Siza*. I brought the titles with me from Gongo Soco for examination. I left every one at this latter property in full employment, making preparations for the commencement of our mining labours.”

.....

“ Colonel Gama is of the greatest service in protecting our carpenters and native masons from military duty ; no small proof of his influence at this trying moment.”

..... \

“Mr. Tregoning says it will be six weeks before all the materials can be got ready to begin upon the levels. I deplore this necessary lapse of time ; I have and shall continue to make every exertion of body and mind to expedite our operations, and I feel the fullest conviction, that under the blessing of Divine Providence, the most brilliant success will crown our efforts. As no specimens of the ores with their matrix have, I believe, been forwarded according to Mr. Edwards’s promise, I take the liberty of presenting the Board with some I had collected for my private use.* They go in a small box directed to you, and deliverable in Rio de Janeiro to the agents. I have not been able to procure any specimens of the *quartz mine* of Gongo Soco, but immediately I do so, I shall forward some to you. My petition for various pieces of crown land, desirable to the proprietors of Gongo Soco, Catta Preta, and Antonio Pereira, has been granted, and the *Escrivão da Guardamoria* is now making the survey previous to issuing the titles. I have also a person employed in forming correct maps of all our estates ; also a general one from Gongo Soco to Antonio Pereira. Drawings and plans of the different estates and mines I shall also endeavour to send you. A sketch of the house of Gongo Soco I enclose ; had it been of the mine it would be more interesting. The want of house-room at Gongo Soco will be severely felt, as tradesmen of all descriptions are flocking from far and near to establish themselves in our vicinity.”

.....

* One of these specimens has been assayed by Mr. Phillips, and gave $84\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. of pure gold.

Mr. Edward Oxenford speaks throughout in the most satisfactory way of the disposition of the local authorities, persons of influence, and inhabitants generally, towards the Association ; and gives the Directors reason to hope, that a considerable reduction in the duties on gold will be effected in Brazil, and that the exportation will be permitted. The favor of the Government may be relied upon, and especially when it is recollected, that hitherto nearly all the gold raised in the provinces has been smuggled, and thus avoided the quinto ; whereas the Association will make a due and proper return of its produce.

*Translation of Colonel Gama's Letter, dated I. C. Ouro
Preto, 8th February, 1826.*

**"To Messrs. The Directors of the Imperial Brazilian
Mining Association.**

"Gentlemen,

"Having by yesterday's post received the duplicate of your esteemed favor of the 4th and 7th October last year, which I have already had the honor of answering in duplicate on the 10th December; I cannot refrain from expressing anew to you my acknowledgments for the distinguished favor with which you honor me.

"Long before this comes to hand, you will have received information from Mr. Edward Oxenford of his having happily effected the purchase of the mines and estate of Gongo Soco, and obtained the approbation of H. I. Majesty as I predicted in my said last letter. I have no hesitation in boldly anticipating the happiest results from the purchases of the three very rich mines of Gongo Soco, Antonio Pereira, and Catta Preta; these three acquisitions are without doubt (and time will shew it) the most solid foundations upon which the extensive and gigantic establishment of the Imperial Brazilian Mining Association in this province of Minas Geraes is to be reared, notwithstanding the great and various obstacles that have been opposed to it, inasmuch as those the most ruinous have been already prudently and judiciously

removed by Mr. E. Oxenford ; and there are well grounded reasons to expect the obtainment of every protection and favor from the government of H. I. Majesty, as well as that the Imperial Association will participate also in the liberal measure which at present, it seems, engrosses the attention of Government, of reducing generally the duty upon gold from one-fifth to one-tenth, or perhaps less.

“ I conclude this letter with informing you, that I am on the eve of removal to Gongo Soco, since Mr. E. Oxenford has resolved to commence metallurgic operations there as soon as possible.

I have the honor to subscribe myself,

Gentlemen,

Your obedient and obliged Servant,

(Signed) IGNACIO JOZE NOGA DA GAMA.”

R E P O R T

OF THE

DIRECTORS

OF THE

IMPERIAL BRAZILIAN

Mining Association,

TO THE

SPECIAL GENERAL

MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS

THE

19th DAY OF JULY, 1826.

FOURTH REPORT,

&c. &c.

