

COLLIERS AND COLLIERIES.

THE Whig appetite for Inquiry by Commission was well nigh satiated.—Colonel Sibthorp's occupation was almost gone,—charities, factories, prisons, poor-rates, constables, corporations, church revenues, and weavers' wages, had all been duly examined,—investigation was dying of inanition, there being little on earth left unexplored; when Lord Ashley luckily bethought himself of subterraneous employment; and a Royal Commission was forthwith launched at the coal pits, and inquiry dived underground. Now this is just where inquiry ought to have begun. It is out of sight that abuses usually exist; and that which is least accessible to observation, is generally most in need of it. So it has proved in this case at least.

The Children's Employment Commission has just issued its Reports on Mines.

These reports exhume a mass of mental, moral, and physical degradation, which cannot be too generally known and denounced. They form, as usual, a pile of blue folios, the very sight of which sets condensation at defiance; and though the Central Commissioners have meritoriously compiled a digest, compressed into something under the compass of three hundred folio pages, we must confine our gatherings to that portion

relates to Scotland, whither Messrs. Tancred Franks were deputed to execute the inquiry; they have discharged their laborious office with no mean amount of diligence and ability. To Mr. Tancred was assigned the West of Scotland and the Lothians, and to Mr. Franks that of Fife and the Lothians. The inquiry they were commissioned to execute extended to all points affecting the ages, hours of work, nature of employment, place of work, treatment, health, wages, morals, and education of the young persons and children employed.

Centuries after actual feudalism had disappeared in Great Britain, serfdom lingered in the collieries of Scotland; and not till 1775 was its abolition provided for in an act whose preamble ran thus:—

Whereas by the statute law of Scotland, as explained by the judges of the courts of law there, many *colliers* and *coal-bearers* and salters are in a state of *slavery* and *bondage*, bound to the collieries or saltworks where they work for life, transferable with the collieries and saltworks, &c.; be it enacted, "that all those who were colliers at the passing of the Act should become free on certain conditions, and under certain regulations, at periods varying from three to ten years," &c.

Such being the case, and the provisions of the act not having been fully effected for some years afterwards, we can readily understand how a patient endurance of degrading and oppressive toil may be evinced by those who are themselves the sons and daughters of slaves. It will require no slight effort to remove a system which seems to be regarded with the submission due to a decree of nature.

We shall, before indulging in any further comments on the subject, endeavour to cull from the reports of the assistant Commissioners for Scotland, a brief but sufficiently comprehensive descrip-

tion of the actual condition of the objects of the inquiry, under the various heads we have above enumerated.

In factories,—visited, ventilated, whitewashed, warmed, regulated, boxed, inspected, and medically superintended, by act of Parliament,—where the labour is anything but fatiguing, children are not admitted till they are nine years old, and must not be worked more than eight hours per diem. In collieries where the labour, dirt, confinement, and foulness of air, are limited alone by the mercy of the workmen, or the benevolence of the overlooker, children begin work at *seven and eight years old*, and the duration of work is generally for *eleven hours*, and frequently longer; sometimes continuing through the night; especially in the East of Scotland. This is attested by a number of credible witnesses.

The employment in all collieries is divisible into two main branches,—that of hewing the coal, and that of conveying it out when hewed. The former is properly the province of the adult collier, and the latter of women and children.

In the Western district, where the labour seems in every respect mitigated, the youngest children are employed only in opening and shutting the doors, which regulate the draft of air, as the whirleys or wagons of coal pass. The solitude and darkness constitute the only physical evil of the employment; though to entomb a young child all day long, in a dark and dismal passage underground, would be deemed a fearful cruelty, were it resorted to even as punishment in a prison. The next occupation is that of putting or pushing the whirley full of coal along the passages in the pit. Mr. Tancred speaks favourably of it in Lanarkshire:—

