

COSTLY LAW SUIT.

Plaintiff Asks for \$125 and Now Must Pay \$1,000 Costs.

A remarkable case was concluded at Beaver the other day before Judge Wilson. David Simpson of Rochester was the executor of the estate of the late Capt. J. C. Irwin of the same town, and claimed \$125, for which he alleges he had on time held Capt. Irwin's note, but in a fire, which consumed the household goods, the note was destroyed. The defendants denied that the note was ever given. The case had already been tried twice. The first jury disagreed; next the jury rendered a verdict for \$125. The defendants appealed to the superior court, and that body remanded it back for new trial. This trial has been on all this week and the jury brought in a verdict for the defendants to the effect that they owned the note. The costs will now run considerable over \$1,000.

The following Pennsylvania pensions have been granted: Benjamin G. King, West Middlesex; John P. Shannon, Pittsburgh; Joseph L. Caldwell, Bradensville; John Gardner, Franklin; Jno. A. Woodcock (deceased), Bellefonte; John Teuch, Sheshquin; James H. Connor, Latrobe; Jno. Farnsworth, Purchase Line; Samuel T. Hoover, Winslow; Benjamin N. Akerly, Waderford; William Wright, Jennerstown; John A. Olinger, Kittanning; Marvin Champlin, Corvella; Margaret Shannon, Pittsburgh; Emeline McBride, Sayre; John Hicks, Duncanville; Simeon Briggs, Covert; David C. Shirley, Unity station; Chas. A. Glenn, Bellefonte; Mary E. Sumner, Williamsburg; Kate Hoover, Center Hall; William D. Kendall, father, Fayette City; Margaret Tishart, Allegheny; Benton Kirk, Clinton; Steven C. Johnston, Tionesta; Thomas Keely, Butler; Edward O. Greenfield, Beaver Center; Jonathan Tucker, Washington; Judson E. Wheeler, Corry; Jacob Sanders, Indian Head; William T. Kennedy, Hadley.

Harry Clabaugh, a clerk in the Second National bank of Altoona when it was looted by Cashier Gardner three years ago, and who was arrested at the time for having changed figures in his books at the cashier's dictation, committed suicide a few days ago by shooting himself. He had been partially demented most of the time since his unfortunate connection with the bank scandal. Of late he has been employed as a clerk in the Pennsylvania railroad storehouse at the Juniata shops. This is the second suicide as a result of the failure of this bank. Bank Examiner William Miller shot himself while trying to untangle the defaulting cashier's accounts.

Henry Grove died the other day at Uniontown from a fall. He was helping to thresh in the barn of Jefferson Breckon and fell through a trapdoor, breaking his shoulder blade and crushing his skull. He never regained consciousness. Henry Grove, who is unconscious from a wound on the head received while he was dashing away on a horse to summon a physician for his father. He is supposed to have been thrown from his horse en route.

The assignee's report of the suspended banking house of Gardner, Morrow & Co. of Hollidaysburg was filed in the Blair county court recently. The assets for distribution are \$14,055. This showing indicates that the 600 depositors will receive 3 per cent. of the amount of their claims. When the bank failed one year ago a notice posted on its front door informed the creditors that they would be paid dollar for dollar.

President and Mrs. McKinley and party arrived at Somerset from Canton in a special train on Tuesday and passed the week at the summer residence of the President's brother, Abner McKinley. A reception committee of 20 prominent citizens in carriages met the distinguished visitors at the station and escorted them over the principal streets of the town to the McKinley home.

Chauncey Ames of Crawford county was arrested by Venango county authorities for selling liquor without a license at a recent harvest home picnic held in the county. It is claimed Ames sold whisky out of half pint bottles and labeled "liniment." Several shots were exchanged between Ames and the authorities before the man was captured.

John Lancaster arrived at Irwin the other night from North Missouri. He and his family made the entire distance of over a miles in a prairie schooner. Mr. Lancaster started with two teams, but sold one while en route. He also swapped horses several times, but got here all right and will locate in town.

Encouraged by the good prices of the year for wheat, the farmers of Franklin county are preparing to largely increase their wheat acreage. No less than a dozen farmers brought wheat to be exchanged for fertilizers. Local buyers paid 94 cents a few days ago, the highest price has been 97 cents.

