

Chesterfield Gazette.

Saturday 1st. March 1828

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The Lead Trade.

Petitions to both Houses of Parliament, from the inhabitants of the parish of Alston, Northumberland, are now in the course of signature, praying for a revision of the laws relating to the importation of foreign lead and lead ore; and it is expected that such petitions will be general from all the mining districts.

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Coal Gas.

Generally speaking, it is easy to judge of the value of the gas for illumination by its specific gravity; and the nearer it approaches its specific gravity to olefiant gas, which is nearly as heavy as atmospheric air, the better it is for illumination; the ordinary weight of coal gas is half as light again as air, but the heavier it is, generally, the greater is its illuminating power. In the decomposition of coal for illumination, the process is not unlike that of the distillation of coal; that is, it consists in passing the coal gas, and other products condensed from the coal, through heated tubes, which are afterwards collected in vessels, where some of the products are separated by condensation, and then into others, where it is purified by washing, by which its illuminating powers are increased. There are two or three facts connected with this subject, which it will be right to point out. In the first place let us see the results of the distillation of a chaldron of coal, we will find it to be about this:-

11 sacks of coke, worth	£1-4-9d
Breeze, a small quantity worth	£0-0-2½d
130 lbs. of tar	£0-9-6½d
14 gallons of ammoniacal liquor	£0-3-6d
8,000 cubic feet of gas, at 15-0d. per 1,000 cubic feet	£6-0-0d
Total	£7-18-0d
Now a chaldron of coals cost,	
on an average, not more than	£2-8-4d.
Allow for wear and tear	£0-8-0d
Total	£2-16-4d.

Leaving a considerable balance in hand to the gas manufacturer. Seeing that such a profit is left, it may be asked, how these things are not answered better, which was principally owing to the defective machinery employed; but, now that the matter is better understood, a considerable profit must accrue to the manufacturer, if proper management be adopted. Now, as to the expense of a quantity of this gas, equivalent to the light of several candles per hour, it has been ascertained that an Argand burner, equal to seven candles, consumes a cubic foot and a half in an hour; and, if the lamp be fed with spermaceti oil, the quantity consumed in that time costs threepence; rolled candles costs threepence-halfpenny, and wax candles fourteen pence; and this shows the great economy of using olefiant gas over other modes of illumination.

Brande's Lectures.

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No Headline.

The iron trade is again dull, and a decline of 5 percent on prices has just occurred.

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Trade.

The iron trade in the West of Scotland has been for some time stationary. Though the furnaces have been in full operation all winter, the stocks on hand are small. A great quantity of business has been done; but the prices are very low. Number One pig iron sells at £6 a ton, and the inferior qualities 10 shillings lower. Two years ago, iron was selling at £15 a ton.

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Advert - Stoney Ford Colliery.

Valuable steam engine, gins, railroad, gangwaggon, pit chains, etc.

To be sold by Auction, by Messrs. Brearey and Son.

Under an execution, and free from auction duty, at the colliery, Stoney Ford, near Codnor, in the County of Derby, on Friday, the 21st. day of March, 1828, precisely at twelve o'clock.

One capital steam engine, 40 horse-power, two ditto, 8 horse ditto, one ditto, 7 horse ditto, two gins and head stacks, blacksmith's forge and tools, weighing machine, 800 yards of railroad, 17 gang waggon, 350 yards of strong pit chain, broad and narrow wheeled carts, etc., etc.

Further particulars may be had by applying to Messrs. Brearey and Son, at the Mart; and also of Mr. Edwards, solicitor, Derby.

Derby, March 13th., 1828.

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Caution.

Early in the week a collier came to the house of Mr. Hopkinson, at the Four Lane Ends, near Alfreton, and called for a pint of ale, which he paid for with a counterfeit half-sovereign.

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Assizes (Part) - Cater.

William Cater, aged 56, for stealing 56lbs. weight of coal, from the colliery at Codnor, of John Wright and William Jessop.

Thomas King, a collier, in the employ of the Butterley Company, was going to work about 7 o'clock in the morning, on the 19th. of February, when he saw the prisoner take up a coal, half-a-hundredweight, which lay upon the gang-way, and carried it off.

Prisoner had a good character given him. Verdict - Guilty. To be imprisoned in the House of Correction and kept to hard labour for one week.

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The Real del Monte Mines.

(We extract the following upon the subject of these mines (now very familiar to the ears of the British) from Captain Lyon's newly published Journal of a Tour in Mexico).

