

1 . . .	4 feet, 6 inches.
2 . . .	1 foot, 6 "
3 . . .	2 feet.
4 . . .	4 " 6 inches, including 6 in. of shale.
5 . . .	4 "

It is uncertain, in my opinion, whether numbers 4 and 5 may not prove to be the same bed, because the openings upon which the above statement in part depends were distant from each other. The fact can only be determined by systematic excavations, which have not been made in that region.

The area of the portion of this coal field in Maryland may be estimated at something over one hundred square miles, but, as in the case of the two other coal fields, so large a proportion of the strata have been removed by natural causes, that probably not one-half this area contains available coal. The quality of the coal is excellent, being similar in all respects to that of the Meadow Mountain region.

Before dismissing this branch of the subject, it may be proper to repeat the caution in my last report in reference to the proneness of some to waste their money in searching for coal by costly excavations in what may be termed *impossible* localities.

The instances in which such attempts have been made are very numerous in Maryland and other States, and to aid in preventing such waste of time and money in future, it may be well to state that *no available coal can be found in Maryland outside the limits of the three coal fields already noticed*. Every formation within the State has been sufficiently explored to authorize this statement to be made with absolute confidence.

The coal formation (No. 19) being the newest in Maryland westward of the South mountain, all the remaining formations were deposited previous to that geological period when coal strata were formed. It is true that some interrupted seams of anthracite have been observed in these older rocks, in Sideling hill and Town hill as well as in similar rocks in other States. That they are utterly worthless has been abundantly demonstrated by those who were so imprudent as to apply expensive means for opening coal mines, as they supposed.

The new red sandstone, (No. 20 in the table,) whose position was given in the map accompanying the last report, lies in the counties of Carroll, Frederick, and Montgomery. An inferior coal has been found in formations of that kind elsewhere, but the investigations which have been made indicate conclusively, in my opinion, that no available coal exists in that region.