to Stephenson. It is probable—as in so many other instances—that the minds of these two men conceived the idea of the safety lamp perfectly independently of each other. The lamp of Davy is of very simple contrivance. It is formed of a fine wire gauze which entirely shuts out the inflammable air from the flame. With this lamp in his hand the miner need be under no apprehension of explosion from the light which he carries, and can thus pursue his labour in confident security.

It is a curious fact that in the covers of an old note-book used by Davy in his boyhood there is—drawn by his own hand—a lamp encircled by an olive wreath, as if in anticipation of his great discovery. His lamp—had he given nothing else to the world—deserves to make his memory immortal.

The following statistics, from 1756 to 1849, serve to illustrate the advantage of Davy's invention:—

			Explosions.	Deaths.
From 1756 to 1765 inclusive			 5	 34
„ 1766	1775	„	 6	 101
„ 1776	1785	„	 9	 41
„ 1786	1795	„	 12	 105
„ 1796	1805	„	 12	 151
„ 1806	1815	„	 17	 302
			61	734
(Davy Lamp introduced).				
From 1816 to 1825 inclusive			 20	 296
„ 1826	1835	„	 23	 344
(Parliamentary Inquiry).				
From 1836 to 1845 inclusive			 15	 328
„ 1846	1849	„	 1	 31

In a consideration of this table it must always be borne in mind that in the century over which the inquiry extends, the extension of the coal trade has progressed in a greater ratio than the number of accidents. Two aspects of the importance of the safety lamp are presented by these figures; first that, bearing in mind the widely extended operation in the coal-fields, the result of Davy's invention was the positive saving of human life and the preservation of valuable property: a second that its introduction led to Parliamentary inquiry into the condition of the mines, and thus paved the way for all the improvements which have been subsequently introduced with so much advantage to the mining population. Davy was a benefactor, and the result of his work was humane interference on behalf of the miners. The use of the lamp was in itself a security against the insidious foe which lurked in the subterranean world, and it served also to cast light on the real condition of the miners, and brought about a great and much-required reformation in the state of the mining population.

In the busy and triumphant labour of the Royal Institution Davy continued for twelve years. During that time, and afterwards, honours of every kind and from all quarters testified equally to the variety of his achievements and the wide-spread interest which they had succeeded in awakening. He became at successive periods a fellow of the Royal Society, a secretary to it, and, in 1820, its president.

On St. Andrew's day, 1826, he delivered his last oration before the Royal Society with a feeling of pain, as if prognosticating apoplexy. Accepting the hint given him by exhausted nature, he passed over to the continent early in 1827, and reached Ravenna on the 20th of February. In this region he sought health in sports and cheerful mental exercise. October found him returned to London, neither better nor worse than when he had left. Another summer he passed as he had the preceding one, and then went to reside in Rome. Here, on the 20th of February, 1829, while engaged in finishing the "Last Days of a Philosopher," he was prostrated by palsy, his mind only being untouched. Davy expected to be forthwith carried off, and leave his bones behind him in Rome. The thread of life, however, was yet a little longer to remain unbroken. Lady Davy soon arrived from England, with whom Sir

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