

unlocked the door. He was recognised as an old offender, having been committed for twelve months to Lancaster Castle for felony, and for three months to the gaol in the New Bailey for misdemeanour. He was this time committed for trial at the sessions, "for entering the house with intent to steal."

NEWNHAM, (GLOUCESTERSHIRE.)—Providential Deliverance.—On the morning of Monday week, between five and six o'clock, as two men, Edward Kear and James Morgan, were descending a coal-pit, in Bilson colliery, Forest of Dean, an unforeseen accident in the steam-engine caused the fly-wheel shaft to break, which entirely disengaged from the other machinery the barrel, or drum-shaft, on which the large flat rope worked. This taking place, the two poor men began to descend at a fearful rate, and in a few seconds reached the bottom of the shaft or pit, a depth of 510 feet! Mr. Aaron Goold, who has the sole management of these collieries, was on the ground immediately after the accident happened, and, being informed that poor Edward and James Morgan were dashed to pieces, started off to the next pit, (Prospect,) to descend and ascertain what had become of them; when, to his utter astonishment, he saw the two men just landing from the cart or skip, apparently unhurt. It is impossible to describe the feelings of surprise, gratitude, and thankfulness, that flashed across his mind at so remarkable a deliverance. On making inquiry, he found that poor Edward had escaped entirely unhurt, and the other man with a slight contusion of the knee. It appears their preservation may be partially attributed to a plan adopted by Mr. G., a few years ago, of having a circular platform, nearly equal to the diameter of the shaft, attached to the end of the rope, which works regularly up and down, with the coal carts upon it, and is kept in its proper direction by guide rods. On this platform, without a cart, the men descended; and, owing to the elasticity of the compressed air, the shock at the bottom was comparatively light;—the poor men, having presence of mind, rolled instantly into the gateway, and escaped being crushed to death by the large quantity of rope and other materials that followed in quick succession. It is proper to remark, that one of the men, Edward Kear, has been a faithful, upright, and industrious servant of Edward Protheroe, Esq., for about twenty-two years, and a zealous and acceptable local preacher and class-leader in the Wesleyan connexion for nearly sixteen years. On being asked if he did not feel much alarmed at his dreadful situation, he replied,—"No, master, for I was uncommonly pleased to hear Jem begin to pray; I hope it will do him good."

IMPORTANT DECISION.—The *Philadelphia Friend* states that a recent trial of a negro man and his family, arrested as fugitive slaves, before the Supreme Court of New Jersey, has resulted in the discharge of the prisoners, and the establishment of some important principles in relation to the arrest of slaves in the free States. The trial was a long and deeply interesting one. David Paul Brown, the eminent abolition lawyer of Philadelphia, and Theodore Frelinghuysen, were the counsel for the fugitives. Chief Justice Hornblower expressed it as his decided opinion that the law of Congress regulating the arrest of fugitive slaves, is unconstitutional, because no power is given by the Constitution to Congress, for legislating on the subject. 2nd, that every person, white or black, free or slave, was entitled to a trial by jury in New Jersey. 3rd, that the colour of a person should be no longer considered as presumptive evidence of slavery in that State.

DISCOVERY OF A SHIP CHANNEL AT NEW YORK.—A new ship channel has been found, leading over the bar into the Bay of New York. It lies to the east of the channel hitherto known and used, and not distant from the Long Island shore. It is of commodious width, averaging about a quarter of a mile, and

saves three or four miles of the distance. But the greater advantage which it presents is, that it allows entrance and departure from the port during the prevalence of the winds which now forbid either. In tempestuous weather, when the access by the channel hitherto used is impossible, vessels may enter by the newly discovered one, and, entering in the Horse Shoe, the harbour formed by Sandy Hook, Staten Island, and the New Jersey Shore, may wait in safety, for a pilot. The danger of an approach to our port is thus happily and greatly lessened.—*New York Evening Post*.

SAFE TRAVELLING.—A new safety coach, of singular construction, will make an experiment on the Brighton road in a few days, accompanied it is anticipated, by the Taglioni and Duvernay, fashionable drags, and a number of distinguished individuals as umpires. It is guaranteed to maintain its perpendicularity running at full speed, with the near wheels off and the far one on, or *vice versa*; also with one or two wheels working on a bank three feet high, and the others in the drain; nay, even with its axle broken. The coach has a very elegant appearance, and the upright supporters which rise from the beds and axle, passing between the body and the boots, and by means of which the vehicle maintains its vertical position, are concealed from view. The principle has already been taken up for private carriages, several of which are now building.

FIRE ESCAPE.—Several families in the city have, at the suggestion of the Lord Mayor, provided their houses with fire escapes upon the simplest of all constructions—a rope fastened to each bedstead in the second-floor, with a loop at the end, by which children and women might be lowered into the street in the event of fire, and the last person descending would run no hazard from the rope giving way, as the bedstead coming in contact with the wall near the window would prevent the possibility of a fall. A small box in which the rope is coiled should be kept under each bed.

NEW AND IMPORTANT INVENTION.—Our readers will remember that some time since we mentioned the discovery of a new moving power, by Samuel Cowling, of Bowling. This invention, Mr. Cowling states, will, in a great measure, supersede the use of the steam-engine, for by it he is able, at any situation, to raise a sufficient quantity of water to propel machinery at one-third the expense of steam, and with far less risk of human life. Last Monday, Mr. Cowling received a patent for the invention, and he now intends immediately to attempt its practical application.—*Bradford Observer*.

LARGE GOURD.—There grew in the garden of William Thorpe, Esq. at Thorne, two gourds, or pompions, of extraordinary appearance and dimensions; the circumference of one of them was four feet four inches, and the weight fifty-two pounds, there being thus, by a curious coincidence, exactly a pound weight to every inch of the circumference. The gourds were of a Portuguese species, and one of them was exhibited at the public show of the Doncaster Horticultural Society.

A SOLDIER'S REPLY.—When the Hon. Colonel Cathcart, son of the veteran Earl Cathcart, waited on Lord Hill by appointment a few days since, the general commanding-in-chief inquired what time Colonel Cathcart would require to prepare himself for active service, and proceed to Canada with despatches? The gallant officer, after musing for a moment, replied, "Half an hour, my lord; but, if necessary, I will be ready in twenty minutes."

An American paper offers the following plan to populate a town:—Let the roads be so bad, up to the very outskirts, that if a man succeeds in getting into it, he will abandon the notion of getting out!