

our thumb) a half-penny candle was inserted. Our party consisted of the captain, one of the miners, my cousin, and myself.

A few yards distant from the "coo" or hut in which we had made our toilets, was a trap-door about a yard square; and this being opened, disclosed a nasty black-looking hole, that might have been "any depth," but which was, it seems, only sixty feet. On two of the opposite sides of the mine, and resting on little ledges in the angles, were long pieces of wood about three inches wide, by about an inch and a half thick, and eighteen inches one above another. The captain (whom we will call Mr. Darnton) first descended, after him the miner, then my cousin, and last of all your humble servant. The mode of progression consisted in digging the outside edge of the soles of your boots into the side of the shaft, so as to get all the hold you could of the narrow ledges of the "stemples," as they are called; and as to your hands, you were cautioned not to lay hold of the nearest stemple to your shoulder, but rather to stoop and rest on the lowest one practicable; so that, in case of a foot slipping, the muscles of the arms might not be suddenly called upon when in the comparatively relaxed position of a bent elbow.

Sixty feet of this sort of work brought us to a gallery about five yards in length, and at the end of this was another sixty feet of climbing way, and then another gallery, and so on, until we reached the "level," into which, at quarter-minute intervals, a tremendous body of water rushed through a cast-iron pipe about twenty inches in diameter. This intermittent little river—for it really was one in miniature—was the water lifted by the engine at every stroke—and she was making at that time four strokes a minute.

Our difficulties now had their commencement. "The engine, gentlemen," said our very intelligent guide, "is at the other end of that pipe, and the pipe is fifteen feet long. We must crawl through it, one at a time; and I can tell you it is rather an awkward journey. I will go first, and you can form an idea of the way of crawling by seeing what I do. Be careful to raise yourselves as high as you can when you hear the valve of the engine clap-to, for that is a sign she is beginning her stroke, and the water will be through like a shot; so mind and let it run under you, and take care it does not put your candle out."

We promised to observe all his cautions, and he at once crept into the pipe. There was something frightful about the whole affair, and the danger seemed magnified by the tremendous noise of the valve every time it went-to on the return stroke. It was, even at our end of the pipe, like a clap of thunder, and seemed to shake the solid limestone rock against which we stood.

After about a minute's interval, we heard Darnton shout to us to come on, but to be careful, and not to enter more than one at a time, and for each to wait till the other had well got through.

My cousin now essayed the journey, and being, as he was, a sixteen-stone man, and forty-four inches round the chest, I felt exceedingly nervous on the score of his safe arrival at the other side. Having waited for the next lift of water to run off, he instantly entered the pipe, but on getting half-way through, he turned his shoulders too square, and was for a few moments quite fast, and before he could right himself again, the engine made another stroke, the consequence being that the water was instantly damped up to his face, and the candle put out. A violent struggle and an involuntary raising of the body allowed the water to get away, and he had fortunately just time to get his breath and be ready for the next rush of water, which came with its usual tremendous force, but he was able to allow it to pass under. By dint of great exertion, he emerged on the other side safe, but a good deal frightened.

I would now most willingly have retraced my steps, but did not like being "chaffed," so took my turn, and being of a thin habit of body, got

safe through between the strokes of the engine, and now we were in presence of the monster.

I could not accurately describe this splendid piece of machinery without the aid of diagrams. Suffice it to say, that she is driven by an upright column of water about two hundred and eighty feet high, and takes the pressure just as a steam-engine would—namely, by the opening of a slide-valve. She can work readily up to five hundred horse-power, and would then make seven strokes a minute. When I saw her, she was about half her power. To give some idea of her size, I may mention that the joints alone of the upright piston-rod were at least the size of a farming-waggon body! The operation of taking in the water for each stroke, accompanied as it was by the inward opening of the valve, and the sound of the water, was awful enough, but, as I said previously, the closing of the same valve by the sudden pressure of a column of water equal to five hundred horse-power, was "a thing to remember."

The shaft in which we now stood was about a hundred and thirty yards in depth, and fifteen feet diameter, and in this awful place was the stupendous engine constantly going night and day, in a darkness made almost more invisible by our little candles.

And now came a serious question—Shall we return through that horrible pipe, or shall we ascend by the ladders in the engine-shaft. The alternative was as follows. If we went through the pipe, there was the danger of sticking fast; and if by the main shaft, there was no sort of protection in case of a slip off a ladder; and these ladders were ranged one above another in lengths of about thirty feet, and as nearly as possible perpendicularly, with no sort of fence or guard. At the top of each length was a small platform of wood, about a yard square; and these were the only resting-places. Darnton told us that if we decided to go up the main shaft we must, when once started, go forward; that no retracing of one's steps could be allowed, and that we must not attempt to look down.

After a few minutes' deliberation, we resolved to go up by the ladders. I went last; and what with the darkness, the tremendous noise of the engine when she took a stroke, and last, not least, an incident that I hope never to experience again, I never was more uncomfortable in my life. We had arrived within about twenty yards of the top, and I felt very much fatigued, and the tallow from the candle I held had run all over my right hand, which circumstances rendered a hold of the ladder-staves less secure. To rest my aching arms, I happened to lean back with all my weight, when about the top of the last ladder but two, and this caused the nail fastening that side of the ladder nearest to the wall to draw out, and the ladder itself to twist round! It is now almost thirty years ago, but I can almost at the present day feel my hair stand on end, as it most assuredly did at that instant. Thank God, the other side held, and I got safely to the top; but I resolved that for the future my proceedings should be best described by the words composing the heading of this article.

PASTIMES.

FLORAL ANAGRAMS.

1. Cobler sat on hat.
2. Main sable.
3. Cool sun lay V.
4. Time I saw well.
5. Raps rail.
6. Martha a sun.

ENIGMA.

Underneath the ground I lie,  
Useful to light London by,  
Round about the walls I stray,  
To wash London dirt away;  
In a blackbird's throat am I,  
Full of cheerful minstrelsy.  
Twist a ploughman's lips I sit,  
Wildst around him vicious fit,  
Ary and unreal elms:  
Thoughts fantastic as themselves  
Crowd into the rustic's brain,  
Long as I with him remain.  
In your cellar am I found,  
(At least, I trust so) underground,

Full of liquid ruby red,  
Lying on a savdust bed.  
Now let this my self-praise cease,  
Smoke with me the pipe of peace.

CHARADES.

1. Upon my first Dame Margaret rode  
To the market town, to buy  
Towels, and napkins, and table-cloths,  
And hosts of napery.

The worthy farmer's wife the cost  
Of all the gear had reckoned,  
But she insisted they should be  
The finest of my second.

When home she rode, to! she espied  
Upon the kitchen wall,  
An eyesore to a matron's sight:  
Forthwith she raised a squall.

"Here, Molly, hussy that you are,  
How dare you idle stay?"  
So luckless Molly scolded thus,  
Soon cleared my hole away.

A. H. B.

2. My 4, 3, 5, 7, 9, 4, 6 is an Island in Europe.  
My 4, 11, 2, 15, 6, 12, 9, 14, 10 is a flower.  
My 1, 6, 5, 9, 7 is a largosity.  
My 8, 3, 6, 7, 12 you frequently eat and sometimes drink.  
My whole is generally dangerous.

POPPIE.

REBUS.

The initials of the words here enumerated, and their initials, give the names of two highly popular dishes:—

A beast, furious, subtle, sleek, and wild.  
An exclamation, "Here he is, dear child."  
A virgin fair, who a fierce lion tamed.  
A Popish service in four letters named.  
A sturdy son of the old "Emerald Isle."  
A single stone in a gigantic pile.  
A character in one of Byron's rhymes.  
An epithet for your best friend, at times.  
A fluid without which I could not write.  
A number which the Muses know at sight.  
And what I hope you all will beto-night.

A. H. B.

SQUARE WORDS.

An animal.  
A man's name.  
Part of the body.  
To pull down.

PROBLEM.

A man and boy agreed to run a race, the boy receiving 100 of his own steps in advance at the start, and taking 5 steps for the man's 4; but 3 of the man's steps are equal to 4 of the boy's. How many steps must the man take to overtake the boy? (To be solved without algebra.)

J. MOFFATT.

ANSWERS TO REBUS, &c.

No. 73.

Geographical 'Rebus.—Lord Clive.—1. Lou-  
rain. 2. Order. 3. Roca. 4. Denmark. 5. Cor-  
dilleras. 6. Laaland. 7. India. 8. Varna.  
9. Ebro.

Anagrams.—1. Woollen socks. 2. Juvenile  
balls. 3. Muffs and boas. 4. Minco pies.  
[Note.—In question No. 2, for "Jane" read  
"June;" and in No 4, for "Jee" read "ice."] ]

Riddle.—In the time of No a (Noah).

Charade.—1. General Lindsay. 2. Long-  
fellow.

Double Acrostic.—Peabody—America—1.  
Tatna. 2. Epic. 3. Alibi. 4. Brother. 5.  
Umbre. 6. Dream. 7. Yea.

Problem.—The amount of the policy was  
\$4900.

ANSWERS RECEIVED.

Geographical Rebus.—Argus, Camp, H. H. V.,  
Dido, Vesta.

Anagram.—1st and 3rd—Geo. B., A. R. T.,  
Argus, H. H. V.

Riddle.—Bericus, Argus, Geo. B., Dido.

Charades.—Poppie, Argus, Bericus, Camp,  
Dido, Vesta.

Double Acrostic.—Bericus, Camp, H. H. V.,  
Argus, Dido.

Problem.—H. H. V., Geo. B., A. R. T., Argus,  
Camp.