

THE MINER'S CABIN.

The little sketch on this page will remind many people, now residents of cities, of old days in the mines. And it will also be recognized as truthful by those who still "bach it" in mining regions of the coast. The storms of this winter must have brought to many a fire-side recollections of days when "roughing it" was experienced by the head of the family, and when he came into the cabin wet and weary to rest and dry himself by the blazing open fire.

And these things are not recollections only; they are still being experienced by the hardy miners of this coast. Hundreds of cabins dot the hill-sides, near the numerous mining camps, which are scattered through the mining regions. In all of these two, three, or four miners live on pretty much the same fashion that miners did 20 or 30 years ago. True, there are more hotels and boarding-houses, and more miners working for wages, and less for themselves, than there were in those "days of gold." Yet the miner's cabin of romance is still a reality as well. Perhaps there would be very little romance in the life if many of us were to return to it again after a lapse of years, wedded, as we are, to the artificialities of civilization; but we venture to assert that few look back to their days of rough living, hard fare, and hard work, with the pleasurable excitement provoked by the miner's vocation, without regret, and a wish that the same unselfishness that prevailed among men then would exist now. A hard, wet day's work in a claim, in a rain-storm when water was plenty and the sluices full, instead of bringing ill humor and grumbling, brought joy and good humor, as is depicted on the faces of the honest miners in our sketch.

NEW TANNING PROCESS.

The Eglington Chemical Company, of Scotland, have been for some time actively engaged in perfecting the new tanning process by bi-chromate of potash. The leather which they have produced appears to be a very serviceable article. The *Scottish Leather Trader*, says:—We have seen a fine sample of strap butts, from native hides, where the fiber had thoroughly absorbed the tanning, and to anything but an experienced eye had all the appearance of an ordinary tannage. The color was good and the butt mellow; also a sample of crupp, of which the tanning and currying are thorough, and there seems nothing to prevent it suiting all the purposes for which this kind of leather is used; also a sample of calf which seems to us perfect and scarcely to be distinguished from the best home dressed. Samples of the tannage have been submitted for analysis to Dr. Clark, the city Analyst of Glasgow. These samples were bends of foreign and native pelts, butts, buffalo hides, and calf skin. The object of the analysis was to ascertain the total quantity of chromium which they contained, and the amount which was extracted by the action of water under different circumstances.

The result of the analysis and examination is reported as highly satisfactory. The leather was also submitted to Mr. Kirkaldy of the testing and experimenting works, Southwark, London, for the purpose of ascertaining the tensile strength of chrome tanned vs bark tanned leather. The results of the experiments showed that the chrome leather exceeds bark in strength, and that after it has set under the necessary stress it still retains an extraordinary amount of elasticity, which is available for tightening machinery belting or pulleys. For instance a piece of chrome leather, bore an ultimate stress of 3,297 lbs. per square inch, while a piece of bark leather only bore an ultimate stress of 2,672 lbs. per square inch, which proves the samples of chrome tanned to be stronger than bark tanned by 15 per cent.

A NEW ILLUMINANT.—Herr Kordig, a Hungarian, has lately been performing some very curious experiments at scientific meetings in Paris with a new volatile combustible essence, which is offered for lighting purposes. Having arranged on the table several lamps in which the essence burns with a beautiful bright flame, Herr Kordig pours a quantity of the liquid on his hat and lights it, whereupon a long flame springs up to the ceiling. To the surprise of the audience, he puts his hat on his head and waits till the flame goes out. The hat is then shown to be intact. He pours some of the liquid on the floor and on a handkerchief and lights it. The floor and the handkerchief are noways damaged. Some drops may be put in the hollow of one's hand and burnt without producing appreciable pain. These extraordinary facts are easily explained. Herr Kordig's mineral essence boils at about 35° C., and the tension of its vapor is considerable, so that it is not the liquid that burns, but its vapor. He states that the liquid is a very volatile essence of

NEW TREATMENT FOR VARICOSE VEINS.—According to the *London Lancet*, Dr. Lison, of Verviers, has used per-chloride of iron locally with great success during the last three years in the treatment of varices. The strength of the solution is about two and a half drams to eight ounces of water. Compresses of flannel are steeped in the water, then wrung out, and applied by means of a flannel bandage, which is only moderately tightened. This application is to be kept on 24 hours, and on removing it the surgeon is much surprised to find that the venous dilations have almost entirely disappeared. The applications are to be renewed for seven or eight days successively, after which time the bandage is to be kept on, without any further wetting, until it gets loose. It is then to be wetted again with the solution, and applied until the varices have disappeared, which generally takes place after eight days or a fortnight, according to the size of the swelling. This simple method has removed, in a few days, enormous varices, which were accompanied by



HOME AGAIN AFTER A HARD DAY'S WORK.

naphtha, with a certain mixture of ether of its composition added. The new essence is said to be obtained quite simply from natural oil beds recently discovered in Hungary, and the cost is low. The liquid has a slight smell of petroleum, and produces on the hand a cold sensation like ether.

NEURALGIA AS A 'WARNING.'—The great prevalence of "neuralgia"—or what commonly goes by that name—should be regarded as a warning indicative of a low condition of health, which must necessarily render those who are affected with this painful malady especially susceptible to the invasion of diseases of an aggressive type. It is always essential that the vital forces should be vigorous, and the nerve power, especially, in full development. Neuralgia indicates a low or depressed state of vitality, and nothing so rapidly exhausts the system as the pain that prevents sleep and agonizes both body and mind. It is, therefore, of the first moment that attacks of this affection, incidental to and indicative of a poor and weak state, should be promptly placed under treatment, and as rapidly as may be controlled. It is worth while to note this fact, because, while the spirit of manliness incites the "strong-minded" to patient endurance of suffering, it is not wise to suffer the distress caused by this malady, as many are now suffering it, without seeking relief, forgetful of the condition it bespeaks, and the constitutional danger of which it is a warning sign.—*Lancet*.

violent pain, with black spots on the surface, and have restored the use of the limbs. By the unsuccessful application of dry bandages only, Dr. Lison has been able to show that it is not compression, but really the local action of the iron which is efficacious.

KEROSENE AND SALT FOR DIPHTHERIA.—A correspondent of the *New York Sun* says: "In 1862, on a plantation in south Alabama, where there was great difficulty in securing good medical advice, I saw a whole plantation of blacks, as well as the white members of a large family, successfully treated for diphtheria with kerosene oil and salt, used thus: Every patient was given a lump of rock salt about the size of a boy's marble, and instructed to keep it in his or her mouth, swallowing the salty saliva. At the same time the throat was rubbed with kerosene oil, and a flannel saturated with kerosene kept around the neck until the symptoms were abated or entirely gone. If necessary, mild cathartics were given. Not a case was lost, and there were fully 150 in all on the plantation."

RUBBER SAP A BEVERAGE.—The rubber tree belongs to the genus *Euphorbia*, which are members of the *Massoranduba* of Brazil, the cow tree of Demerara and the butter tree of Africa. The negroes and Indians are fond of drinking this sap, it being the custom of the latter at the beginning of their feasts to make a present of a bottle of it to their guests.