

into feet and multiplied by 10, will give the number of cubic feet in the *great vein*; or an acre of surface will be shewn to contain 440,000 cubic feet of coal.

If it would not make our answer too prolix, we could enter into demonstration as to the means of calculating the quantity of coal in each stratum. We will only remark that the coal can be seen at two different points, to verify the calculations.

There are at this time 20 coal mines open and in operation at different and distant points, some of which have been worked for twenty years. The iron has only been worked at one point, and there with signal success. Ores have been found at numerous points in the coal basin where search has been made for them. In addition to the company already engaged, there are other companies preparing to embark largely in the manufacture of iron.

In answer to the 2d interrogatory we say, that there are several mines worked to the extent of the present demand, and any additional number can be opened at thirty days' notice. The facility with which the coal is mined constitutes one great item of the value of that country. It lies in the form of a very shallow basin. By opening or entering with a mine at an elevation of half a degree above the horizontal line of coal, the mine drains itself freely and the coal is brought out with convenience. The rail roads for bringing out the coal may be continued into the mine as the miners progress with the work of excavation. The economy and advantage of these facilities over the method of getting out coal by a perpendicular descent, as used from necessity, almost every where else, both in England and in this country, will be obvious to any mind at once, as we avoid all the labor of pumping, lifting, the expense of ventilation, &c.

At one of the canal mines there is now sold about 15,000 bus. per month, delivered into wagōns at three cents per bushel, a day's work per man being 150 bushels. As the demand at present is almost entirely limited to the county, there is no necessity for large operations. But it is obvious from what we have said of the facilities of getting out coal, that the supply will always be commensurate with any imaginable demand, however great that may be.

In answer to the 3d interrogatory we say, that there are six companies incorporated by the State with a view to the coal and iron business in Allegany county, namely: the George's Creek or Lonaconig Company, Maryland Mining Company, Boston and New York Coal Company, Maryland and New York Iron and Coal Company, Clifton Coal Company, and the Union Company. Only one of these companies (the Lonaconig) is engaged in making iron. This Company has erected one furnace, on the largest scale, with all the constructions necessary to make iron. Its operations have brought into the county upwards of six hundred people. A vast quantity of ore was prepared and the furnace put into blast in May last, with a capacity to make twenty tons per day. After testing the capacity of the furnace and the quality of