

CAPTAIN HODGE'S STATEMENT.

MINING OPERATIONS.

West of No. 1 Shaft. Here we have had four men employed since the fourth of June to the first of November, at 5 per cent. Royalty. After which, until June, 1861, they are to pay 10 per cent. Here, as was expected, the Lode has improved, and I think it not improbable that it will yet continue to do so, if worked. For about 20 fathoms in length, I think it the most promising piece of ground we have in the Mine. Here we are about 8 fathoms below the surface, and the Lode is about 3 feet wide.

From the above place West, to within 30 fathoms of Trial Shaft, is a piece of ground, which was let to two men for the Winter, at £7 10s. per ton; but the contractors have run off. It is therefore at present unoccupied. This has been for years past one of the best Pitches in the Mine, and is yet good, but the Lode is at present small, being about 2 feet wide, and difficult to mine.

From Trial Shaft 30 fathoms East, or to the Pitch above named, is a piece of ground let for the Winter, to two men, at £7 per ton. The Lode is from 4 to 5 feet wide, producing good Ore, and will, I have no doubt, fairly remunerate the miners.

Back of 25 fathoms level East of Scott's Shaft. Here we have four men at work, at £7 10s per ton. The Lode is about 1½ feet wide, yielding good Ore, but it has bad walls and is difficult to mine. I consider this piece of ground likely to be one of the most enduring of all our Tribute Pitches.

Bottom of the 25 fathoms level East of Scott's Shaft. Here are two Pitches, each employing two men, at £7 10s. per ton.

The first is immediately adjoining the Shaft, and extends East to a Winze sunk from the 25 to the 35 fathoms level, but not holed, said 35 fathoms level, or end not having been extended sufficiently far East by reason of its poverty. This Pitch has been wrought from the bottom of the 25 to within about 2 fathoms of the 35 fathom level, and from the Shaft about 6 fathoms East. The Lode here is about 3 feet wide, producing very good Ore, and I am persuaded will be found fairly remunerative to the parties who are employed thereat.

The other is a Pitch from the Winze East, and extends to the present end. The Lode is about 2 feet wide, and at present looks