

THE
MINERAL RESOURCES
OF THE
NEW DOMINION.

It is a matter of satisfaction to observe that there is an increasing earnestness manifested in the community for a diligent and systematic study of particular branches of science, and that in some of them, geology especially, we are making considerable progress. Mere popular lectures on such subjects, or a superficial attention to them as matters of amusement, are only useful when there is a stronger and fuller current beneath. It is remarkable in general society how comparatively rare it is to meet with people who have really made themselves masters of any particular subject ; but when they have, and can give reliable and valuable information, they become then in that department, an important authority, and worth listening to in society. And so in public life, in Parliament,—if instead of talking superficially and often foolishly on any or every question, a member is known to have made some one important question his particular study, he will be listened to with respect and attention, because he can then really give some reliable and useful information. And so in every case, if besides general gossip, and passing remarks, people can bring into society on any subject, accurate and sensible information, whether of literature, science, or trade, it is adding to the general stock, and advancing the intelligence of all. Sometimes however, people get up facts or information in a dry mechanical way, and thus become tedious and disagreeable. In appearing before you to-night, my endeavours will be to avoid the example of such, and in dwelling upon the mineral resources of the Dominion, not to thrust upon you a lecture on geology, with its stereotyped and hackneyed phrases, but to direct your attention