

measures, and declared that "nothing but the teetotal would do." Mr. Livesey, who was present, at once exclaimed, "That shall be the name!" The meeting cheered, and from that time the word "teetotal" was everywhere applied to entire as contrasted with partial abstinence. The author of the name was a staunch advocate of the cause for many years, and at his death he was followed to the grave by hundreds of teetotalers, the streets being thronged by spectators. An inscription over his grave, in Preston Churchyard, says:—"Beneath this stone are deposited the remains of Richard Turner, author of the word Teetotal, as applied to abstinence from all intoxicating liquors, who departed this life on the 27th day of October, 1846, aged 56 years."

Although the name of Joseph Livesey is, as we have seen, so inseparably and conspicuously associated with the Temperance movement, it would be a great mistake to think or speak of him in any sense as a man wedded to "one idea." In the course of his long residence in Preston he has filled many important public offices, and was a member of the first Town

Council elected under the Municipal Reform Bill. As long ago as 1845, he began to organise an annual trip by railway to Southport, Blackpool, or some other sea-side resort, by which "the halt, the lame, and the blind, the scavengers, the sweeps, and the workhouse people," were taken from their unpleasant surroundings to breathe a purer air for a few hours. Accustomed always to take an active interest in every effort to relieve distress, he was naturally one of the foremost workers during the long and dreary time known as the "Cotton Famine," devoting almost all his spare hours to the work of the Relief Committee during two years. Soon after his marriage, assisted by his wife he took part in teaching others less educated than himself, and in 1825 he hired a large room in Shepherd Street, Preston, where he started a free Sunday school, "for youth of both sexes from fourteen to twenty-one years of age." Upon all these, and many other useful labours, he can now look back peacefully, as he spends his closing days in the town which knows no name more sincerely venerated than that of Joseph Livesey.

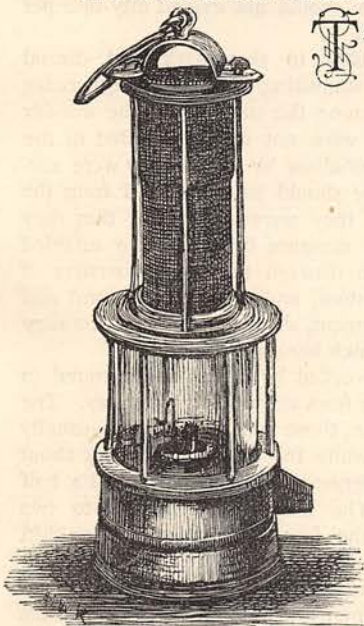
UNDER THE CRUST: THE TYNESIDE COLLIER.

BY THOMAS BURT, M.P.

"Think on us, hinnies, if ye please,
An' it were but to show yor pity;

For a' the toils and tears it g'ies,
Te warn the shins o' Lunnun city."
"THE PITMAN'S PAY."

IN TWO CHAPTERS.—CHAPTER THE FIRST.



THE first authentic record of the raising of coal for fuel in Great Britain dates as far back as 1239. In that year King Henry III. granted a charter for the purpose of working coal to the inhabitants of Newcastle-upon-Tyne. The valley of the Tyne, which was the cradle of this great industry, is still the centre of the most active and the most productive coal-mining district of the world. The

Northern coal trade from small beginnings has developed to enormous proportions. In the year 1704, the Tyne and Wear together shipped off 647,344 tons of coal, while in 1880 Northumberland and Durham

produced more than 34,000,000 tons of the same material. To work and raise this coal to the surface more than 76,000 men and boys are now employed. This hardy and industrious population have a character and an individuality of their own—different from anything else to be found in other parts of the world. To the stranger from a distance—especially to the man of education and refinement—there is much that will appear rough and unattractive, if not absolutely repulsive, in the demeanour of the Northern pitman; but he will soon find that under this somewhat coarse exterior are sterling qualities, which will reveal and approve themselves on closer inspection and better acquaintance.

