

IN MEMORY OF  
JOHN BROWN, COLLIER,  
who was enclosed in  
Kilgrammie Coal-pit, by a portion of it having fallen in,  
Oct. 8th, 1835,  
and was taken out alive,  
and in full possession of his mental faculties,  
but in a very exhausted state,  
Oct. 31st,  
having been twenty-three days in utter seclusion  
from the world, and without a particle of food.  
He lived for three days after,  
having quietly expired on the evening of  
Nov. 3rd,  
Aged 66 years.

Three weeks without food in the depths of the earth ! It seemed hardly credible, and I set myself to gather such recollections as might still remain. I discovered that a narrative of the circumstances had been published shortly after the date of their occurrence ; but I was fortunate enough to make the acquaintance of people who were resident in the district during the calamity, and from whom I obtained details which do not seem ever to have found their way into print. Much of my information was derived from an old collier who was one of the survivors. His narrative and that of the other contemporaries of the event brought out in a strong light the superstition of the colliers, and furnished additional evidence as to one of the longest survivals without food of which authentic record exists.

On the 6th October 1835, in a remote part of the old coal-mine of Kilgrammie, near Dailly, John Brown, the hero of this tragedy, was at work alone. Sixty-six years of age, but hale in body and fond of fun, he had long been a favourite with his fellow-workmen, more especially with the