

Directly in the gorge of the ravine, where we may see the partially wooded banks receding as they ascend from the base to the centre, and then bellying over from the centre to the summit, there is a fine chalybeate spring, surmounted by a dome of hewn stone. It was discovered by the miners when in quest of the mineral which they did not and could not discover, and forms one of the finest specimens of a true Ar.esian well which I have any where seen. They had bored to a considerable depth, when, on withdrawing the kind of auger used for the purpose, a bolt of water, which occupied the whole diameter of the bore, came rushing after, like the jet of a fountain, and the work was prosecuted no further ; for, as steam-engines were not yet invented, no pit could have been wrought with so large a stream issuing into it ; and as the volume was evidently restricted by the size of the bore, it was impossible to say how much greater a stream the source might have supplied. The spring still continues to flow towards the sea, between its double row of cresses, at the rate of about a hogshead per minute — a rate considerably diminished, it is said, from its earlier volume, by some obstruction in the bore. The waters are not strongly tintured — a consequence, perhaps, of their great abundance ; but we may see every pebble and stock in their course enveloped by a ferruginous coagulum, resembling burnt sienna that has probably been disengaged from the dark red sandstone below, which is known to owe its color to the oxide of iron. A Greek poet would probably have described the incident as the birth of the Naiad ; in the north, however, which, in an earlier age, had also its Naiads, though, like the fish of the Old Red Sandstone, they have long since become extinct the recollection of it is merely preserved by tradition, as a curious, though by no means poetical fact, and by the name of