Lewis Salvatori was smothered in a sewer trench at Scranton a few days ago. Salvatori was a laborer and was engaged in digging at the bottom of the 12-foot ditch, when the sides caved in, burying him. It required over an hour to reach him, and then Salvatori was dead.

While on their way to school a few days ago a number of children were struck by a Pennsylvania railroad freight train on the Everson crossing and Gertrude Graff, 10 years old, was instantly killed and several others were seriously injured.

Lizzie Fleeman, of Oil City, was drowned at Rockwood on the Allegheny, three miles up the river a few days ago. She swam across the river and was about half way back on the return trip, when she sank in eight feet of water. Her body was recovered.

A most distressing accident has been reported from Conemaugh. A 2-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Fisher fell into a vault and was drowned a few days ago. It was half an hour before the body could be recovered.

Cyrus Carnahan, of Sandy Lake, has discovered a non-explosive compound which a few experiments have produced by attaching a gas burner to any ordinary lamp and filling the lamp with the compound.

Marie, aged 5, daughter of H. J. Steele, New Castle, ran a nail in her foot, had lockjaw and died after terrible suffering.

During a playful duel with wooden swords between Willie Davis and Charles Mayberry at Sharon the other day, 14-year-olds, the latter received a thrust which destroyed the sight of one of his eyes.

Gov. Hastings has granted a respite for 60 days to Theodore Elsenhower of Pottsville, who was to have been hanged October 7. Application has been made for a commutation of sentence.

A 7-year-old son of John Wepler of Latrobe is slowly bleeding to death from a slash in the foot. Wepler has lost three children by bleeding to death, physicians skill is being baffled.

The hotel Marion, Jeannette, will be sold by the sheriff.

THE SABBATH SCHOOL LESSON.

INTERNATIONAL LESSON COMMENTS FOR SEPTEMBER 19.

Lesson Text: "Paul's Address to the Ephesian Elders," Acts xx., 32-35. Golden Text: Acts xx., 35.—Commentary on the Lesson by Rev. D. M. Stearns

22. "And now, behold, I go bound in the spirit unto Jerusalem, not knowing the things that shall befall me there. After the uproar at Ephesus Paul went to Macedonia and Greece, then returned through Macedonia to Asia, and, aiming, if possible, to be at Jerusalem by Pentecost, he tarried a little at Miletus and sent to Ephesus for the elders of the church to come and see him. Our lesson is part of his address to these elders. He reminded them that, serving the Lord with all humility and in many trials, he had both publicly and privately taught both Jews and Greeks repentance toward God and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ.

23. "Save that the Holy Ghost witnesseth in every city, saying that bonds and afflictions abide me." The Lord had said to Ananias, "I will show him how great things he must suffer for My name's sake" (Acts ix., 16). He said to the apostles, "In the world ye shall have tribulation" (John xvi., 33).

24. "But none of these things move me." He thought of nothing but of magnifying Christ (Phil. i., 20), ready to be bound and imprisoned and to die for the name of the Lord Jesus, if thus God would be more glorified (Acts xxi., 13). He was intrusted with the gospel of the grace of God, and he fearlessly lived it and spoke it day by day under all circumstances, not as pleasing men, but who trieth our hearts (I Thess. ii., 4).

25. "And now, behold, I know that ye all, among whom I have gone preaching the kingdom of God, shall see my face no more." The last we hear of Paul in this book he is in Rome a prisoner, but he is preaching the kingdom of God, and teaching those things which concern the Lord Jesus Christ (Acts xxviii., 31). Thus he was one with Him who had chosen him, for in Acts i., 3, we find that our Lord Jesus during the thirty days between His resurrection and ascension spoke of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God.

26. "Wherefore I take you to record this day that I am pure from the blood of all men." Paul said, I Cor. vi., 2, "We have wronged no man, we have corrupted no man, we have defrauded no man." He had sought to live as an ambassador for Christ, in Christ's stead, beseeching men to be reconciled to God (II Cor. v., 20), and he had been in the grace of God, such a faithful witness that the blood of none to whom he ever testified could be required at his hand (Ezek. xxxiii., 7-9).

27. "For I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God." All that Paul sought to pass on to others is the counsel of God. He preaches the gospel of the grace of God, and the kingdom of God, and the counsel of God, to gather out and to build up the church of God, and in it all he aims only to please God. He spoke the word "boldly and diminished not a word" (Jer. xvi., 2).

