can be true, to the richness of the country,—to the way in which its riches in fossil fuel have been misused and wasted. Its hills are underlain with several coal-beds of moderate value, which if they could have been slowly and carefully mined in a small way, would have supplied local industries for many years. But speculation stepped in; land rose in price to fictitious values. Great sums were spent in equipping the mines so that they could be worked on a large scale, and in building a railroad to carry the coal to distant markets. When all was ready for a great output, it was found that the coal, while suitable for many purposes, was too tender to be carried long distances, and in quality could not compete with the purer Pennsylvania coals. Then the mines were abandoned, the machinery fell to pieces, and those of the inhabitants who had not sold out and moved away during the time of excitement, lapsed into the indifference that follows such great disappointment. At another time, when oil had been discovered in the country, the fever of speculation raged again through this land; and again visions of wealth to be had without labor danced before the eyes of the land-owners. Some farms were sold for fabulous prices, and immediately every person's price went up. A well was drilled, and a little oil was found, with quantities of gas. At this time gas was despised, and considered a nuisance, and even injury. The well was abandoned, and prices of land fell flat.

The apparent ease with which fortunes might have been made by all, and were made by one or two, seems to have completely taken away any ambition which these people may have formerly had. The farms have gone to waste, and the men cannot go back to the hard labor, but try to get along in the easiest manner.

The favorite topic of conversation at the crossroads store, the senate house of the surrounding country, is of the great mineral wealth hidden below the farms. According to the wise heads, the coal mines were not properly opened, the best coal is still untouched, the oil well was not deep enough, and great lakes of oil are deep down, awaiting the fortunate adventurer. The years wear away, but still the capitalist refuses to be made richer by investing there; but the natives still live on their hopes, and wait patiently for something to turn up.

Noticeable Articles.

A glance at the contents of the pile of periodicals that has accumulated during the vacation will be enough to show how indispensable to the students of politics, history, and literature these magazines have become. They are nowadays repositories for some of the best thought of the best thinkers of the day, and the recognized mediums of communication between students and scholars and the reading public on questions of living interest in every department of thought; and while it would certainly be a very superficial way of studying such questions to confine one's reading to periodical literature alone, it may safely be said, on the other hand, that no real student can get along without it, unless he is willing to remain ignorant of what other students—and among them most of the ablest scholars of the day—are doing and thinking. Whoever would convince himself of the vast improvement which has taken place in periodical writing, and realize the importance of its position nowadays, has only to take down from the dusty shelves of some great library some of the queer old volumes of the Gentleman's Magazine or the London Magazine of a hundred years ago, or even a volume of Edinburgh or the Quarterly or Blackwood's of three quarters of a century ago, when the new era began.

It would take quite too much space to give anything like a full account of the vacation numbers of all the best periodicals, English and American. I must confine my present notice to a few that lie on my table, and these chance to be numbers of the three English monthly reviews, and some numbers of Macmillan's which seems to me the best of the un-illustrated magazines. Of course Politics and the interminable Irish Question take a prominent place in all the English reviews, and the reader will find the most various opinions on the present political crisis. In the Fortnightly for July is a paper on "Home Affairs and a National Party"; in the number for August a paper on the "Material Progress of Ireland," by the well-known economist, Prof. Leone Levi,—a paper which will somewhat astonish