

followed into the hill. So extensive are these old works, that a minor valley was in the course of ages scooped out in the hill-side, and in the wood close by there is a deep artificial excavation now called *Cwm-henog*, which in English means Old-cave-valley. Later, lofty well made galleries were driven, which cut the lodes deeper underneath. Gold was also found in washings of the superficial gravel, for more than a mile in length, on the banks of the river Cothy, and in the little upland valley that runs from the Gogofau towards the village of Cynfil Cayo. The well cut galleries are Roman, but it has been surmised that the ruder caverns date from more ancient British times. The washing of the gravels for gold may probably be both of the old British and Roman ages, and for aught that is known the mines may have been worked in both ways in later times. It is not many years since the quartz veins were again systematically worked by an enterprising and skilful miner, but though gold was got, the result was not sufficiently profitable to warrant the continuance of the work.

The huge excavations must have made ugly scars on the hills in the days when they were freshly worked, but time has healed them. The heaps of rubbish are now green knolls, and gnarled oaks and ivy mantle the old quarryings.

In the Carboniferous Limestone districts of North Wales, Derbyshire, Lancashire, and the Yorkshire dales, there are numerous lead mines; and, as I have already said, lead ore occurs in the underlying Silurian strata, as in South Wales, and also in the Lead Hills in the south of Scotland, where lead associated with silver, and even a little gold, has long been worked.

I must now endeavour to give an idea of what a lode is. A lode is simply a crack, more or less filled with