A history of coal mining in Great Britain

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A HISTORY

OF

COAL MINING IN GREAT BRITAIN
A HISTORY OF COAL MINING IN GREAT BRITAIN

BY ROBERT L. GALLOWAY

AUTHOR OF "THE STEAM ENGINE AND ITS INVENTORS"

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PREFACE.

In the following pages an endeavour is made to delineate the principal features in the growth of the great coal industry, with special reference to improvements in engineering, by means of which it has become possible for the miners to open out their deep "subterranean cities" and to procure and bring to the surface the vast quantities of coal which are now annually drawn from the mines of this country.

Apart from the value of coal as the mainspring of the great industrial pre-eminence of the kingdom, it is hoped that the narrative may not be without interest of another kind, inasmuch as it furnishes an account of the origin of some of the most
useful inventions of modern times—as, for example, railways, the steam-engine, and the locomotive—which were almost called into existence by mining requirements, and were long employed by the mining community before they came to be adopted, in a more improved form, by the public in general.

At no time were more vigorous efforts being made to promote the safety of the miners in their dangerous occupation than at present. Should the account here given of what has been accomplished in this direction tend to throw any light upon the matter, the circumstance would afford the writer the greatest satisfaction.

Ryton-on-Tyne,
9th May, 1882.
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