

The extent of the Coal-measures, in various parts of the world, may be briefly and approximately stated as follows :—

ESTIMATED AREA OF THE COAL-MEASURES OF THE WORLD.

		Square Miles.
United States	220,166	420,166
" Lignites and inferior Coals	200,000	
British Possessions in North America		2,200
Great Britain		3,000
France		2,000
Belgium		468
Rhenish Prussia and Saarbrück		1,550
Westphalia		400
Bohemia		620
Saxony		66
The Asturias, in Spain		310
Russia		11,000
Islands of the Pacific and Indian Ocean		Unknown.

The American continent, then, contains much more extensive coal-fields than Europe ; it possesses very nearly two square miles of coal-fields for every five miles of its surface ; but it must be added that these immense fields of coal have not, hitherto, been productive in proportion to their extent. The following Table represents the annual produce of the collieries of America and Europe :—

		Tons.
British Islands	(in 1870)	110,431,192
United States		14,593,659
Belgium	(in 1870)	13,697,118
France	(in 1864)	10,000,000
" "	(in 1866)	11,807,142
Prussia	(in 1864)	21,197,266
Nassau	(in 1864)	2,345,459
Netherlands	(in 1864)	24,815
Austria	(in 1864)	4,589,014
Spain		500,000

We thus see that the United States holds a secondary place as a coal-producing country ; raising one-eleventh part of the out-put of the whole of Europe, and about one-eighth part of the quantity produced by Great Britain.

The Coal-measures of England and Scotland cover a large area ; and attempts have been made to estimate the quantity of fuel they contain. The estimate made by the Royal Commission on the coal in the United Kingdom may be considered as the nearest ; and,