Any one who has seen the children at work can have no hesitation in saying that the physical exertion necessary in drawing is occasionally considerable. This exertion, however, is by no means continuous. . . . The whirley, being loaded and started on the tramway, runs pretty easily till perchance it gets off the rails at a sudden turn, or where another railway joins in. Then the drawer and his assistant, sometimes called the "putter," must put their shoulders to the wheel to lift or drag it upon the rails again. After this they can take a little rest. Once more they start, and perhaps hear a rattling, and see a light in the distance; this is another pair of children trotting along with an empty whirley towards the face of the coal. . . . Now, we will suppose they come to a part of the road where there is a slip in the strata, sometimes called "a trouble." Here the road rises pretty steeply for a short distance; and now comes the tug of war. The drawer, throwing his whole weight upon the chain, and leaning his body so forward that his hands touch the rails, whilst the putter pushes with might and main behind, with many a puff they urge the load to the top of the ascent. Here they sit awhile, till they have recovered their wind; after which, they soon see the lights dancing about a-head, and hear the hub-bub at the pit bottom.

The work is not unhealthy when not carried to excess, and few females, Mr. Tancred reports, are to be found in the collieries in his district. Far otherwise is the case in many parts of Yorkshire and Lancashire, where Mr. Symons, Mr. Scriven,

and Mr. Kennedy, bear fearful testimony to the degrading nature of the employment to which females are subjected; and where they are habitually harnessed to the coal-wagons, dragging them on all fours, like animals, along passages which are often under a yard in height.

Mr. Franks details similar abuses in the Western coal districts of Scotland. "Females," he states, "have to crawl backwards and forwards with their small carts, in seams, in many cases, not exceeding twenty-two to twenty-eight inches in height." This operation, called "putting," prevails in Fifeshire, Clackmannan, Stirlingshire, and in parts of the Lothians.

The danger and difficulties, (says Mr. Franks,) of dragging on roads dipping from one foot in three to one foot in six may be more easily conceived than explained; and the state which females are in, after pulling like horses through these holes—their perspiration, their exhaustion, and very frequently even their tears, it is painful in the extreme to witness; yet, when the work is done, they return to it with a vigour which is surprising, considering how they inwardly hate it. The business of these females is to remove the coals from the hewer, who has picked them from the wall-face, and placing them either on their backs, which they invariably do when working in edge seams, or in little carts when on levels, &c., to carry them to the main-road, whence they are conveyed to the pit bottom, where, being emptied into the ascending basket of the shaft, they are wound up by machinery to the pit's mouth, where they lie heaped for further distribution.

This horrible work varies in different districts. In Fife and Clackmannan, the carts or "hutchies" are oblong, square-sided boxes, on four wheels, which run on railways. Frequently, however, where the declivities are great, or the roads are very soft, slypes are used, without wheels. The children, both male and female, are literally harnessed to these carts by a broad belt round the body, whence a chain passes either between their legs or over their backs. We shall cull a few extracts, however, from among the evidence of 429 witnesses examined by the Commissioner, premising that the floor of these passages is "usually wet and slushy, and not unfrequently dripping with water."

Katherine Logan, sixteen years old, coal-putter, examined at Vogrie Colliery, Borthwick, says—"Began to work at coal-carrying more than five years since; works in harness now; draws backwards, with face to tubs; the ropes and chains go under pit-clothes; it is o'er sair work, especially when we crawl."

Elizabeth Dickson, twelve years old, draws coals at Edgehead Colliery, Cranston—"I draw with the ropes and chain, and often fall and get crushed as the hurly comes down the brae: never off work long from the hurts. I am wrought with two brothers and two sisters below; we takes pieces of bread, and get nothing more till work is done; am never wrought less than twelve and fourteen hours; work about; we work all night. Many of the lassies get crushed, and lose their fingers; have often lost my finger nails. Always change my pit clothes when home; am obliged to do, for they are so wet. I bend nearly double while at work, as all the roads are very low. I can read a little; not learned much, as have been three years below, and not at school since."

Janet Selkirk, at Preston-hall Colliery, Cranston, eighteen years of age, draws coal—"Begun to work at ten years of age; did so, as hard work below had made mother blind. I cannot read, as family expenses are heavy. Am obliged to like the work, as all the lassies

are. It would not be possible for men to do the work we are forced to do. Men only marry us early because we are of advantage to them."

Elizabeth Selkirk, Haugh Lynn Colliery, parish of Cranston, eleven years old, coal-drawer—"Works from three in the morning till four and five in the afternoon, and frequently all night. The work is so sore that cannot help goir to sleep when waiting for the gig to draw. I do not always change myself, as I'm o'erfatigued. We have had much trouble (sickness.) My work causes me to stoop double; and when I draw, I crawl on all-fours, like the cuddies."—[Very sickly, emaciated child, subject to severe pains in limbs and bowels, arising, no doubt, from overwork and want of food. Her parents, with seven children, live in a wretched hovel at Path-head; the room not more than ten feet by fourteen; the furniture consisted of two old bedsteads, nearly destitute of covering, a few old stools, and bits of broken crockery.]

In East Lothian, that still more oppressive labour imposed on females, termed "*coal-bearing*," attracted the indignant notice of the Commissioner.

The abuses we have above alluded to are common to Yorkshire and Lancashire; but coal-bearing is peculiar, it seems, to the Lothians. In many collieries women bear the coal in baskets on their backs up ladders.

Agnes Moffatt, at Edmonston Colliery, Newton, seventeen years of age, coal-bearer, says:—"Works twelve and fourteen hours daily; can earn 12s. in the fortnight, if work be not stopped by bad air or otherwise. I fill five baskets; the weight is more than 22 cwt.; it takes me twenty journeys. The work is o'er sair for females; had my shoulder knocked out a short time ago, and laid idle some time. It is no uncommon for women to lose their burthen, and drop off the ladder down the dyke below; Margaret McNeil did a few weeks since, and injured both legs. When the tugs which pass over the forehead break, which they frequently do, it is very dangerous to be under with a load. The lassies hate the work altogether, but they cannot run away from it."

"I have wrought," says Jane Watson, "thirty-three years. Have had two dead born; thinks they were so from the oppressive work; a vast of women have dead children and false births, which are worse, as they are not able to work after the latter. I have always been obliged to work below till forced to go home to bear the bairn, and so have all other women. We return as soon as we are able; never longer than ten or twelve days; many less, if they are needed. It is only horse-work, and ruins the women: it crushes their haunches, bends their ancles, and makes them old women at forty."

Numbers bear testimony to the same facts. Some with a philosophical fortitude, which is almost ludicrous. Mrs. Isabel Wilson, thirty-eight years old, says:—

"When women have children thick (fast) they are compelled to take them down early; I have been married nineteen years, and have had ten bairns; seven are in life. When on Sir John's work, was a carrier of coals, which caused me to miscarry five times from the strains, and was gae ill after each. *Putting is no so oppressive*; last child was born on Saturday morning, and I was at work on the Friday night."

It is here worthy of remark, (adds Mr. Franks,) that to this labour, which is at once so repulsive and severe, the girls are invariably set at an earlier age than boys are to their peculiar labour, from a notion very generally entertained amongst the parents themselves, that girls are more acute, and capable of making themselves useful at an earlier age than boys.

The Commissioner, in his investigation into Mrs. Wilson's domestic arrangements and household goods, finds that nine sleep in two bedsteads with-

ut beds, the entire furniture consisting of two chairs, three stools, a table, a kail pot, and a few broken basins and cups. On the subject of furniture Mrs. Wilson, however, supplied the Commissioner with a few new ideas :—

“ Upon my asking if the furniture was all they had, the guid wife said, furniture was of no use, as it was so troublesome to flit with ! ”

The general opinion, however, among the gude-wives seems to have been one of less satisfaction with the luxuries of their lot :—

“ You must just tell the Queen Victoria,” says Mrs. Hogg of Gladsmuir to her Majesty’s Commissioner, “ that we are guid loyal subjects ; women-people here don’t mind work, but they object to horse-work ; and that she would have the blessings of all the Scotch coal-women if she would get them out of the pits, and send them to other labour.”

