

# WEEKLY MISCELLANY.

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## MINERALS OF NOVA SCOTIA.

A Mineral, correctly speaking, is a substance found in or on the earth which has never possessed animal or vegetable life, and is destitute of organization. But some substances of vegetable origin—such as Coal and Amber—have been classed as Minerals.

It is understood that Nova Scotia is possessed of mineral wealth to a very great extent, but its Government has never yet bestowed upon it the benefit of a geological survey; grudging the expense which it would incur. We are of opinion that the country needs exploring more than surveying; and a few intelligent men, who can handle pick and axe, might be employed to great advantage, and at comparatively small expense, to search at first in the vicinities where indications of minerals have been noticed; and, as they succeed in discoveries, to extend their researches into districts where it may be presumed that useful minerals exist.

Having already discussed Gold, we shall say a few words of Iron, in this article; and take up Coal in our next.

The principal deposit of Iron ore is situated in Londonderry, where the Acadian Mining Company have erected works and begun mining. And further East, between the Great Village and Folly Rivers, indications of iron have been discovered, the different descriptions of which were reported on, in 1846 and 1849, by Professor Dawson, and J. L. Hayes, Esq. of Portsmouth, U. S. It has been proved by experiments that these ores will furnish steel-iron equal to the best Swedish.

Veins of iron of similar character occur in many other districts, though of less magnitude. Conformable veins have been opened at Moose River, Nictaux, and at the East River of Pictou, consisting of

scales of specular iron firmly cemented together, and intermixed with silicious and calcareous matter. At Nictaux the lead is stated to be six feet in thickness, and the ore of excellent quality. At the East River of Pictou the lead appears to be of great magnitude, but the ore is more silicious than at Nictaux. Iron ores also occur near the mouth of the Shubenacadie, and iron ochres with *bag ores* of iron in many of the low grounds of the granite districts, though not in large deposits.

The quantity of iron smelted from the ores in 1851 was 400 tons; but increased in 1861 to 1200 tons—valued at \$80 per ton.

## FEEBLE POWER OF THE MOST POWERFUL TELESCOPES.

Prof. Mitchell, in a lecture "On Astronomy," in New York, thus closes his address:—Light traverses space at the rate of twelve million miles a minute, yet the light from the nearest star requires ten years to reach the earth; and Herschel's telescope revealed stars two thousand three hundred times further distant. The great telescope of Lord Rosse pursued these creations of God still deeper into space, and, having resolved the nebule of the Milky Way into stars, discovered other systems of stars—beautiful diamond points, glittering through the black darkness beyond. When he beheld this amazing abyss—when he saw these systems scattered profusely throughout space—when he reflected upon their immense distance, their enormous magnitude, and the countless millions of worlds that belonged to them, it seemed to him as though the wild dream of the German poet was more than realized: "God called man, in dreams, into the vestibule of heaven, saying, 'Come up hither, and I will show thee the glory of my house.'"

And to his angels, who stood about his throne, he said, 'Take him, strip him of his robes of flesh; cleanse his affections; put a new breath into his nostrils; but touch not his human heart—the heart that fears, and hopes, and trembles.' A moment, and it was done, and the man stood

ready for his unknown voyage. Under the guidance of a mighty angel, with sound of flying pinions, they sped away from the battlements of heaven. Some time, on the mighty angel's wings, they fled through the Saharas of darkness—wildernesses of death. At length, from a distance not counted, save in the arithmetic of heaven, light beamed upon them—a sleepless flame, as seen through a heavy cloud. They sped on in their terrible speed to meet the light; the light, with lesser speed, came to meet them. In a moment, the blazing of suns around them—a moment the wheeling of planets; then came long eternities of twilight; then, again, on the right hand and on the left, appeared more constellations. At last the man sank down, crying, 'Angel, I can go no further; let me lie down in the grave, and hide myself from the infinitude of the universe, for end there is none.' 'End is there none?' demanded the angel. And from the glittering stars that shone around there came a choral shout, 'End there is none!' 'End there is none?' demanded the angel again; 'and is it this that awes thy soul? I answer, End there is none to the universe of God! Lo, also, there is no beginning!'"

LABOUR.—It is one of the besetting sins of the young men of this extravagant age to endeavor to get rid of work—to seek for lazy employment—and the consequence is that many of them turn out to be worthless vagabonds. Boys, avoid this whirlpool as you would a plague spot, banish from your mind forever the dangerous desire to live without work. Labour is honourable, dignified; it is the parent of health, wealth and happiness; never consider it a burden and a curse. Shun idleness and sloth; pursue some honest calling, and be not ashamed to be useful.

Fifty pounds of oats are more nourishing, as food for cattle, than one hundred pounds of hay, and twenty-five pounds of peas are equal to double the weight of oats.

When does a clergyman resemble a man who is correct in what he says? When he's a curate (ac-curate).