rial; stone dressed with the hammer, and every evidence of the operations having been carried on by civilized men. Old California miners, who have visited these mines, say that it would perhaps cost millions of dollars to do the work that has been done there; and the appearance of the surface is similar to the placiers of California, where the miners have been at work. What the mineral was has not yet been fully ascertained, but this is soon to be tested by parties skilled in metallurgy. It is generally thought the metal was gold or silver. The mines are so ancient, that there are large oak trees growing upon them. When was this done, and by whom?

3. THE LAKE SUPERIOR IRON MOUNTAINS.

Recently a party took the Iron Mountain Railroad at Marquette, and ran up to the wonderful piles of mineral known as the Iron Mountains. The Jackson is fourteen miles inland, the Cleveland sixteen, and the Lake Superior eighteen. The editor of The Lake Superior Journal records some interesting facts about them :-

Quite a new feature has been discovered in the formation of these mountains within a year or two. Previously they were supposed to be solid masses of iron throughout, whereas, in fact, the metal is found to run in veins, the principal one in each being not far from a hundred feet in width. This detracts nothing from their value. we suppose these veins to be only a mile in length each, and that there were only a single vein in each mountain, it would make them just as valuable as though they were solid iron, for enough is enough.

The depth of these veins will probably never be measured. No metallic vein that we ever read or heard of, has been traced to its terminus in the bowels of the earth. It will be a long long time before they will be levelled with the surface, and when they are reduced below it, in the evolutions of time, the business of quarrying can be carried to nearly the same advantage as at present. In the first place, there will be no rock to be removed to get at the ore, and then, it is a conceded point, that the deeper they go the better

At the Jackson Mountain the sound of the drill hammer made sad discord with the music of human voices which floated on the air. Fifty or sixty men were busily engaged in drilling, blasting, and removing the ore to the cars. They are making a formidable charge upon the mountain, carrying its outposts, and fast making their way

to the citadel of its strength.

The Cleveland Mountain presents a bold front. The rock has been mined away so as to leave a perpendicular wall some forty or fifty feet high, as we should judge. In the centre they have reached the large vein, and when the remaining rock has been cloven off plump up to the vein, hundreds of tons may be thrown down at a blast.

The Lake Superior Mountain is run right into by the railroad at its terminating point. Operations upon this mountain have been but a few months commenced, but they make a grand show for the time.

The cut into the mountain for the railroad track verges so nearly to a parallel with the course of the principal vein, that it will be very easy to trundle the ore from the latter down to it, and empty the wheelbarrows right into the cars, which will certainly be a great advantage in loading.

Thus, at all these mountains, the way is fast preparing for greatly extending operations, and another season will doubtless witness greater changes than have ever yet been wrought upon them.

4. THE NEW CANADIAN SILVER AND COPPER DECIMAL COIN.

A careful analysis shows the new Canadian silver decimal coin to be worth about 4 per cent. less than the American coin of the same nominal value. The Canada silver is finer than the American, but the coin It is, however, of so nearly the same intrinsic value, that it will undoubtedly pass uniformly with ours. The frontier counties will be saved a great deal of trouble by the introduction of this new coinage. Canadian cent pieces, which have been lately thrown off the British mint, possess a remarkable peculiarity. They are not only tokens of value, but also standards of weight and measure; 100 cents weigh exactly 1th., and one cent measures 1 inch. Thus in the common transactions of life the buyer will have a ready check upon the dishonest dealer.

5. SKETCHES OF NOVA SCOTIA.

A correspondent of the Hartford Daily Times, who is on a tour through the Provinces of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, narrates some pleasant incidents of travel; and speaking of its resources, lakes, tides, &c., says :--

The scenery about Yarmouth, N. S., the first landing place of most travellers from the States, must not be taken as a sample of the best, or even the greater part of Nova Scotia scenery. Here the soil is damp and cold. The forests are mainly of hemlock, fir, spruce and hackmatac, all evergreens, which do not, like the white pine of Maine, or the pitch pine of the Eastern states generally, delight in light, porous, sandy soil. These trees grow only in wet and half swampy situations. Enter a wood here, and your feet are entangled in the yielding mosses which hide the earth, and your head in the trailing mosses which festoon the trees. The hard subsoil of clay retains the abundant water which the ever-dripping clouds, or the humid fogs incessantly are depositing. But the cleared land where the soil is not all hidden by rocks, is covered with grass of an intense verdure, rarely growing long except on the marshes reclaimed from the sea. but juicy, sweet and nourishing. For this reason, the beef, but especially the mutton, is of extraordinary fatness and tenderness.

