

First Gold Found in Australia.

MR. THOMAS TIPPLE SMITH of the Glebe, writes to the Sydney Morning *Herald* enclosing copies of letters dated June 9, 1849, and June 6, 1851, which relate to the finding of gold in Bathurst in 1848 by a mineralogist named William Tipple Smith, the father of the correspondent. The communications referred to are those which passed between the Hon. E. Deas-Thompson (then Colonial Secretary) and Mr. W. T. Smith. They tend to show that in the year 1848 the latter gentleman deposited a small piece of gold at the Colonial Secretary's office, and asked that the specimen be shown to his Excellency the Governor, at the same time offering to make known to the Government the locality in which the gold was found, provided that an adequate reward were promised in consideration of the information being furnished. In the letter dated June 6, 1851, Mr. W. T. Smith wrote, "I have every reason to believe that the metal exists in abundance on a sheep station in the vicinity of the Lewis Ponds Creek (occupied in 1848 by Messrs. Lane) and on the adjoining station (then occupied by Mr. Perrier and now by Messrs. Griffiths, Fanning, and Co.). From this last locality I, myself, procured, in the year above-mentioned, a piece weighing 1½oz. I also beg to state that granular gold is to be found at the bottom of Sheep-station Gully and in Coolam Barloo Creek, as well as in the crossing of the creek between the first-mentioned stations and near a place called Jorkey's Corner."