The first thing that will strike any one at all familiar with the past history of the miners in looking at their present condition, is the wonderful progress made by them during the last fifty years.

In Cobbett's works there appears a very curious passage bearing upon the colliers of these Northern parts. Writing from the city of Durham, in his "Tour in Scotland and the Four Northern Counties of England," under date Sept. 27th, 1832, he says:—"The great business of life relates to the produce of the subsoil still more than that which comes from the surface. The collieries are the chief part of the property of the county. Sunderland, the two Shieldses and Gateshead, and Newcastle itself have been created by these collieries. Here is the most surprising thing

—thousands of horses continually living underground; children born there, and who sometimes, it is said, seldom see the surface at all, though they live to a considerable age.”

With respect to the latter statement some one had, of course, grossly imposed upon the credulity of the sturdy Sussex yeoman. It need scarcely be said that the allegation of children being born underground, and living there for days together without coming to the surface, is wholly mythical. Female labour in mines had ceased in Northumberland and Durham fifty years before Cobbett penned the lines I have quoted. But even until near the end of last century absolute slavery existed in Scotland, the colliers there being bought and sold like horses, with the pits in which they worked.

Though there is no record of anything similar in the North of England, yet the work of the collier here was of the severest and most oppressive kind—often more cruel than slavery itself. Even so late as 1832, when Cobbett wrote, children were taken underground at a very tender age, and they were kept at work many long and dreary hours every day.

The history of those dark days—though within the memory of men still living—now reads like fiction. In 1840 a Royal Commission was appointed, on the motion of Lord Ashley, afterwards better known as the Earl of Shaftesbury—a nobleman who has devoted

a long life to the service of humanity—to inquire into the evils arising from the employment of women and children underground. That inquiry brought to light terrible evidence of the inhuman system then in operation. Trustworthy witnesses declared to the Commissioners that children three or four years of age were taken into the mines by their fathers. Such statements seem almost incredible, and we may hope that cases of the kind were very exceptional. But it is certain that a few years earlier great numbers of children were put to work underground at six or seven, and those were thought very fortunate who were allowed to run about and play or go to school

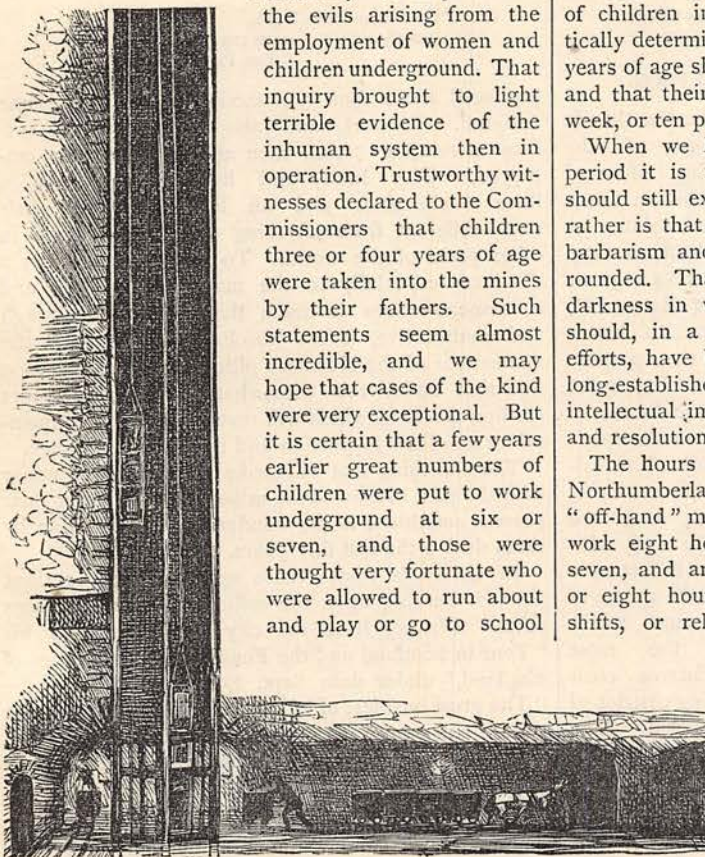
until they were eight or nine years of age. There were then no fixed hours of labour, the working time often extending to seventeen or eighteen hours out of the twenty-four. Up to the year 1831 boys were bound to fourteen hours' actual work, not as now “from bank to bank;” but the working-hours, as I have already stated, were generally prolonged far beyond the time agreed upon. The first organised revolt against this hideous and inhuman system occurred in the year mentioned—1831. A strike then took place in Northumberland and Durham, and, fortunately for humanity, it was successful. In the new agreement between employers and workmen, twelve hours were fixed as the full extent of the day's work for boys underground.

