

# The Canadian Journal.

TORONTO, JUNE, 1853.

## Correspondence Relating to the Mineral Wealth of Nova Scotia.

We warmly commend to the attention of the readers of this Journal, the following important communication from Mr. Millett, of Penzance, Cornwall, England, on the Mineral Wealth of Nova Scotia. We are aware that for some time past the reported existence of extensive beds of very pure copper ore, has attracted the notice of a wealthy English Mining Company, and that several gentlemen have been sent out at different periods to Nova Scotia for the purpose of acquiring, if possible, correct information in relation to the distribution and abundance of a variety of copper ore, called "purple copper." The exertions of the gentlemen heretofore engaged in the search do not appear to have been rewarded with the success they anticipated; but, as the letter of Mr. Millett shows, that gentleman has succeeded in discovering a large variety of minerals possessing great economic value, and destined to be of the utmost importance to the sister Province.

STEAMSHIP "NIAGARA," AT SEA,  
21st April, 1853.

To the Editor of the Canadian Journal.

SIR,—The existence of your very valuable Journal has just come to my knowledge, through the instrumentality of one of your earliest supporters and contributors; and associated as I am in my native County (Cornwall) with institutions, kindred in feeling and object, you will, I feel assured, pardon my troubling you with a few hasty notes, of an equally hasty visit to the Province of Nova Scotia, from which I am now returning (having departed from England only on the 19th ult.) but which, I fear, will scarcely be worthy your notice.

Although an ardent admirer of, and, to some extent, a rather active promoter of the science of Natural History, the present inclement season of the year precludes the possibility of my contributing anything in this department. I would mention, however, one fact which came under my notice (on the 2nd instant) and much surprised me.

Being detained by an accident which happened to our carriage, at Schultz's Hotel, on the Grand Lake, I availed myself of the opportunity of looking into the neighbouring Forest, more particularly in quest of Ferns and Birds. The day was bright and the sun warm, and on a bank, in a sheltered dell, I surprised two beautiful Butterflies, sporting with all the life and activity of a Summer's day. I endeavoured, in vain, to catch them, their alertness baffling every attempt I made to do so.

Such an early appearance of this delicate insect, would occasion surprise in the southern parts of England; the greater, therefore, was it to myself in Nova Scotia, where Winter still existed, and the frost held entire dominion of the country.

I know not whether this occurrence is rare, or otherwise, in the locality in question; but I mention it with the idea that it may prove interesting to some of your readers, who may be pursuing the very delightful study of Entomology.

The occasion of my late visit to the Province being confined  
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exclusively to the examination of certain of its Mineral Districts, a cursory glance at these, from the new and intense interest excited, both in England and there, on the subject, may prove acceptable to you at this moment; but, in doing so, I must speak generally, rather than in detail, of such Mineral Deposits as came under my observation.

My examinations have been confined to parts of the country lying North of the Basin of Minas, following the courses of several of the principal Rivers discharging themselves into its waters, and to the tributaries flowing into those Rivers.

From the vast extent of primitive Forest with which the whole district, forming the Mountain Range, is here covered, no other means are available for accurately examining the Mineral property it embraces. Nature, in most instances, having so arranged the courses of the Rivers as to operate as cross-cuts for the various deposits; which are thus exhibited on their banks or beds.

The existence of Coal and Iron in various parts of the Province, and in quantity and quality most bountiful and rare, is a fact patent in itself. Every day, however (from the recent explorations), adds to, and strengthens these two great elements of Human Industry and Wealth; and no limit can possibly be assigned to their extent.

The presence also of the more valuable Metallic Minerals, such as Copper, Lead, Zinc, Manganese, Sulphate of Barytes, &c., are now proved to be coexistent with them. From the very limited operations, however, yet pursued, no data can, at present, be given to their respective extent. Metalliferous Rocks and Matrixes of the most kindly and suitable nature for their production, on a large scale, abound. *Marbles* of the purest and most compact nature, both of the White (Statuary) and Variegated, of the most beautiful and varied characters, appear to be bountifully supplied to this particular District; whilst Lime, Gypsum, Freestone, and other equally valuable products, appear scattered over various parts of it, in quantities inexhaustible, and qualities not to be surpassed.

The Barytes, Marble, Copper, Iron, and many other Mineral Deposits, I visited in the Five Islands District of the Province, far exceeded my most sanguine anticipations; and, notwithstanding the extreme difficulties I had to contend with, in consequence of the swollen state of the Rivers, the accumulation of Ice on their banks, and the Quantity of Snow remaining in the Forest, I found abundant evidence that Nature had here scattered her Mineral bounties with a most prolific hand, and that Capital and Energy combined, were alone wanting to develop the resources, and add immensely to the wealth of this highly favoured, but long neglected Country.

From the very numerous veins of Barytes already exposed to view in the banks, and their continuance through the beds of the Rivers and Tributaries, there is abundant proof that this valuable Mineral exists, in this locality, to a very considerable extent.

The greater portion of what I saw was of the purest nature, and might be rendered Merchantable at a very moderate expense; whilst other portions were slightly stained with Red Oxide of Iron, which may be easily and economically removed before disposed of in the Market.

The various purposes for which it is applicable, in a commercial point of view, cannot fail to make it an article of considerable demand; and Markets for its disposal, when its purity and abundance of supply become generally known, will most readily be found.

The quantities hitherto exported from hence, have been so