

**ON THE EXTENSION OF THE
ENGLISH COAL-FIELDS BENEATH
THE SECONDARY FORMATIONS
OF THE MIDLAND COUNTIES**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649451609

On the Extension of the English Coal-Fields Beneath the Secondary Formations of the Midland Counties by Joseph Holdsworth

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

JOSEPH HOLDSWORTH

**ON THE EXTENSION OF THE
ENGLISH COAL-FIELDS BENEATH
THE SECONDARY FORMATIONS
OF THE MIDLAND COUNTIES**

ON THE EXTENSION
OF THE
ENGLISH COAL-FIELDS
BENEATH THE
SECONDARY FORMATIONS OF THE
MIDLAND COUNTIES.

ALSO,
DOES COAL EXIST NEAR LONDON?
GEOLOGICALLY CONSIDERED.

BY JOSEPH HOLDSWORTH, Esq., M.G.S.F.,

&c., &c.;

AUTHOR OF "A BATTLE WITH THE BARAZTS," "GEOLOGY AND MINERAL RESOURCES OF WALES,"
"GEOLOGY, MINERALS, AND SOILS OF IRELAND," "RURAL SCENERY," &c., &c.



LONDON:
R. MIDDLETON, 26, FLEET STREET.

1866

188. e. 10.

DEDICATION.

TO THE RIGHT HON. LORD BERNERS.

MY LORD,

It is with more than ordinary feelings of gratification, afforded on occasions like the present, that I avail myself of the permission to dedicate this little work to your Lordship. From vivid recollections of the patronage and encouragement at all times accorded by your Lordship to any measures having an inherent tendency to develop the natural resources and facilitate the progress and prosperity of our common country, I am agreeably conscious that the subject-matter of the following pages will not only be welcomed with a cordial approval, but enlist your Lordship's warmest sympathies for a thoroughly successful revealment of the great, I may truly say national problem, they are designed to set forth, and, it is trusted, to elucidate without partiality or prejudice.

Your Lordship's knowledge of my early predilections for investigations of this nature, and familiar acquaintance with certain manifestations I at that period prominently exhibited, will, I am persuaded, abundantly satisfy your Lordship of my sincerity and earnestness in the particular views and expositions I now, fortified by extensive subsequent experiences, essay to promulgate for the public weal.

I have the honour to remain,

Your Lordship's

Most obedient Servant,

JOSEPH HOLDSWORTH.

C O N T E N T S.

	PAGE
PREFACE	xiii
CHAPTER I.	
COAL—THE MAINSPRING OF OUR NATIONAL PROSPERITY : ITS PERMANENT AND ECONOMIC SUPPLY OF PARAMOUNT IMPORTANCE	17
CHAPTER II.	
PROBABLE EARLY EXHAUSTION OF OUR NORTHERN AND MIDLAND COALFIELDS	21
CHAPTER III.	
GEOGRAPHICAL EXTENT AND MATERIAL CAPACITIES OF THE PRINCIPAL ENGLISH COALFIELDS	26
CHAPTER IV.	
ON THE PROBABLE EXTENSION, BY GEOLOGICAL INDUCTION, OF OUR COALFIELDS BENEATH THE NEWER FORMA- TIONS OF THE MIDLAND AND SOUTHERN COUNTIES OF THE KINGDOM	35
CHAPTER V.	
DOES COAL EXIST NEAR LONDON? GEOLOGICALLY CON- SIDERED	67
CHAPTER VI.	
PROVISION AND PURPOSES OF THE CREATOR	105



P R E F A C E.

THE interest and importance attached to the grand problem which furnishes the primary subject-matter of the following Treatise, is, avowedly, so surpassing, that it were hardly necessary to apologise for this introduction of it to public notice.

For nearly thirty years, it has constituted a leading feature in the Author's researches, as a practical geologist; and almost as far back as that period, both with regard to private experiment and public controversy, he gave indubitable proof of the force and sincerity of the convictions he has mainly endeavoured to elucidate in the following pages. From the peculiar physical character of the question, it has not been possible to adduce any very direct evidences of a special, or indicative, local description, in attestation of the existence of the Carboniferous series, beneath the Secondary Formations of the unexplored districts of England, and hence, the geological disquisitions entered into, have necessarily been of a more general and comprehensive character. The results of actual experiments, in the future, and the minuter investigations of able geologists whose

interest may soon become more especially directed to the solution, in the main, of this inviting problem, will all gradually contribute to the introduction of interesting, and positive details, into the outline herein delineated.

Of the observed facts, and various statistical statements, which have been adduced in corroboration of the several positions sought to be maintained, it may simply be predicated that, they are striking corollaries of the *National* character of the question under consideration.

Our noble Coalfields, have long been the theme of general admiration, and self-gratulation with every patriotic Englishman, and it is only within the last few years, that a note of warning has been sounded, and that we have become startled into serious inquiry by prophetic declarations from geological *savans*, and other high authorities in such matters, as to the probable early exhaustion of the English Coalfields. In short, their present produce of 100,000,000 tons a-year and the certain rapid annual increase of these returns, sternly assures us that we are fast consuming our national capital—which, can never be replaced.

Under such portentous circumstances as these, surely any information having a tendency to obviate a domestic disaster of this kind,—even although it may not arrive at a crisis for a century or two beyond the predicted period,—must be hailed with a general and hearty welcome. Well indeed, would it be,