

pieces of the hard stones were employed by the Indians in killing their game, and in warfare, before the Europeans had ever visited these shores.

Directly at the bifurcation of the river, there is a beautiful spot, called Beaubair's Island, from Monsieur Pierre Beaubair, a person of considerable importance among the early French settlers on the river. The island was the site of a French fort, the remains of which are still to be seen; and pieces of muskets and other instruments of warfare have been found around its sides. This part of the island has long since been covered with a growth of forest trees.—Beaubair's Point, at the junction of the two branches of the river, was once the site of a French town and a large chapel; human bones are almost yearly washed from the graveyard by the encroachments of the stream. Both the island and the point are places of considerable note in the early history of New Brunswick; they now present little of interest, beyond what arises from their antiquity, and the recollections they bring of the early struggles for power in a new country.

From some specimens received from the North-west branch of the Miramichi, it appears evident that the westernmost part of the County is rich in minerals; the exploration of that district was necessarily deferred until the next season. Several kinds of mineral substances from the tributaries of the South-west branch were examined, but they are common to the sandstones, and do not differ from those already described.

About three miles above McKie's Inn and eleven miles from Newcastle, on the south-west branch, coal appears in the south bank of the river; it is but an inconsiderable stratum, belonging to one of the superficial beds already alluded to. The river at this place is a quarter of a mile in breadth, and rolls along in great grandeur and beauty. From the confluence of the south-west and north-west branches to Cochran's Inn, the distance is about twenty miles; the soil in this distance is a light yellow and white sand, sometimes mixed with clay: it is easily worked, and, under proper cultivation, produces good crops.

Coal has been found on the Renous and Bartholomew's Rivers. These minor branches of the Miramichi were too low to allow canoes to pass at the time of my exploration in this quarter. Above the mouth of the former stream the interval increases in quantity, and the soil near Dr. Cante-line's, fifty miles from Newcastle, is more argillaceous.