“ In fact,” says Mr. William Hunter, mining overseer of Arniston Colliery, “ women always did the lifting or heavy part of the work, and neither they nor the children were treated like human beings, nor are they where they are employed. Females submit to work in places when no man or even lad could be got to labour in : they work in bad roads, up to their knees in water, in a posture nearly double : they are below till last hour of pregnancy : they have swelled haunches and ancles, and are prematurely brought to the grave, or, what is worse, lingering existence.”

The heaving of the coal by the colliers is extremely hard work, often performed whilst lying at full length, or crouched up in an uneasy posture.

In the East of Scotland, boys are actually employed in this dangerous and oppressive labour !

Alexander Reid, aged twelve years, (in the Duke of Buccleugh’s works at Dalkeith,) says :—“ I have worked two years at Sheriff-hall, and go below at two or three in the morning, and hew till six at night ; after that I fill and put the carts on the rails to pit-bottom. The pit I work in is very wet ; we often work in slush over our shoe-tops. When first below I used to fall asleep ; am kept awake now. It is most terrible work ; I am wrought in a 30-inch seam, and am obliged to twist myself up to work on my side ; this is my every-day work except Friday, when I go down at twelve at night, and come up at twelve at noon,” &c.

This, and similar evidence which abounds throughout the Report, amply justifies the desire that Scotland may ere long be freed from what Mr. Franks justly terms “ the remnant of the slavery of a degraded age.”

The assisting of the wagons up the inclines, the

craning of the wagons off the small trains on to the main road, constitute the remaining occupations of children in collieries.

On the subject of wages Mr. Tancred gives a deplorable account of the prevalence of the Truck System. In the Airdrie district, there is, it seems, a regular pewter coinage, bearing on it the name of the store where the coin is payable, with the amount it passes for. The usual system, however, is for—

A woman to go to the store, and say she wants so many ounces of soap, tea, sugar, so much meal, potatoes, bacon, &c. These articles are entered by the store-keeper in her pass-book, with the price of each, and she goes to the pay-office, close to the store door perhaps, and shows the book, upon which the clerk reckons up the amount, pays her the money, and back she goes to the store, and procures the articles. Another plan is this : the wife goes to the store, takes what articles she wants, and leaves it to the store-keeper to set the amount against her, having “ a line” from the master to say what the wages of herself or husband are. On the pay-day the store-keeper sends in his books to the clerk, and the amount of each person’s advances is deducted from the pay.

In few instances do the people receive the real value of their wages ; besides it encourages them to run into debt. The remedy proposed by Mr. Tancred is, that the Inspectors, to whom he presumes the Report will give birth, shall have power to ascertain the terms upon which stores are rented ; the prices and qualities of the articles sold, and to prevent the sale of spirits at them.

There is a page wanting in Mr. Tancred’s industrial economy. He must hit at the root as well as the branches of the evil ; whilst trade continues to be crippled for the sake of a cormorant monopoly, both masters and men are driven, the one to resort to, and the other to submit to resources, which could not live a day were the vast capacities of our industry released from the shackles of restrictions on trade, and the palsy effect of scarcity of food.

The actual wages professed to be paid to colliers in the West of Scotland is, for colliers under eighteen, 12s. to 24s. per week. Putters and drawers, 4s. to 9s. Trappers, 4s. Horse-drivers 3s. to 6s. Engine-boys, 6s. to 13s.

Mr. Franks gives a more detailed statement in the East of Scotland.

