

to stir them into life, so long will these rich veins of nature continue to enjoy their dull and silent oblivion. In a place like this, where there is such distressing dearth of men, of money, and of markets, we should leave nothing undone to wake up every available agency which could bring us work and wealth.

By a strange oversight Mr. McDougall fails to mention the extensive works now in operation by the Bras d'Or Lime Company, limited, at Marble Mountain, West Bay, or the immense deposit of marble at the same place about being opened up by the Bras d'Or Marble Company, limited.

**STORMONT.**—The *Chronicle* reports the sale of the Prince mine in this district by Jarius Hart to Robert Blair, of St. John, for some thousands of dollars.

The Lord Mayor of London at the recent Mansion House banquet stated that "there are deposited in all the banks of the United Kingdom an estimated sum of £50,000,000, with a further total of £114,000,000 in the savings banks. An aggregate in fact of £1,000,000,000." With the return of confidence a large part of this vast sum will seek investment, and there is now every reason to believe that the mines of this Province will attract a fair share.

**A NOVA SCOTIAN ABROAD.**—Mr. Jas. W. Ferguson, of Bridgewater, N. S., has returned to Boston, from which city he departed last October to open up a tin mine in Irish Creek, Rockbridge Co., Va., for the Sturtevant Milling and Mining Co., of Boston. Mr. Ferguson's work is highly spoken of by mining men who have been there. As a general rule Nova Scotia miners are at a premium in the West. We may expect to see Mr. Ferguson very soon in Nova Scotia developing some of our gold mines, and we wish him success in advance.

The *London Weekly Bulletin* reports a little more life in the mining business. It says: "A very good sign of the way the wind blows is to be found in the fact that the promoters are now sufficiently courageous to bring out new gold or silver companies. We have had one out this week and several more are believed to be about to be launched, perhaps even one or two to-morrow."

**COAL BARGES.**—The Glace Bay Mining Company are having three whaleback barges constructed at Mahone Bay, N. S., for the Newfoundland coal trade. The first of the three was launched on Wednesday last. Her coal capacity is fully 500 tons. The second and third will be finished within a month. They are to class in French Lloyds for twelve years. These barges will be towed across the gulf to Newfoundland ports by the tug *C. M. Finch*, of Little Glace Bay.

**EXPLOSIONS IN COAL MINES.**—The question as to whether coal dust itself is explosive has been investigated by Professor Clowes, of England. Many cases have been recorded where inflammable dusts suspended in air have been accidentally fired in confined spaces, and have led to more or less destructive explosions, frequently followed by disastrous fires. Finely powdered coal dust, however, refuses to kindle when floating in pure air. When however, this dust is disseminated through air which contains a small proportion of coal gas, the mixture is readily fired by means of a flame. This is found to be the case even when the same mixture of gas and air, without the coal dust, cannot be fired by a flame. Such an explosion of air containing a small percentage of gas, and charged with fine coal dust, is capable of raising coal dust into the air and kindle it over a very considerable area. A gas explosion in a mine may thus be vastly extended in area by the presence of coal dust in the atmosphere, or even on the floor or timbers. It is certain, however, that the power possessed by coal dust of different kinds to thus propagate an explosion varies widely. Very fine, dry, non-adhesive dusts seem to possess the power to the greatest extent. It is probably now generally conceded that the principal dangers arising from coal dust in the mine are the following: (1) The danger arising from a very small proportion of fire damp, which in itself would be harmless, becoming explosive when kindled in the presence of coal dust. (2) The danger of a small local explosion, which of itself would be of little moment, becoming vastly extended by raising fine coal dust into the air, and kindling it. (3) The serious results of such an explosion, in which coal dust has taken part, are the burning of surfaces by the glowing dust, and the very fatal nature of the after-damp; the after-damp probably owes its fatal character to the more complete removal of oxygen owing to the increased combustion, and to the production of extremely poisonous carbonic oxide.—*Engineering and Mining Journal*.

#### A PHILOSOPHICAL FAMILY.

Amelia has pimples, and sores in the heel,  
From humors internal her nose has grown red;  
She's a boil on her neck that is big as a bell,  
But in other respects she is doing quite well.  
And pa has dyspepsia, malaria and gout,  
His hands with salt-rheum are all broken out;  
He is prone to rheumatism that make his legs swell,  
But in other respects he is doing quite well.  
And ma has night-sweats and a troublesome cough,  
That all of our doctors can't seem to drive off;  
She wakes every night and coughs quite a spell,  
But in other respects she is doing quite well.

There is nothing like philosophy to help one bear the ill of life, but in the case of this family what is most needed is a good supply of Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery. It would clear so Amelia's bad blood, cure pa's ailments, and check ma's cough. The "Golden Medical Discovery," by its action on the liver, cleanses the system of impurities. It cures humors, ulcers, boils, scrofula, salt-rheum, erysipelas, and all kinds of sores and swellings. The only guaranteed blood-purifier.

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