

DISCOVERY OF A LARGE COAL SEAM NEAR LAUNCESTON.

The fact of this important discovery is vouched for in a letter from our own correspondent, addressed to us from Launceston. The communication is as follows:—

“Having heard the other day that coal had been found in the vicinity of this town, I took an early opportunity of satisfying myself of the truth of the report, and proceeded to the spot. The land belongs to Mr. Wm. Griffiths, of Fresh Water Point, on the banks of the Tamar, about eight miles from town; and the coal, which was shown to competent judges, has been pronounced to be of first-rate quality. The sample I obtained, which is as good as I have seen, has a light appearance, a gassy smell when burnt, and is almost entirely free from slate; it is, in fact, very similar to the coal from the River Mersey. It is the opinion of many that a seam of coal extends from the Mersey to the Douglas, and, from the position of the land where the coal has now been found, as well as from a singular incident in connection with it, there is every reason to consider this opinion correct. Some time ago a fisher-

man experienced some difficulty in dragging his net to shore, in this locality, which was explained by the discovery of a large piece of coal in the seine, which had evidently been torn from the bottom—all the sides, but where the sercrance had been made, being covered with moss and shellfish. It is evident from this, that the seam runs under the River Tamar, and thence in a direction towards the Douglas. The seam appears to run north and south, and is visible on the surface for a distance of several hundred yards, being lost under a slight elevation. From the depth already penetrated there appears to be from seven to nine feet thickness of coal. I will not comment upon the extreme value of such a discovery to the mercantile community, or the facilities which the situation offers, but I do hope the development of such a source of wealth will be as speedy as the prospects with coal at £6 per ton seem to indicate."