In these I was enabled to visit the very extensive grass-works and erections, many of which are on the same models and principles as are seen in the Cornish mines. The stores, workshops, foundry, and offices, are of substantial masonry; and the shafts of every mine, as well as these establishments, are inclosed within high well-built walls. The engine-houses were in rapid progress, and in that of Dolores the engine was nearly completed. A steam saw-mill was set at work during my stay at the Real; and the horizontal engine of Messrs. Taylor and Martineau, which had been pumping but a short time at Moran, had very nearly (and has since entirely) cleared the mine to the bottom. For the supply of the engine at Moran the timber is cut in abundance from the face of the steep mountain on which it stands; and the whole of the surrounding hills abound in wood, which, with but little trouble and expense can be brought to the other engines also. The stamping engine is to be worked by steam and erected in the Real, and others to be worked by water were nearly completed at the new hacienda of Sanchez, situated at the end of a valley about four miles northward. Dressing floors and other requisite preparations for crushing and washing the ores have here been prepared; the stores and residences are built; and the whole establishment is enclosed by walls, and almost hidden by the luxuriant vegetation around it. For the transport of building and other materials, light European carts have been introduced with great success, and excellent roads, blasted in many instances with great labour from the hard porphyry rocks, now traverse the extensive mining establishment in every direction. English tools are in great request; and in fact, were it not for the peculiarity of the stupendous scenery of the place, a visitor might almost imagine himself in England.

Real (or more properly Mineral) de Monte is indeed a beautiful spot, and the valley or ravine, which extends about two miles to the northward of the town and about two miles further to the new hacienda of Sanchez, is most superb. A rapid mountain torrent tumbles through it over a rugged rocky channel; from the banks to the summit of the steep mountains which closely hem it in, is an unbroken forest of the ocote (or fir) of the evergreen oak (of which nine varieties are met with in the district), and the "oyamel". This lovely scenery continues until immediately beyond Sanchez, when it leaves the gorge of the mountains, and enters on the flatter yet still beautiful country. There is scarcely a spot of this extent but is worthy the pencil of the artist. The various tints of the rich foliage, the picturesque bridges, bold rocks, and well-peopled roads, blasted in the porphyritic rock, with the ever-varying curves and leaps of the stream, possess a novelty and charm seldom equalled.

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May-pitt and Magpie Mines.

Our readers will recollect that the proprietors of the May-pitt Mine, some time ago, satisfied themselves in the only legal way they could, as to the identity of the May-pitt Vein, by the opinion or verdict of the Grand jury, or Twenty-four, which established that fact. Since then, two trials have been had in the Small Barmoot Court, held at Ashford, in order to ascertain whether the proprietors of the May-pitt Mine, or the proprietors of the Magpie Mine, had title to the vein so found by the Grand Jury, or Twenty-four, to be the May-pitt Vein, and on each of these trials a decision was given against the proprietors of the May-pitt Mine; and they being dissatisfied with those decisions, and believing they had good cause to be relieved from them, filed a bill in the Duchy Court of Lancaster, on the 23rd. day of January, 1827, to which the proprietors of the Magpie Mine filed a demurrer in July following, and by that demurrer admitted the truth of all the facts which were stated in the bill. A cause came on to be tried in the Court of the Duchy of Lancaster, at Westminster Hall, on the 17th. day of December last, before the Chancellor of the Duchy, Mr. Justice Bayley, Mr. Baron Hulloch, who took time to consider their judgement until the 17th. of April instant, on which day they delivered their judgement in favour of the proprietors of the May-pitt Mine, thereby over-ruling the demurrer on the Magpie proprietors, with costs; - the Court observing that it was very reasonable in general, that a party who creates expense improperly should pay it. As on the former occasion, Mr. MacQueen, of Bakewell, was the solicitor for the May-pitt Mine proprietors, and Messrs. Brittlebank and Son, of Oddo, were the solicitors for the Magpie proprietors.

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Derbyshire Lent Assizes (Part) - Banner.

Mary Banner, aged 18, and Mira Banner, aged 17, charged with stealing from a colliery, at Codnor, 112lbs. weight of coals, the property of John Wright and William Jessop. William Slack is in the employment of the Butterley Company, and on the 17th. of January was returning from his work about five o'clock in the evening, when he found prisoners. He said, "Now women, how far away", and they said "Not far". One had a scuttle, and the other had not; witness concealed himself, and when they had taken up some coal, he followed them, and on overtaking them said, "Wenches, you are heavy laden", and they said "Not very heavy"; he said, "What made you take our coals?" they replied it was the first time, and, if he would not tell, they would take them back. He said they might do as they would with them then.

The prisoners, in their defence, said that Slack gave them leave, and then told of them.
Verdict, Not Guilty.