But one of the greatest charms of the scenery of the Province, is the large amount of fresh water in streams and beautiful lakes. About one-third of the surface of the country is covered with lakes. The woods on the borders of these sheets of water are mainly of deciduous trees, mostly birch and beech, though a kind of oak, inferior in beauty and usefulness to our white oak, is to be occasionally met with. The surface of the whole country is very uneven, a nearly level road of more than a mile in length being impassable. But Nova Scotia cannot be called mountainous; there are no elevations worthy any more dignified name than hills. Rocks, as boulders, cliffs and precipitous elevations, abound. The land of the farmer is infested, as it were, with stone; not always round as it is found in what we call stony lands, but flat slabs well calculated in size and shape for the building of walls.

The Province is well provided with secure and capacious harbors. On the Atlantic shore, within a coast line of about a hundred miles, there are no less than twenty-six good harbors, capable of floating the largest merchantmen, and which are open and free from ice the whole year. The shore of the Bay of Fundy has also numerous harbors, though not generally so well secured, nor so deep, yet sufficient

for the purposes of a general navigation.

But this shore is colder than the other, and consequently there are times in the winter when the harbors are closed with ice. The Basin of Minas, or Minas Bay, at the head of the Bay of Fundy, is perhaps the most singular of all the indentations on the coast of Nova The tides here rise to a tremendous height, sometimes to 60 or 70 feet, and never less than 35 feet. The sea comes in in three tidal waves, which travel with such velocity, that where the shore is nearly level, sheep, swine, and even horses feeding on the shore are sometimes overtaken and drowned. It is interesting to a stranger to witness the signs of sagacity evinced by those animals that are used to these fluctuations of the sea. You may be looking on a number of pigs feeding on the offal along the shore. On a sudden, you see one of them raise his head, look towards the sea, give a knowing grunt, and without apparent cause, turn and make for the high land as fast as his legs can carry him. The others follow suit, running as though a good dinner waited for their never satisfied stomachs. Arriving at the most elevated land, they stop suddenly and begin rooting and feeding as though they had never had a thought of uneasiness. Some time elaspses after the pigs have showed alarm, before the stranger can divine the cause for the stampede. Then a dull, roaring sound seaward, enlists his attention, and presently a black unbroken ridge many miles in extent, capped with white foam, catches his eye. With inconceivable swiftness it moves toward the land. Its front, 20 feet high, shining and smooth, looks like some wall of porphyry or ebony crowned with snow. Not a fleak of foam on its face, not a streak of green or blue to relieve its interest blackers, as it can state the stream of the same and the same of the s its intense blackness, on it comes as though to submerge the doomed land. It reaches the land, and acres are instantly covered, making what was solid land but a wild sea of boiling, bubbling waters. first wave is followed by two others, neither of them so high nor swift. It is a singular fact that the brutes can hear the roar of the incoming sea, sooner than any man, though he may have lived on the shore from infancy.

The shores of the Bay of Fundy along its whole length, are also subject to what may be termed intermediate tides. At half tide, for instance, while the regular tide is receding, the water will come in with such rapidity that men at work on a vessel's bottom have not had time to pick up their tools, but have saved themselves with difficulty by running or climbing the vessel's side. These tides, however, disappear as quickly as they come. Large vessels have been lifted suddenly by the water, and when deposited again, been careened on a different side from that they lay on before.

At the extremity of the Basin of Minas is Cobequid Bay, an extension of the former which makes deeply into the land. Into it empties Shubenacadie river, which with the Shubenacadie canal connects Halifax the capital, on the Atlantic shore, with Truro and other places on the Bay of Fundy, thus cutting the peninsuls in two