WITH an anxiety commensurate with the great responsibility with which they are charged, and the important interests which they have to represent and protect, the Directors of the Imperial Brazilian Mining Association, have drawn largely upon the confidence and patience of the Shareholders in that great undertaking. They have felt it to be an imperative duty upon them, neither to flatter by premature statements the hopes of the sanguine or the views of the speculator, nor to add by any expression of the anxious workings of their

own minds, through unforeseen and unexpected difficulties and obstacles, to the doubts and fears of the more timid adventurers. The Directors feel that they have had a difficult and delicate task to perform. To have followed, what under other circumstances would have been the dictates of their own wishes, and thus, from time to time, to have laid before the Shareholders and the public, the progress and impediments which alternated in the earliest stages of the enterprize, might have exposed it to the risk of a premature termination in this country, or to an accession of difficulties and exactions abroad, which on the one hand would have destroyed those hopes which are now in the act of realization, or on the other, have given rise to exorbitant demands, retarding the progress and diminishing the chances of profit. Desirous, therefore, of fulfilling with a steady and persevering hand, the duties which devolved upon them, regardless of the reproaches to which they might expose themselves from the ignorant, the disappointed, or the malevolent, and conscious of their own integrity of purpose and conduct, the Directors elected rather to be stigmatized for their silence, than to

allow the interests and prosperity of the Association to be endangered by disclosures for their own justification. The Directors have reposed confidently in the assurance, that their motives will be duly appreciated, and upon the present occasion feel particularly gratified, that they are able to lay such a statement before the Shareholders, as will satisfy them of the value and importance of the property which they now have in full right and possession in the richest province in the Brazils.

The Shareholders will recollect, that in the month of January last, the Directors thought it incumbent upon them to lay upon their table, extracts of the various important letters they had received from the Brazils. The letters from Mr. Oxenford, and the Reports from the various officers of the Association, were of a very flattering description, and the Report which is this day presented, is a remarkable confirmation of Mr. Oxenford's opinion, expressed in his letter of the 30th September, "that the produce of Gongo Soco would commence on the day of its first working."

In the Report presented by the Directors at the first Annual Meeting in March last, they confidently expressed their opinion, that prior to that time operations had commenced, and were in beneficial progress. This expectation, though not realized to the letter, has been pretty nearly so by the actual commencement of operations in the middle of that same month, and the produce having been of a description to justify the most sanguine hopes. At the Special Meeting held at this house on the 6th of June last, the Chairman read extracts from the various letters received up to that date, in which the most ample details were given of the course being pursued by Mr. Oxenford, and of the gradual accomplishment of the objects of the Association, and it is to the intelligence received since that communication, that the attention of the Shareholders is particularly called this day.

By the dispatch from Mr. Oxenford of the 23d of March, it will be seen, that he had taken legal and formal possession of the estate of Gongo Soco on the 17th of March, and, on that very day, commenced his operations, as (to use his own emphatic

words) " he was anxious to witness and report to the Directors, the result of the primary operations." The general result, (the particulars will be read in the regular extract of Mr. Oxenford's letter) was by the average working of two men at washing the rubbish and sweepings left by the last occupant, 4lbs. 10oz. 15dwt. 3grs. of gold dust for the five first days. Upon the second report of the average of four men washing the produce of the mine for nine days, 40lbs. 5oz. 12dwt. 18½grs., and upon the third report of the average of rather more than six men for nine days 37lbs. 10oz. 16dwt. 19½grs., in the whole 83lbs. 3oz. 4dwt. 17grs., or in twenty-three days, by the average washing of five men, within a few pennyweights of 1,000 ounces. It must, however, be observed, that the fluctuations in the produce of the washing are considerable, and it would be too much to expect that an invariable standard of production could be thus calculated upon. It is not upon the fallacious system of such calculations, that the Directors wish the confidence of the Shareholders to be rested: it is upon the test of experience, and the result of the indefatigable attention and industry

of Mr. Oxenford, and the scientific persons under him, and the well known zeal with which that Gentleman has ever pursued, and will continue to follow up, the interests of the Association, that their expectations must be founded: upon these they may firmly rely, but the Directors think it their duty, to caution the Shareholders against too sanguine hopes—and thus, against that disappointment which will naturally follow, if the results should not equal their anticipations, and against that dissatisfaction, which might fall (though most unjustly) upon the Directors and Mr. Oxenford. It will afford a satisfactory proof to the Shareholders of the great value which is attached to the mines, by those most capable of judging, to be informed, that all the miners, Dr. Gardner, and a foreigner perfectly unconnected with the Association, but residing in the vicinity of Gongo Soco, have remitted money to a considerable amount to be invested in shares. The Directors are now in communication with a gentleman, respecting the engagement of a civil engineer, and they hope to obtain the services of a practical scientific man for that department, who will

