

the inferior bed. There could be very curious chapters written on mineral springs, in their connection with the formations through which they pass. Smollett's masterpiece, honest old Matthew Bramble, became thoroughly disgusted with the Bath waters on discovering that they filtered through an ancient burying-ground belonging to the Abbey, and that much of their peculiar taste and odor might probably be owing to the "rotten bones and mouldering carcasses" through which they were strained. Some of the springs of the Old Red Sandstone have also the churchyard taste, but the bones and carcasses through which they strain are much older than those of the Abbey burying-ground at Bath. The bitumen

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of the trap; and so it was at Tin-y-coed, for the level proceeded for 155 feet with little or no obstacle. Mounds of soft black shale attested the rapid progress of the adventurers, when suddenly they came to a 'change of metal.' They were now approaching the nucleus of the little ridge; and the rock they encountered was, as the men informed me, '*as hard as iron*,' viz., of lydianized schist, precisely analogous to that which is exposed naturally in ravines where all the phenomena are laid bare. The deluded people, however, endeavored to penetrate the hardened mass, but the vast expense of blasting it put a stop to the undertaking, not, however, without a thorough conviction on the part of the farmer, that, could he but have got through that hard stuff, he would most surely have been well recompensed, for it was just thereabouts that they began to find '*small veins of coal*.' It has been before shown, that portions of anthracite are not unfrequent in the altered shale, where it is in contact with the intrusive rock. And the occurrence of the smallest portion of anthracite is always sufficient to lead the Radnorshire farmer to suppose that he is very near 'El Dorado.' Amid all their failures, I never met with an individual who was really disheartened; a frequent exclamation being, 'O, if our squires were only men of *spirit*, we should have as fine coal as any in the world!' " — (*Silurian System*, Part I., p. 328.)