

they do here, they must resort to shifts to have the opportunity of meeting. We have found the interior of the road-side inns on our way about equal to that of the rural inns of England. The beds and furniture are generally clean, thus evincing the English descent of their owners. What a contrast, in this respect, to France, Italy, and Germany!

We set out for the South Joggins coal mine,—a locality which Sir Charles Lyell has made known throughout the world. After travelling through the forest over a flat country for some time, during which we came every now and then upon a large ship, building on the edge of a lonely creek, and were informed that “it had been ordered in London,” we arrived at the spot, and found specimens of the fossil trees standing upright in the coal beds, according to the description.

The coal mine adjoining is worked by the General Mining Association of Nova Scotia, a London Company, who have a monopoly of the minerals of the province, and the way in which they obtained it is somewhat curious.

In the year 1826, the late Duke of York received from the Crown a grant of all the mines and minerals of Nova Scotia, with the right of searching for the same, free of royalty. The Duke then gave a lease of the grant to a firm in London, who formed a company for the purpose of working the mines, but he reserved to himself a royalty upon the ore extracted. The royalty has since reverted to the province, except, I believe, over that part of it which is called the Island of Cape Breton, but the lease holds good for