

The Mining Journal

Saturday 20th January 1838

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Accident at the Hady Coal Pits.

A dreadful accident befell a boy in these pits, on Monday last. The little fellow was at work in the bottom of the pit, when in consequence of the swerving of an ascending corve, a mass of coal fell on his head, and inflicted injuries of the most dreadful description. Medical assistance was obtained as soon as possible, and it is hoped that he will soon recover. It is somewhat singular, that the boy's father was lately killed in a coal pit, in consequence of falling from a corve to the bottom of the pit.

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Mine Accident.

As a poor fellow, named Kempt, was at his work in East Crofty Mine, a piece of ground suddenly turned out on him by which his leg was fractured and his person otherwise much bruised. He was extricated with all possible speed from his perilous situation, and being drawn to the surface was carefully conveyed to his residence, when the fracture was reduced, and he is said to be going on favourably.

Cornwall Royal Gazette.

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Letter: Lead Mine District of Yorkshire.

Sir, You were so kind as to insert a letter of mine some time since, on the mineral district of the West Riding of Yorkshire, in which I promised to give you, at a future day, a more detailed account of the lead mine in this district. I now beg to hand you the following statement, taking the mines in the order in which they were named in that letter: -

The Cockhill Mine - The workings on the different veins in this mine are in the Carboniferous Limestone, which rock is thrown up very abruptly in this place to the surface; it dips very rapidly on every side, and is succeeded by a thin bed of plate, or "shale," on which rests a bed of gritstone eight fathoms thick; alternate beds of plate and grit set on in succession. The mine is drained to a certain depth by a day level, termed "the horse level." This level is about two miles in length, exclusive of its branches - some of them of great length; it was driven southward a considerable distance through plate and grit, and then continued a great number of fathoms into the limestone before any productive veins were intersected; on some of them it has been extended eastward into the above-mentioned eight-fathom bed of grit. There are several veins in this mine; their general direction is about north-west and south-east; they have a considerable hade or underlie - some to the south, and others towards the north. These veins have also a considerable throw of the strata (that is, the beds on one side of the veins have been raised or depressed from the range of the corresponding strata on the other side), in some instances as much as twenty fathoms - those underlaying towards the north having the strata in the north (or hanging) side that distance below the corresponding beds on the opposite side - and those hading towards the south, have the south side strata down. There has been little, if any, ore found in the strata above the limestone, and the veins are generally so small in the plate, that it is with difficulty they can be traced through it.

The ancients worked some of these veins extensively, and no doubt found them very productive. In some places, by taking advantage of dry seasons, they got to the depth of from sixty to seventy fathoms, and drew the water and stuff to surface by horse power. Some of these workings must have been made before many of the tools at present used by miners were introduced, there having been found of late years wood-shovels, leather bags, &c. - the latter were no doubt used (from the iron work about them) in place of kibbles. The greater part of the present workings are under the horse level; the water is pumped to this level (a depth of from fifteen to twenty fathoms) by a nine-inch cylinder steam-engine, fixed underground, near the extreme point of the level; the smoke and waste steam is conveyed through pipes, old workings, &c., to surface, a perpendicular depth of upwards of sixty fathoms. The bouse and deads, "work and attle," is taken through the level in waggons drawn by horses.

The Providence, Prosperous, and Merrifield Mines, are all on one large vein, running nearly parallel with the Cockhill Veins, and about one and a half mile north of them. The present depth of these mines is about seventy fathoms from surface; the water is pumped to the day or adit level, by a small steam-engine and two water-wheels. The underlie of this vein is not great, but the throw of the strata is from fifteen to twenty fathoms - the beds in the hanging side being that distance below the strata in the hading or footwall side.

This vein has been very productive in the three mines, in the very beds in which the veins have not produced ore in the adjoining mine - Cockhill; that is, in the grits and plate, generally yielding

good ore, with grit on one side of the vein, and plate on the other. The deepest part of these mines has reached the limestone (supposed to be the top bed of the Cockhill series), but I am not aware that any trial has yet been made on the vein in it.

The Grassington Mines are about five miles west of the Providence and other mines before mentioned, on the same run of veins. These mines are scattered over an extensive tract of Moorland - the veins and branches are very numerous. The water is taken off this district, even below the present workings, by means of a day level, which was commenced about the year 1796, under the direction of Mr. Flint, the then mineral agent for His Grace the Duke of Devonshire. This level, which was completed in 1830, is a mile and a half in length (independent of a long branch), and about seventy fathoms deep from surface - it was originally intended for the double purpose of draining the mines, and as a boat level for the conveying all the stuff from the works - with this intention it was driven nine feet high and five feet wide, up to the year 1818, when John Taylor, Esq., undertook the management of all the mines belonging to the Duke of Devonshire - this gentleman (taking into consideration the very great expense of driving a level this size through hard ground, and seeing that after it should be completed the cost of taking all the bouse and deads a distance of a mile and a half in boats, would far exceed that of drawing it to the surface by horse, or other power, particularly as the average depth from which the stuff is drawn does not far exceed thirty fathoms) caused the level to be driven from that time the usual size.

