

(bisulphuret of iron) must be avoided in smiths' work. The decomposition of the bisulphuret in the coal sets free one atom of the sulphur, which attacks and consumes the iron, rendering it brittle, and preventing sound welding.

For forming bricks, a portion of anthracite dust has frequently been employed to advantage.

For burning lime, anthracite is employed in the state of small nut or pea coal. The white ash coal should be selected for this purpose, if we would avoid discoloration from an intermixture of oxide of iron with the lime.

For steamships, coals of high heating power under a given bulk, of great purity, that is free from earthy matter, of little tendency to clinker, and entirely free from the danger of taking fire by spontaneous combustion, ought in all cases to be chosen. Anthracites are least liable to this evil, but many of the cannel coals and free burning bituminous coals are also nearly exempt from danger on this account. When a coal, after an exposure of some time to the atmosphere, begins to exhibit efflorescent white or greenish white salts of iron on the exterior, and to fall rapidly into small fragments, it is to be suspected.

Housekeepers and others should endeavor to acquire some familiarity with the aspect of coal, in order to distinguish lumps of slate from true coal. All the slate they buy, is not merely a fraud upon their finances, but a tax upon time, in putting in and taking out so much waste materials from grates and furnaces. The formation of clinkers, which destroy the linings of stoves, brings a new source of annoyance and of useless expense.