28. "Feed the church of God which He hath purchased with His own blood." There is no redemption but by the blood of Christ, by which alone we receive the forgiveness of sins (Eph. i., 7; Rev. i., 5, v., 9; Heb. x., 22), and each one who truly receives the Lord Jesus, trusting only in His finished work, becomes a part of the church of God, whether he ever becomes part of any church on earth or not. Now, being saved, it is the privilege of every saved one to unite with some company of God's people called a church, but they ought to be sure that it is a church where their souls will be fed with the word of God, for nothing else will irrefragably nourish the soul (I Pet. ii., 2; v., 20; Eph. xiii., 12; Jer. xv., 16).

29. "I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock." Since the serpent slandered God in Eden there have always been those who follow him, seeking the destruction of souls; some of these have been simply upon the ruins of people, and sometimes it is to get followers for a person or a doctrine or a sect.

30. "Therefore watch and remember, that by the space of three years I ceased not to warn every one night and day with tears." Paul had no fear for the loss of any soul that had truly received the Lord Jesus; his words concerning them are almost as strong as our Lord's own words (Phil. i., 6; I Cor. 7, 8; John x., 27-29), but he did fear lest they might have a knowledge of Him without truly receiving Him (Heb. vi., 4-6; x., 26), and also lest, having truly received Him, they might lose their works and wages (I Cor. iii., 14, 15; ix., 27); hence his earnest admonition to "take heed" and "watch."

31. "And now, brethren, I commend you to God and the word of His grace, which is able to build you up." When our Lord was about to leave His disciples, he prayed the Father (as He said to Mary, "My Father and your Father, My God and your God" John 17, 17), that He would keep from evil those whom He had given Him, and that He would sanctify them through the truth. His word (John xvii., 11, 15, 17). And when He said, "I have given them Thy word, the word which Thou gavest Me" (John xvii., 14), he must have believed that these words were the very best thing that He could give them. In another place He said, "The words that I speak unto you they are spirit, and they are life" (John vi., 63).

32. "Ye have coveted no man's silver or gold or apparel." The people testified of Samuel, "Thou hast not defrauded us nor oppressed us; neither hast thou taken aught of any man's hand" (I Sam. xii., 3). To the Thessalonians Paul wrote, reminding them of his labor night and day that he might not be a burden to any one (I Thess. ii., 6, 9).

33. "Ye yourselves know that these hands have ministered unto my necessities and to them that were with me." He was very grateful for all gifts from the Lord's people and speaks of such as "an odor of a sweet smell, a sacrifice acceptable, well pleasing to God."

34. "Remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how He said, It is more blessed to give than to receive," perhaps referring to such teaching of our Lord as is found in Luke vi., 30; xiv., 13, 14, or possibly referring to some unrecorded sayings of our Lord. God so loved that He gave His only begotten Son; the Son of God so loved that He gave Himself. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ was manifest in His becoming poor for us that we through His poverty might be rich. The love that He manifested in laying down His life for us should make us ready to lay down our lives for others (II Cor. viii., 9; I John iii., 16). But most of us are more ready to receive than to give, and so John iii., 16, is much more familiar than I John iii., 16, and I Tim. i., 15, than Titus iii., 8.—Lesson Kelpes.

Time Purges Away the Alloy.

"I saw in Rome," says a modern writer "an old coin, a silver denarius, all coated and encrusted with green and purple rust. I called it rust, but I was told that it was copper; the alloy thrown out from the silver until there was none left within, the silver was all pure. It takes ages to do it, but it does get done. Souls are like that. Something moves in them slowly, till the debasement is all worn out. Some day perhaps the very tarnish shall be taken off." Well, there is this alloy, this tarnish, in all of us, and the education of life is to purge it all away—by sorrows, by disappointments, by failures, by judgments.—"By fire far fiercer than are blown to prove And purge the silver ore adulterate."—Canon Farrar.

The harbor of Rio Janeiro has 50 miles of anchorage, and is the finest in the world.

MINING OUR BLACK DIAMONDS.

