

many divisions of labourers are employed in a Coal Mine, and were told as follows:—Trappers, Horse-drivers, Road-layers, Pit-bottomers, Bandsmen or Coal-fillers, Colliers, Ostler, Furnaceman, Watchmen, Deputies and Chief Viewer, underground; while on the surface there were Blacksmiths, Carpenters, Masons, Engineers for the Locomotive and Winding engines, Banksmen, Ostlers, Cart-drivers, Coal-fillers and other labourers, besides the clerks in the office and the Foundry establishment. The population was calculated at over one thousand persons, besides Tailors, Shoemakers and other tradesmen; all of whom were directly or indirectly deriving their subsistence through the employment given at the Mines. We also understood, that a doctor and two schools were supported by subscriptions from the workmen; so that both their health and education were attended to.

To return to the path, or rather railroad from which we had wandered, we walked along for some distance, until the rumbling noise of a pit waggon drawn by a horse trotting along, warned us to step on one side, and let it pass; the horse went along freely, guided only by the uncertain light of the lamp hanging in the driver's cap; we jumped on to the low waggon, and kept our places by clinging on to the bow of the Skip, and soon arrived at the end of the first stage, yecept the waggon hole.

The Skip is a wooden sled with runners rounded at both ends, and shod with iron, with an iron bow crossing the sled, and which serves to support a number of iron rings, among which the coals are built in; and thus the colliers are enabled to send larger coals to bank than they could do, if they had to fill them into boxes, while they also are much more easily unloaded, as they tumble to pieces as soon as they are upset.

This Skip, arrived at the waggon hole, is hauled off the waggon, and another horse drags it up an inclined plane. We followed it; but found the roads so deeply worn in ruts, and steep, that we wondered how the horses got up or down them. We passed six boards with their supporting ribs, and then turned off to the right; and soon reached the place where the colliers were working. We sat down on a lump of coal to rest, and watch the men working: there were three men working in this Board; one was loading a skip with coals, another was cutting a notch, or "shearing" the side; while the third was drilling a hole in the solid coal preparatory to blasting down the piece that his neighbour was hewing at. The men pay for the powder used, which is about one pound each daily: its cost makes a great reduction in their apparent earnings; but they said it saved their manual labor, though they admitted that the coal made more *slack*, or was more easily broken than what was wrought by wedges. Like most other productions in the colonies, quantity, not quality, was the great desideratum with the producer.

The colliers, who had commenced working at daylight, had finished their tasks; and were replaced by the collier (who had acted as our guide) and a fresh