

AN OLD CANNON SHOP.

FURNACE RICH IN REVOLUTIONARY MEMORIES.

Where Washington's Guns Were Cast—Samuel Nutt, the Original Founder, Came to America in 1814 and Found Rich Deposits of Iron Ore.

FROM the Philadelphia Times: Much space is devoted by the newspapers of to-day to the wonderful new guns of recent invention and the mills where they are manufactured. If only by way of comparison, a description is

apropos and interesting of the ancient furnace now long since abandoned and almost forgotten, where the cannon was made that fought for us during the revolution. It is a quaint spot, hidden among the peaceful environment of hills and farms, yet replete with memories of historic interest. Close by the ruined forges some of the old guns may still be seen, and they point out a meadow where, in 1777, a quantity of firing pieces were buried to escape seizure by the British. Then, too, the furnace is among the first established in Pennsylvania and was the place of manufacture of the Franklin stove, an invention of the famous scientist and philosopher, so popular in his day and so highly prized by modern antiquarians.

Historic Warwick Furnace, around which these memories cling, is situated in Chester county, close by the pretty rural village of Coventry. So nearly has it disappeared that diligent search is required to find the spot. The furnaces have been cold and silent for nearly half a century, the hand of progress has left them stranded far from the channels of modern commerce and a few more years will find them little but a memory. And yet they are almost in the dooryard of Philadelphia. An hour's ride in the steam cars to Pottstown, in the Schuylkill valley, and an eight miles' drive southward are the only difficulties in the way. But this jaunt, short as it is, transports one a thousand miles away from the present into a past replete with its own romance and into a region pervaded with an atmosphere of elegance and aristocracy which in the old time resembled more the landed gentry of old England than the universal liberty and equality of free America.

On the northern edge of Chester county a hilly agricultural district of great rural beauty is drained by French creek—a corruption of Friend's creek—a stream which flows into the Schuylkill at Phoenixville.

About six miles south of Pottstown, at the old hamlet of Coventry, French

workmen, and their miles of possessions with a power that resembled the feudalism fast dying out in their native land. Fine mansions, with their solidity and size embellished with many elegancies sprang up in the winding valleys with little tenants' or workmen's cottages clustering around them. The ancient church of St. Mary's was built as a place of worship, and here their mother religion solaced them on the Sabbath, baptized and married them and buried them in the little churchyard where their headstones still wear a look of ancient, aristocratic pride. Samuel Nutt, proprietor and first autocrat of the Coventry mines and forges, took William Branson, a Philadelphian, into partnership about 1728, but their relations were not entirely satisfactory and each established iron works of his own. Nutt was gathered to his fathers in 1737, but under the care of his widow Anna and his children, the mills grew and prospered greatly. In his will Nutt bequeathed to his widow and daughter, Rebecca,

appearing, for the material they contain is being widely used to repair the public roads of the neighborhood. On the hill behind the furnace is a large stone building in which the charcoal was stored. Its walls and floor are still coated with black dust and its lofty interior is damp with the many rains and dimly lighted by the sunshine percolating through the thousand gaps in the crumbling roof. Down in the meadow, near the road leading from the charcoal house, an ancient blacksmith shop is now used as a shelter for cattle. A stone's throw further to the east the ancient "mansion house," still in a good state of preservation and inhabited, nestles among the trees like the citadel of the erstwhile village and gives suggestion of the place's former importance. It is a great, rambling structure, elevated upon a high stone terrace. The private lawn shaded by fine old trees, is removed from the surrounding land by the terrace and iron barriers. Upon it faces a long veranda connecting with

Pennsylvania, purchased a half interest in the forges from Samuel Potts in 1771. The firm was known for many years as Potts & Rutter, and bought out the shares of the heirs of William Branson between 1778 and 1783. During the revolution Warwick furnace acquired national fame. While the struggle for liberty was in progress the mills were in constant operation for the government, and large quantities of cannon, balls and shell were cast there. One of the old shells, recently found near the furnace, is still preserved at the Mansion House. The shell is exceedingly heavy, about a foot in diameter, hollow, and with a cast iron sheath an inch thick. During the year 1776 sixty cannon of twelve and eighteen-pound calibre were cast at Warwick for the Continental forces. It was the next year, however, that witnessed a threatened invasion, a seizure of the armament and a sudden termination of this warlike labor. After the battle of the Brandywine, in September of 1777, when the Americans were defeated and the British occupied Philadelphia, Washington retired from the neighborhood of Goshen Friends' Meeting, where an expected battle had been prevented by a rainstorm, and came to Warwick, obtaining a fresh supply of ammunition for his army. During the winter that followed, when the massacre of Paoli and the hardships of the patriots at Valley Forge filled the colonists with despair the cannon at Warwick were in constant danger of being seized by the British, quartered within easy marching distance of Philadelphia. So one day the furnace bell sounded an alarm, and its peals across the hills and through the neighboring valleys collected all the loyal citizens of the countryside to bury the guns. They hid them in the stretch of meadow below the mill, and in front of the Mansion House, and tradition says that after the interment the fields were plowed up, so that all traces of the excavations were lost.