I have just spent a few days at the United States geological survey in Washington, writes Frank G. Carpenter, looking up facts about coal mining. The geologists know more about coal than any one else. They can tell you just how the world looked when coal was made, and they describe how there were ages of luxuriant growth consisting of pine trees, fir trees and all kinds of mosses and plants, which, dying down year after year, became a great matted bed of vegetation. They tell you how this bed was bottled up by being covered up with rocks and how it finally turned into coal. They can tell you just how this happened and how long it came to pass before Noah was a baby or Cain killed little Abel outside the Garden of Eden.

Men lived for thousands of years upon the earth before they knew that coal was good to burn. All the iron made before the days of the middle ages was with charcoal, and a fairy tale is told in Belgium of how a poor blacksmith discovered the first black diamonds. He found that he could not get along, for it took so much time to make his charcoal for his furnace. He was just about to commit suicide when a white-bearded old man appeared at his shop and told him to go to the mountains near by and dig out the black earth and burn it. He did so, and was able to make a horseshoe at one forging. This is the Belgian story of the discovery of coal. The first coal found in America was near Ottawa, Illinois. It is mentioned by Father Hennepin, a French explorer, who visited there in 1679. The first mines worked were about Richmond, Va. This coal was discovered by a boy while out fishing.

He was hunting for crabs for bait in a small creek, and thus stumbled upon the outcroppings of the James River coal bed. Our anthracite coal fields have perhaps paid better than any other coal fields of the world. They were discovered by a hunter named Nicho Allen, when George Washington was President. Allen encamped one night in the Schuylkill region, kindling his fire upon some black stones. He awoke to find himself almost roasted. The stones were on fire, and anthracite was burning for the first time. Shortly after this a company was organized to sell anthracite coal. It was taken around to the blacksmiths, but they did not know how to use it, and it was very unpopular. Some of it was shipped to Philadelphia by a Colonel Shoemaker and sold there. It was not at all satisfactory, and a writ was gotten out from the city authorities, denouncing the colonel as a knave and scoundrel for trying to impose rocks upon them as coal. Still Philadelphia has largely been built up by anthracite coal, and 50,000,000 tons of this coal were taken out of the Pennsylvania fields in 1896.

Since then some of these coal lands have been sold as high as \$1200 an acre, and the Philadelphia and Reading Company in 1871 paid \$40,000,000 for 100,000 acres of coal land in this region. As a sample of the amount of business done in anthracite coal, the Delaware and Hudson Canal Company paid \$5,000,000 in one year for mining, and their coal sales that year amounted to more than \$10,000,000.

It is hard to estimate the enormous amount of money the United States makes out of its coal. We get more than three times as much out of our coal mines as out of our gold mines, and the silver metal is not in it with the black diamonds. There is a little region in eastern Pennsylvania, about a hundred and twenty-five miles from Philadelphia and not more than two hundred miles from New York, which produces every year coal to a greater value than all the gold mines of the Rockies, Canada and Alaska. It is our anthracite coal fields which turn out between 50,000,000 and 60,000,000 tons of anthracite every year. We have in addition to this a hundred and thirty odd million tons of bituminous coal annually. We have, in short, the biggest and best coal measures on the globe. It is estimated that our coal east of the Rocky Mountains covers 192,000 square miles, and within the past few years coal has been found in many parts of the Far West. Colorado will eventually be a great manufacturing State on account of its coal.

Utah has large coal fields, and so have the States of Montana, Washington and Wyoming. We are now getting something like 20,000,000 tons of coal a year out of Indiana, Kentucky and Illinois, and the great Appalachian field produces more than four times this amount. There is more good burnable earth in the Appalach-

ian Mountain, than anywhere else in the world. The coal is some times at the veins are thick, and in some mines they are almost on the top of the ground. They are better than any other coal fields in this respect, with one single exception. This is the new

coal field of Alaska, which, one of the geological survey men tells me, comes right out over the water, so that the coal can be dug down and almost fall into the ships below. This Alaskan coal will probably be used to supply the Pacific trade, and its importance will be appreciated when it is remembered that the largest fleet that sails the Pacific is the coal fleet. Most of the coal from that region comes from Australia and Japan. Much Australian coal is brought to San Francisco. During my travels in Japan I visited one coal mine which had fifty miles of tunnels under the sea, and I learned that the Japanese were making a great deal of money out of their coal.

