

Under the influence of a temporary demand for coal in the United States, several mines were opened between Maccan and the Joggins; but they were abandoned as soon as the necessity ceased that called them into operation.

When, however, the long dreamt of Intercolonial Railway was opened through the centre of the field, a fresh and more lasting impetus was given to the coal trade. A large and flourishing mine was opened at Springhill, through the energy of some merchants of St. John, who have been well rewarded for their enterprise in taking hold of a property which was rejected by the people of Halifax. The demand for fuel at the Londonderry iron works has led to the opening of another colliery, and other properties are being prepared to meet the revival of business in the mineral we are now considering.

In view of this encouraging state of affairs, it may not prove uninteresting to you to learn not only what progress in development has been already effected, but to consider what additional stores of mineral wealth may be contained in the district treated of in this paper.

The key to the general structure of the Cumberland coal field is found at the Joggins, presented in a beautiful and unbroken section of the various divisions of the carboniferous system. This has been carefully studied and minutely described by Dr. Dawson and the late Sir Charles Lyell, and I shall refer to it so far as may be necessary to show its bearing on the distribution of the productive measures over a district 25 miles in length. On referring to Dawson's "Acadian Geology," we will find the Joggins' coal-measures bounded above (geologically speaking) by a set of massive sandstones (the upper coal measures), and below by a series of sandstones, grits and conglomerates (the Millstone grit). These massive covers, like the pasteboard of the book-binder's art, serve not to hide, but to preserve the material contained between them. The following summary, in descending order, will show the relative thickness of these great layers of sediments:

UPPER COAL MEASURES.

Upper part.	650 feet.	
Lower "	1607 "	
	—	2267 feet.