In the East of Scotland, wages of colliers average as follows :—

ELPHINSTON COLLIERY.					ELGIN COLLIERIES.					CLACKMANNAN COLLIERIES.				
Year.	Average Weekly Earnings.		Average No. of Days Colliers work.	Average Fortnightly Earnings.	Average No. of Days Colliers work in Fortnight.		Average Daily Earnings.	Average No. of Days Colliers work.						
	Hewers.	Putters.			Hewers.	Putters.		Hewers.	Putters.					
1812	20	0	8	0	11	3	3	1	6	10				
1814	20	0	8	0	11	3	3	1	6	10				
1822	25	0	9	0	11	3	9	1	3	10				
1823	25	0	9	0	11	3	9	1	3	10				
1831	18	0	9	0	11	4	6	1	4	10				
1832	18	0	7	0	11	4	0	1	4	10				
1834	18	0	7	0	11	3	9	1	4	10				
1836	16	0	5	10	11	3	9	1	4	10				
1838	16	0	5	10	8	3	9	1	4	10				
1840	16	0	5	10	8	3	9	1	4	9				
1841	16	0	5	10	8	3	9	1	4	9				

Accidents are stated to be of frequent occurrence in both districts; and as there are, says Mr. Franks, no Coroners in Scotland, "no notice appears to be taken of them." They arise chiefly from the falling of the roof, or ropes breaking.

Dr. S. S. Alison* remarks, in reference to this subject:—

I am pretty sure about 50 people under my care, and connected with collieries, have lost their lives in consequence of accidents occurring in the works around Traent, and I do not remember of an investigation having been made by the sheriff in more than one instance.

The care taken of the children appears to be slight. They are generally employed, and paid by the coal hewers; and do not fall under the cognizance of the master. This seems to prevail almost everywhere throughout Great Britain. Their food consists seldom of aught else than kail, porridge, and bread, in East Scotland; and the homes of colliers are represented by Mr. Franks as "deplorable pictures of filth and poverty." It is otherwise in England. Both in food and houses the colliers appear to be comfortably provided there, in most instances. In the East of Scotland, in point of household and personal cleanliness, the condition of the collier community, struck Mr. Franks as that of a population abandoned to a course of life, which has blunted the commonest perceptions of human comfort.

But give the collier (adds Mr. Franks) the comforts of a clean and cheerful home, and the companionship of a sober and decently-educated female, not degraded to brute labour by working in the pits; let her attend to a mother's and housewife's duties; and you will soon change the moral condition of the collier.

The following is so graphic and terse a sketch of the collier character, and one so well borne out by other evidence, that we must add it to our extracts:—

Mr. Alexander Nimmo, innkeeper, Traent, states that he has been some years resident in Traent, and had frequent opportunities of witnessing the conduct of the collier people. They are very clannish, and hold very little intercourse with other tradesmen. They are quite as singular in their marriages as they are in their friendships—so entirely exclusive. They may well be so, for no working man would marry a collier's daughter, so little do they know of domestic duty. Colliers drink very hard, and rarely anything but whisky, which they subscribe for amongst themselves and purchase by the bottle or gallon. The bad custom of taking wives below causes them to neglect homes and carry down their children almost before they can walk, and they get little or no education; most of the children here are very ignorant. Sometime since Mr. Cadell had a school-house built; he engaged a teacher; the fees were fixed very low, so as to induce colliers to send their offspring; few attended regularly, and the school was closed after a few months; it was a voluntary school. The collier people in this town are dirty to extreme; their houses are not such as I should like to feed pigs in. Most keep fowls and ducks, and many pigs are kept in the houses. In consequence of the filthy state of the wynds and closes where the colliers stop, a neighbouring farmer lately went to a considerable expense in erecting a public privy, with separate partitions and apparatus to keep it well cleansed: but they took umbrage at being so provided for, and, thinking it an innovation upon their rights, they pulled the privy down, and burnt the wood of which it was composed. In this town there are some few colliers

who are natives, and keep attached to the place, but the majority are changeable; they are apt to run in debt and then fit.

