

on the surface. About twelve months after the first one was found, the Star of South Africa, of $83\frac{1}{2}$ carats, was discovered near the Orange River by a Griqua shepherd. This caused the search to be carried on with redoubled energy. The soil on the banks of the Vaal River was dug, washed, and sorted by Captain Rolleston and party, without success for a time; but after nearly three months' persevering labour the first diamond was found in the gravel on the 7th January 1870. Within two months the party had collected some hundreds of sparkling gems. Since then, the Diamond Fields have attracted many thousands, and still continue to draw adventurers.

The area over which diamonds have already been found is very extensive, and how much farther it may extend cannot even be conjectured. Sufficient diamondiferous country is already known to provide many years' employment for a large population. Diamond-digging is certain to become a permanent industry, though, to insure its becoming a profitable one, it will be necessary to work on a different plan to that at present adopted. Larger areas of ground must be obtainable, capital will need to be employed, and such appliances devised as will perform the maximum of work with the least amount of labour. Companies worked by skilful and intelligent managers, if backed with moderate capital, are almost certain of success.