

KING'S COLLEGE, WINDSOR,  
March 31, 1857.

NOTE ON AN INTERESTING MINERAL RECENTLY FOUND IN THE GYPSUM OF  
NOVA SCOTIA.

The following note contains the result of a chemical examination I have just made, in the laboratory of this College, of a mineral found, a short time since, in the Clifton gypsum-quarry, lately the property of Judge HALIBURTON, now in the possession of J. PELLOW, Esq., of this town. I make known these results, and at the same time offer a few remarks upon the interest which attaches to the mineral, as I imagine they may prove acceptable to the lovers of natural history and the promoters of its study. It is not impossible, moreover, that the mineral may be found to have some little commercial importance, for reasons which I will presently mention.

The substance I refer to was observed by the quarry-men, along with another mineral, the Glauber-salt, and both differ so distinctly from the plaster-rock in which they occur, as at once to have attracted notice; but the Glauber-salt, from its "ice-like" appearance, was the one the most remarked, and, as it has the property of crumbling down by exposure to air, so as, to the uneducated eye, to resemble the other, the first mineral was taken by the workmen for the second altered by exposure, and they were both called, indiscriminately, "salts."

My attention was drawn to the Glauber-salt by Mr. VAN BUSKIRK, a gentleman studying here, and he kindly obtained me specimens, upon which I at once saw two minerals were present. I hastened to the spot, and procured sufficient of both for my purpose, and the workmen informed me they had found the "salts" "in bowfuls," but let it go with the plaster, and also that they had before met with the same substance.

The Glauber-salt has, indeed, been recognized by Dr. HARDING, as agreeing perfectly with the sulphate of soda of commerce, so-called; but I believe he has never met with specimens of the natural product so beautiful as those obtained on this occasion, among which I saw crystals one inch and a half in diameter.

Upon examining—by its physical properties and chemical analysis—the other mineral, I found it to correspond closely, in character and composition, with one found in Peru, and, till the present time, only in that locality, and I feel warranted in pronouncing them essentially identical. The substance is called "Tiza," by the Peruvians, and I was familiar with its appearance, from having seen it in the laboratory of Dr. ANDERSON, in Glasgow, to whom it was sent for examination. This acute chemist proved it to be a mineral of remarkable composition, and singular interest from the geological formation in which it occurs. It was originally examined by Dr. HAYES, of Boston,