
Coals and Colliers (French Edition)

Fitzgerald Sarah Jane

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Author: Fitzgerald Sarah Jane

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CAMBRIAN SORNERY.

COALS AND COLLIERS;

OR,

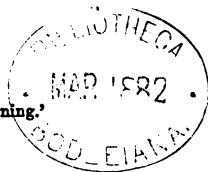
HOW WE GET THE FUEL FOR OUR FIRES.

BY

S. J. FITZGERALD,

AUTHOR OF 'THE LANCASTERS AND THEIR FRIENDS.'

'New light cometh through a small opening.'



LONDON:

T. WOOLMER, 2, CASTLE STREET, CITY ROAD;
AND 66, PATERNOSTER ROW, E.C.

1881.

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LONDON :
T. S. PARR, 25, HOXTON-SQUARE.

DEDICATORY

THIS book is respectfully dedicated to the masters, managers, and workmen of the collieries of England and Wales, with the hope that a stronger bond of union may exist between employers and employed; and with an earnest desire that the men who each day of their lives descend the dark abyss, not knowing that they shall ever return to the light of day, may have the sympathy and prayers of Christian men.

It should be said that the principal characters portrayed are not fictitious, but men and women with whom the writer had intimate acquaintance.

The incidents given are fresh in the memory of persons living in the locality. The bravery of many of the colliers is not overdrawn, or the recklessness of others exaggerated.

With the hope that the same kindly feeling that met *The Lancasters and their Friends* may be given to *Coals and Colliers*, I venture to place it before the public.

SARAH JANE FITZGERALD.





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COAL AND COLLIERS.

CHAPTER I.

PANSY'S HOLIDAY.

'One impulse from a vernal wood
May teach you more of man,
Of moral evil and of good,
Than all the sages can.
* * * * *
Enough of science and of art!
Close up those barren leaves;
Come forth! And bring with you a heart
That watches and receives!'—WORDSWORTH.

'A WHOLE fortnight did you say, Harry? Are you sure that you have not fallen asleep in the office and dreamed it?'

These questions were put by pretty little Mrs. Osbourn to her husband, Mr. Harry Osbourn, one summer's evening, on his return from business, as she stood, with flushed, happy face, holding the hat and gloves she had just taken from his hands.

Pushing her gently before him into the neat little parlour where his slippers were laid in front of the easy-chair, he answered:

'Yes, a whole fortnight! And although, as you