

We may now pass to the Continent, and will first mention Sweden because it seems scarcely too bold a generalisation to

contains but four principal coal districts, viz. the Leinster, the Munster, the Connaught, and the Ulster. The two former contain carbonaceous or stone-coal,† and the latter bituminous or blazing coal.

The Leinster coal district is situated in the counties of Kilkenny, Queen's county, and county of Carlow. It also extends a short distance into the county of Tipperary, as far as Killenaule. This is the principal carbonaceous coal district. It is divided into three detached parts, separated from each other by a secondary limestone country, which not only envelopes, but in continuation passes under the whole of the coal district; a fact, which was indisputably though accidentally, proved by the Grand Canal Company, who sunk a pit through eighteen yards of black slate-clay, and flinty slate, into the limestone in search of coal. The Leinster coal district is therefore of subsequent formation to the limestone.

The Munster coal district occupies a considerable portion of the counties of Limerick and Kerry, and a large part of the county of Cork. It is by much the most extensive in Ireland; but as yet there is not sufficient information respecting the number, extent, or thickness of the beds of coal it may contain.

Coal and culm for near a century have been raised in the neighbourhood of Kanturk in the county of Cork. At Dromagh colliery I understand the work has been carried on to a very considerable extent, and its annual supplies of coal and culm have materially contributed to the agricultural improvement of an immense extent of the great maritime and commercial counties of Cork and Limerick, which must otherwise have continued neglected and unreclaimed.

Many circumstances combine to make the examination of this district of peculiar interest and importance,—and as a recent application has been made by the Cork Institution to the Dublin Society, to aid the undertaking, it is probable that this immense district will shortly be minutely explored; from all that has been ascertained it is very clear that the dip of the beds and the quality of coal differ materially from those of the Leinster district.

In the Munster district the beds run east and west, and dip to the south, forming an angle of forty-five degrees. In the Dromagh colliery, where all the beds which have been discovered have been successively and in general successfully wrought, four beds incline on each other, and at no greater distance than 200 yards. The first of these beds is a three feet stone-coal, and is the leading bed. All faults, checks, and dislocations, similar to those which are discoverable in this bed, are in general to be encountered in the other three; the names of the four beds are, the *coal-bed*; this lies furthest to the north; the *rock-coal*; so called from its being comparatively of harder quality than the other beds; the *bulk bed*; so called from its contents being found in large masses or bulks; and *Bath's beds*; so called from the name of a celebrated English miner, by whom it had been many years ago discovered and worked; the coal-bed consists of three feet solid coal, and is not sulphureous; the rock-coal, is nearly of the same thickness with the leading bed, but is very sulphureous, and having the soundest roof is the most easily wrought. The other beds are of the culm

common in the Connaught coal district; Westmeath near Athlone; Queen's county, Kilkenny and Carlow, in the Leinster coal district; Tipperary, continuation of the same; and Clare, Limerick, Kerry, and Cork, in the Munster coal district.

† Slaty Glantz coal of Werner.