

common laborers, was an equivalent for the risk they ran. Thinking also, how little we have considered these things, when we have grumbled at the price of our coals.

We observed that there were two shafts, from which coal was being drawn by the Winding Engine being placed between them, and it was also pumping water from a third pit. At a short distance to the south-east was a square wooden building, out of which were ascending large volumes of smoke; this we afterwards learned was the upcast shaft, with a furnace at the bottom for rarefying the air, and thus accelerating its circulation through the works: the air descends by the pumping shaft, and when the weather is warm, jets of water fall down, thus increasing the action of the air, which is directed through the workings by doors, or stoppings, and made to traverse round the face of the workings. Constant attention is required to the state of the ventilation; particularly in these Mines, where large quantities of gas are discharging from numerous fissures, or "blowers" as they are termed, at the face of the workings; and to keep sufficient atmospheric air passing through, so as to mix with the gas, and render it non-explosive, demands the most constant watchfulness of the underground viewers. On the Eastern side of the pits, was a large levelled space of ground, whereon an immense quantity of coal was piled, being the produce of the mining operations during the Winter months: for these Mines labor under the great disadvantage of having a market for their coal during only half of the year; the other half, the rivers being frozen up, vessels are prevented from taking the coal to the United States, which is their principal market, so that to give the colliers constant employment on the one hand, and to be able to supply the demand required in a few months on the other, the Company are forced to have a large stock of coal prepared every Spring, ready for the anticipated trade.

We were agreeably surprised to find that there was no occasion to run the risk of descending one of the shafts to view the Mines; but that there was a "level" entrance into the seam of coal, where it was exposed in the bank side, and where it had been worked by the first discoverers. We also observed the immense thickness of this seam of coal, as exposed in the brook near the mouth of the level.

A collier was just going into the Mine, to whom we showed our order, and he civilly offered to guide us to the part where we should most likely find the manager or one of his deputies. He was an intelligent and communicative fellow, and from him, more than by our own observation, we learned what we are now attempting to describe. After being in the dark for a short time, our eyes began to distinguish objects by the light of his lamp: for here the men have little lamps with a hooked handle which they hang in their caps, instead of the old country custom of a candle in a lump of clay. We found the excavations were from ten to twelve feet high, and some as much as eighteen