

**COAL AND ITS PRODUCTS, TWO
LECTURES DELIVERED IN
SUBSTANCE AT THE CRYSTAL
PALACE, SYDENHAM, ON THE 17TH
AND 24TH OF JANUARY, 1867**

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CHARLES MEYMOTT TIDY

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COAL AND ITS PRODUCTS.

Two Lectures

DELIVERED IN SUBSTANCE AT

THE CRYSTAL PALACE, SYDENHAM,

ON THE

17TH AND 24TH OF JANUARY, 1867.

BY

CHARLES MEYMOTT TIDY, M.B.,

MASTER IN SURGERY;

MEMBER OF THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS.

*"Οὐδὲν γὰρ οὔτε γινέσθαι φασιν, οὔτε φθείρισθαι τῶν ἀνθρώπων
μόνον δοκεῖν ἡμῖν."*—DE CELO, LIB. III. C. 6.



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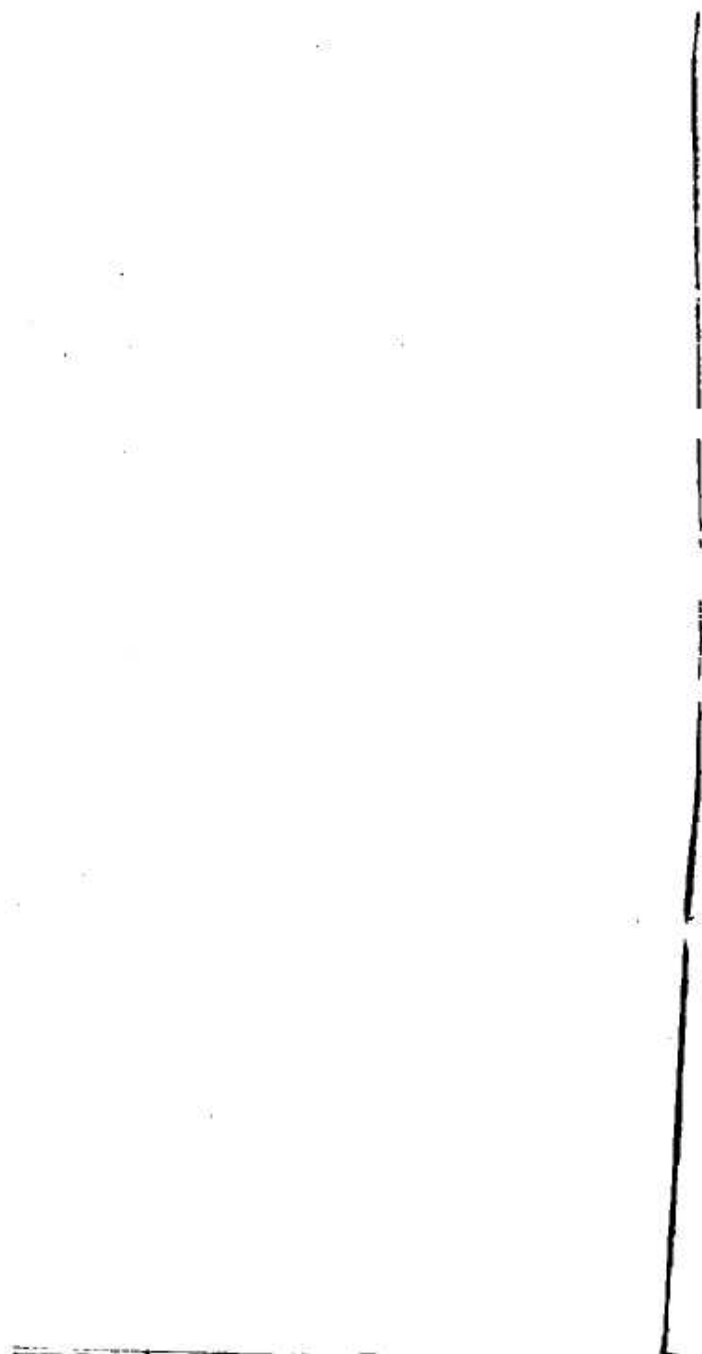
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TO
THOMAS TWINING, ESQ.,
VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE SOCIETY OF ARTS,

These Lectures

ARE RESPECTFULLY INSCRIBED, AS A SMALL CONTRIBUTION
TO THE GENERAL TRIBUTE OF ESTEEM,
JUSTLY PROFFERED
TO ONE WHO HAS BEEN PLEASED TO RENDER
AFFLUENCE AND ATTAINMENT SUBSIDIARY TO THE
PROMOTION OF ART AND SCIENCE,
AND THE DESIRE FOR
THE AMELIORATION OF THE CONDITION OF
HIS FELLOW MEN,
BY HIS OBLIGED FRIEND,
THE AUTHOR.



P R E F A C E.

A LARGE part of the first, and the whole of the second Lecture were delivered merely with the assistance of a few notes. They were not intended in the first instance for publication. When I was asked to have them printed, I thought it best to write them as nearly as possible as they were delivered. I did not, of course, expect to meet at the Crystal Palace—a popular place of amusement and instruction—an audience who understood much about chemical science, and therefore I only attempted to deal with the subject in a popular manner. I much regret that numerous professional duties have prevented my giving that time and attention to their preparation for the press that I should have desired. Indeed, I had intended, had my time allowed of it, to have considerably enlarged them, and to

have added copious notes. Such as they are, they are now before the public.

I take this opportunity of expressing my sincere thanks to many friends who sent me numerous specimens as lecture illustrations—to Mr. Ansell, of the Royal Mint, Messrs. Clarke and Coste, Mr. Bush, Mr. Keith, Messrs. Roberts, Dale & Co., Mr. Krauss, and last though not least to my good friend, Mr. Johnson, of Basinghall Street.

C. M. T.

THE HOLLIES, CAMBRIDGE HEATH,
HACKNEY, *March*, 1867.

COAL AND ITS PRODUCTS.

LECTURE I.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,—When I first accepted the invitation of Mr. Lee, to deliver one or two Lectures on some favourite subject connected with that science to which I have devoted the best energies of my life, it seemed an easy task to undertake, but I must acknowledge that I found no ordinary difficulty in selecting a subject that might prove of sufficient interest to the visitors of the Crystal Palace, to warrant me in asking their time and attention for two consecutive Lectures. The English people are peculiarly a practical nation. They seem to care little or nothing for science, unless they are able to perceive some immediate benefit, which directly or indirectly affects their business or interest. They can understand the steam-engine and electric telegraphy, for these are the practical applications of science. In unfriendly phrase, but with substantial accuracy, a renowned foreigner described the English people as “a nation of shopkeepers.” While I disdain the spirit that dictated these words, I yet admit their truth, and glory in it; at the same time, I fear whether the English people are not too