

TRANSACTIONS

OF THE

Nova Scotian Institute of Natural Science.

ART. I.—NOTES ON THE DEBERT COAL FIELD, COLCHESTER CO., N. S. BY EDWIN GILPIN, JR., A. M., F. G. S., F. R. S. C., *Inspector of Mines*.

(Read 12th Nov., 1883.)

DURING the past few months a good deal of interest has been shown in Mining circles over the reported discoveries of coal seams, of workable size, on the DeBert River, Colchester Co. In this conclusion the following notes of a brief visit to the ground may prove interesting to the members of the Institute, and I only regret that the attention necessarily directed to mines in operation has prevented me from giving more time to the problems presented by this practically unknown district.

The presence of coal beds on the DeBert and Chiganoise Rivers has long been known to the geologist. Gesner, one of the pioneers of Nova Scotian Geology, writing in 1836, described the signs of coal at various points along the north side of the Basin of Minas, from Cape Chignecto to Truro, and remarks, page 129 of his "Geology and Mineralogy of Nova Scotia," that "About five miles northward of the Lower DeBert bridge the coal measures of the mountains rise above the gypseous and saliferous sandstones, and a beautiful section of their strata is made by the river passing over them. Two small veins of coal have been intersected, although it is not known what quantity of that valuable substance is still hidden in the adjacent rocks."

Dr. Dawson, in the second edition of his *Acadian Geology*, page 264, speaks of the metamorphic slates of the Cobequid Mountains being succeeded by conglomerates, and then by "coal measure rocks, consisting of gray sandstones and dark shales,