

THE MINERALS OF NOVA SCOTIA.

The following description of the mineral resources of Nova Scotia is not intended to give more than a brief outline, sufficient to show their extent, position, and variety.

This Province, forming the most easterly extension of the American Continent, south of the St. Lawrence, may for practical purposes be considered the point of America approaching nearest to Europe. It stands like a pier projecting into the Atlantic, and from its position seems marked to play an important part in the future of the Continent.

Were it even a barren and inhospitable land, its position would make it important as the future gateway of travel between Europe and the future centre of the Continent. When in addition to its position it is displayed as bordering on the richest fisheries in the world ; as possessing an equable climate favourable to human longevity, and admitting of the most successful culture of the fruits, etc., of the temperate zone ; and as abounding in coal and ores of iron, gold, and many other minerals ; it may confidently challenge comparison with the most favored of its neighbouring provinces and states.

The minerals which have hitherto received most attention are coal, iron, gold, and gypsum ; but manganese, antimony, copper, barytes, lead, clays, building stones, grindstones, etc., are important, although hitherto but partially developed, sources of wealth.

COAL FIELDS.

The first to be noticed is the Sydney coal field on the East shore of Cape Breton. Its area of available coal is estimated at over 300 square miles. It contains twelve seams from 3 to 12 feet in thickness. The coals are highly bituminous and adapted for coke and gas making. It is classified for steam purposes as superior to Newcastle and nearly equal to the best Welsh steam coal. Some of the beds enjoy a special reputation for domestic coals.

The following analysis will show the general character of these seams: