

less, that love of engineering was first nurtured, and his mechanical genius called into activity. With beautiful filial devotion, he, after having carefully saved the sum of one hundred pounds, made it over to his parents. See him now removing with his parents to the village of Wabbothe, where he was employed as brake'sman on the waggon-way, and from thence to Hillingworth, in the neighbourhood of Newcastle colliery, still employed in the same capacity. Here that son, whose future fame was so to gladden his father's heart, was born. About that time the machinery at the colliery for pumping water out of the pit, got out of repair, and to the consternation of the proprietors, the efforts of the engineer were vainly employed to rectify it. The men were all, in consequence, thrown out of employ, and there seemed but little probability of the obstacle being surmounted. A special commission met on the subject, when one present ventured to remark he had heard George Stephenson say "he could soon set her to rights." Glad to catch at any hope of success, they sent for him, and he was introduced to the assembled circle, prominent among whom stood the resident engineer, anger and scorn depicted in his countenance at this interference in his department. Calmly the young man replied to the numerous questions applied to him, undaunted by the plainly depicted incredulity of many. He vouchsafed no explanation on the subject, and refused to act unless implicit confidence were placed in him. On being asked how many weeks it would require to rectify the deficiency in the machinery, to the astonishment of all he named but a few days, and instead of a large body of men, selected merely a picked few. Quietly and steadily his operations were carried on; and the proprietors of the works, the resident engineer, and an immense concourse from the neighbourhood, assembled to witness what many anxiously expected would prove a failure. The day was highly propitious, and the assembled multitude eagerly awaited the appearance of the young man. He stands before them—his fine bearing, his manly form, would anywhere have attracted attention, but now he was peculiarly an object of interest. The fair and beautiful had also repaired there to grace the scene with their presence. Pale, but calm, he stood undaunted, strong in the inward consciousness of his power. A deep emotion lighted up that powerful countenance, but self-