

been to us? From what doubts would it not relieve us? With what anxiety do we not turn over the leaves of ancient chronicles in search of information often very imperfect, obscure, and uncertain? With what pleasure do we not receive the least sketch or plan of some ancient mine? With what pains do we not rake up the old heaps of rubbish brought out of old excavations to discover pieces which may afford us some idea of the substances which were formerly worked out? Yet between these documents and those which we might obtain in the way pointed out in the preceding paragraphs there is as much difference as between night and day. Is it not an obligation, a duty, for us to collect and leave to future generations as much instruction and knowledge as possible on the labors carried on in our mines, whether it be in those that are still worked or in those which have been given up?"

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

JOHN RUTHERFORD.

To P. S. HAMILTON, Esq.,

*Chief Commissioner of Mines.*