

darkness rendered impervious to the view.—From the spot where we stood down to the place where the buckets are filled, the distance might be about seventyfive fathoms; and, as soon as any of these buckets emerged from the gloomy cavity we have mentioned, or until they entered into it, in their descent they were visible; but, below this point they were hid in darkness. The clanking of the chains, the groaning of the pumps, the hallooing of the miners, the creaking of the blocks and wheels, the trampling of horses, the beating of the hammers, and the loud and frequent subterraneous thunder from the blasting of the rocks by gunpowder, in the midst of all this scene of excavation and uproar, produced an effect which no stranger can behold unmoved. We descended with two of the miners and our interpreter into this abyss. The ladders, instead of being placed like those in our Cornish mines, on a series of platforms as so many landing places, are lashed together in one unbroken line, extending many fathoms; and, being warped to suit the inclination or curvature of the sides of the precipices, they are not always perpendicular, but hang over in such a manner, that, even if a person held fast by his hands, and if his feet should happen to slip, they would fly off from the rock, and leave him suspended over the gulf.—

Yet such ladders are the only means of access to the works below; and, as the laborers are not accustomed to receive strangers, they neither use the precautions, nor offer the assistance usually afforded in more frequented mines. In the principal tin-mines of Cornwall, the staves of the ladders are alternately bars of wood and iron; here they were of wood only, and in some parts rotten and broken, making us often wish, during our descent, that we had never undertaken an exploit so hazardous. In addition to the danger to be apprehended from the damaged state of the ladders, the staves were covered with ice or mud; and thus rendered so cold and slippery, that we could have no dependence on our benumbed fingers if our feet failed us. Then to complete our apprehension, as we mentioned this to the miners, they said, "Have a care, it was just so talking about the staves, that one of our women fell about four years ago as she was descending to her work." "Fell!" said our Swedish interpreter rather simply, "and, pray, what became of her?" "Became of her!" continued the foremost of our guides, disengaging one of his hands from the ladder, and slapping it forcibly against his thigh, as if to illustrate the manner of the catastrophe—"she became a pancake."

After much fatigue, and no small share of apprehension, we at length reached the bottom of the mine. Here we had no sooner arrived, than our conductors, taking each of us by an arm, hurried us along through regions of "thick ribbed ice," and dark-

ness, into a vaulted level, through which we were to pass into the principal chamber of the mine. The noise of countless hammers, all in vehement action, increased as we crept along this level; until at length, subduing every other sound, we could no longer hear each other speak, notwithstanding our utmost efforts. At this moment we were ushered into a prodigious cavern, whence the sounds proceeded; and here, amidst falling waters, tumbling rocks, steam, ice, and gun-powder, about fifty miners were in the very height of their employment. The magnitude of the cavern, over all parts of which their labors were going on, was alone sufficient to prove that the iron ore is not deposited in veins, but in beds. Above, below, on every side, and in every nook of this fearful dungeon, glimmering tapers disclosed the grim and anxious countenances of the miners. They were now driving bolts of iron into the rocks, to bore cavities for the gunpowder for blasting. Scarcely had we recovered from the stupefaction occasioned by our first introduction into this Pandæmonium, when the noise of the hammers ceased, and a tremendous blast was near the point of its explosion. We had scarcely retraced with all speed our steps along the level, and were beginning to ascend the ladders, than the full volume of the thunder reached us, and seemed to shake the earth itself with its terrible vibrations.—*Dr. Clarke's Travels.*

DEPTH OF THE OCEAN.—The depth of the ocean is a point which has puzzled alike philosophers and practical men, and is, after all, left in the wide field of conjecture.—The most probable guide is analogy, and the wisest men, judging by this criterion, have presumed that the depth of the sea may be measured by the height of mountains, the highest of which are between 20,000 and 30,000 feet. The greatest depth that has been tried to be measured, is that found in the Northern ocean, by Lord Mulgrave.—He heaved out a very heavy sounding lead, and gave out along with it, cable rope to the length of 4680 feet, without finding bottom.

INDIAN WIT.—Notwithstanding the peculiar sombreness of the North American Indian, he is capable of exercising his wit upon occasions. For instance, one of the Micmacks, not long since, entered a tavern in one of the country towns of Nova Scotia, to purchase some spirits, for which ten shillings a gallon were demanded—double the retail Halifax price. The Indian expostulated on the extraordinary price asked.—The landlord endeavoured to justify it, by explaining the expense of conveyance, the loss of interest, &c. and illustrated his remarks by saying, it was as expensive to keep a hogshead of rum as a milch cow.—The Indian humourously replied, "may be

it drinks as much water, (alluding to its adulteration) but certain no eat so much huy!"—*Chamber's Journal.*

ORIENTAL ANECDOTES.—Two brothers amuse themselves by imagining, if they had a piece of ground, what they would do with it. In his half, one brother would make a flower-garden; in his, the other would keep cows and buffaloes. This the former brother would not permit, because the cattle would destroy his flowers; whereupon they began to quarrel, and ultimately to fight.—The by-standers observed, 'Why this is the very proverb—the thread before it be cotton, is gone to fisticuffs with the weaver.'

WEEKLY MIRROR.

FRIDAY, MAY 8, 1835.

SAVINGS BANK.—This useful Institution is established under the authority of the Legislature, and is under the particular patronage of the Lieutenant-Governor. It is kept at the Treasurer's Office in the Province Building, and is open to receive deposits every Monday morning, between the hours of 8 and 10 o'clock. The benefits of the Institution are confined to Tradesmen, Mechanics, Servants, Labourers, Soldiers, seafaring Men, and Charitable Societies.—Deposits are received of not less than one shilling at each payment, and no depositor can lodge more than £50 in any one year. Deposits bear interest at the rate of 4 per cent. per ann. Received between 30th July, 1832, and 31st March, 1835—£12,523 17; withdrawn in the same period—£4094 10 8. Classification of depositors 97 Servants; 47 Mechanics; 52 Labourers; 7 Mariners; 7 Widows; 13 Minors; 3 Truckmen; 23 Soldiers; 14 not classed. Total 263.

The Officers of His Majesty's Customs, at the Port of Liverpool, have made seizure of an American Smuggling Vessel, with a very valuable Cargo on board, consisting of tea, tobacco, coffee, shoes and boots, and most every article necessary to supply the fishermen along the Coast, to the prejudice of the British Merchant; the value is said to be about four thousand dollars.—Nov.

H. M. Packet Stanmer, Lieut. Sutton, arrived yesterday in 32 days, bringing London papers to the 2d of April.

Lord John Russell's motion for an Address to the King, for the application of the surplus Church Revenues in Ireland to secular purposes, was carried against Ministers by a majority of 33.

Prince Augusta of Portugal died of Quinsey after a very short illness.

The 7th of April had been fixed for the final discussion of the American claim in the French Chambers. Lord Amherst has been appointed Commissioner to Canada in the room of Lord Canterbury.