immediately proceed to the Brazils, and by whose aid, the whole of the mines will be placed in an effective state of working. The principal occupation of an engineer, will be in draining and repairing the place where the last occupant of Antonio Pereira left off, and in suggesting such other improvements as may be necessary for the most rapid and easy manner of working the mines generally. The number of persons now employed, and who will be all in activity at the mines long before this, including English, natives, &c. amount to nearly 300; and as the produce may from time to time justify the increase, Mr. Oxenford will add to this force, so as to give instant and more powerful effect to their labours. The Directors have received several public documents, shewing the legal possession of the various properties which have been purchased, together with the copies of the certificates of the captains of the mines, relative to the daily work and produce, and a very interesting and able letter from Dr. Gardner, upon the subject of the produce obtained from the rejected pieces of rock and earth which have hitherto been considered of no value. This is a feature of some

importance to the interest of the Association, and strengthens the opinion originally expressed, that by the application of science many advantages were to be obtained, at present unattended to or unknown by the natives. The separation of the palladium from the gold, and bringing it into a perfect metallic state, will also probably be the source of considerable profit to the Association.

It would here be a high gratification to the Directors, if they could inform the Shareholders that the gold already produced was in their own possession in London. The laws of the Brazilian Empire at present prevent the exportation of gold, but the constituent and legislative Assembly of the States will, it is understood, have two propositions submitted to them by the Government, viz. to reduce the duty upon the produce of the gold mines, and to permit the exportation of that precious metal, measures which, if adopted, will at once stamp the wisdom of the Legislature, and the certain prosperity of this Association. Samples, however, of the gold dust, and various specimens, with their analysis have been received, and will be shortly at

the Office, for the inspection of such Shareholders as may be desirous of seeing them.

In conformity with the suggestions of Mr. Oxenford, and nearly according to a plan of his own, the Directors have sent out minute instructions for the regulation of the operations at the mines, and the better security of the property now becoming daily of such value ; and they firmly hope, that such measures have been adopted as will effectually guard against the danger of fraud, peculation and concealment, amidst the tempting lures of such treasure : their unceasing care will be directed to the interests of their Shareholders, whether it be in the zealous prosecution of the objects of the Association, or in protecting the property ; and from the checks which have been established, they have reason to hope that no complaint will have to be made on that head. Mr. Oxenford requiring more assistance in the department of writing accounts, and depot tallies, the Directors have sent out six young men, who have been strongly recommended to them, and who are, most probably, at present at the mines. In conclusion, the Directors have most

sincerely to offer to the Shareholders their congratulations upon this very successful commencement of the operations at the mines : harassed as they have necessarily been in these times of doubt and distrust, it is an inexpressible relief to their minds to be able to come before the public with so satisfactory a statement—a statement not founded upon speculative opinions, but upon solid experiment, and with the produce in the hands of one of their own body, to whose indefatigable zeal, industry, ability, and integrity, the Directors and Shareholders are so deeply indebted. They have only further to hope, that the prosperity thus happily breaking in upon the Association may continue increasing, and that their anxiety and attention may be amply requited by the golden results which now bid so fair to crown their efforts.

Extract from Mr. Edward Oxenford's Letter, dated Gongo Soco, 23rd March, 1826, to the Chairman.

“ After an arrangement entered into with the Cappao Mor, I took judicial possession of this estate, which (not being able to get an Escrivao) I had not done before, although I fully intended to do it, whenever I could at any reasonable rate persuade a Notary to come over to perform the requisite solemnities. I procured a Notary who gave me possession on behalf of the Association, as per inclosed publica-forma of the Auto de Posse. On the same day that I took possession, we commenced our proceedings in the mine, as I was anxious to witness and report to you the result of our primary operations. Although to separate the gold from the accompanying earth, the different processes of washing tin in Cornwall have been repeatedly tried, and to a certain point are successful, still no method has hitherto been adopted of making the final separation, so as to render the gold fit for the European market. To ascertain the results of the different experiments of the buddle,* tie, strake, tossing in the keeve, &c. &c. we have got some men practised in the use

* A *buddle* is a hutch made of boards; it is about nine to ten feet long, two feet wide, and two feet deep; it is placed in the ground so that the top part is about the level of the surface—the end by which the water enters is about six inches higher than the other—the ore or richer parts of what is washed, are generally the heaviest, and therefore the first to resist the pressure of the water.

