

1825.

The next year was one of an eventful and exciting character, and, when all the circumstances of that extraordinary epoch are considered, it will not appear surprising that a young merchant, naturally of a sanguine disposition, then almost for the first time taking his place as a member of one of the most respected commercial firms in London, possessed of a secular reputation, and of almost unlimited credit, should have been exposed to much solicitation from those who were blowing and seeking to set afloat the bubbles of that day, and should have been led to indulge somewhat in the brilliant dreams of a rapid creation of wealth by combined associations, which at that period of universal excitement carried away thousands of older and far more experienced heads.

Accordingly, into some of the American mining speculations set on foot in the spring of 1825, Mr. C. Thomson entered with the energy which was devoted to whatever he undertook. He took an active part in the direction of one or two of these schemes; and being a *bonâ fide* believer in their promised advantages, he, of course, like many others, suffered by the bursting of the bubbles on the arrival of "the Panic."

His elder brother had throughout remonstrated against any participation in such adventures; and it was probably owing to his prudent advice that they were not embarked in to a seriously inconvenient extent. As it was, the loss sustained was sufficient to read him a lesson of caution, from