They were shipping it to China, notwithstanding the fact that the geologists say that China has some of the largest coal fields of the world. I doubt the extent of the Chinese fields. The people are thrifty, and it is curious that they do not use the coal if they have it. They are among the most economical of people, and in the different Chinese cities coal is so valuable that it is ground to dust and then mixed with dirt, being sold in balls about the size of a biscuit. It is interesting to know the coal fields of the world, as estimated by the geologists. Here they are:

China, 200,000 square miles; United States east of the Rockies, 192,000 square miles; Canada, 65,000 square miles; India, 35,500 square miles; New South Wales, 24,000 square miles; Russia, 20,000 square miles; United Kingdom, 11,500 square miles; Spain, 5500 square miles; Japan, 5000 square miles; France, 2080 square miles; Austria-Hungary, 1790 square miles; Germany, 1770 square miles; Belgium, 510 square miles.

From the above table it will be seen that the English coal area is small. Still England has for years been the centre of the coal production of the world, and for years it mined more than half the total amount used by the world. The United States is now probably ahead of it, and we are increasing our product every year. The English coal veins are thin. The miners have to lie on their sides to

work many of them. They have dug out the surface coal and they are now working at great depths. One English vein, fourteen and a half inches wide, is already down over twelve hundred feet. Such a vein would not be worked to any great depth in America. The Newcastle coal field, which is the richest in England, has veins from three to six feet thick, while the Wales coal veins are less than three feet in thickness. Some of our Pennsylvania anthracite veins run from thirty feet to sixty feet in thickness, while the Pittsburgh bituminous coal veins are from eight to sixteen feet thick. At the present rate of mining it is estimated that all the English coal will be exhausted in 212 years if it is worked down to 4000 feet, and this will be 113 feet deeper than any of the English mines now worked. Notwithstanding the enormous amounts of coal which we have taken out of our anthracite region it is estimated that we could go on at the present rate for 616 years.

As England goes further down her coal mining will become more expensive, and her days as a manufacturing Nation are, consequently, numbered. Already we surpass her a great deal in manufacturing, and there is no doubt that we, with our vast supplies of coal and iron, are to be the chief manufacturing Nation of the future.

Our Appalachian coal fields alone could supply the world with fuel for centuries. They are the largest and richest known, and they are so situated that the coal can be shipped from them long distances by water. From Pittsburgh coal can be carried for eight-

pushed by little steamers, and so fastened together that a single steamer will push acres of coal. Loads of twenty thousand tons are taken. A vast amount of coal is carried on the canals and the great lakes form one of the chief highways of the coal traffic. The amount of coal carried on the railroads is almost beyond conception. The Philadelphia and Reading has more than fifty thousand coal cars, which are dragged by nine hundred

Have you ever been down in a coal mine? If so, you can appreciate some of the dangers of mining. A coal mine is like a great estacomb. It is a city underground, the walls of which in many cases are upheld by timbers. Now and then you come to rooms out of which the coal has been out. The coal is taken down with blasting powder, and there is danger of the wall falling and of the miners being crushed.



AN EXPLOSION.

coal locomotives. These cars are kept busy in carrying anthracite coal. The Pennsylvania Railroad employs more than seventy thousand cars for the movement of its coal and coke trade, and the Central Railroad of New Jersey carries about five million tons of anthracite coal every year. More coal is handled at New York than at any other place in the world except London, more than fifteen million tons being used or transhipped at that point annually.

One would think that there would be a lot of money in coal for the miners. There is not, and it is a question whether the present strike will materially better matters. As far as strikes have gone in the past, they have been against the working men. Some years ago Carroll D. Wright, the United States Commissioner of Labor, figured up the profit and loss of ten years of striking in all branches of labor. He estimated that the employes during this time lost fifty-nine million dollars, an average of forty dollars to each striker involved, while the employers lost a little more than half the amount, or thirty million dollars.

The coal miners live as poorly as any other class of workmen in the country. For the most part they are in dirty villages, with narrow streets, their houses blackened by coal smoke. In many mining districts the houses belong to the company owning the mines, and the miners pay rent for them, so that when a strike occurs and they are out of money they are given orders to leave. Many of the houses have nothing more than two rooms and a kitchen, and in some places the only stores at which the miners can trade are the company's stores. With all this the American miners are far better off than the miners of other countries. The coal miners of Japan receive only a few cents a day. Both women and men work in the mines, and the foreign ships, which get coal at Japan are always loaded by women, who pass the coal up the sides of the ship in baskets.

