

WEEKLY MISCELLANY.

Devoted to the Intellectual and Moral Improvement of the Young.

Vol. 1. Halifax, N. S. Tuesday, September 1, 1863. No. 11.

PUBLISHED WEEKLY, AT \$1 PER YEAR
IN ADVANCE, BY

W. Cunnell, 155 Upper Water Street.

Subscriptions received by the Agents, and at the
office of publication.

HALIFAX, N. S. SEPTEMBER 1, 1863.

GOLD IN NOVA SCOTIA.

We shall now take a cursory view of the productiveness of several Quartz Leads in the various districts. Selecting only the best from the Gold Commissioner's Report for 1862.

Tangier. The South leads and Nigger leads have been supposed the most valuable. The working of the former has been very remunerative; the yield of gold per ton of quartz ranging from one to six ounces—the average estimated at 3 oz. 7 dwts. per ton. The veins increase in richness as they descend. From the Nigger lead the finest specimens of gold in the district have been taken: several were sold for upwards of \$100, but much of the quartz by crushing has not yielded sufficient to be remunerative. However it was principally obtained from the surface, and at a depth of 22 feet has yielded 1 oz. 6 dwts. per ton, besides several heavy nuggets, indicating increased richness at a greater depth.

Wine Harbour. The Smith lead at the depth of 30 feet, in the richest vein, averaged six ounces to the ton; and five tons of quartz from the Hattie claim gave 125 oz. The average yield at fifty feet is about three ounces.

Sherbrooke. The Hewitt lead at 60 feet, averaged four ounces to the ton. The McKay lead at 32, and the Blue at 40 feet averaged four ounces and three quarters, and Comminger's at 20 feet, one ounce and a half.

Isaac's Harbour. The Mulgrave lead has been the most remunerative; but beyond the depth of 15 feet the quartz rapidly deteriorates in quality. But hopes are entertained that deeper mining will develop a richer quality. The highest yield has been 5 oz. 6 dwts., and the average 1 oz. 13 dwts. of gold to the ton of quartz. The Burke lead proved rich to the depth of 10 feet, and beyond that

rapidly diminishes in quality, until at 30 feet it was found to be wholly unproductive. The average yield was 2 oz. to the ton.

Country Harbour. There has not been much mining here. Two tons and a quarter of quartz, from one of the veins from which the best sights had been culled, yielded 11 oz. 2 dwts. of gold.

Renfrew. The Preeper lead is considered one of the richest hitherto worked in the Province. From a trench 80 feet in length, and from 6 to 8 feet deep, 83 tons of quartz were taken, which yielded 180 oz. of gold.

Oldham. At a depth of 23 feet, the quartz has averaged 1 oz. 5 dwts. of gold per ton. Mining has only been conducted to a limited extent here.

Ovens. The value of the quartz here has not been tested from the want of proper crushing and amalgamating machinery.

Waverly. The principal vein is called the Taylor lead; the quantity of quartz from it, up to the end of the year, crushed, was 36 tons, which yielded 64 oz. of gold.

Lawrencetown. The quartz here has not yielded profitable returns.

So much for last year. But from all that we can gather, the gold mining this year will prove far more remunerative. In general the richness of the quartz increases with the depth; and several wonderful reports of heavy yields, in various districts, have been circulated. The only new Gold District declared this year is the Montague district, at Lake Loon, only six miles from Halifax, and a little to the Northward of the main Eastern shore road. The discovery of gold here was reported on 21st April last; and since then, up to the end of June, 203 areas have been laid out of class No. 1. There are many auriferous quartz veins in the district, varying from three inches to a foot in thickness—from one of which 39 tons of quartz crushed, yielded 3 oz. to the ton. Over a hundred men are at work.

The average yield of gold in the Province this year, up to 1st July, amounts to nearly eight ounces and a half per man employed—exceeding the rate at same

period last year by above two ounces and three quarters per man; and it is more than probable that this rate will be found to increase.

Several mining lots have been recently taken up at Gay's River, about four miles North of Gay's River Bridge, on the old Truro Road. But it has not yet been declared a Gold District. The formation is very peculiar there—being a thick bed of conglomerate crusting upon slate. The gold is found interspersed in scales and small pieces, and the field appears to be very rich.

Applications have been made for gold-mining licences in Victoria County, near the head of Middle River. Several parties have been obtaining gold there since Spring opened, but the extent or richness of the field have not yet been ascertained.

We refer, for latest information, to the news department of this number.

COAL, AND ITS HISTORY.

Coal was not generally employed as fuel until the beginning of the reign of Charles I. It is, however, mentioned in documents anterior to the reign of Henry III., for that monarch, in the year 1234, renewed a charter granted by his father to the inhabitants of Newcastle, who were permitted to dig for coal on paying an annual tax of one hundred pounds. That this fuel had been introduced into London before 1300 is proved by the fact that in that year its use was prohibited from the supposed tendency of its smoke to "corrupt" the atmosphere. The coal-fields of Colliery, near Lanchester, were first opened in the year 1330; those at Merrington and Ferry Hill, in 1345, and those of Gateshead, Wickham, and Tynemouth, in the year 1500. The coal-fields of the United Kingdom have been estimated to contain an area of 12,000 square miles. The present vend of coal is about 5,500,000 tons per month. This is obtained from 2700 collieries.

The Halifax Directory.

A FEW copies of this useful Publication for sale (at a reduced price) at the Weekly Miscellany Office, 155 Upper Water Street.