

**THE WALL'S END MINER; OR, A
BRIEF MEMOIR OF THE LIFE OF
WILLIAM CRISTER; INCLUDING AN
ACCOUNT OF THE CATASTROPHE
OF JUNE 18TH, 1835**

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JAMES EVERETT

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INCLUDING
An Account of the Catastrophe

OF
JUNE 18th, 1835.

BY JAMES EVERETT,
AUTHOR OF
"EDWIN," "THE VILLAGE BLACKSMITH," &c.

"Then flew one of the Seraphims unto me, having a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with the tongs from off the altar; and he laid it upon my mouth, and said, Lo, this hath touched thy lips; and thine iniquity is taken away, and thy sin purged." ISAIAH.

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1835.

60:

TO
MR. JOHN REAY,
OF CARVILLE, NEAR NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE,
A PROMOTER OF RELIGION,
OF SABBATH SCHOOLS,
AND
CIVIL ORDER,
This Memoir,
AS A MEMORIAL OF LONG ESTABLISHED
PRIVATE FRIENDSHIP,
IS RESPECTFULLY INSCRIBED
BY
THE AUTHOR.

P R E F A C E.

To persons remote from the scene where the subject of the following pages spent his days, and also unacquainted with its local history, it may be stated that "WALL'S END" is situated on the North Side of the Tyne, in the County of Northumberland, immediately on the main road leading from Newcastle to Shields, and is about four miles—being an equal distance, from each place. The name is derived from the famous Wall built by the Emperor Severus, A.D. 207, which stretched across the country, passed through the site of the present Town of Newcastle, and here terminated its eastern course. The wall itself was constructed of square stones—was twelve feet high and eight broad—and was every way, except on the edges of precipices, accompanied by a deep ditch or foss. The site of this wall, and the hollow of the foss, running parallel with the present turnpike-way, are still to be traced from Byker Hill Mill to the first milestone on

the Shields road ; and a fragment of the wall itself is still to be seen near the bridge over Denton Burn, a little west of Newcastle.

But apart from Roman history, and independent of any knowledge of its association with the place, the "Wall's End coal" has been long famed for its excellent quality ; so much so, indeed, that coal-dealers have been detected in a fraudulent use of the name in the market,—pushing off, under its sanction, an inferior article. In this excellent mine, the subject of the present Memoir was long employed ; and the products of his toil warmed many a metropolitan hearth, from the cottage to the palace, and from the kitchen to the drawing-room,—his own heart being often heated to intensity with the love of God, while, in the midst of his numerous aspirations to Heaven, the material was passing through his horn-worked hands.

Several objections were presented to the writer's mind on first taking up the subject ;—objections much more discouraging than those which operated in the case of "The Village Blacksmith"—a work, the success of which has exceeded any thing he could possibly have *anticipated*, and for which he expresses his