The bell which sounded the tocsin is still in existence and was exhibited at the Centennial with some of the cannon made at Warwick furnace. It was cast at the mill by Potts & Rutter in 1757 and was used constantly to call the men to work from that time until May, 1874, a period of 117 years. There are still a number of cannon buried in the mud along the banks of the stream in the meadow, although these are more probably guns which did not stand the firing test, than the swivels concealed there to escape the British. The latter would be too valuable to remain buried after danger was past, and tradition says that the imperfect guns were deposited along the stream. Be that as it may, the cannon are still visible there, although they are fast being submerged. Their weight is so great that the washing of water around them and falling away of the soft earth that supports them is causing them to sink deeper and deeper into the ground. Several of them have been removed as relics. About ten years ago, some of the men and boys of the neighborhood who wanted to celebrate the "Glorious Fourth" in true Revolutionary style, exhumed one of the old cannon and dragged it to the summit of a neighboring hill. There they loaded it with a charge of powder and fired it as a salute. The ancient cannon was burst into a thousand pieces.

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NOTES OF THE HORSES.

Queen Alox, 2:03½, weighs 920 pounds at present.
W. H. McCarty now has Claybourne, 2:11½, in his string.
A European horseman recently offered \$2,500 for Vejo, 2:10½.
Last Request, 2:11½, by Bourbon Wilkes, will be seen on the turf again this year.
Charley Thompson has added Monte Christo, 2:18½, to his string at Fleetwood Park.
Klamath, 2:07½, has a half-brother named King Altamont, which will be raced this season.
The two fast pacers, Sulphide, 2:09½, and Carbonate, 2:09, will not start in public this season.
Trainer Jack Burny says Joe Patchen, 2:03, earned \$80,000 in purses and a stallion fee in three years.
Ornament's full brother was sold by the owners of the Beaumont stud to J. S. Curtis, for \$10,100.
The ex-turf queen, Maud S, 2:08½, is now said to be in foal to Starkirk, a brother to Magnolia, 2:15.
Axinite, 2:17½, by Axtell, 2:12, acts very nicely this spring. He stepped a third mile in 2:22 recently.
Aniline, a promising three-year-old, full sister to the pacer, Online, 2:04 has been a half in 1:10 at the trot.
B B, 2:12½, the famous branded pacer, sold at auction at Boston last week for \$580. He was a close second to Hal Pointer the first heat Hal paced below 2:10.
Constantine, 2:12½, may race a little this fall. He made his record in 1892, and was a competitor of Kremlin in one or two great races. Later the Lord Russell horse outclassed him completely.
Monroe Sallabury, who had trouble in getting his stable away from California, as the horses were taken possession of by the creditors of the estate, is now on his way east, and has added the fast stallion Boodle, 2:12½, to his string.
Trotting horsemen have just passed the darkest stage of the panic and few there are who favor large expenditures for entrance money, even as conditions now stand. If opened for a free-for-all trotting class little interest is likely to attach, as that class at present lacks fighting talent.

The Queen reigns over one continent, 100 peninsulas, 500 promontories, 1,000 lakes, 2,000 rivers and 10,000 islands.

GOLD IN ABUNDANCE.

CUT ALL WHO DIG ARE NOT SURE OF REWARD.

Many Hardships Are to Be Surmounted and Fortunes Not Sure After All—More People Leave for the North—Steamship Industry Booming—Klondyke Trade.

Conditions Not Dazzling.