Women are still used in the coal mines of Belgium. They dress in trousers, just like the men, and they do much the same work. They help load the coal, and in some of the mines they drag the cars from the tunnels to the bottom of the shaft. L. Simonin, a Frenchman, from whose book on underground life the illustrations of this letter are taken, describes the horrors of their life in the mines. For a long time women were used in this way in England and Scotland, and it was not until twenty-five years ago that parliament passed an act keeping them out.

Children are employed in the Belgium mines to-day. The English and Scotch used them for years. They were taken into the mines at seven, eight and nine years of age, and were kept there until they grew up. The English coal veins are very thin and the tunnels are not more than a yard high. These children were used as beasts of burden. They were harnessed to little carts filled with coal, and had to crawl along on all fours with belts about their waists and chains between their legs dragging the coal carts to the surface. Women became deformed by this work. They were dressed in trousers and shirts like men. They learned to fight and swear like the men and became bad characters. At the age of fifty they were usually worn out. In Scotland young women were employed to carry the coal on their backs out of the mines. They dragged the coal to the foot of the ladders and then loaded it on their backs, holding it there by a strap around the forehead while they climbed up the ladders to get it to the surface. They worked from twelve to fourteen hours a day, and would do work, it is said, which the men would not do, tramping through the water with their loads of coal. According to law women cannot be employed in our mines.

Boys, however, have been largely used. They drive the mules, and in the anthracite regions they pick over the coal, taking the slate and refuse out of it. They get from fifty to sixty cents a day for bending over the dusty coal, roasting in the summer and almost freezing in the winter. They are frequently hurt, though it is by no means as bad with our children as with those of Europe a few years ago, when in one investigation it was stated: "That they seldom slept with a whole skin, and that their backs were out with knocking against the roof and sides of the tunnels, and that the walking in the water covered their feet with festering sores."

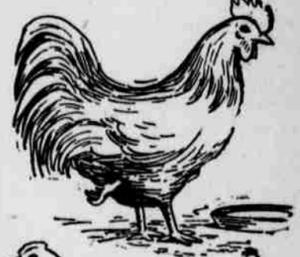
There is also danger from fire damp, or the union of the gases of the mine brought together by the light from a lamp or candle. This causes a great explosion. It comes like a stroke of lightning, and with a clap of thunder. As the explosion occurs a roaring whirlwind of flame goes through the tunnels, pulling down the timbers and caving in the walls. It burns everything within reach. Miners are blinded, scorched and sometimes burned to cinders. Hundreds have often been killed at a time by such explosions, and by the flood of carbonic acid gas which follows them. The statistics show that even in the United States one miner is killed for every hundred thousand tons of coal mined, and those who are injured number many times this proportion.

TWO FOWLS WITH SEVEN LEGS.

A New Yorker Has a Three-Legged Rooster and a Quadruped Hen.

Two freak fowls are owned by C. Stern, of the Third Street Market, East River, New York City, which are believed to be unique in their way.

They were bought by their owner in Washington Market. The rooster, which is a year old, has three legs,



FREAK FOWLS.

the extra "scratcher" (which, by the way, is useless for that purpose or any other) sticking out behind, between the other two.

The hen, which is about a year and a half old, can boast of four legs, two which she walks on, being in their natural places, the extra two growing out of her left side.

The strange feathered creatures have been seen by hundreds of chicken fanciers.

America's Oddest Rock.

Near West Superior, Wis., on a steep, rocky bluff stands one of the most freakish objects to be found in the world. It consists of a ledge of solid granite, which bears most grotesque resemblance to a human head. Its cavernous mouth is partly open and its features are distorted with a hideous grin. This monstrosity is



DEVIL'S HEAD.

known as "Devil's Head." Prospectors rub a spot above the eyes, which is said to bring them luck. The Indians have a legend concerning the "skull rock" to the effect that it is nothing more or less than the petrified head of a great warrior who came from their "happy hunting ground" to protect the tribes of the Northwest against extermination by the whites.

The largest mass of pure rock salt in the world lies under the province of Galicia, Hungary. It is known to be 550 miles long, twenty broad and 250 feet in thickness.



IN AN ENGLISH MINE.

ian Mountain, than anywhere else in the world. The coal is some times at the veins are thick, and in some mines they are almost on the top of the ground. They are better than any other coal fields in this respect, with one single exception. This is the new