

## THE IMPORTANCE OF MINING RECORDS.

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HALIFAX, MARCH 20, 1867.

SIR,—

In my report on the mining operations in the Province last year, I mentioned that at some of the collieries no record existed, either by survey or written description, of the first workings, and I alluded to the importance of a knowledge of their true position, and regretted the absence of some system by which such neglect on the part of the managers of mines might have been avoided.

I now desire to address you on the value of mining records, and to make a few suggestions as to the best means of realizing so important an acquisition of mining knowledge. The developement of the mineral resources of the Province has of late assumed so important an aspect, and mining operations are in consequence receiving such general attention, that the means by which a truthful and intelligible record of these operations may be preserved, cannot fail to be of great interest and value. Success is not the general result of mining adventures, indeed it is unfortunately too often the exception; nor is the want of it always attributable to the physical peculiarities of the mineral itself, but may happen from a deficiency of knowledge or error in judgment of the explorer. The rapid accumulation of wealth by the fortunate few invariably induces a rush of the many to the source whence it has been derived, and the first serious reverse often unnecessarily damps the ardour of the speculator; disgust takes the place of enthusiasm, and instead of being steadily worked in a skillful and judicious manner, the mine is closed, and mayhap remains unproductive for years. In the course of time the exhaustion of some beds or veins, or an increased consumption of their produce, induces the re-opening of the abandoned mines. How valuable then becomes the knowledge of former operations, and with what confidence every step is taken, nothing left to chance; but guided by those records which have