MADISON, Wis., Aug. 6.—J. C. Wilstead, since 1891 superintendent of the government reindeer farm in Alaska, now here on a vacation, said yesterday that while the gold reports were not exaggerated in the least, the hardships were terrible and few of those who were rushing to the new fields had any idea of the endurance required. A person having a good position would be wise to keep it, in preference to going fortune hunting in Alaska. Many of them forget that they will be thousands of miles from civilization and entirely upon their own resources, and even though they successfully weather the trip, there is no certainty that they will return loaded down with gold dust. Of trading business Wilstead waxes enthusiastic, and he thinks in this line fortunes rivaling the wealth of the Hudson Bay trading companies will be made.

WASHINGTON, Aug. 6.—J. D. Croissant of this city, now in Alaska, in a letter written in July, dwelt upon the great rush for the Klondyke, declared that many of the stories of fortunes were overdrawn by those interested in the region in various ways and predicted intense disappointment and suffering for thousands. He said that claims along the Klondyke had all been taken and the only hope for newcomers would be along other streams which had been partially prospected with poor success. He said that when he wrote there were hundreds bound for the gold fields with neither money nor provisions and proper clothing and he believed scores would die during the coming long winter.

STILL MORE BRAVE THE COLD.

SEATTLE, Wash., Aug. 6.—The steamship Cleveland sailed for St. Michael's today with 200 passengers and 1,000 tons of freight for the new gold regions. Among the passengers are Captain P. M. Ray and Lieutenant Richardson, U. S. A., who will investigate the military necessities of Alaska, select a site for a fort and make preparations for troops from Fort Russell, Wyo., who will probably be sent to Alaska in the spring.

The North American Transportation and Trading company has let a contract for the building of four more river steamers, making eight contracts let by the company in two weeks. All of the boats are of large capacity.

Deck hands for Yukon-bound vessels are in great demand and wages have been increased from \$35 to \$40 a month.

CUDAHY ON HIS BIG CLAIMS.

CHICAGO, Aug. 6.—John Cudahy, head of the proposed \$25,000,000 Alaska mining company, said that the company owned thirty placer claims, each as rich as the Klondyke, but would say nothing of the quartz claims. The Clover Leaf, south of Fort Cudahy and four miles from navigable water, is the only quartz claim that will be worked in the near future.

The organization of the new company was completed at the Auditorium annex to-day, the title to be the Cudahy-Healy Yukon and Klondyke Mining company. The following are the incorporators: John Cudahy, Michael Cudahy, C. L. Hutchinson, E. A. Hamill, Ely E. Weare, P. B. Weare, C. A. Weare, John J. Healy, C. H. Hamilton and Eli A. Gage. Incorporation will be under West Virginia statutes.

INSURANCE SCHEMES BLOCKED.

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind., Aug. 6.—The determination of the leading life insurance companies to carry no risks on Klondyke explorers has fallen with dampening effect on the co-operative companies which were forming in this city and upon a number of men who were preparing to start for Alaska during the coming winter. One of these companies intended to send ten representatives, each insured for \$10,000, giving each man \$1,000 besides money for contingent expenses, all of them to co-operate in the search for gold, dividing equally with the company, and in case of death the insurance money to be paid to the company. By each death the company stood to win \$8,500, on the basis that not more than \$1,500 would be spent on each representative. Another company simply designed carrying sufficient insurance to reimburse it for actual outlay. It is not thought that any of these companies will proceed further with the organization.

A Farm on the Yukon.

CHICAGO, Aug. 6.—Uncle Sam soon will have an experimental farm in the Yukon valley, if Secretary Wilson's pledge to P. B. Weare of the North American Transportation and Trading company, is brought to fulfillment. The promise was made in Chicago yesterday at a conference between the two men named and G. R. Pray, recently appointed surveyor general of Alaska by President McKinley.

Japan Wants a Guaranty.

NEW YORK, Aug. 6.—A special to the Herald from Washington says: Japan will insist that the United States assume a contingent responsibility in the matter of arbitration of her differences with Hawaii on the subjects of immigration and the tariff. It is understood that this is one of the essential conditions upon which Japan will consent to arbitration and that if this responsibility is not assumed by the United States, Japan will break off negotiations looking to arbitration and back up her demands by a naval demonstration in Hawaiian waters.

TO CONTROL THE CANAL.

This Nicaraguan Policy Will Be Recommended to Congress.