A *tye* is nearly the same as a strake, used only for washing the smaller or finer parts.

A *strake* is a long hutch, about nine inches deep and twelve feet long, placed in the ground similar to the buddle, but used for washing large and small stuff


of the gamella, and the following are the results of the first four days washings : *viz.*

		lbs.	oz.	dwt.	gr.
17th March,	One man washing	0	7	1	10
18th ditto,	Two ditto	1	0	11	1
21st ditto,	One ditto	0	5	6	17
— ditto,	Two ditto	1	2	13	8
22nd ditto,	Four ditto	1	7	2	15
		<hr/>			
		4	10	15	8
		<hr/>			

(Of which a sample, weighing 1 dwt. goes inclosed.)

The Captains deliver me the gold nightly. A book of deliveries which I keep is signed by them : a book of receipts which they keep is signed by me. These washings are merely experimental, and mostly made, not from the stuff taken from the mine, but from the sweepings and rubbish left by the Capp^{ao} Mor. The difficulty of cleaning the work on a large scale now occupies our most anxious and serious attention. The different parts of our operations bear no proportion to each other ; four Englishmen, from ten in the night to six in the morning, break down more stuff than the whole of our labourers can carry to the strake in one day ; and one hundred gamella washers could not keep pace

together to see the quality, in order to separate them judiciously for further cleaning.

A *keve* is shaped thus,  about $3\frac{1}{2}$ feet deep, $3\frac{1}{2}$ feet wide in the top, and $2\frac{1}{2}$ feet wide in the bottom—it is made round like half of a wine pipe or butt, and flat in the bottom, used for the last cleaning of the richest ore.

with the produce of one buddle—I know not if I make myself intelligible ; I mean to say, that we can take out beyond all comparison faster than we can clean in the Cornish fashion ; and we clean beyond all calculation faster than we can wash in the Brazil fashion. It is ascertained also by repeated experiments, that gold escapes from our work, for hides with the hair turned against the stream and extended eight feet by three, catch one *octave* in an hour and a quarter : this, when we commence working, as I hope will soon be the case, on a large scale, will be of material importance. Experience, observation, and practice will daily teach us something, and when we have discovered and decided upon a method of cleaning our gold, either by mechanical or chemical means, so as to bear some proportion to the rapidity and quantity we can extract from the mine, I do not hesitate in stating, heedless of the sneers or misconstructions of incredulity, that the settled conviction of my mind is, that the most sanguine expectations of our most sanguine Shareholders will be more than realized.”

.....

“ A discovery has been made by robbers, in the wood to the east of the levels. They came in armed parties of upwards of twenty, and carried away the stuff on their heads. The quantity of gold circulating in the village of San João, led to enquiry, and our men were put on guard. For several nights they heard them in the woods, and fired at the spot whence the noise proceeded, as it was so dark they could see nothing. One of the accomplices, a boy, at length gave information, and nine were taken ; five are in the jail of Caeté, four in that of Sabará. It is supposed from the different confessions, they worked about six weeks, and took away a

thousand *octaves* of gold. Mr. Tregoning intends to drive upon this discovery as soon as he possibly can. The people of this village must have known, if not have been implicated in this transaction. Immediately I arrived, therefore, I ordered all the houses to be numbered, and an account to be made out of the employment of the inhabitants. Those without any visible means of livelihood I turned out. The *faiscadores* (gleaners of gold) I have given the option of working for us on wages, or quitting the estate. All the *vendas* (public houses), except two, I had closed, for I know they hold out the greatest temptations by giving a vent for the gold stolen. Every effort shall be made to prevent depredation, but to avoid it entirely is impossible. The English miners becoming Shareholders is a great safeguard, perhaps the best; for the Board will easily see that in laying down rules for them, respect must be paid to their pride and prejudices, and these will not allow of personal search," &c. &c.