Thus the first inroad upon this system of worse than Egyptian bondage was made by the efforts of the miners themselves. A few years afterwards public sympathy was aroused, and attention was directed to the subject, by the speeches of the Earl of Shaftesbury and others in Parliament, and by the thrilling lines of Mrs. Browning, whose “Cry of the Children” appealed as powerfully to the heart of the nation on behalf of the children employed in mines and factories as did Hood's “Song of the Shirt” on behalf of the over-worked and half-starved needlewomen of London.

Legislation has since done much for the miner, and the miner's child; yet it was not until the year 1872 that any limit whatever was put by law to the hours of children in mines. The Act then passed practically determined that, as a rule, boys under twelve years of age should not be allowed to go underground, and that their hours should not exceed fifty-four per week, or ten per day.

When we look back to that dark and dismal period it is not astonishing that much ignorance should still exist among the miners, but the wonder rather is that they were not wholly engulfed in the barbarism and materialism by which they were surrounded. That they should have emerged from the darkness in which they were shrouded; that they should, in a great measure by their own unaided efforts, have broken through the strong barriers of long-established custom, and aspired to moral and intellectual improvement, showed the inborn courage and resolution of which heroes are made.

The hours now worked by adults underground in Northumberland are from seven to eight per day. The “off-hand” men—*i.e.*, those paid by the day—usually work eight hours, while the coal-hewers work about seven, and are underground about seven and a half or eight hours. The latter are divided into two shifts, or relays—the fore-shift and the back-shift—the former going into the pit about three o'clock in the morning, and the latter relieving them about ten. The work is exceedingly hard, especially in the steam-coal district, and any one who has himself hewed coal, and most of those who have seen how the work



is done, will consider the hours quite long enough. The collier works with a will, there is no dallying, every nerve is strained to the utmost, and the whole man, body and soul, is thrown into his labour.

When his work is over the hewer who has been in the fore-shift returns home, washes himself, dines, and retires to bed to recruit his strength after the exhausting toil of the day. On rising, after a short sleep, he makes his "shots" or cartridges, prepares his gear for the next day, and the leisure that is then left to him he uses as fancy or inclination may suggest.

The miner having thus finished his day's work, let us look for a moment into his home, and see him at his own fireside with his wife and children around him. In Northumberland and Durham, the custom from time immemorial has been for the colliery owner to supply a free house to the workman, this being counted as part of his wages. Until recently many of these houses were very inferior, a great number of them consisting of a single room and a garret, often unceiled. At the newer collieries, however, a much better class of house has been built; and during the prosperous times of a few years ago, many of the colliery proprietors spent large sums in improving the house accommodation. In this respect a great stride forward has been made during the last few years, and now many of the colliery houses are really excellent. Yet there are still some which are utterly unfit for human habitation; and in certain cases the workmen have to pay their own rent for very inferior houses.

The Northern pitman is seen at his best at his own fireside. He delights in domestic life, and his lowly roof is generally lighted up and cheered by pure affection.

