

those of the Frostburg district. That bed, for example, which seems to correspond with the fifteen feet vein in Brant's mine, is found near the heads of the Potomac to exceed twenty feet in thickness. Time, no doubt, may be expected to elapse before these mineral riches will be brought into operation. Far removed from any convenient outlet, the mineral for fuel cannot come into competition with the coal from the more accessible districts; and the employment of it for the purpose of coking, applied to the smelting of iron, will not be required so long as our native forests supply in such abundance the means of obtaining the charcoal, by the use of which, metal of a better quality is obtained. It nevertheless is advisable to determine at once the extent and nature of this second coal formation, the greatest portion of which lies within our limits; and the more so, on account of several of its accessories, whose importance has not been perhaps hitherto fully appreciated.

One of these is the Iron-ore, with which it abounds. The occurrence of iron ore, associated with coal, has been considered the most prolific source of commercial prosperity possessed by Great Britain. Her political economists have long been accustomed to ascribe the extent of her manufactures to the abundance and cheapness of both these substances; by which are furnished, not only fuel for working the steam engines which put into operation their machinery, but the material, also, for the construction of this machinery. The time will come when a similar ascription shall apply to the United States, and when the western county of Maryland shall be looked upon as the Wales of North America.