

of the globe is still unknown; but it appears from those parts with which we are acquainted, that coal is found principally in temperate regions, between thirty five and sixty five degrees of latitude. In Europe,—Great Britain, France, Flanders, and Germany, (particularly Silesia, Saxony, Bohemia, and Thuringia,) contain large coal formations; but in the southern and more northern parts of Europe, coal is of rare occurrence. In North America, coal is found in great abundance on the western side of the Alleghany mountains; it has also been discovered in Pennsylvania, extending westward towards Pittsburgh, over a space of three hundred miles. Coal occurs also near Richmond, in Virginia, and in Missouri. American coal* is said to be found in quartz rock, which I apprehend to be merely siliceous grit, composed of nearly pure granular silex, such as abounds in the lower part of the Yorkshire coal-fields. The coal, in a great part of the United States, contains little bitumen, and hence is called anthracite: it is not, however, the true anthracite of mineralogists, but far more valuable for fuel. The discovery of this immense repository of coal, accompanied with ironstone, must prove of the highest importance to a nation so industrious, intelligent, and enterprising, as the inhabitants of the United States. In the vicinity of Pittsburgh, I am informed, that the strata of coal are nearly horizontal, and that in one situation, the same stratum of coal forms the bed of a river for several miles. Coal has been discovered in New Holland. The only great coal formations in Asia that we know of, are in China, where coal is described as existing in large quantities, and as being extensively used for fuel in that vast empire.

As France will probably continue to be, for many centuries, our great manufacturing rival, it is interesting to know what are her resources, for the supply of an article found so essential to almost all the principal manufactures of Great Britain. Before the late peace, forty seven of the departments contained coal districts, and the annual consumption was stated to be about five millions of tons; but a great part of the rich and extensive coal-field extending from Valenciennes to Aix-la-Chapelle, is comprised in that part of Flanders, which was separated from France at the peace. There are, however, extensive coal districts in the north-eastern, the western, the middle, and the southern parts of France. Two miles from Lyons there are coal mines; the coal of St. Etienne and the ironstone beds accompanying it, about twenty miles north-west of Lyons, are of the very best quality. In the year 1822, when I passed through that country, many English workmen were employed in the iron-works, which were rapidly increasing. It cannot be doubted, that, from its soil, its climate, and its mineral resources, France possesses every advantage which a great manufacturing nation can require.

* For an account of American coal, the reader is referred to the conclusion of this volume, where will be found more full and precise statements.