

following instance of a bed of very recent origin, affords an instructive illustration of the subject. Near Limerick, in the district of Maine, one of the States of North America, there are peat bogs of considerable extent, in which a substance exactly similar to *cannel coal* is found at the depth of three or four feet from the surface, amidst the remains of rotten logs of wood, and *beaver sticks*: the peat is twenty feet thick, and rests upon white sand. This coal was discovered on digging a ditch to drain a portion of the bog, for the purpose of obtaining peat for manure. The substance is a true bituminous coal, containing more bitumen than is found in any other variety.* Polished sections of the compact masses exhibit the peculiar structure of coniferous trees, and prove that the coal was derived from a species allied to the American fir.

We now proceed to the examination of that remarkable substance which has resulted from the perfect transmutation of the vegetables of the ancient world, COAL.

* An analysis of 100 grains gave the following results :

Bitumen	72
Carbon	21
Oxide of iron	4
Silica	1
Oxide of Manganese	2
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	100
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