Some years ago, Mr. Archibald Forbes, the famous war correspondent, came to Tyneside as representative of the *Daily News*, to see life in the colliery villages of the North. He wrote a series of very graphic articles to that newspaper, describing what he saw. As Mr. Forbes had not time to visit all the collieries he was wishful to see samples of the best and of the worst houses in the county of Northumberland. At his request I selected two villages, and accompanied him on his visit to them. I took him to some wretched tumble-down houses which it was impossible to enter without stooping very considerably. In some cases there was but one room—without even a garret or lumber-place attached. This room was very small, and had to answer for every purpose—parlour, kitchen, scullery, and bed-room. Mr. Forbes declared that what struck him most forcibly was the courage, the self-respect, and cheerfulness of the pitmen's wives under these depressing surroundings, and their evident determination to make the very best they could of their circumstances. In spite of every drawback and discouragement, all the houses we entered were clean, many of them were neat and tidy, and bore evidence of refinement and taste, too often absent from habita-

tions of greater pretensions. The picture drawn of the good housewife in the "Pitman's Pay," written at the beginning of the century, is true to the life of many at the present time:—

"However poor or plain wor fare,
The better bits come a' te me;
The last o' coffee's Nanny's share,
And mine the hindmost o' the tea.

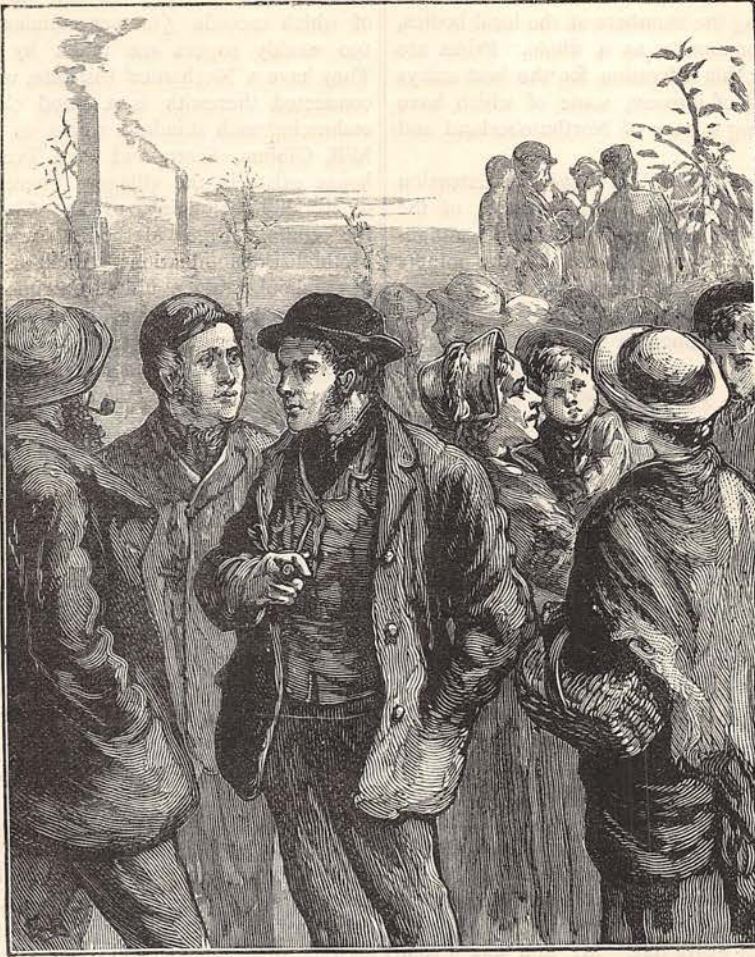
"And when the world runs sair agyen us,
When wark is slack and money duin,
When want has a' but ower-tyen us,
She a'ways keeps maw heart abuin.

"Se weel she etles what aw get,
Se far she a'ways gars it gan,
That nyen can say we are i' debt,
Or want for owther claes or scran."

