

thing) that it was not the rule amongst mining companies to waste money in needless buildings, or useless ornamentation—the test of success being in their handsome dividends. I intended going down this mine, but time did not permit, so had to be content with a walk over the surface. The workings are from 300 to 400 feet deep; four layers of bluestone, varying from 5 to 25 feet in thickness, were cut through. The machinery consists of two engines of 25 horse-power, one used for pumping and winding, and the other for puddling. At the time of my visit very few hands were employed, the funds of the company having run low, and the results of their findings being very small; but I ascertained that when fairly under weigh, work was carried on in three shifts day and night. The cuttings, or wash-dirt, is sent up the shaft in iron buckets, then by means of the steam-driven puddling machines the useless is separated from the good: a stream of water is now let into the head of a long wooden trough, in which a ribbed false bottom and movable cross-bars are placed; the puddled stuff is wheeled to the head of this trough in barrows, thrown in, and worked backwards and forwards until the whole is thoroughly disintegrated; the large stones passing over the false bottom, while the heavy gold, falling through, is caught on the cross-bars, the smaller gravel passing to the bottom, when it is collected by