.....

"I now inclose title deeds of one-third part of the Lavra of Socorro, bought for account of the Association, as per my Dispatch of the 7th February. Publica-Forma of the Auto de Posse goes herewith."

.....

"The English miners are in good health and spirits, they are all eager to work, and, if possible, more impressed than myself with the opinion of the immense value of our property, and of the enormous returns, likely very soon to repay the care, labour, and expense of obtaining it."

Extract from Mr. Edward Oxenford's Letter, dated Gongo Soco, 5th April, 1826, to the Chairman.

"I confirm my last dispatch of the 23rd ult., and now proceed to lay before you a statement of the produce of our labours to yesterday's date, trusting it may prove satisfactory to the Board of Directors.

		lbs.	oz.	dwt.	gr.
25th March,	Four men washing ..	1	5	4	14
27th ditto,	Two ditto	0	6	19	3
28th ditto,	Five ditto	0	9	15	9
29th ditto,	Four ditto	1	3	0	14
30th ditto,	Four ditto	3	3	16	17
31st ditto,	Six ditto	9	6	4	10½
1st April,	Four ditto	10	1	0	10
3rd ditto,	Four ditto	8	4	1	5
4th ditto,	Four ditto	5	1	10	8
		<hr/>			
		40	5	12	18½
		<hr/>			

(Of which a sample of one dwt. goes enclosed.)

"I likewise hand herewith for the inspection of the Board a small piece of the branch from which the greatest part of this gold was extracted; it is from the middle level, being that half of the lode which Captain Tregoning says in his Report of the 8th July last, was left to keep open the mine, and might easily be taken away. By Captain Tregoning's

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ground plan and section which I hope to enclose in my next together with his monthly report, you will be able to form a better judgment of the system he is pursuing. I think the plan of shutting up all the vendas, and dealing out copper on Saturdays, will tend greatly to prevent depredation. Although I am at the mine always six, generally eight, hours per day, I have not as yet discovered any one instance of speculation amongst our own labourers."

.....

"His Excellency Marcos Antonio Monteiro de Barros, has done me the favor to take charge of a small box of samples of the head, middle, and bottom of the strake, tie, and buddle, that you may judge of the separation of the work. I directed Mr. Tregoning to take the samples, and they go in a small box, directed to you, under cover to the agents in Rio de Janeiro."

.....

*Extract from Mr. Edward Oxenford's Letter to the
Chairman, dated Gongo Soco, 15th April, 1826.*

"Since my last dispatch of the 5th instant, the particulars of the gold obtained are as follows.

		lbs.	oz.	dwt.	gr.
5th April,	Five men washing ..	5	8	15	0
6th ditto,	Eight ditto	13	7	14	18
7th ditto,	Six ditto	8	7	17	0
8th ditto,	Six ditto	2	9	13	0
10th ditto,	Seven ditto	1	6	0	0
11th ditto,	Six ditto	0	11	9	6
12th ditto,	Six ditto	3	2	6	5
13th ditto,	Six ditto	0	8	9	6
14th ditto,	Six ditto	0	8	12	8
		<hr/>			
		37 10 16 19½			
		<hr/>			

(Of which a sample weighing one dwt. goes enclosed)*

.....

"The Captains will write to you by this post, but the ground plan and section must be deferred till next. Instead of the hides mentioned in my dispatch of the 23rd ult. for catching the gold that escapes from the work, we now use

* An assay of the gold dust thus obtained, has been made by Mr. Phillips, of George-yard, Lombard-street, and found to contain $90\frac{7}{8}$ per cent. of pure gold.

coarse flannel, which answers the purpose much better. Thirty feet by three catch about one and half to two ounces per day. The end of the flannels has scarce a shew of gold upon it, which proves that nothing escapes us.

“By my direction Mr. Tregoning has avoided making use of the water belonging to the Socorro. I wish to shew as much indifference as possible as to this purchase, that the owners of the remaining Shares may come down from their present enormous demands. As Mr. Tregoning is opening more levels on the jacatinga lode, adjoining to the Socorro property, I feel much anxiety on the subject. I have consequently petitioned for the legal measurement of the Gongo Soco estate, and have taken advantage of being, on behalf of the Association, part owner of the Socorro, to measure that property also. Two officers appointed for this purpose are now residing at my house, and I hope soon to send you the result of their labours, and a correct map of both estates.