If a brave man struggling with adversity wins, as we are told he does, "applause from the gods," a brave woman surely is not less deserving of hearty commendation. The Northern pitman's wife affords an excellent example of earnest and well-directed effort to make the very best of adverse circumstances. There exists in many of the colliery villages a wholesome rivalry among the women as to who shall have the best-furnished house, and who shall keep it cleanest and tidiest. Unlike her sister of the Midland counties, where factory work is so commonly the lot of women, and more fortunate than the wives of the hardy fishermen on the coast, who have much of the rough drudgery of life thrown upon them, the pitman's wife devotes all her energies to her household duties. Home is her domain, and there she reigns supreme. But she is a working queen. She scrubs and washes, she knits and darns and sews, she cuts and contrives to make her narrow means go as far as possible. She bakes and cooks, and excellent cooks many of the colliers' wives are, though they have not had the advantage—doubtless a great advantage it would be to them—of receiving lessons in cookery at South Kensington.

During the long and severe depression in the coal trade, her ability to make ends meet has been very strongly tested. Through shortness of work and reductions of wage, the actual money per workman received must have been very little—often for long periods together not more than 12s. or 15s. per week. Yet on going into a colliery village in Northumberland or Durham at the worst time you seldom saw—what is too common a sight at all times in some districts—children running about dirty and ragged, and without shoes and stockings on their feet. The children were generally warmly if coarsely clad, they were neat and clean, and bore evidence of industry, care, and thrift on the part of their mothers. Entering these lowly dwellings you always got a cheerful welcome; you heard no puling or whining; the stern, grim realities of life were met with courage, calmness, and self-possession, and a resolution was apparent to put the best face upon everything that it would bear.





LISTENING TO A COLLIERY BAND.

THE TYNESIDE COLLIER.

BY THOMAS BURT, M.P. IN TWO CHAPTERS. CHAPTER II.

FOLLOWING the miner after his day's work is done, and when he is master of his time, let us see how he disposes of his leisure hours, and of his holidays. This best shows what manner of man he is.

To judge from the sketches which occasionally appear in the London newspapers, one would suppose that the pitman is always either drinking champagne or going about with an ugly bull-dog at his heels! As a matter of fact, champagne is never even seen by him, and bull-dogs are almost as great a rarity. Of course among miners, as among other men, tastes differ—some are very delicate, others coarser and more common-place in the choice of their hobbies.

To nearly every house a garden is attached, and some of the colliers cultivate flowers, as well as more substantial products, with great success—often carrying off the best prizes at the annual floral and horticultural exhibitions. Music attracts many, some of the colliery brass bands having attained great proficiency in the art of producing a "concord of sweet sounds." Pleasing poetry, always pure in sentiment, and sometimes musical in rhythm, has been written by horny hands which daily use the pick and the shovel.

Almost every colliery now has its Mechanics' Institute or Reading-room, well supplied with daily and weekly newspapers, monthly magazines, and other periodicals of the day. The Institutes are federated under the name of the Northern Union of Mechanics'

Institutions, and the association supplies the machinery for an interchange of books. By its meetings, conferences, and essays it gives a stimulus to intellectual improvement among the members of the local bodies, and among the community as a whole. Prizes are frequently given by this federation for the best essays on social questions of interest, some of which have been won by working miners of Northumberland and Durham.

Last year, lectures under the University Extension Scheme were delivered in the chief centres of the colliery district of Northumberland. The arrangements for the lectures were made by the miners themselves, some of whom, after a hard day's work in the coal-face, travelled to neighbouring collieries to address their fellow-workmen in support of the movement. The subject selected was Political Economy, the lecturer being Mr. J. W. Moorsom. The lectures were admirable alike in style and in matter. For the most part they were very well attended, and the students nearly all passed a successful examination.

Science and art classes are at present being taught in several colliery villages by Mr. R. Nixon, who has himself been a working miner, and a very large proportion of the students have passed the examination and taken Queen's Prizes—first or second class—in such subjects as Geology, Applied Mechanics, and Mineralogy. When it is remembered that nearly all the pupils are working miners, who had but a very meagre elementary education, I think the reader will agree with me that great credit is due to them for the courage and perseverance they have exhibited.