WASHINGTON, Aug. 6.—No matter what the attitude of the Greater Republic of Central America may be, it is the intention of the administration to recommend governmental control of the Nicaragua canal when Congress assembles next December. This was made plain at a conference at the state department, participated in by Secretaries Adee and Cramer, Senator Morgan, former Senator Warner Miller and Mr. Merry, the recently appointed minister to Nicaragua, Salvador and Costa Rica, regarding the complications which have grown out of the refusal of the governments of Nicaragua and Salvador to receive Mr. Merry.

It has been practically decided that Mr. Merry shall go to Costa Rica, and that the headquarters of the legation shall be transferred to that country from Nicaragua. No steps will be taken to make this transfer, however, until the governments of Nicaragua and Salvador have again been heard from.

KLONDYKE NUGGETS.

A Former Kansas Man Tells Some Wonderful Yarns.

HIAWATHA, Kan., Aug. 6.—J. E. Moore, formerly of this neighborhood, but now of Seattle, writes home to his parents that the Klondyke gold stories are nearly all true. His Sunday school teacher, Professor Lippy, brought back \$50,000. A Poverty Gulch neighbor, whose wife "took in washing," has returned with \$112,000 and he emptied a sack of nuggets worth \$40 each in a plate for Mr. Moore to see. He left his son and a companion in charge of his mine and expects them to pick up \$300,000 before the bad season sets in. He claims to have picked nuggets up by the handful. Prominent men in politics and rich men and poor men by the thousands are rushing to Alaska from Seattle. Mr. Moore advises his friends not to think of venturing there without they have at least \$5,000 to squander.

A SOCIETY SENSATION.

Young People Quarrel on Their Wedding Day and Another Fellow Gets Her.

HUTCHINSON, Kan., Aug. 6.—Last night was to have been the occasion of a wedding, in which a large circle was interested. Mr. A. D. Yoder, a popular clerk at Martin's dry goods store, had a house furnished and all preparations made for his marriage with Miss Mattie Hutchinson last evening. Because his intended had persisted in taking a buggy ride with Jesse Cook, a handsome young grocer, on the evening before, Mr. Yoder decided yesterday morning that the marriage should not take place. Mr. Cook was one of the first to hear the report, and he immediately called upon Miss Hutchinson and asked her for her hand in marriage. He was accepted, and the two were married yesterday evening at the same hour that the Yoder-Hutchinson marriage was to have taken place.

JAPAN SORE AT AMERICA.

The Hawaiian and High Tariff Legislation Seriously Affecting Trade.

NEW YORK, Aug. 6.—Recent letters received in this city from Japan state that a strong anti-American feeling still exists in that country and that Americans are being boycotted on all sides by the Japanese. First the Hawaiian question stirred up the ill feeling, which was afterwards heightened by the discussion in the United States Congress on the tariff when the proposition was advanced to tax severely certain Japanese goods. The Japanese took this as a direct affront, and they have not lost an opportunity since to belittle Americans and all that pertains to this country.

ULTIMATUM SENT PERU.

Quote Sam Wearies of Delay in Paying the McCord Claim.

WASHINGTON, Aug. 6.—An ultimatum has been presented to the Peruvian government by the administration requiring the immediate payment of the McCord claim of \$50,000. While no threat of coercion is made in case of refusal, the note makes the statement that any further delay on the part of Peru to close the incident will be considered as injurious to the cordial relations existing between the two governments.

The Peruvian minister has cabled the note to Lima, and is now awaiting instructions from that government.

A California Treasurer a Defaulter.

