

Trewavas Head Mine

A description from the Mining Journal Vol 1, 1835

WHEAL TREWAVAS.—(IN BREAGE.)

This mine takes its name from the estate; is situated in the parish of Breage, and is the property of the Rev. Canon Rogers—was first discovered from the sea by some of those amphibious creatures who obtain their livelihood by fishing in the summer and mining in the winter, who observed from their boats the lodes or mineral veins in the cliffs of this estate. This mine, from its locality, is now considered as one of the greatest curiosities of the county, and certainly one of the most promising; was set to work about 12 months since; since which time a steam engine has been erected, and as the shaft had been sunk many fathoms on the lode in a nook in the cliff, it became necessary to excavate to a large extent to make room for the engine-house, horse-whim, &c. &c., and which are now at full work, about 100 feet from the surface. The corner of the boiler-house is only one foot from the edge of a further precipice of 150 feet, literally perpendicular. The adit is 18 fathoms deep, and three above high water mark; the only level, is 22 fathoms below, which has been driven about 10 fathoms west and 40 east; there has been a fine course of copper nearly the whole of that distance, and there is now in the eastern end a good lode, from 3 to 4 feet big, and about 20 fathoms out to sea, from the bottom of which it is discovered by sounding to the level where the tanners are working in the 22 fathom level, is about 14 fathoms. The agents, however, are afraid of taking away too much of the backs for fear of an intruding visit from old Neptune. The shaft is now sunk another 10 fathom, and there the lode is 2 feet big with copper. The road to this romantic mine from the top of the cliffs is so precipitous, that there was no possibility of carting down coal or bringing up the copper; a tram-road has, therefore, been constructed by cutting down the rocks, worked by a horse-whim. To add to the interest of the scenery, spring water, for feeding the boiler, has been brought for nearly half a mile in pipes around these almost inaccessible cliffs. There are also 5 or 6 other lodes within this sett.

The traveller who visits this part of the coast of Cornwall will be highly gratified after he has inspected this Botallach mine in miniature, if he were to visit that justly esteemed natural curiosity, "The Bishop Rock," which is not to be seen from the mine, though only a hundred yards from it. The cliffs are here peculiarly bold and precipitous, measuring in some places from two to three hundred feet in height, and the rock scenery altogether is magnificent; in some places enormous masses of granite, piled one on another while in others they lie scattered about in all directions like "fragments of an earlier world." Here country undulates a great deal, and in one of these hollows stands the "Bishop, lashed by the foam of ages." This much admired curiosity stands on the edge of the cliff, and 100 feet above high water mark, and is about forty feet high; owing to the sudden declivity of the ground leading to it, it is thrown as it were completely in relief, and stands like a colossal statue of a bishop, attired in full costume, with a desk and book before him, with his hands resting on them, and to add to the sublimity of the scenery, there is a druidical circle near it, by standing on which the traveller will have the best view of one of the most wonderful "leas" of Cornwall. We are given to understand the cost of the mine up to the present time is 3130*l.* 8*s.*, while the mine is valued at six times that amount.

We regret that we have been compelled to exclude much matter, from the circumstance of our correspondent in this particular instance being unknown to us. We shall be happy to hear from him again, and we have only to observe, as we have done on another occasion, that concealment engenders suspicion, and where confidence cannot be placed in the editor of the *Mining Journal*, he does not court correspondence.