

and a half to three and a half feet thick. This was the first vein discovered, and was opened about twenty years ago by Mr. Rizer and the coal held in high estimation for many years until the richer veins were discovered. The second vein is from eighty to one hundred feet higher in the hills; and is from four to six feet thick.

The third and most valuable vein is found nearer the summit of the hills and the upper parts of deep vallies. This vein is from eight to ten feet thick and like the veins below, is between strata of rock. The bed on which the coal rests, and the roof which covers it, are of slate with a great mixture of coal: but the coal diminishes and the slate prevails for three or four feet in thickness. This often gives the mine an appearance of uncommon depth until it is thoroughly opened. But in those mines which are worked to any great extent, the vein of pure coal is about eight feet thick, subdivided horizontally by three or four very thin veins of slate, seldom more than half an inch thick. Next above the slate roof is sandstone in thick layers and often of a quality suitable for the various purposes of freestone in building. There is a preference given to those mines which lie deep, and are in a moist situation, and have a considerable height of hill over them: the coal from such mines, being more pure and solid, is quarried in much larger blocks and is much less liable to crumble and waste in handling, than that from mines situated so near the top of the hills as to be too dry and to have but little depth of earth over them." (Reports and Letters, &c. p. 93—94.)