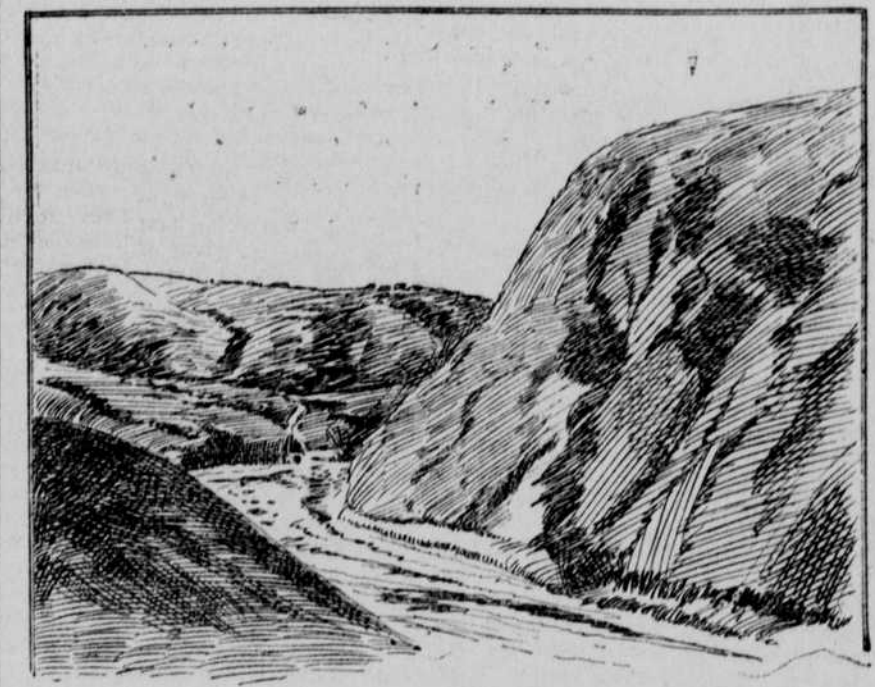
REDDING, Cal., Aug. 6.—John Madden, treasurer of Modoc county, disappeared two weeks ago and District Attorney Baker, believing that he is a defaulter for at least \$35,000, has asked the board of supervisors to declare the office vacant and appoint a new treasurer.

Wheat Down Three Cents.

CHICAGO, Aug. 6.—Foreigners turned sellers of wheat to-day, and there was a drop of three cents in Chicago prices, not any of which was recovered. There was a drop of a penny in Liverpool prices, despite the strong market in this country yesterday.

Fifteen Hundred India Mill Hands Declared Killed in a Calcutta Riot.

LONDON, Aug. 6.—The Evening News publishes a letter from a Calcutta volunteer, reiterating the statement that during the recent rioting there the artillery fired point blank at 2,500 mill hands who were marching to join the rioters, killing 1,500 of the natives. The secretary of state for India, Lord George Hamilton, was questioned in the House of Commons July 3 as to the accuracy of the report and declared that only seven were killed.



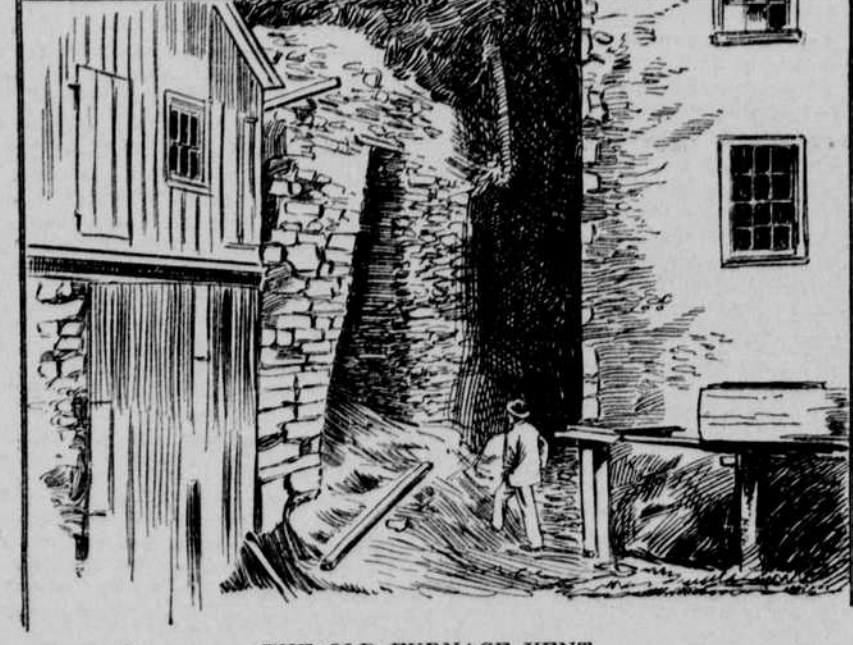
THE ABANDONED ORE PITS.

