



Part of DURHAM & NORTHUMBERLAND, with the COLLIERIES, &c.

# The State of the Coal Mines.

WHATEVER Pain may be felt by probing a Wound—however acutely the Sufferer may feel as the Probe passes to the Seat of the Disease, an effectual Cure cannot be expected unless it is probed to the Bottom.

When this old, corrupt, and gangrened Wound of the Coal Mines (the destroying and mutilating of Men) is probed to the Bottom, Remedies will be proposed of small Expense and simple in Practice.

The Loss of Lives that may have happened from Water, Choak Damp, Creeps, Crushes, Thrusts, Falls, rotten Pit Ropes, &c. &c., will be difficult to come at with Accuracy; but the Estimation of an eminent Coal Viewer may lead towards the Truth, and this is certainly not over estimated.

In a Work published in Newcastle upon Tyne (upon Coal Mines) by this Viewer, in 1814, he says (Page 23), "On an Average, through this District, I believe that the ordinary and unavoidable Casualties in Collieries occasion more Calamity than Explosions of inflammable Air."

The following is a List of Pitmen killed by Explosions of Hydrogen Gas alone, since the Year 1805 :

Oct. 2, 1805.	Hebburn	..	..	..	35
Nov. 29, 1805.	Oxclose	..	..	..	38
May 5, 1812.	Felling	..	..	..	92
Oct. 10, 1812.	Herrington Mill Pit	..	..	..	23
Sept. 28, 1813.	Hall Pit, at Fatfield	..	..	..	30
Dec. 23, 1813.	Felling	..	..	..	22
Aug. 12, 1814.	Hebburn	..	..	..	11
Sept. 9, 1814.	Leafield, at Chester-le-street	..	..	..	4
June 2, 1815.	Success Pit, at Newbottle	..	..	..	57
June 27, 1815.	Sheriff Hill	..	..	..	11
June 30, 1817.	Row Pit, at Harraton	..	..	..	38
Sept. 25, 1817.	Jarrow	..	..	..	6
Dec. 18, 1817.	Plain Pit, at Rainton	..	..	..	26
Aug. 5, 1818.	Wallsend (1)	..	..	..	4
July 19, 1819.	Sheriff Hill	..	..	..	35
Oct. 9, 1819.	George Pit, at Lumley	..	..	..	13
July 9, 1821.	Coxlodge (2)	..	..	..	1
Oct. 23, 1821.	Wallsend	..	..	..	52
Oct. 23, 1821.	Felling	..	..	..	6
Feb. 21, 1823.	Ouston Colliery, at Chester-le-street	..	..	..	4
Nov. 3, 1823.	Plain Pit, at Rainton (3)	..	..	..	57
Nov. 19, 1823.	Nesham's Dolly Pit, at Shiftree	..	..	..	11
Oct. 25, 1824.	George Pit, at Lumley	..	..	..	14
July 3, 1825.	Juliet Pit, at Fatfield	..	..	..	11
Oct. 5, 1825.	Hebburn	..	..	..	4
Jan. 17, 1826.	Jarrow	..	..	..	34
May 30, 1826.	Townley	..	..	..	38
Sept. 5, 1826.	Heworth	..	..	..	4
Oct. 27, 1826.	Benwell	..	..	..	2
Mar. 15, 1828.	Jarrow	..	..	..	8
Sept. 1, 1828.	New Pit, at Houghton-le-Spring	..	..	..	7
Nov. 20, 1828.	Washington	..	..	..	14

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Add to this, by an eminent Coal Viewer's own admission, as a moderate estimate of the deaths in the mine occasioned by other causes } 712

1424

The number mutilated will probably be best ascertained by reference to the colliery Doctors' books.

What a frightful Number of Persons to pass into Eternity in following their ordinary Avocations. But this is far, very far short of the Truth. I have no Account to depend upon with Certainty, from 1805 up to 1812. No Coroner's Inquests were held previous to 1814 at all. The ready Coffin and the Church-yard closed the Scene.

N. B.—An Inquiry into these three Explosions, marked (1), (2), and (3), by Men of Science, would prove of the utmost Importance to the Philanthropist and Coal Miner.

☞ Colliery Inquests and Juries next.

A LOOKER ON.