They are in knowledge, (says Mr. Ross, of the Loan-head Colliery,) both religious and intellectual, greatly inferior to all other classes; in moral courage and enterprise inferior; in taste for comforts, even of a domestic nature, inferior; and yet, abject as their condition is, it presents some favourable features of comparison with others, whose condition, as moral and intellectual beings, is undoubtedly superior. They are always respectful, and sometimes warmly attached to their employers, and exhibit none of the pert and discourteous behaviour of the manufacturer; they listen with cheerfulness and much seriousness to the ministers of the gospel who come among them; they show, and probably feel, less jealousy of their superiors in rank and fortune than is generally shown by other artisans, and they intermeddle less with politics.

The diseases to which colliers are most liable, appear to be asthma, rheumatism, irregular action of the bowels, and bronchitis. Scarcely any colliers are to be found, (says Dr. Alison in his evidence,) above twenty years of age, who are free from disease in the pectoral organs. Diseases of the spinal column, and fevers prevail. "Black spit," is the common term for the disease of the lungs; which aptly indicates its attendant symptom. "After death," says Dr. Mackellar,—

On examining the chest, the lungs are found excavated, and the cavities filled with a fluid or solid substance—apparently pure carbon.

This disease may be wholly obviated by a better ventilation, especially where gunpowder is used for blasting.

The physical condition, as regards health, is rather favourably reported on than otherwise, by Mr. Tancred, in the West of Scotland. No disease, save asthma, seems to have attracted his attention. Nutritious diet he deems to be common among colliers.

The morals of the Eastern pitmen are, with the exception of the prevalence of intoxication, far from depraved. They appear, in fact, too grievously over-wrought to be very vicious. They have no time for crime. Their leisure is necessarily devoted to rest. In education, not only are the present generation all but destitute of the commonest information; but the children are growing up in similar ignorance.

Mr. Franks says:—

I carefully examined the children on the spot, as well as the signatures to the returns which I had received; and I find, that out of 3886 children and young persons included in such returns, only 866 pretend to write their names, out of which number, I might venture to affirm, that it would require a well-practised eye to decipher even 150; and of those whose names are tolerably legible, I believe that not a couple of dozen could be found to write a dozen consecutive lines on any given subject, capable of being read and understood.

In scriptural and common secular knowledge, he found a "miserable deficiency."

He found the females, as might be expected, ignorant of ordinary household capacity. They knew nothing of housewifery. "How," the Commissioner asks, "should they? Are they to learn it in the pit?"

Mr. Wright, the Manager of the Duke of Buccleugh's mines, in speaking of the improvement there created by the exclusion of females, says:—

* In the Appendix to the Report, there is an elaborate and valuable Thesis, by Dr. Alison, on the physical condition and diseases of the collier population.

I feel confident, that the exclusion of females will advantage the colliers in a physical point of view, and that it will force the alteration of the economy of the mines. Owners will be compelled to alter their system; they will ventilate better, make better roads, and so change the system, as to enable men who now work only three or four days a-week, to discover their own interest in regularly employing themselves. Since young children and females have been excluded from his Grace's mines, we have never had occasion to increase the price of coal.

The desire for legislative interference to check the evils of the existing system, both as to the age of the children, and the employment of females, appears to have been generally expressed by the more intelligent, both of the workmen and the employers, when questioned on the subject.

The apathy of the great mass of this peculiar community, presents a painful theme of reflection. The spirit of serfdom is evidently rife among them still; and they exist, a singular and almost an isolated living instance, of what feudalism was, and of the effects of passive submission on the moral dignity of man, and the attributes of humanity itself. Mr. Franks rightly characterizes them as

A population, including 7000 to 8000 heads of families, leading a mere animal existence, without religious character, without political bias, without political representation—in short, without any political status whatever;—such, and so simple is the character of the people amongst whom my labours have been pursued; and to many, therefore, it was but too obvious that the visit of the Commissioners bore the appearance of an obtrusive and inquisitorial visit, rather than the anxiety of a philanthropy which needed no solicitation.

