

THE NICKEL ORES OF SUDBURY, CANADA.

CHAPTER I.

NICKEL AND NICKEL ORES.

WE learn that in the middle ages nickel was discovered in the cobalt mines of Thuringia, Germany, where it was supposed to be a kind of silver. When it was found that the metal contained no silver at all, people thought that malicious gnomes had transformed the precious metal into a vile composition, and accordingly it was left useless in the dumps of the mines.

The metal was separated in its pure state for the first time in 1751, by Cronstedt, a Swedish mineralogist, who produced it from an arseniuret of nickel.

Though specimens of native nickel have been obtained from the Erzgebirge, and though it forms 5 to 10 per cent. of meteoric stones, the pure metal is not to be found in nature, and is produced from its ores.

It is hard and ductile, takes a good polish, and is white in colour, with a shade of light grey.