

fact of great geological interest is the occurrence of coal in peat bogs, since it proves that the conversion of vegetable matter into a mineral, the origin of which was formerly deemed questionable, takes place, wherever circumstances are favourable for the production of the bituminous fermentation. In 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. It has probably been formed by the chemical changes supervening upon fir-balsam, during its long immersion in the

\* An analysis of 100 grains gave the following results :

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