Among the Northumberland colliers are men who have studied the science of geology with considerable success. Mr. John Sim, of West Cramlington, and Mr. Joseph Taylor, of Shiremoor, have won more than local fame as practical geologists. Those men began early in life to work underground, and both are still hewing coal every day. Mr. Sim has a rich and varied collection of specimens from the coal-measures—over 2,000 in number—carefully gathered together and arranged in beautiful order by himself. During a recent visit to his house, I had the pleasure of seeing some of them, and I was greatly pleased both with what I saw and with my intercourse with the man who collected the specimens. Mr. Sim, like a true student of nature, is entirely calm and self-contained, modest and unpretentious, and he delights to show his treasures—collected in the leisure hours of a well-spent life—to those who visit his humble but comfortable and hospitable home.

Many of the colliers are keen politicians—and they are almost without exception Liberal, or strongly Radical, in their views.

Perhaps I cannot better illustrate this part of my subject than by laying before the reader some facts and statistics relating to one of our Northern collieries, Dinnington, situate five or six miles north of Newcastle. The particulars have been supplied to me by an intelligent friend, himself a working miner at the place to which they refer, and they may be accepted as thoroughly reliable. The population,

consisting entirely of miners and their families, is under 1,000. Of 170 families, 150 are connected with the Co-operative Society, the average capital of which exceeds £10 per member. 48 daily and 190 weekly papers are taken by the inhabitants. They have a Mechanics' Institute, with 60 members; connected therewith is a good circulating library, embracing such standard works as Macaulay, Stuart Mill, Gibbon, Scott, and Prof. Tyndal. No public-house exists in the village. There are three places of worship belonging to the Christian Brethren, the United Free Methodist, and the Primitive Methodist denominations. Each of these has a Sunday school, with a united attendance of over 200 children. Each of them also has an evening class, at which interesting debates take place. There are seventeen local preachers connected with the religious bodies. There are several Presbyterians, Churchmen, and Wesleyans, and a few Roman Catholics in the village. My correspondent concludes his interesting statement thus:—"There are no Tories, but all shades of Liberals may be found; there is not a single Land Leaguer, though there are many who strongly sympathise with the Irish people. Degrading sports, such as 'pitch and toss,' are not much practised. Most of the youths are cricketers; they have an excellent club, which has a good influence among them."

I need scarcely say that there is another side to the picture I have given. The miners are not all thoughtful, studious, and thrifty. There is a good deal of drinking and gambling, though less than formerly.

The sports indulged in are less cruel than of yore. Rowing, bowling, racing, and "pitch and toss" are the favourite pastimes. One of the saddest sights to be witnessed in the colliery districts on holiday occasions, is to see groups of fine young fellows wasting their money, and their still more precious time, in the last-mentioned and silliest of those games. This however, I believe, may be said for the gamblers—that they love honesty and straightforwardness, and give no quarter to those who try to cheat their fellows. When such qualities are exhibited by these men, surrounded as they are by such temptations and associations, one may indulge the hope that with improved education, and the opening out of new and purer resources, much of the time now worse than wasted in gambling and drinking will be devoted to pursuits of a nobler and a more elevating character.

When the country is startled by a calamity such as Hartley or Seaham, or like that which more recently shrouded in gloom the neighbourhood of Wigan, the newspapers do full justice to the bravery shown by the miners in trying to rescue their comrades who are entombed in the mine. Whatever the danger, there are always more volunteers ready to face it than are required. These heroes are unconscious of their heroism—it is really so much a part of their everyday life—and, in truth, they share this courage with their fellow-countrymen, who never shrink from

danger or death whether on the battle-field or in the peaceful walks of industry. But the pitmen of the North have lately exhibited qualities which are much less common. The manliness with which they have borne themselves during the pelting storms of adversity which have assailed them for the last few years has shown the stuff of which they are made. While cynics were still sneering at their alleged thriftlessness and extravagance, a sudden and severe depression of trade set in. When one reduction of wage followed another in quick succession—when several large collieries were wholly stopped, and hundreds of miners were thrown out of employment—when the miners who were still working were doing so little that they were almost as badly off as those entirely out of work—even then these men maintained a gallant struggle for independence, and, when times were at the worst, scarcely any perceptible increase took place in the poor-rate in the mining districts of the North. This chapter in the history of the miners of Northumberland and Durham—one of the grandest in the annals of labour—has never been fully told. In this terrible crisis the miners held firmly together. Those of them who were employed, though often working but half-time and earning very low wages, voluntarily taxed themselves to help their less fortunate comrades who were out of work altogether. Scarcely less than £100,000 were paid in this way by the miners of Durham and Northumberland in three