It is not undeserving of remark, (he adds) that this is the same people, who, wedded to ancient customs, and unaccustomed to the exercise of thought beyond the necessities of the morrow, were so totally ignorant of the boon conferred upon them by the Legislature in 1775, that they contentedly lived on in their bondage, and retained their old custom of "arleing;" and the then tacksmen of the mines, together with their ignorant dependents, continued their voluntary slavery, till the voice of the Legislature in 1799, again commanded them to be free.

He recommends as remedies,

- 1st. The exclusion of females and young children altogether from the mines.
- 2dly. The widest possible extension of the benefits of wholesome and sound instruction, and moral and religious training.

The General Report of the Commission for the United Kingdom, has been drawn up by Thomas Tooke, Esq., and Dr. Southwood Smith, with the aid of Messrs. Horner and Saunders, as a Central Board, and twenty visiting Commissioners, of whose Reports, their own is little else than a digest.

It draws a frightful picture of the character of pit-labour in all its aspects; one which may well cause the philanthropist to look back with regret on the time, labour, and money, spent on objects of infinitely inferior claim on the activity of benevolence. Our charities have roamed far and wide in search of food for compassion; and we have left unheeded at home beneath our feet, suffering of body, and heathenism of mind and morals, tenfold greater than we have traversed the globe in search of.

HYDROPATHY, OR THE COLD WATER CURE.*

HERE is a new, or resuscitated, system of curing all manner of diseases, which bids fair, for a season, to eclipse Morrison's pills, Homœopathy, and even Brandy and Salt. Its author is neither physician, surgeon, nor apothecary. He has studied at no University, received no diploma. He is even more untutored than the first of the Whitworth Doctors, whom our readers may remember in our pages; and yet upon what appears very credible testimony, he has performed many notable, if not wonderful, cures, after the faculty had fairly given the patients up. There is this to be said for the system of Priessnitz, that he rejects all quack medicines and all drugs whatever; and wisely trusts a great deal to such potent remedies and auxiliaries as air, exercise, cheerfulness, and very homely and moderate, if not abstemious, living. These agencies, with unbounded faith in the treatment, might produce greater wonders than are performed at Gräfenberg, independently of the grand specific, *cold water*.

Among the grateful patients who have recently been cured at that celebrated place, is Mr. Claridge, the compiler and translator of the various papers which form this singular volume. Mr. Claridge was suffering severely from a complication of

headache, tic-doloureux, and rheumatism, when, by the advice of a friend at Gratz, and the recommendation of an eminent medical man whom he met in Venice, he was led to become a pilgrim to the new Temple of Hygeia, at Gräfenberg, in Silesia. He has reason to bless the day when he took that resolution. Several German physicians, whom he accidentally saw, or consulted, instead of treating Priessnitz as an empiric, had sent their own patients to be cured; by swallowing copious draughts of the coldest spring water and using constant external ablutions of the same icy fluid. Mr. Claridge appears to be now in England; nor can we imagine any motive for his intense admiration of the *water cure*, save the benefits which he believes he has derived from it, and his desire to make generally known what he conceives to be a discovery fraught with immeasurable benefit to the tortured, drug-consuming, suffering, and short-lived human race. It is, however, somewhat disheartening to find him asserting that it is believed the system must decay with its inventor or discoverer; and that, if Providence should be pleased to remove the second Hippocrates, Hydropathy will again fall into a dormant state, if not into total disuse—"not that he (Priessnitz) will want numerous imitators, but because it is doubtful if the present, or any future generation will ever look upon his like again."

* "Hydropathy, or the Cold Water Cure, as practised by Vincent Priessnitz, at Gräfenberg, Silesia, Austria;" by R. T. Claridge, Esq. Madden & Co., London.