The strata is alternate plate and gritstone to a certain depth, when it is underlain by limestone; there is not that uniformity of strata in this district there is to be found in many parts of England, particularly in the great lead mines north of this place, but taking a line across the veins, through the most productive ground, the beds may be taken in the following order: - top plate, five fathoms thick; top grit, six fathoms; plate (including a bed of coal six inches thick), three fathoms; bearing grit, sixteen fathoms; plate with tumblers of limestone, nine feet; top lime, four fathoms; plate, two feet. Limestone, thickness unknown.

The bearing grit has been by far the most productive stratum for lead ore; the top grit has at times produced good bunches, and in a few instances, when the veins have proved very rich through the grit, ore has been found a few feet into the plate. In the plate between the two grits the veins are generally heaved, or shifted, nearly in a horizontal direction, two or three fathoms, the only trace being a thin seam of donk or "fluccan," an inch or two thick - a good argument this for your correspondent, the "Cornish Miner," against the theory of veins being filled from below by internal pressure. The veins in the limestone are large, soft, and more regular than in the grits, and generally of a most promising appearance, containing fluor-spar, calcareous spar, barytes, calamine, &c., but hitherto very small quantities of ore have been found in it, although several of the veins have been explored extensively to the depth of thirty fathoms in the lime. The veins underlie on an average but a few inches in a fathom from the perpendicular - here, as at the Cockhill, Providence, and other mines, the strata in the hanging side is lower than in the foot-wall, but the description does not (with very few exceptions) exceed a few feet, and only on one or two veins has ore been found (as in the Providence and the two mines adjoining) where the throw is so great as to raise or depress the strata on one side, so as to cause plate and grit to be on a level with each other. The strata dip to the east, and some of the veins have been extended on in that direction, in the bearing grit, some distance; the top slate, in the eastern part of the moor, attains a considerable thickness, and the veins are found much contracted, hard, and poor.

In the small mines, west of Grassington Moor, the ore has generally been found in the limestone, as in the Cockhill Mine.

It will be seen from these details, that but very slight analogy exists between the circumstances which influence the productiveness of the veins in the different mines with regard to the strata; the only general coincidence is, that the bunches of ore hitherto discovered in the several mines can be clearly traced to the cause of branches dropping into or intersecting the veins.

I may have carried this letter to an unnecessary length; my endeavour has been to give a plain statement, in such terms as that it may be fully understood by your numerous readers, and should you deem it of sufficient interest to be worthy a place in your columns, I shall feel obliged by your giving it an early insertion.

Jan. 22

I am, Sir, your most obedient servant

Y.Z.

[We insert the communication of our correspondent with pleasure, and doubt not but that it will have the effect of inducing others to communicate the results of their observation. In doing so they would contribute to the usefulness of the Journal, in rendering it the medium of conveying information on mining pursuits in other mineral districts than those to which our attention has hitherto been more particularly directed. - Ed. M.J.]

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Letter: East Wheal Change Mine

Sir, In your last number, a letter of mine appeared, and you then stated you did not know the meaning of your correspondent. To be more explicit - the parties who are offering the above-named mine for sale have no legal right to it, the same being held by me and others, under a grant from John Jane, in the year 1829, and is now in full course of working by,

Jan. 25

Sir, your obedient servant,

John Harper.

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Letter: Mining in Ireland.

Sir, I am happy to see at the foot of your remarks, on the report of the "Mining Company of Ireland," and its declaration of a dividend of 6 per cent., that you express an intention to return to the subject of "Mining in Ireland," at an early period. I am the more gratified at this, from having observed, for some time past, that your several correspondents, who formerly gave some valuable and interesting information respecting that country's mines and minerals, have ceased to do so. I will not ask the reason for this, neither will I state my conjectures on the subject, but I do confess, it has somewhat surprised me, to find the columns of the Mining Journal so long silent on the subject of Irish mines and minerals. I am somewhat informed on Irish affairs, and the resources from which wealth might (in various ways) be obtained by a judicious application of capital in that country, but I know of none of more importance, and comparatively speaking, more unknown, to the monied men of this city, than the mineral value of Ireland. I trust, therefore, if private interests do not stand in the way of your former correspondents giving public information, they will resume their intercourse with the Mining Journal, and afford all the material they can to assist you in placing the subject of "Mining in Ireland" in the prominent position it deserves.

London, Jan. 19

I am, Sir, yours, &c.,

Oy?

[As our correspondent (who, if we may guess rightly, knows more of Nickel than we profess to do) is "somewhat informed on Irish affairs, and the resources from which wealth might be obtained," he will, perhaps, communicate such information as may be interesting to our readers, and thus be the means of "resuming the intercourse" to which he refers, as well as promoting the object he appears to have in view, in common with ourselves. - Ed. M.J.]