

When coming from the *Westward* in thick foggy weather with Southerly winds, it would be well to sound on coming to the Longitude of Scatarie Island—then run to the N. N. W., until soundings give 33 to 39 fathoms—if the bottom is fine *white* sand, then the Ship is to the *Westward* of Scatarie—but if to the *Northward*, soundings will bring up sand full of *red* specks—I repeat, *I never* found the red specks in any part of the Coast, except to the *Northward* of Scatarie Island—a ship can then run in at W. N. W., and the master may depend on finding clear weather in Spanish Bay and make direct for Sydney.

(Signed.)

WILLIAM McLEOD.

Sydney, 12 March, 1851.

(APPENDIX B.)

HER MAJESTY'S STEAM VESSEL MEDEA.
Halifax, December 31st 1838.

MY DEAR SIR.

With reference to your question relative to the properties of the Coal of Nova Scotia and the Island of Cape Breton for the purposes of Steam Navigation, I shall have much pleasure in giving you such opinion as I have formed during the six months I have been in the St. Lawrence, from observing the consumption of about two thousand chaldrons—in nearly equal quantities, from the mines of Pictou in Nova Scotia, Sydney and Lingan in the Island of Cape Breton, and such British Coals as the traders annually bring to Quebec. The most preferable description are the Sydney: they rapidly raise the steam, keep it easily and without fail, are not very dirty and make but few ashes, and used in Coal furnaces, no Coals that I have seen in this country can equal their effect, although they consume very quickly and clinker. The British Coals before-mentioned have also these faults, and do not offer the same facility of getting up steam; but I am confident that they are of very inferior quality, although they command at Quebec an enormous price; usually about thirty-four shillings a chaldron, sterling, and at a measure certainly one-fourth less than that given at Sydney or Pictou.

At either of these places, a large Steamer can be supplied from the wharf with any quantity she requires in a few hours, at less than fifteen shillings per chaldron, sterling, of very liberal measure.

The Lingan Coals have all the properties of the Sydney, but they waste more; and I can say of the Pictou, that they are equally as efficacious as the Sydney in producing or keeping steam; but they are certainly inferior in some points,—for instance, they form immense clinkers, and so frequently, as to demand constant labor and attention;