

ART. VII. THE GROUPING OF THE PICTOU COAL SEAMS.  
BY EDWIN GILPIN.

(Read March 10, 1873.)

OUR knowledge of the Pictou Coal field was for many years confined to the district worked by the General Mining Association, the south crop of the Pictou great seams. The crops of the main and deep seams had been carefully proved by the Agents of the Company, and elaborate analyses made, but their explorations had never been pushed to the west of McCulloch's Brook, and it was considered that the disturbances met there threw the seams out of the miners' reach. In accordance with the generally accepted theory, the seams underlay the town of New Glasgow at an inaccessible depth, and were covered by the measures of the Upper Carboniferous.

When the monopoly ceased in 1858, it was believed that the lines of the General Mining Association covered all the available coal, and consequently for some time little interest was taken in prospecting. The discoveries of Mr. French in 1865 opened a new district called the Westville or Bear Creek. This gave a great impetus to explorers, and large sums of money were spent on both sides of the river. The reports of Sir W. Logan and Mr. Hartley contain all that is known of the field, but the general public cannot be expected to derive much information from the exact and statistical form in which it is compiled.

On the west side of the East River the Acadia seam was proved for a distance of over two miles, and now supports three large collieries; two underlying seams were also found.

To the south a coal seam has been opened on, but not clearly connected with its right and left hand neighbours the Main and Acadia seams. Opposite New Glasgow the coal measures are found to dip south, and a large bed of coal has been proved.

The explorations on the east side of the river have opened a new district underlaid by three groups of seams, the Upper and Lower. In the latter are comprised the Albion and associated seams, while the former contains the Marsh and McBean Groups.