or four of the worst years. This large sum was distributed through their respective Trade Unions; it was purely voluntary and spontaneous, not paid in fulfilment of any obligation imposed upon the miners by the rules of their societies.

For many years the miners of Northumberland have, through their Trade Union, subscribed regularly to the Newcastle Infirmary, to the Whitley Convalescent Home, and to other medical charities of the North of England. They have continued these subscriptions throughout the depression of trade.

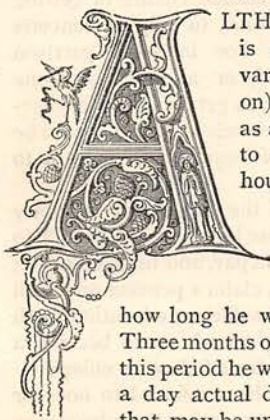
While thus exercising the virtue of self-help, they have ever been ready to assist others. They subscribed liberally to the French peasants when reduced to destitution by the Franco-German war; they sent large donations to the agricultural labourers, and to the British seamen, and they contributed for several years to the funds of the National Education League.

The famous steam-coal of Northumberland is being fast worked out. It is thought by some that its palmiest days are over. Opinions differ, even among experts, as to the length of time that this coal-field may continue. One thing, however, is certain—the world will always need courage and enterprise, independence and generosity, and the other manly qualities with which these coal-diggers are so richly endowed—and, wherever they or their descendants may go, they will be a blessing and a source of well-being to the community among whom they dwell.

THE LIFE OF A PRIVATE SOLDIER IN TIMES OF PEACE.*

BY ONE WHO HAS SERVED IN THE RANKS. IN TWO CHAPTERS. CHAPTER II.

WORK AND PAY.



ALTHOUGH the work of soldiers is subject to a great deal of variation (as will be shown later on), yet, when first a lad joins as a recruit, nothing is allowed to interfere with his regular hours of learning drill, and the sooner he can get over this part of his duty the better for him. It will depend upon his natural quickness

how long he will be kept at "recruit drill."

Three months ought to be enough, and during this period he will most likely have four hours a day actual drill with the other recruits that may be up at the same time. Besides

learning drill, and how to use a rifle, a recruit is also instructed at these times how to keep his things clean

and smart, how to pack and carry his knapsack, and how to fold and carry his great-coat. All these things will take some time to learn to do quickly, and the recruit must have patience, and not mind asking his comrades to give him a helping hand occasionally.

The recruit will also have to attend school until he can pass a simple examination in reading, writing, and arithmetic; and he will also have to go to a gymnasium, where he will be practised at jumping, climbing, and other active exercises. This course may be pleasant or the reverse, according to the natural ability or taste of each individual.

Throughout the time that a recruit is learning his drill, he is interfered with as little as possible, and is kept on steadily day after day with the same work, and with a fair amount of attention he ought to get over it (as said before) in about three months, and be ready to take his place in the ranks with the older soldiers.

From this time onward (*i.e.*, after he has finished his recruit drill, and also been properly instructed in using the rifle) the soldier will have a great number of different employments. Some of them come as part of the daily duty, being taken in regular rotation by all private soldiers; others are only to be obtained by intelligent and deserving men, and, being posts of

* We are no advocates of an unnatural craving for military glory for its own sake, but so long as a suitable provision for the defence of our country and its interests is accounted a necessity, we can only strive to improve the mental and moral standard of the army, by hoping for a better kind of recruits as a wholesome leaven for its ranks.—ED.