“A chapel is in the centre of this village, to which the surrounding peasantry have been accustomed to resort to mass, the Capp^{mo} Mor paying the expences, about 200,000 Rs. per annum. Perhaps the Board, on reflection, may not disapprove of my ordering the duty to be done as usual at the expence of the Association; on this head I crave an answer.”

.....

Copy of a Letter from Dr. Gardner to the Chairman and Directors, dated Gongo Soco, 15th April, 1826.

“ Gentlemen,

“ In consequence of having been appointed Chemist and Assay Master to the Gongo establishment by the Acting Director, Edward Oxenford, Esq., I think it my duty to inform you, that no exertion or attention shall be wanting on my part to fulfil the duties incumbent on that office, whether as to rendering the gold in its saleable state, or by analysing its various qualities, and the products of those most curious and interesting mines.

“ I have already the honor to hand you the result of an examination, which I hope will tend to enhance the interests of the Association, namely, the product of gold made from the stones washed and thrown from the strake as of no value. Two quarts of them, weighing five pounds, were pulverized and reduced to a coarse powder, which on being washed, without any chemical preparation, gave a grain of gold; the remaining powder was then amalgamated with heat, which produced a steel grey coloured amalgam weighing five grains, and one grain eight-tenths, after cupellation, of palladium, without gold, a circumstance altogether new, never having found it before but in combination with that metal. In this experiment we observe that the bare washing, after a certain pulverization, was sufficient to separate the gold by mechanical means, the greater part of the palladium remaining yet in the iron sand, which was taken up afterwards by the mercury. From this we obtain an experimental fact, that

when the ore is stamped to a certain size, we can rid the gold of part of the palladium, without having recourse to the more expensive mode of chemical separation. That part of the palladium should be separated in this manner is consistent with theory ; and we find ourselves well satisfied with the fact, by comparing the specific gravity of that metal with the gravity of gold, palladium occupying a range, and not possessing more gravity than from 10,9 to 11,8 ; whilst gold occupies 19,0 to 19,36, being heavier eight degrees and twenty-eight hundredth parts than palladium, consequently after such reduction to powder, it must separate mechanically from the palladium (by washing) the same as it separates from the iron sand. This experiment also seems to establish another fact, that palladium is not mineralized, or chemically combined with the gold in the ore as an alloy, as formerly supposed, but that it exists merely in mechanical mixture, and only combines and alloys with the gold when it comes to the crucible ; if so, a reasonable induction can be drawn, that means may be invented to separate it all by washing, or other mechanical operation, profiting by the great difference in the gravity of the two metals.

“ That the gold obtained by the experiment will pay for the stamping, is the opinion of Captain Tregoning, who informs me that a mill will give 1240 gallons of the powder per day, which will produce a nett profit of 19,862 Rs.,*

* In this calculation it is considered that the Portuguese Oitava has 72 grains, that each Oitava of crude Gongo gold values 1,600 Rs., half the proceeds is allowed for vicissitudes, &c. &c. and the expenses are considered the same as those of Antonio Pereira if worked, seeing at the same time that the mines of Gongo are working—thus 5lbs. or 2 quarts gave 1 grain of gold.

qts.	grs.	galls.	grs.	per day
2	×	1	×	1240
$= 2480 \div 72 = 34\frac{32}{2} \times 1600 = 55,112 \div \frac{1}{4} = 27,556$				

Expenses

$27,556 - 8,694 = 19,862$ nett profit.

N.B. Taking the usual calculation of 5 milreis to a £. sterling, the ounce of crude gold would be worth £2 2s. 9½d.

not taking into the account the easier separation of palladium ; and further, that that metal will perhaps come into use and value, and establish one of the greatest profits of the Gongo estate.

“ These circumstances confirm the opinion heretofore given, that stamping mills should be erected at all the establishments ; and furthermore, that all the ore that is washed, of whatever lode or description, should be previously stamped, whether pulverulent, semi-hard, or hard.

“ I have also the honor to communicate, that I have not been able to trace the least molecule of platina in the Gongo ore, and believe that it does not exist, but with due humility leave it for abler chemists to decide the fact.

“ Not to be more prolix and take up more of your valuable time, allow me,

“ Gentlemen,

“ to subscribe myself, &c.

