

petitor. Like Britain, it has excellent harbours near its beds of coal and iron; but in the extent of its coal deposits and in the value of its iron ores it far surpasses the mineral wealth of the mother country. The vertical thickness of the numerous coal-beds of the Pictou Basin is considerably over one hundred and fifty feet, one seam alone ranging from thirty-six to thirty-nine feet in thickness, being the largest bituminous seam in the world¹. It is underlaid by another twenty-two feet, while there are overlying and underlying seams ranging from three feet to twelve feet. Immense undeveloped beds of iron ore are to be found a few miles only from the coal-fields, some of which are of a quality second only to the best Swedish brands, a fact already testified to by Fairburn and other authorities.

In addition to iron ore as a source of future wealth we have underlying these beds of coal immense deposits of fire-clay, equal to the very best that are to be found in the mother country. Nothing but time and capital is needed to create on the Atlantic seaboard of the New World a rival of the Staffordshire "black country," and a competitor of the busy ship-yards of the Clyde.

But there are geographical advantages that are enjoyed by this Transatlantic Britain such as can be claimed by no other country on the habitable globe. Bulky products such as coal and pottery are valuable when they can be utilized to supply freights, and this only can be the case where they are situated near some great highway of commerce. No one can look at the position of Britain, which nature has made the janitor of the German Ocean, without seeing that she possesses peculiar advantages for controlling the trade of the north of Europe. Let us imagine, if we can, the

¹ The total vertical thickness of the Pictou coal seams described by Sir Wm. Logan in his recent Report, is over 170 feet, one half of which is fit for use. As it is not impossible that some of the small upper seams may prove to be identical, a deduction has been made, which is probably more than ample, as the oil coal, and all the seams under three feet, have been omitted from this calculation. Nothing approaching this thickness of coal seams is to be found in any other coal-field.