

is broken in the neighborhood, for promoting the fusibility of the ore; for that purpose they likewise employ a clay marl which is found near this place. Charcoals are to be had in great abundance here, because the country around this place is covered with wood. The charcoals from evergreen trees, that is, from the fir kind, are best for the forge; but those of deciduous trees are best for the smelting oven. They cast here cannon and mortars of different sizes, iron stoves, &c."

Professor Kalm is not the first who mentions these mines.—Charlevoix says, that it is certain that about 70 years before he was in this country the mines had been discovered by the illustrious Colvert. Charlevoix: *History of Canada*; T. 3, p. 166.

Weld, who visited Canada in 1796, and the late Col. Heriot who wrote in 1806, both mention that the bank of iron-ore at the Forges of St. Maurice was nearly exhausted in their time. And Raynal, with several other writers, quoting them adds, that new veins have been discovered. The workmen testify, that they now find the ore two or three miles from the works. From these facts, we are inclined to adopt the opinion, that a species of common bog ore can be renewed, or in other words, that the bog is capable of growing; and also, that stagnant water combined with acids, and alkalies, decomposes animal and vegetable substances, and affords an argillaceous and phosphorised variety of iron ore, which is formed of a thickness proportioned to the time in which this chemical process of reproduction has been in operation.

The foundery is situated in the Fief St. Etienne. After the surrender of this country to Britain, Col. Burton, Governor of Three Rivers, informed the Directors of works, that it was Lord Amherst's intention to keep the works on the same footing as before the conquest. After the final cession of the country, in 1763, as the King of France had given great attention to the establishment, it pleased the king of England, George III, to keep this property as part of the Crown's domains in Canada. But it was kept up under the king's name only a few years, and in 1766 a stock company was formed in Quebec, who took the lease of the works for 16 years, by a deed dated Quebec, May 12, 1767. It was let to these gentlemen at an annual rent of £800. At the expiration of this lease in 1782, Governor Haldimand rented the establishment to Conrad Gagy, Esq., for 16 years. He did not keep it long, and in a few years it passed