

CHAPTER V.

MINERALS.

Nova Scotia, has been endowed by nature with mineral wealth in a very high degree, but comparatively little has yet been done to extract substantial wealth from these resources. The time must come, however, when the minerals of this province will add enormously to its available wealth. Let us glance briefly at some of our more important mineral substances :—

Granite, is found in great abundance, and of excellent quality, in many places on the Atlantic coast. The quarries which have been worked to the greatest extent are at Shelburne and Halifax. Great facilities exist at both for quarrying and shipping the stone. From the "Queen's Quarries," at the latter place, large quantities have been taken for the construction of the fortifications of Halifax, for which purpose it is highly esteemed. Granite has been to some extent exported from Shelburne to the United States and neighbouring provinces. There are large quantities of excellent granite, readily accessible for shipment at Barrington, near the mouth of Musquodoboit River, in the vicinity of Cape Canso, and at various other places on the Atlantic coast. The slates of the older metamorphic district, afford, at a great number of localities, good material for the rougher kind of walls, and materials which may be quarried and fitted for building at very slight expense.

The Devonian and Silurian district is rich in building materials. *Sienite* and *porphyry* of good and beautiful qualities are found in great abundance in many places on the Cobequid Hills, on part of the shores of the Bras d'Or Lake, and various other places in the island of Cape Breton, and in the range of hills which skirt the Annapolis Valley on the south. *Slate*, of excellent quality, is found at New Canaan, near Kentville, along the range of hills lying between the Stewiacke and Musquodoboit Rivers, in the southern part of Pictou County, and at various other points. Quarries have been opened at New Canaan, and in the vicinity of the Stewiacke, for the purpose of procuring roofing slates. *Sulphate of barytes* is found in the hills immediately north of the Stewiacke, at Five Islands, on the north shore of Minas Basin, and at some other localities. At Five Islands it exists in great abundance, and both there and at Stewiacke it has been quarried and exported to some extent to the United States and Great Britain, where it is mixed with white lead as a paint. *Mineral paints* in great variety are procured from the iron ochres of the Cobequid Hills. One description, known as *artificial slate*, is rapidly growing into repute throughout North America. When mixed with oil,