

fracture, like obsidian, and presents a brilliant surface. When exposed to heat in a covered platinum crucible, an abundance of carburetted hydrogen gas is given off, which burns with a large and brilliant yellow flame, having a high illuminating power. It leaves a light and bulky coke of a brilliant black color, and very porous. Weighed portions of the asphaltum were taken for analysis, and on being heated in a covered crucible, so as to expel all the volatile matter, the coke remained was weighed. The result of the two trials gave—

1st.	2d.
58.5 of volatile matter.	58.8 of volatile matter,
41.5 of coke.	41.2 of coke.
100.0	100.0

"This substance is particularly valuable for the production of gas for illumination."

New-York, 179 Broadway, June 14, 1850.

I have analyzed a specimen of asphaltum left with me by Dr. Gesner, and from the province of New-Brunswick, and find it to yield the following results of volatile matter and coke, when submitted to distillation in close vessels. The results of these experiments are as follows:—

No. 1, Coke,.....43.5	No. 2, Coke.....45.5
" Volatile matter, 56.5	" Volatile matter, 54.5
No. 3, Coke,.....45.5	
" Volatile matter, 54.5	

The asphaltum breaks with a conchoidal fracture—lustre vitreous. The gas yielded by distillation is large in quantity—probably 53 per cent. of the whole—a small per centage of water being present. I should judge that the gas possesses very high illuminating powers.

(Signed,) C. TOWNSEND HARRIS.

The above asphaltum is much nearer to the different ports of the United States, than the coal mines of Pictou, and Sydney, Nova Scotia, the coal from which is sold in the New-York market at \$5 25 per ton. The asphaltum is inexhaustible.

The patented material, retort and light, may be seen at the establishment of Messrs. Walworth, Nason & Guild, 79 John-street, N. Y.; Halifax, Nova Scotia, the town of Patterson, and other places.

From the New-York Herald of June 20th, 1850.

REVOLUTION IN GAS.—Last evening Dr. Abraham Gesner, of Halifax, N. S., submitted to the examination of several scientific gentlemen and merchants of this city, a discovery which he has made in the manufacture of gas, which will produce a revolution in that article, ensuring light to the public, of a superior quality, at less than half the cost of gas from coal. Dr Gesner has just returned from Washington, where he has obtained a patent for his invention. The examination was held at 79 John-street, in

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