

tain. It is about six miles wide at the Pennsylvania line, and extends in a south-westerly direction about sixteen miles, where these two mountains approach each other and so to unite. This gives the Maryland part of this coal field somewhat the shape of an irregular triangle with one very acute angle. Its whole area is about fifty square miles.

As this region is without railroad communications, the coal has hitherto been mined to a small extent, only for local uses. As a consequence, there have been no explorations accompanied by lines of excavations which exposed all the coal beds as in the Potomac region.

Near Grantsville, an opening has been made into a bed of coal which I had an opportunity to examine. The thickness is 3 feet, 9 inches, and the quality excellent, being free from shale and sulphuret of iron. It contains more bitumen than the coal of the Potomac, and is well adapted to the various purposes which require a copious flame and a strong heat.

Higher in the series there is a two feet bed, and still higher is one of one foot, but I had not an opportunity to examine either of these small beds.

Within the limits of Pennsylvania, a few miles from Grantsville, a bed of coal nine feet in thickness has been opened, as I was informed. It is more than probable that further explorations will develop other beds of coal in this formation.

The third of our coal fields takes its name from the Youghiogheny river which flows through its entire length in Maryland. It is bounded on the west by the summit of Briery Mountain, which in the Pennsylvania map is called Laurel Hill; but as this name is also given in Rogers' map to another mountain some miles further west, I prefer the one here given.

The eastern boundary is very irregular, owing to the interruption of the continuity of the mountain ridges in this district. I do not find it to extend so far east in this State as is laid down by Rogers in the adjacent part of Pennsylvania. Its width in Maryland varies from 5 to 8 miles, its south-western limits extending into Virginia.

Both the Youghiogheny and Meadow Mountain coal fields, as we term them in Maryland, are in fact united into one, near Somerset, about 20 miles north of Mason and Dixon's line, where it has a width of about twenty miles. From thence it extends a long distance in a north-easterly direction.

Parties interested in this region, as well as those interested in the Meadow Mountain coal field, not having made systematic explorations which would develop all the coal beds, we are uncertain as to the number it contains.

Those at present believed to exist are as follows, in the descending order: