For One Year or more,
THAT neat COTTAGE, with Ten
Acres of Land, situated in King's
ntry, opposite Hampton Church:
ertain part of the land is laid down
grass, and a snug Orchard on the
good Fences, &c. eligibly situated,
or a decent family. The whole
of at a low rate to a good tenant.
pply to
JOSEPH FAIRWEATHER.
4, 1842.

Bed rooms, with frost proof cellar,
e, &c. in a central situation, to let.
ice. April 8.

TO LET,
OF in Horsfield street, suitable for
maker or Painter. Apply at this
6th may.

ble Building Lots.
bers will lease for a term of years,
ots on the North Market Wharf,
belonging to R. W. Crookshank,
will be let separately or together.
SANCTON & CROOKSHANK.

TO LET.
er will Let from 1st May next, a
r finished House on the East side
e, in Mecklenburgh street, or the
upied by himself, in Charlotte st.
of Queen's square.
JAMES WHITNEY.

TO LET,
BRICK BUILDING, 23x28 feet,
stories, with a Cellar underneath,
n Nelson street. Possession can
tely, apply to
JOHN ROBERTSON.

TO LET,
ossession given 1st May next—
eligibly situated STORE and
House in Prince William street,
tion of THOMSON & WALLACE.
pply to
W. P. RANNEY.

TO LET,
1st May next—That handsomely
STORE, and two flats above,
Prince William street, presently
S. HARDING, being part of the
proof building occupied by the
W. H. STREET.

To Let,
of the subscriber's HOUSE in
n Street. Apply to
WM. MAJOR.

Good Stand.
sion given the 1st of May next:
ALBION HOUSE, now used as a
n. The premises can be had
Apply to
JOHN HOOPER,
Brogg's building.

To Let,
om the First of May next—
ous Two story DWELLING
remises situate in Hazen street,
called.) For particulars in-
ROBERT C. FROST,
ore of Sancton & Crookshank.

ENTS TO LET,
ied by Mrs. Durant, corner of
ate streets. Apply on the pre-
Feb. 18.

Farm for sale.
FARM situated about 10 miles
ontaining 700 acres of excel-
d and fifty acres of which is
ultivation, cuts annually from
hay, and might be divided in-
rms, the main road from Shediac
ing through the centre,
es twelve head horned Cattle,
g utensils, &c. £250 of the
would be required the remain-
k to eight years as might be
ecured by bond and mortgage
nually. A plan of the land
ut with other information may
tion at the Hibernian Hotel to
JAMES NETHERY.

TO LET,
From 1st May next:
rsefield street, at present oc-
Thomas; and the apartments
occupied by Mr. Watson as
f the adjoining house. Ap-
W. MACDOUGALL.

TO LET,
sion given 1st of May next—
e or a part of that three story
er street, now occupied by
d Mr. James Finn, as liquor
artments. There are three
with back room and half of
. Its vicinity to the steam
with being so long establish-
shes it a desirable stand for
he Hibernian Hotel.
JAMES NETHERY.

To Let,
given 1st May next:
convenient House in Church
occupied by Mr. Robert
formerly by Mrs. Brooks, as
school. Its convenience
extensive accommodation it
irable situation for a public
te Boarding House.
diate possession given:—
ly finished House in Car-
g a Kitchen, vegetable and
al Rooms having Frank-
e first and second flats.
n, terms, &c., apply at the
JAMES NETHERY.
r.

PER HANGINGS.

OSTER,
nd Germain streets.
per ship "Perthshire," an
ndid assortment of English
HANGINGS, suitable for
oms, Parlours, Halls, En-
which he offers for sale at
3d., 2d., 3d., and 4d. per
ce contains 12 yards, 21
RINGS of all width and
May 20, 1842.

e, Bright Varnish and
CH.
ved per Margaret, which is
ding—
sses; 4 Barrels Spirits
RPENTINE;
nish; 10 ditto PITCH;
offer for sale on moderate
ment.
ON & CROOKSHANK.

Puncheons good retailing
y the subscriber.
. FAIRWEATHER.

gou Tea.
y, from Halifax, on con-
nt:
ony's CONGOU TEA,
r article for family use,
AMES MALCOLM.
rehouse, P. Wm. street.

THE

Weekly Chronicle.

Terms—15 shillings per annum:] "Nec Regi, Nec Populo, sed utroque." [12s. 6d. if paid in advance.

Vol. VI. SAINT JOHN, (N. B.) FRIDAY, JULY 8, 1842. No. 44.

THE CHRONICLE,
Is published every Friday afternoon, by DONALD & Co., at their office in the brick building corner of Prince William and Church street.

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Weekly Almanack.

July.		h.	Sun. s.	moon.	d.	w.
9	Saturday,	4	37	7 23	8	53 0 20
10	Sunday,	4	38	7 22	9	20 0 54
11	Monday,	4	38	7 22	9	46 1 31
12	Tuesday,	4	39	7 21	10	15 2 8
13	Wednesday,	4	39	7 21	10	42 2 50
14	Thursday,	4	40	7 20	11	9 3 32
15	Friday,	4	41	7 19	11	37 4 27

First Quarter, 14th, 5h. 9m. even.

PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS.

BANK OF NEW-BRUNSWICK.—Thos. Leavitt, Esq., President.—Discount days, Tuesday and Friday. Hours of business, from 10 to 3.—Notes for Discount must be left at the Bank before 1 o'clock on the days immediately preceding the Discount days. Director next week: L. H. DeVeber, Esq.

COMMERCIAL BANK.—John Duncan, Esq., President.—Discount Days, Tuesday and Friday.—Hours of business, from 10 to 3.—Bills or Notes of Discount must be lodged before 1 o'clock on the days preceding the Discount days.—Director next week: A. W. Whipple, Esq.

BANK OF BRITISH NORTH AMERICA.—(St. John Branch.)—A. Smithers, Esq., Manager.—Discount Days, Wednesdays and Saturdays.—Hours of Business, from 10 to 3.—Notes and Bills for Discount to be left before 3 o'clock on the days preceding the Discount days. Director next week: W. H. Street, Esq.

NEW-BRUNSWICK FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY.—John Boyd, Esquire, President.—Office open every day, (Sundays excepted) from 11 to 1 o'clock.—[All communications by mail, must be post paid.]

SAVING'S BANK.—Hon. Ward Chipman, President.—Office hours, from 1 to 3 o'clock on Tuesday's. Cashier and Register, D. Jordan.

MARINE INSURANCE.—I. L. Bedell, Broker. The committee of Underwriters meet every morning at 10 o'clock, (Sundays excepted.)

MARINE ASSURANCE COMPANY.—James Kirk, Esq., President.—Office open every day (Sunday's excepted) from 10 to 3 o'clock. ☞ All applications for Insurance to be made in writing.

☞ NOTICE.
THE subscribers having this day entered into Co Partnership, the business heretofore carried on by L. H. Deveber will in future be conducted under the Firm of
L. H. DEVEBER & SON.
L. H. DEVEBER,
RICHARD SANDS DEVEBER.
St. John, 7th May, 1842.

Removal.
DAVID PATERSON has removed his Boot & Shoe Establishment from Prince Wm. street, to the Brick Building lately erected by John Johnston, Esq., west side of Dock street, three doors from the Market square. May 6.

Removal.
THE subscribers have removed their place of business from Water street, to the new Fire proof store, lately erected by them at the foot of Union street, on the property belonging to R. W. Crookshank, Esq.
SANCTON & CROOKSHANK.
April 29, 1842.

CROOKSHANK & WALKER have removed their Counting House to the same building.
April 29.

St. Andrews & Fredericton.
L. COPELAND begs to inform the Public that he is now under contract to convey H. M. Mail's between St. Andrews and Fredericton, and will convey passengers on said route with the utmost expedition. The Stage will leave the former place immediately after the arrival of the American mail on Wednesday's, and Fredericton on Friday's.—Fare 30s.
EXTRA conveyances furnished at all times, on application at the Hotel.
St. Andrews, April 29, 1842.

For Sale,
AT THE PHENIX FOUNDRY,
A POWERFUL LOW PRESSURE STEAM ENGINE, nearly finished, applicable either for Land or Marine purposes, to be had on reasonable terms, on early application to
THOMAS BARLOW & CO.

OX HARN—A variety of Cooking Stoves, Franklins, Ploughs, and Ship Castings. Mill, Ship, and Engine Work, with every description of Machinery made to order.
☞ Warehouse on the Mill Bridge, corner of Pond street. Jan. 21.

Steamer Nova-Scotia.
Arrangement for 1842.
HAS now commenced plying in the Bay of Fundy, as follows:—Monday—Leaving Saint John for Eastport, Saint Andrews, and Saint Stephen, at 7 a. m., and returning on Tuesday.—Wednesday—For Digby and Annapolis at 7 a. m., and returning on Thursday.
Will leave Saint John every Thursday evening for WINDSOR, two hours before high water, until further notice.
For further information please apply to the master on board, or at the Counting Room of
E. BARLOW & SONS.
St. John, April 22. Dock street.

Salt, Molasses, Pork.
2,000 bushels Liverpool SALT;
45 Hhds. Molasses; 150 barrels Pork;
10 Firkens Butter; 4 do. Lard;
150,000 feet bright Deals; 20 cords Lathwood;
10 M Ash STAVES.
The above articles will be sold cheap for approved payment. JOSEPH FAIRWEATHER.
April 29th, 1842.

Miscellany.

[From the London New Monthly.]

TALLEYRANDISM
OF THE DRAWING-ROOM.

BY MILES GERALD KEON, ESQ.

"Tout ce qui paraît hazardeux et qui pourtant ne l'est pas, est presque toujours sage."—CARDINAL DE RETZ.

Some persons are apt to suppose that the social machiavellism that distinguished the era preceding the French revolution, has been altogether banished from the higher circles of Europe; and that all the subtle and finessing diplomacy which, even in the saloon, was indefatigably busy during that stirring day, in its vocation of reading hearts and contriving plots, of concerting ambitious intrigues, and acquiring or fast-holding the emoluments and dignities of courts, has been of late replaced by the old straightforward system of downright plain "directness." They who entertain this impression, are endowed with admirable simplicity. Not many years since, the occurrences which I am going to relate took place in London; and they will serve to show that these Alcibiades arts are yet cultivated in the ambitious atmosphere of courts.

A ministerial crisis had arrived. The government was fiercely pressed by the opposition, and the votes in the lower house stood so nearly balanced that the voice of even one member had become a matter of very anxious importance.—In this state of things, the victory was likely to favor the more active party of the two; emissaries were abroad in every quarter; all the expedients of ingenuity, and all the refined blandishments of the most vigilant address, were by both sides equally resorted to. In one word, there was a game of diplomacy.

In the very midst of it there suddenly appeared a young man, whose wonderful skill (visible chiefly in its effects) excited the observation and fixed the attention of all the higher political personages of the day. He had precisely the characteristics of the old school of diplomacy—the portraitures of whose disciples are to be seen in many of our most accepted romances.

As he was a ministerialist, proselytes of government everywhere started up before the witchery of his presence. Yet no one could divine the process by which these important conversions were achieved.

In his manners there was an inexpressible charm which always procured him a distinguished reception auprès des dames. Indeed, nothing could exceed—scarce even can memory now recal the self-possession of his deportment.—His velvet footfall, his cold bright eye,—so watchful, yet so calm,—his smooth unruffled forehead, which no expression of joy or of alarm, of astonishment, of contempt, or of disappointment, ever visited with its tell-tale presence; these were the well-known individualities of his demeanor.

To do his memory justice, however, he had not the darker qualities of his class: he seemed to take infinite delight in the scenes in which he was engaged, and to exult in the exercise of his wonderful intelligence, like the conquerors of old, who often derived more gratification from the exhibition of their military skill, than from the acquisition of territory which seemed to them by means of its exertion. He had, in fact, all the talents, without a particle of the malignity, which generally belong to the state intriguer. So that it was evident he pursued his profession as an amateur, delighting to feel his power; and though often exerting it without regard to the strict casuistry of right, yet never wielding it to crush a personal enemy, or to wreak a personal revenge.

The ideal associations connected with a career like his, in his earliest youth, fascinated his imagination. The tapestried closet, the rich and retinued hall, the crowded levee, and the gay excitement of the ball-room, were scenes among which he loved to move, and where he was eminently fitted to figure. The midnight conference, the critical charge, the delicate and difficult interview in which only the most consummate tact could avail him; these, and such as these, had for him all the charms of romance.

On the other hand, however, it must be admitted that his practice was not always so poetical as his theory; and that he did occasionally perform some mischievous achievements. Divisions and broils among the best of friends, were as frequently observed to wake a mysterious appearance where he had for a while shined, as reconciliations between the most deadly enemies were known to be the certain results of his mediation—not that he carried tales; he was never so insane, and it was a frequent phrase with him, "that there was no ingenuity in a lie." All then that can be said is, that he contrived matter according to methods of his own, which it would perhaps be vague and visionary to divine.—Indeed, during one season, when he was particularly capricious, so many unaccountable dissensions, and such a high warfare of scandal took place, that one lady, whose name we need not mention, but whom we believe to have been more observant than the rest of the world, was heard to say, "If we were living a few centuries back, I should assuredly believe that that young elegant had the evil eye; he but looks on you, and straightway your affairs go wrong. But as evil eyes are grown out of fashion, and as he is decidedly in fashion, I must merely conclude, that he has a fund of the most mischievous ingenuity."

Our hero (if so we may call the personage who principally figures in the narrative we are about to relate) overheard this remark; for, by a coincidence, he chanced at the moment to be standing near. He bowed quietly: and then with that slow and distinct utterance for which he was remarkable, smilingly said,

"Ah! you and I ought to be the dearest friends; there is quite a congeniality of sentiment between us. I am uncharitably ingenious; you uncharitably witty. A talent is sometimes a very great temptation."

Such then was his reputation, and such the sentence awarded to him by the voice of fashion.

It was about two years afterwards that the ministerial crisis, to which we have already once alluded, came darkening over the political world. Our hero was then private secretary to the prime-minister. For the sake of distinctness, we shall in future call the secretary D'Amarrs. This was not his real name, but it will serve the purpose of our narrative.

One evening, then, at this epoch, D'Amarrs was summoned to the minister's closet. After the usual preliminaries of etiquette, which are never in such cases very tedious, the premier plunged in *medias res*, but still with characteristic deliberation.

'Matters, D'Amarrs,' said he, 'are in a way, and so far succeeding; but there are two or three little delicate points still to be achieved.'

The secretary bowed forward.

'D'Amarrs,' continued the premier, 'you have proved to me repeatedly, in a manner of which I cannot but be sensible, that you possess extraordinary talents. I am very well pleased with your conduct, and I hope that you are equally well pleased with your post.'

As he was here clearly expected to answer, D'Amarrs muttered something about 'highly flattered, unabated zeal,' after which the premier resumed.

'But this very post of yours may be occupied by another in a few days, D'Amarrs. Can you guess the reason?'

'Perhaps,' replied the secretary, with his usual cool tone, 'perhaps, my lord, it is because your lordship's post also may be occupied by another in a few days. Have I by chance guessed the reason?'

'Hem, D'Amarrs, you have,' answered the minister; 'but this double misfortune you are destined to avert. You must here bring your talents into play.'

D'Amarrs stirred the fire, and then leaned comfortably back in his chair, but did not utter a word. As the minister continued to scrutinize him, the secretary arose and snuffed the two candles, one after another, after which, with the utmost *sang froid*, he resented himself, preserving all the while the most tantalising silence.

'The fact is,' resumed his lordship at last, 'there is, you are aware, Mr. Warnerston in the lower house, who has three or four votes at his command. He must be gained.'

'True, my lord; so he must.'

'But it is not so easy an affair as you suppose,' continued his lordship. He is well enough disposed himself, but an unusual difficulty lies in the way; indeed, it's quite a peculiar case, and just suited to you. There is an enthusiastic friendship between his daughter and the daughter of the leader of the opposition, Sir George Crake. Now the girls know the state of parties, and are well versed, it seems, in politics; and Miss Warnerston has been played upon by her friend Miss Crake, not to allow her father to destroy the harmony of the families, by voting against her father.—And what between the doubting politician and the doting papa, this Warnerston throws the little predilection he had for us to the winds, and means to join the opposition. You see the whole affair is a pitiful intrigue, D'Amarrs. The women are perpetually in the way. Now, what I want you to do is, to bring the two young ladies to feud. Warnerston of course would then be certain.'

But how much time will your lordship give me to effect this purpose?' demanded the youthful confidant.

'Until the day after to-morrow,' said the minister. 'The two young ladies will be at the Duchess of Hanvers' ball to-morrow night, and you should choose that opportunity for effecting the point.'

As the secretary here thoughtfully arose, and walked towards a table behind, as if to look for something, the premier imagined it was in reference to the communication he had just been making, that D'Amarrs occupied himself. He therefore waited patiently to hear him speak, expecting that there might, perhaps, be some objection in the other's mind, or some cautious suggestion. Finding, however, that he still continued to look about, his lordship said—

'Well, D'Amarrs what do you think of the task which I have charged you with?'

'Eh, my lord?' said D'Amarrs, turning round with a start. 'Oh! I beg ten thousand pardons; but I could not imagine that your lordship was still thinking of the matter. *It is arranged.*'

As the minister was that night leaving his closet in a state of the highest satisfaction with his secretary, whom he had but good night to some hours before, he met one of his own colleagues in office just outside the door.

'Ah! my lord,' said he, rubbing his hands with an air of glee, 'Warnerston is certain; D'Amarrs has undertaken the matter.'

'But Miss Crake?' returned the brother minister; 'but the two daughters—what of them?'

'That is precisely the point,' said the premier. 'My secretary will spoil their harmony for ever and a day. He has agreed, in a word, to make them quarrel.'

'Absurd!' sneered the other—'absurd and preposterous! Why, my lord, their intimacy has reached to that romantic degree, that it is utterly hopeless to make them quarrel. Surely you are not imposed upon by the self-assurance of this young man. Pardon me, I am aware that he is very subtle and diplomatic; but to think of dividing these female Pylades and Orestes. Ha! ha!'

'But, my lord, to-morrow night at the Duchess of Hanvers' ball, you will judge for yourself.'

'I shall be there on purpose,' was the quick reply.

[To be continued.]

MINES AND COLLIERIES.

Some Petitions recently presented by the Bishop of Norwich, in the House of Lords, respecting the employment of children in mines, have drawn the attention of the public painfully to the Report of the Commissioners appointed some time ago to inquire into this subject. Several compilations of this Report, and selections from the evidence it contains, has been published. They are often unfit for general circulation from the grossness of the abuses they are obliged to expose. All the evils of the factory system are in full operation in many of the mining districts, aggravated to the imagination of the reader, at least by the absence of daylight in these subterranean fields of labour. The following description of a coal-pit may be useful to some of our youthful readers, who perhaps, have seldom speculated on any other condition of life than their own:—

Dr. Mitchell, in his Report on the working of the coal-mines in Shropshire, says, that when it has been determined to attempt to open a new mine for coals two shafts are sunk near to each other, perhaps twelve or twenty yards apart. The diameter of each shaft is usually about seven feet. The mode of sinking a shaft is precisely the same as that of sinking a well in the country round London. The shaft is built round with bricks as the work proceeds, by a process known to builders by the designation of underpinning, and the water on the sides must be stopped out from getting into the shafts, in the same way as the water is kept out from the wells around London, by use of cement, or, where that is insufficient, by inserting iron cylinders, which, when so employed, are in this district usually called tubs. In working the shafts, should they come to a bed containing a great body of water, which cannot be stopped out by such means, then a cistern must be formed in this bed, from which it must be pumped up; and it is evidently much more economical to remove it in this way, than to allow it afterwards to find its way down to a lower depth into the mine, from which it would have to be raised at a greater labour and trouble. When the shafts have been sunk to a certain depth, a difficulty of obtaining fresh air for the men begins to be felt, and a current is effected by making an opening from the one shaft to the other. The air descends one shaft passes through the opening, and then ascends the other shaft: when the air has once been put in motion, it is not difficult to continue the current, and several modes are resorted to in order to make a commencement. A fire is lighted in one of the shafts which sends a stream of air upwards, and thereby a fresh supply is drawn in from the other shaft. There is an instrument called the Blow George, which very much resembles the fan employed by farmers to winnow their corn, and may be worked by six men three and three relieving each other; and in case of the work being continued at night, these six being relieved by other six. The Blow George when it is practicable, is worked by a band connected with the steam-engine. The air from it is forced into pipes, and sent down with great force to the bottom. This instrument is chiefly used, however, whilst a deep shaft is being sunk, or a level is being carried forward, called a heading, and before the work is sufficiently advanced to be able to make a circuit and a current of air through it.

After the shafts are carried to a certain distance lower down, a fresh communication is made, and the former one is stopped up; and when at last the coal is reached, all communication is stopped except through the mine, in which as early as possible an opening is made from one shaft to another, and a fire is placed in a grating, or, as it is called, a lump, at the end of a stalk of iron, under one of the shafts, and is constantly kept burning. When the men come up at night, the last thing done is to put coals on the fire, and it generally keeps alight until they go down to work in the morning. From the foot of each shaft a road or gateway is carried forward into the mine. In Staffordshire, where there is the ten-yard coal, a horse-road is cut out of the coal, but in the districts where the seams of coal are very narrow, the roads are proportionably small. Occasionally the roof has to be supported by beams of timber. In the middle of the road in some of the mines, rails are laid down, on which are carriages with low wheels, which are dragged with horses. It is just barely possible to stand close to the side, to keep out of the way of the horses and carriages whilst passing. The two horse-roads having been carried a short way from the shafts, a working is made in the coal from the one to the other, but only to the depth of the coal, and a small portion of the measure either above or below. When the communication between the two horse-ways is thus established, a door is placed in a direct passage which leads from one shaft to the other, and is usually kept shut, so as to cause the air that comes down the one shaft to go forward and circulate through the mine before it ascends the other.

As the mine advances, other horse-ways are made, so that they may be able conveniently to reach every part, and then the system of ventilation becomes much more complicated, and many doors have to be erected in the horse-ways, and a boy is placed at each to open it when it is necessary to let any one pass, and to see that it is kept shut at every other time. The safety of the mine much depends on this duty being well performed, and so many young children are likely to err and cause great destruction of human life.

In some of the pits there are no horse-ways; the passages, or "gates," as they are called, being too small to admit of those animals. The strata of coal in some of the fields are not more than twelve inches thick, as in Gloucestershire; and to draw the coal along the gates in such mines, children are substituted for horses. Mr. Scriven describing the mines of the West Riding of Yorkshire says, "I know but of two gates that will admit of the use of horses: In some of them I have had to creep upon my hands and knees the whole distance, the height being barely *twenty inches*, and then have gone still lower on my breast, and crawled like a turtle to get up to the headings. In others I have been more fortunately hurried on a flat board mounted on four wheels, or in a corve,* with my head hanging over the back, and legs over the front of it, in momentary anticipation of getting scalped by the roof, or of meeting with the still more serious infliction of a broken head from a depending rock; whilst in others I have been enabled to accomplish my journey by stooping." These gates are sometimes of great length. Mr. Scriven mentions the Booth-town pit, in which he walked, crept, and rode, 1,800 yards to one of the nearest "faces," or working-places; the most distant was 200 further.†

The practice of forming the "gates" is to drive two heads, parallel with each other, right away from the shaft to the extreme boundary, alternately mining and stopping the horse-gates, which are formed at right angles as they proceed; one of them may be designated the hurrying-in gate, the other the hurrying-out gate. They then commence "getting" right and left, cutting out the coal, as will by and by be described.

The roads or passages along which the coal is brought from the seam to the shaft, resemble the streets of an oblong town placed on a plane inclined sideways, and where there is one main street, through its length, near its lower side, with small side streets rising out of it at intervals, and a drain below the main street along the bottom. Along these roads the children draw or as it is called "hurry" the coal, in small square waggons, called "corves," "corfs," or "dans," proportioned to the height of the passages.

The varities are very great in the working of collieries of different magnitudes, and where the seam of coal is of different degrees of thickness. But in all cases there are side passages cut up to the bank or face where the coal is hewn. In his Report on the Durham coal-field, Dr. Mitchell compares a colliery to an old fashioned window-frame, of which the bars represent the galleries excavated from the coal, and the small glass panes the parallelograms of solid coal, which remain till the field has been entirely intersected by the galleries or roads: and then as much of the remaining masses of coal is "robbed" as prudence permits.

The entrance into a pit is effected either by the shaft or by a horizontal or inclined road cut into the side of a hill. Dr. Mitchell thus describes his descent into a coal-pit near Dudley:

"After a skip loaded with coals was drawn up, a covering of the mouth of the shaft was wheeled forward, and the skip was let down upon it, and was unloaded of about twenty-five cwt. of coals. The party about to descend, four in number, then stood upon the skip, and laid hold of the chain to which it was attached. The skip was then hoisted a little to allow the covering to be wheeled off. We then descended with an agreeable, gentle motion, and soon observed the light to become less and less, until we were in perfect darkness, and ere long were at the bottom of the shaft. When we looked up, the mouth of the shaft seemed to be the size of a sugarbasin. There were men in readiness at the foot of the shaft, who handed to each a candle, which we held by a piece of clay attached to the end of it. In a short time the eyes became reconciled to the sudden change of light, and we proceeded forward. The great road or gateway along which we passed was cut out of the coal, seven or eight wide and about nine feet high. The thickness of the seam, being the ten yard coal would have allowed of making the road of greater height, but that would have rendered it more dangerous in case of anything falling out of the roof, from the velocity acquired in descending from so great a height. A railway is laid along the middle of the road, to make it easier for the horses to draw the cars. Soon it became necessary to stand to one side to make way for the horses drawing cars, each horse conducted by a boy of thirteen or fourteen, the lad naked from the waist upwards, and marching, his right hand at the bridle. We were conducted to a stable where were some horses eating and drinking, and apparently very comfortable. Their skins were smooth and glossy, and the animals were fat, which is attributed to the warm uniform temperature. It sometimes happens that when a horse is for the first time brought down into a coal-pit he falls in a fainting-fit, which is supposed to arise from fear. A horse which has been brought down into a coal-pit is not for ever doomed to be deprived of the light of day. Some of these horses had been up, and been put to grass several times. It was stated afterwards by a witness at Bristowen, that donkeys could not endure the heat of coal-mines, but were sometimes employed in iron-mines, which are always found to be much cooler than the coal-mines, although both may be at the same depth from the surface of the earth.

"We came at last to the farther extremity of the pit in that direction, and then diverged by a working or treading from the gateway to the left, to a place where men were at work. The chief miners, the *undergoers*, were lying on their sides, and with their picks were clearing away the coal to the height of a little more than two feet. Boys were employed in clearing out what the men had disengaged. Portions are left to support the great mass until an opening is made on each side of the mass, and also part is taken away from the back. This undergoing is a dangerous part of the work, as, notwithstanding all that experience and judgement can do, occasionally too much is taken away, and a mass of coals will suddenly fall and crush the men and boys engaged. Fortunate are they if they escape with their lives, but broken bones they cannot fail to have to endure."

Dr. Mitchell states, that, while in the mine, the candles of three of the party out of four who were in company with him, in one place went out, but on lighting them, and holding them a little higher up, no inconvience was experienced, as the carbonic acid, being weightier than the air, falls as low down as it can. The Doctor also descended the Walbut Pit, at Bilston, and he thus describes the adventure:—

"The water was said to have risen in the pit, and we were detained nearly an hour until the pumps had reduced it a little. We at last entered the skip, and whilst descending, saw, as we passed, the ten-yard coal, and much lower down, the 'Heathen' coal. The beds at which we arrived, at the depth of eighty-one yards from the top, consisted of the new-mine coal, and fire-clay coal, which here came very near to each other, there being only a thin parting between them, so that both seams might be worked at once. The first step from the skip went above the uncle in water and wet coal-dust, and the second step was like the first. It was of no use then to be on ceremony, and we advanced forward. The water in one place was nearly knee deep, and through this part we went on a carriage with a skip along the gate in such mines, children are substituted for horses. Mr. Scriven describing the mines of the West Riding of Yorkshire says, "I know but of two gates that will admit of the use of horses: In some of them I have had to creep upon my hands and knees the whole distance, the height being barely *twenty inches*, and then have gone still lower on my breast, and crawled like a turtle to get up to the headings. In others I have been more fortunately hurried on a flat board mounted on four wheels, or in a corve,* with my head hanging over the back, and legs over the front of it, in momentary anticipation of getting scalped by the roof, or of meeting with the still more serious infliction of a broken head from a depending rock; whilst in others I have been enabled to accomplish my journey by stooping." These gates are sometimes of great length. Mr. Scriven mentions the Booth-town pit, in which he walked, crept, and rode, 1,800 yards to one of the nearest "faces," or working-places; the most distant was 200 further.†

The practice of forming the "gates" is to drive two heads, parallel with each other, right away from the shaft to the extreme boundary, alternately mining and stopping the horse-gates, which are formed at right angles as they proceed; one of them may be designated the hurrying-in gate, the other the hurrying-out gate. They then commence "getting" right and left, cutting out the coal, as will by and by be described.

The roads or passages along which the coal is brought from the seam to the shaft, resemble the streets of an oblong town placed on a plane inclined sideways, and where there is one main street, through its length, near its lower side, with small side streets rising out of it at intervals, and a drain below the main street along the bottom. Along these roads the children draw or as it is called "hurry" the coal, in small square waggons, called "corves," "corfs," or "dans," proportioned to the height of the passages.

The varities are very great in the working of collieries of different magnitudes, and where the seam of coal is of different degrees of thickness. But in all cases there are side passages cut up to the bank or face where the coal is hewn. In his Report on the Durham coal-field, Dr. Mitchell compares a colliery to an old fashioned window-frame, of which the bars represent the galleries excavated from the coal, and the small glass panes the parallelograms of solid coal, which remain till the field has been entirely intersected by the galleries or roads: and then as much of the remaining masses of coal is "robbed" as prudence permits.

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* The basket in which the coal is drawn up.

† In Cumberland, many of the collieries go a long distance under the sea. In the William Pit, they have 500 acres under the sea, and the distance is two and a half miles from the shaft to the extreme part of the workings. The shaft is 110 fathoms.

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"In one place the gas bubbled up through the water, and when a candle was held to it there was a flash."

The mode of descent into a coal-pit in Shropshire differs a little from that most in use in Staffordshire. Instead of using the empty skip, they take away the empty skip, and then the hook on to the end of the chain from the engine a short chain by hooks at each end of it, and then other chains in the same way, according to the number of persons going down. Every man takes hold of his chain, one part in each hand, and steps over the double ell it, and sits down like a boy in a rope swing. The engine draws all up a little until the cover of the shaft be withdrawn, and then all go down together in a bunch. It is thought to be a safer way than going down in a skip, or in the tub, which is sometimes used when ladies or timid gentlemen venture to descend. Sometimes twenty miners, men and boys, come up in one bunch, and such a case a boy puts his legs across a man's thigh, and takes hold of the chain; if the long chain should break then all would perish together. Such an occurence is rare, but a man was killed last year, near Wellington, by a brick falling out of the side of the shaft.

There is much that is reprehensible in this mode of descent and ascent. Merely sitting on a chain and holding by both hands, is not nearly so safe as when the thighs pass through a loop, which is too narrow to let the body get through. In Leicestershire, Derbyshire, and in the great northern coal-field, it is considered a point of the highest importance not to allow above a certain number of men or boys to descend or ascend at a time, and it ought to be so every where.

There are various kinds of machinery used for drawing the persons and the coal up and down the shafts of the mines. The suspender is generally a rope terminating in some feet of chain, and a cross bar of iron, called the "catch-harness," by which the corve is suspended, or on which the persons to be raised or lowered are seated. What is called the turn-wheel is the least expensive, and certainly the most dangerous piece of machinery employed for this purpose, as you are, upon all occasions, dependent upon the man, or it may be woman, who works it. It is, in fact, nothing more nor less than a common well-winch, with a fly-wheel, without trap-door, or stage, conducting-rods, or anything else. In getting on or off the catch-iron, or corve, in coming up or going down, you are at the mercy of the winder. The unfortunate case of David Pellett, who was drawn over the roller by his own uncle and grandfather at the North Bierley Pit, at the time Mr. Scriven was pursuing his investigation upon the same ground just at the moment when their attention was called to a passing funeral, is a painful illustration of their unsafety.

The shafts are of variable depths, being, in some instances as shallow as forty-five feet, in others as low as 600. This difference, a consequent upon the number of seams in work, and upon the undulations of the country; the measures also through which they are cut are as variable in character and density, consisting of loam, sandstone, ironstone, clay, gravel, shale, &c.; the greater number of them are lined with stones, bricks, or boards, as a means of protection. In many instances, however, as Mr. Scriven remarks, this necessary precaution is neglected: the consequence is that when the earth is saturated with moisture, the measures are loosened, and large portions fall, or are struck off by the descending light corves, and slight on the children below. This was illustrated in his own person, in a pit he had descended, and where, just at the moment of disengaging himself from the corve and chains at the foot of the shaft, all around being dark and dismal enough, a stone, weighing five pounds, fell from near the top, close to his feet. Several children have been thus killed. Some few of the shafts have roomy excavations at the foot of them, which are indispensable provision for the safety of the children, and should be made imperative in every pit.

At the Eaton coal works, in Gloucestershire, the proprietors have caused a commodious "hotch" to be constructed, of riveted iron plates, in the form of an eliptical dome, with two entrances. In this, seven men and two or three boys can go up and down together, snugly protected from the jets of water, as well as from any stone or other substance accidentally falling on them. This humane and proper