(Signed) DANIEL GARDNER, M.D.”

Copy of a Letter from Messrs. Tregoning, Martyn, and Hart, (chief Miners), to the Chairman. Dated Gongo Soco, April 15, 1826.

“ Sir,

“ We commenced our operations in Gongo Soco Mine on the 16th of March last. We have driven the adit end west four fathoms, with three Englishmen and labourers, to bring the stuff to the dressing floors.

“ We have driven the middle end west five fathoms, and spent four fathoms of ground in the bottom of the level, and three fathoms in the back, with five Englishmen and labourers, to bring out the stuff.

“ We have also driven the upper level west three fathoms, by two Englishmen and labourers, to bring out the stuff.

“ We have begun and driven an adit end east, on the lode four fathoms, with two Englishmen and labourers, to bring out the stuff.

“ We have begun to drive a level east on the lode, twelve fathoms over, and four fathoms east of the adit : drove six fathoms and sunk two fathoms in the level, with three Englishmen ; those are the places where we have extracted the gold (the particulars of which you will have from Mr. Oxenford), the back and bottom of the middle end have been most productive.

“ We have one Englishman and ten labourers, sixty fathoms west, on a vein in the north part of the lode, clearing off a pile of rubbish, to drive a level west.

“ We have begun and drove an adit north four fathoms, with one Englishman and ten labourers, which will cut the lode about 190 fathoms east of our present workings, and will come in nineteen fathoms deeper than the present adit ; we calculate about forty fathoms to cut the lode.

“ At the “ Old Mine,” we have one Englishman and ten labourers, who have cleared an old working, and begun to drive on the south lode, which is from six to ten feet wide ; at present poor but very kindly.

“ Before the deep adit can be brought into the new mine, it will be necessary to erect an engine ; and as there is so great a fall of water so very near the mine, we would recommend a pressure engine.

“ We do not intend to alter the men’s stations for the ensuing month ; and, according to our present prospect, we hope that our return will be equal with the month past.

We are, &c. &c.

(Signed)

WILLIAM TREGONING,
THOMAS MARTYN,
RICHARD HART.”

Questions proposed by the Board of Directors, to Messrs. Tregoning, Martyn, and Hart. Dated London, Jan. 11, 1826.

“ We observe, that in the lower level at Gongo Soco there is some water: that we request to know—

“ What the quantity of water is ?

“ What height of fall within fifty fathoms, one hundred fathoms, and two hundred fathoms of the present working, distinguishing each ?

“ What sized box would be required to keep the mine dry ?

“ How long it would take to sink a shaft, twenty fathoms under the present deepest adit, near the large lode ?

“ And, how long it would then take to cut through the said lode, at that level; if this is done, should it not be where the lode has been most productive above ?”

Answer. Dated Gongo Soco, March 23, 1826.

“ In answer to your Questions we proceed to state, that we have measured the fall and distances as required, and computed the quantity of water, &c.

" First, at this season of the year there is about seven hundred gallons of water per minute; and in the dry season, about four hundred gallons per minute.

" Secondly, there is twenty-four fathoms fall within fifty fathoms of the mine: forty-two fathoms fall within one hundred fathoms, and seventy fathoms fall within one hundred-and-sixty fathoms of the mine.

" Thirdly, we think there is about twenty gallons of water per minute, in the present deepest adit end.

" Fourthly, we think a ten-inch box will keep the water twenty fathoms under the adit.

" Fifthly, we think a shaft can be sunk twenty fathoms under the present deepest adit, with six Englishmen and three labourers, in four months, and two months to cut through the lode, which we suppose to be about ten fathoms wide, under where it has been most productive, which, in our opinion, is the proper place for the shaft.

" We hope to be ready with our ground plan of the mine in about a fortnight, when we shall be able to point out our ideas more clearly.

(Signed)

WILLIAM TREGONING,
THOMAS MARTYN,
RICHARD HART."

"We the undersigned Superintendent and Captains of the Imperial Brazilian Mining Association do hereby certify, that the following is a correct statement of the gold delivered by us from the mine of Gongo Soco, into the hands of Mr. Edward Oxenford, with the particulars thereof.—

1826			lbs. oz. dwt. gr.			
March 17th	1 man washing	.....	0	7	1	10
18th	2	.....	1	0	11	1
21st	1	.....	0	5	6	17
	1	.....	1	2	13	8
22nd	4	.....	1	7	2	15

Of which 2 dwts. have been extracted for samples to be remitted to the Board.

