

**A TREATISE ON BRITISH MINING;
WITH A DIGEST OF THE COST
BOOK SYSTEM, STANNARIE AND
GENERAL MINING LAWS**

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A Treatise on British Mining; With a Digest of the Cost Book System, Stannarie and General Mining Laws by Thomas Bartlett

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THOMAS BARTLETT

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A TREATISE
OR
BRITISH MINING;
WITH A DIGEST
OF
THE COST BOOK SYSTEM,
STANNARIE AND GENERAL MINING LAWS.

BY THOMAS BARTLETT,

LONDARD STREET.

"To render the laws easily understood must always be conducive to their right administration, and to their strict observance by those who are bound to obey them."

LONDON :

EFFINGHAM WILSON, PUBLISHER, 11, ROYAL EXCHANGE.

1850.

Dedication.

TO HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS
ALBERT EDWARD, PRINCE OF WALES,
DUKE OF SAXONY, CORNWALL, & ROTHSAI,
EARL OF CARRICK, DUBLIN,
&c., &c., &c.

THIS TREATISE

IS

DEDICATED, WITH THE MOST PROFOUND RESPECT,

BY HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS'S

VERY HUMBLE AND OBEDIENT SERVANT,

THE AUTHOR.

P R E F A C E.

THIS work is unpretendingly presented to the mining classes of England by one of themselves. Its pages have been devoted to the illustration of their present position, and of the contrasting one which they should occupy, were they to improve the system under which they now pursue their avocations. The time has arrived which renders a change in that system imperative; and it fortunately happens there are but few, either amongst mine-owners, mining-captains, or the working men, who do not appreciate the necessity which exists for a better order of things; indeed the latter, almost without exception, look forward with a cheering hope to the establishment of a mining discipline, which in insuring a greater security to life, will give a wider scope to the labour and industry of the community at large. There can be now but little doubt, that a certain line of duty, conferring such advantages, will be strictly prescribed to mine-owners; but

there is still a duty to be performed, one which the captains and working miners owe directly to themselves, and remotely, but no less sacredly to their employers, who are willing to make sacrifices in their favor. *Self-improvement* should be the miner's motto, and he should never cease to remember, that to afford to his children those partial opportunities which even the village schools present, is an investment for himself, and an active appliance to the industry which he must look to for "*shelter in a rainy day*," and which will bring upon his old age comfort and contentment.

To accomplish a permanent good, the working miner must meet every change for the better, by such changes in *his own habits, and modes of operating*, as shall enable him to derive a benefit commensurate with the gradations of improvement which may take place in the general system of mining. In the absence of a national endowed institution, for the cultivation of this science, let him seize upon the education which the ordinary schools of his district are capable of affording, and thus will he become more capacitated to follow the directions of the scientific, and to appreciate their value. This treatise is presented to miners from the simple motive of doing them a service: it is, apart from the legal matter it contains, a book of suggestions; and the author flatters himself they will be found not altogether valueless, for his faith in their efficacy is in a great measure based on the fact, that the community which he more particularly addresses himself to, need but very little urging in a matter which only re-

quires the agency of sound common sense, in order to effect all the good which it involves. The working miners of Cornwall possess, in a very eminent degree, that sense and shrewdness which are the most powerful auxiliaries of industry. Indicate to them what is right, and there exists not a doubt that their energies will be directed to its accomplishment—let them but be inducted into the study and consideration of branches of science connected with the art which they practise, and in thus leading them to depend upon scientific knowledge, rather than that negative system, the *DOCTRINE OF CHANCES*, which they now follow, a universal benefit will result to the mining interests of the whole British empire: the one will aid the miner's practical experience, the other, it requires but very little reasoning to prove, at the present moment, in nine cases out of ten, mars his prospects, destroys his hopes, and leaves him struggling, dejected and irritated by a laborious industry; which, if better directed, would, in the majority of instances, be presently remunerative, and in the very many would ensure for him future comfort and independence.

Referring to the digest of the mining laws: the aim of the author has been to simplify and present them in a *homely shape* to the mining and general public: so that being better understood, they may be the more conducive to safe speculation. He has followed as closely as possible the best legal authorities of the day, particularly Mr. Collier, Recorder of Penzance, than whose treatise on the "Law relating to

Mines" a better has never issued from the press of this country. It is as a book of legal reference truly invaluable. This treatise, then, can be placed before the public with a due amount of confidence. The general reader will find dispersed through its pages some not uninteresting historical allusions, and also a list of authors, whose works may be beneficially referred to, commencing at the time when the Phœnicians, Greeks, and Carthaginians first traded with the "Cassiterides, Hesperides, and Œstryrnides," which evidently comprised the Scilly Isles, the Land's End, and other parts of the Cornish coast. To the speculator it will, it is trusted, afford a prism through which he can look forward and judge of the sphere which he aspires to enter into; and as regards the practical mining class of the country, with whom he is more directly identified, the author anticipates that the information contained in the work will be a means of inspiring them to an active exercise of energies, and to a confidence in themselves, which have been too long inert. Each and all are addressed in a spirit of true friendliness.

THOMAS BARTLETT.

58, *Lombard Street,*
August, 1850.

MINING ADVENTURE.

SECTION I.

"Opinionum commenta delet dies natura judicis confirmat."

CHAPTER I.

THE great interests which are involved in the mining operations of England, being the elements of our home industry, and of the very vastness of our commercial intercourse with foreign nations; it becomes the right and duty of every member of the community to investigate, not only the working of the system at large, but also to closely observe and calmly deliberate upon every project, scientific and speculative, put forward as legitimately feasible, directly remunerative, and worthy of public confidence and support.

There is no branch of the re-productive arts which should command from the governing and the governed of every country, greater attention and a sounder discretion in the application of *means* than MINING; for experience teaches that, while it almost invariably insures fortune and success to the prudent, it as unerringly saps the most colossal monetary strength of the rash and ill-calculating adventurer: giving in such instances poverty for riches and ruin for independence.

The record of English mining transactions shows but too effectively the truth of this remark: yet, however we may deplore the failure of numbers whose capital was unavailingly expended in such speculations, we cannot close our eyes upon