

supply from this source, however, is irregular, often insufficient, and liable to be cut off entirely in case of hostilities in the Indian Ocean. Of the quantity imported previous to 1863, we have no reliable data for an estimate. In that year, according to the custom-house returns, the importation into the districts of New York and Boston was only 67,723 pounds. In 1864, it was 5,122,880; in 1865, 5,770,240; in 1866, 3,299,520.

If success in the manufacture of refined steel in the United States is a matter of national concern, it is obviously of very great importance that an ample supply of this valuable mineral should be secured from sources near at hand.

The opinion, however, has very generally obtained, and is still held by many with great pertinacity, that the mineral of the kind and degree of purity required is not to be found in this country. But we venture to affirm, and with confidence from personal observation, that graphite of the foliated variety, and of a quality fully equal, if not superior, to the best of the imported article, exists in abundance in some portions of Canada bordering on the river Ottawa. This is a large and navigable river, having its embouchure into the St. Lawrence by two mouths, forming between them the Island of Montreal. The geological formation of the region, we are told, is identical with that of Ceylon. Throughout an extensive tract of country, the mineral, in a pure and crystallized state, is seen, here and there, to crop out, particularly along the line of contact between the limestone and the gneissoid rock. Generally speaking, the mineral, in its pure state, has