Gongo Soco, 22d March, 1826.

(Signed) WILLIAM TREGONING.
THOMAS MARTYN.
RICHARD HART."

"I acknowledge the receipt, and certify the truth of the statement.

Gongo Soco, ut supra.

(Signed) EDWARD OXENFORD."

" We the undersigned Superintendent and Captains of the Imperial Brazilian Mining Association do hereby certify, that the following is a correct statement of the gold delivered by us from the mine of Gongo Soco, into the hands of Mr. Edward Oxenford, with the particulars thereof.—

			lbs.	oz.	dwt.	gr.
March 25th	4 men washing	.....	1	5	4	14
27th	2	.....	0	6	19	3
28th	5	.....	0	9	15	9
29th	4	.....	1	3	0	14
30th	4	.....	3	3	16	17
31st	6	.....	9	6	4	10½
April 1st	4	.....	10	1	0	10
3rd	4	.....	8	4	1	5
4th	4	.....	5	1	10	8

Of which 2 dwts. have been extracted for samples to be remitted to the Board—Also that the enclosed is a specimen from the vein of the middle level, delivered to Mr. Edward Oxenford by his directions.*

Gongo Soco, 5th April, 1826.

(Signed) W. TREGONING.
THOMAS MARTYN.
RICHARD HART."

" I acknowledge the receipt, and certify the truth of the statement.

Gongo Soco, ut supra.

(Signed) EDWARD OXFENFORD."

* Assayed by Mr. Phillips, and found to produce 82 $\frac{26}{100}$ of pure gold.

“ We the undersigned Superintendent and Captains of the Imperial Brazilian Mining Association do hereby certify, that the following is a correct statement of the gold delivered by us from the mine of Gongo Soco, into the hands of Mr. Edward Oxenford, with the particulars thereof.—

1826		lbs.	oz.	dwt.	gr.
April 5th	5 men washing	5	8	15	0
6th	8	13	7	14	18½
7th	6	8	7	17	0
8th	6	2	9	13	0
10th	7	1	6	0	0
11th	6	0	11	9	6
12th	6	3	2	6	5
13th	6	0	8	9	6
14th	6	0	8	12	8

Of which 2 dwts. have been extracted as samples to be remitted to the Board.

15th April, 1826.

(Signed) W. TREGONING.
THOMAS MARTYN.
RICHARD HART.”

“ I acknowledge the receipt of the gold and the truth of the certificate.

Gongo Soco, ut supra.

(Signed) EDWARD OXFENFORD.”

This Certificate was not received in time to be bound with the Report, it has now been printed in order to complete the statement of the working of the mine to the 15th April, 1826.

LEWIS LEWIS, JUN, Sec.

9, Throgmorton Street,
20th August, 1826.

*Special General Meeting of Shareholders, at
the London Tavern, 19th July, 1826,*

JOSHUA WALKER, Esq. M.P. IN THE CHAIR.

The Chairman read the Report on the commencement of operations at the Mines, which gave great satisfaction.

It was moved by John Shore, Esq. and seconded by Edward Samuel Walker, Esq.

That the Report now read be approved, and that it be printed together with the former Reports.

Moved by Edward Samuel Walker, Esq. and seconded by William Ellwand, Esq.

That the cordial thanks of this Meeting are due to Mr. Edward Oxenford, for his indefatigable and successful exertions in the Brazils, and for the able and judicious manner in which the affairs of the Association under his care have been conducted in that country; that the Chairman be requested to transmit a copy of the above Resolutions to Mr. Edward Oxenford with the next Mail.

Moved by Colonel de Burgh, and seconded by John Atchison, Esq.

That the best thanks of this Meeting be given to the Chairman and Directors, for their zealous and unceasing attention to the interests of the Association.

Moved by Henry Marriott, Esq. and seconded by William Newman, Esq.

That the thanks of this Meeting be given to Mr. Lewis Lewis, Jun. the Secretary, for his indefatigable exertions in promoting and assisting the formation of this Association, and continued zeal and ability in discharging the duties of his office.

JOSHUA WALKER, Chairman.

All the above Resolutions were carried unanimously.

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