120 acres of land upon which to erect a furnace. It was then that Warwick came into existence. This forge must have given birth to a very considerable village for the land about the old mill and in the adjacent valley is thickly strewn with the remains of workmen's dwellings. They were little, one-and-a-half story stone buildings, with small windows, tall chimneys and low "stoops" in front, each with its strip of dooryard and kitchen garden. Some few of these are still in a fair state of repair, many are abandoned and fast falling to decay, and a still larger number are utter ruins, with perhaps a pile of bramble-covered stone, a solitary chimney with weather-beaten hearthstone or a gnarled garden shrub to

the principal rooms of the mansion. On one side is an ancient garden, with the old-time box borders grown waist-high in a confused jungle of neglected foliage. On the opposite end of the main building stretches a long wing, its interior subdivided into kitchens and many small chambers, where the workmen ate and slept. Close by are kitchen gardens, the quaint spring house, with its underground gallery; an ancient log barn—one of the first buildings erected here—and groups of small storehouses and outbuildings. Below the mansion house extends a group of mammoth barns, each with its overhanging projections upheld by round stone pillars forming a protected porch. These buildings were once the stables and baiting places of scores of horses and mules, for wagons had to be used not only to haul charcoal from the forests and ore from the neighboring mines, but to convey the manufactured iron to distant markets. The body of one of the ancient wagons is still preserved in the charcoal house. It is a picturesque affair, ribbed on the outside and turned up at the ends like a boat. Shortly after Samuel Nutt's death, Warwick Furnace witnessed the first manufacture of the famous Franklin stoves. Robert Grace, manager of the furnace and one of the Nutt family by marriage, was a friend of Benjamin Franklin's, and the famous scientist and philosopher thus describes the transaction in his autobiography: "In order of time I should have mentioned before that having in 1742 invented an open fireplace for the better warming of rooms and at the same time saving fuel, as the fresh air admitted was warmed in entering, I made a present of the model to Robert Grace, one of my early friends, who, having an iron furnace, found the casting of the plates for these stoves a profitable thing, as they were growing in demand." These stoves are now very rare. At first glance one would suppose them to be shallow open fireplaces, with very broad, rounded hearths. A back plate extends upward and forward toward an overhanging cornice or curtain at the front and top over the fire. Behind this curtain is an aperture which carried the smoke off and furnished a chamber behind the back plate. The presence of this hot air chamber back of the fire increased the radiation of heat, making a greater warmth with a less expense of fuel.

The furnace property has been held by the Potts family, descendants of Anna Nutt, from 1737 to this day. Thomas Rutter, a name also famous among early iron manufacturers in

mark their former locations. The furnace was in the meadow close to the brook. A mill dam higher up the creek supplied water power through a winding mill race, which still pours its crystal torrent through a crumbling flume. Near by is the massive smelting furnaces of stone, shod with iron, its vent hole intact, though clogged with ashes and cinders. The masonry around it has crumbled where exposed to the intense heat from molten metal. The mill building itself has entirely disappeared and upon its site and close to the furnace a modern creamery has been erected. Fifty feet away, on the banks of the stream, are huge heaps of cinders from the furnace, but even these piles are fast dis-



THE OLD FURNACE VENT.

creek divides into two branches. One winds up to the romantic "falls," the other penetrates a lateral valley to the south. About two miles up this valley and surrounded by rugged hills are the remains of ancient Warwick Furnace. In spite of the general ruin, enough remains to give a good idea of what the busy settlement must have been when revolutionary cannon was made here.

Iron was manufactured in this region as early as 1717, the only forge in Pennsylvania of prior date being that of Thomas Rutter, on the Manatawny, established in 1716. Samuel Nutt, of Coventry, Warwickshire, England, came to America in 1714, and is believed to have discovered the rich deposits of iron ore which are found in the neighboring hills. In 1717 he took out his patent for the first tract of 400 acres of land and established his forge. During the following years he rapidly increased his holdings of real estate until at the time of his death he owned over 1,600 acres. The region, then a virgin wilderness, was named Coventry, after his English home. As coal had not then been discovered in Pennsylvania, the old forges all used charcoal in their retorts as fuel and the nearby forests made this product cheap and easy of manufacture. Indeed, the subsequent abandonment of many forges was due to the destruction of the forests and the scarcity of charcoal, coupled with the discovery of mined coal and its effectiveness in manufacturing iron.

Samuel Nutt brought his first workmen for the Coventry forges from England, and with them came many of the customs and peculiarities of the old country. The forges multiplied and grew in importance, the wealth of their owners increased in magnitude and as the years went by the English proprietors governed their English



CHARCOAL HOUSE AND WORKMAN'S COTTAGE.