

The Mining Journal

1<sup>st</sup> January 1848

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Accidents.

*Dowlais Ironworks* – Two men, J. Evans, D. George, and a boy, H. Jones, were suffocated in one of the ironstone pits, by a sudden influx of carbonic acid gas.

*Penywaun Colliery, Hirwain, Merthyr* – E. Thomas was killed by a fall of rubbish.

*Pontypool* – A quarryman, in the employ of Mr. R. Morrison, was most dangerously wounded by a stone, of nearly a ton weight, falling on him – he is, however, recovering.

*Flowery Field Colliery, Stalybridge* – J. Wood was, unfortunately, killed by a fall of roof at Messrs. Ashtons.

*Hurst Knowl Colliery, Ashton* – W. Spitt fell down the shaft at Messrs. Whittakers', and, we are sorry to say, was killed.

*Knutton* – S. Lawton was killed by a quantity of stone falling upon him while working in an ironstone pit.

*Blaina, Monmouthshire* – We regret to learn, that Thos. Deakin, aged 21, while working in the colliery, had his spine fractured by the falling of a quantity of earth and rubbish: after lingering about a fortnight, death put a period to his suffering.

*Rowley Regis* – J. Whittle was unfortunately killed by a fall of coal in Mr. Barr's colliery, at Haden Hill.

*West Bromwich* – T. Roberts was killed by a fall of coal in Messrs. Bottley and Tinsley's Colliery.

*Billinge Higher End, near Manchester* – As two men were engaged at Mr. Stock's colliery, repairing some pump trees in the shaft a derangement of the machinery occurred, and they were thrown to the bottom of the pit. One of them, in his downward course, struck a scaffolding of 2 inch boards, and broke out a hole sufficiently large to let his body through; both the unfortunate fellows were killed on the spot.

*Fatal Accident to the Underlooker of Messrs. Scowcroft's Collieries* – An accident has occurred at one of the pits belonging to Messrs. Scowcroft, Hindley Green, near Leigh, which has terminated in the death of the manager, Mr. John Potter. The deceased was going down the shaft of the pit, with one of the men, on Saturday morning last, for the purpose of examining the ventilating furnaces, when a screw-key, which, it is supposed, had been left in the head-gearing by one of the men, fell down the shaft, and fractured the skull of the deceased. The deceased became immediately insensible, and was conveyed home. Mr. Rowlinson, of Wigan, and Mr. Bridcoake, of Leigh, were speedily in attendance, and with Mr. Scowcroft, of Wigan, and Mr. Thorpe, of Manchester, rendered every assistance; but their efforts were unavailing – death terminated his sufferings on Monday afternoon last. The loss of the deceased is deeply regretted by all who knew him. Mr. Potter was a self-taught man, and had, by his own exertions, raised himself in society. He was an excellent mathematician, and possessed a valuable library. He was one of the earliest promoters of the Leigh Mechanics' Institution, and was, for two or three years, an active

director. The collieries, during his management, have been remarkably free from accidents, owing to his unremitting attention. He leaves a widow and six children to mourn his loss. – Manchester paper.

Wigan – The Floods and the Coal Mines – A suspension of labour at the pumping and winding engines has, we are sorry to say, taken place at several of the coal-pits, flooded by the breaking in of the River Douglas, and when active operations will be resumed we fear is uncertain. There is not that unanimity amongst the coal proprietors which is necessary for carrying on so great a work as the clearing of the mines will prove to be. What has been done up to the present time is a mere nothing; and unless some more general and more powerful plans and machinery are introduced and actively engaged, the day when the mines will be cleared must be pronounced very remote. The friends of the miners shut up in Messrs. Lancaster and Co.'s pit, are in a very distressed state, and there are great numbers totally out of employment, and entirely on the charity of their neighbours. – Liverpool Mercury.

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Accidents.

*Dudley* – T. Robinson was dreadfully injured by a fall of coals, while working at Mr. E. Pershouse's Smokey Pits.

*Tipton* – While Levi Hall was engaged, at Mr. Walker's iron foundry, in moving a casting box, weighing upwards of 2 tons, for the purpose of putting the joints together, it proved too heavy for him, and knocked him with violence against another box, by which he was severely injured in various parts of his body, and died in consequence.

*Chesterfield* – G. Oldfield was killed by the falling of a quantity of bind, while employed in the ironstone pits at Barlow.

*Dolcoath Mine, Cornwall* – As W. Lethlean (Timberman) was repairing one of the shafts, in the 100fm level, he fell through, and was killed.

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Letter: The Kilbricken Mines, Ireland.

Sir, The letter I wrote to your Journal of the 8<sup>th</sup> inst., was simply to show the disposal of the sum I received, as purchase money for Kilbricken Mine shares, being £5,500 for 550 shares (100 shares were not sold, but retained by the party who undertook the trouble of forming the company), in order that any party whom it could in any way concern, might see that the principle on which I proposed the formation of the company – viz: that I required to retain my half of the concern intact, but without further profit – was duly carried out. The only other point which has any interest for me, is the question, whether the prospects of the mine justified the sale of the half of it on the above terms? The data for judging this, are the repetition of the statements made at a preliminary meeting of the proposed shareholders before signing the cost-book, which were as follows: That after an outlay of about £10,000, having made a discovery of ore, which required a still further expenditure to work it in depth, I proposed meeting it, by disposing of half the mine to a company. The following facts were then stated, to enable the parties to judge the value of the discovery: - That the profit made in the summer of 1846 was about £2,000; the last month, when the bottoms were worked as low as possible, producing 40 tons of ore, worth £30 per ton (this turned out to be when sold 39 tons 9cwts, at £31-15-6d); and about £100 worth of blende, in all about £1,300. The cost-sheets and account sales of ore were produced, verifying this, and can still be inspected by any shareholder. That the continuation of this course of ore in depth, and of other smaller ones, which had previously been discovered, and which, in all, had produced about £13,000 worth of ore – and also the discovery of fresh ore, by extending the levels – formed the future prospects of the mine.

The probability of this was detailed in the report of the mine agents, who are generally of opinion that the workings, being only 22fms deep, are only on the top of the runs of ore; whilst the prospect of further discoveries, in extending the levels, are proved by some small shafts sunk on the course of the vein, in advance of the present ends, from 6 to 10fms deep, where a large quantity of blende and some ore have been obtained. The above statements, all proved by the necessary documents, appear to me quite sufficient inducement to invest in the concern (on the terms specified), without any amplification; and if shareholders, instead of forming their estimate from them, chose to avail themselves of any other representations more alluring, I cannot help it; but, with the above prospects still before them, it is absurd to call their shares valueless, though, perhaps, unsaleable. The following remarks are also necessary: - Capt. R. Williams, whose reports you quote, was no agent of mine, but the agent at Godolphin Mines, he had been agent at Kilbricken, in 1845, but left it in that year, preferring a situation in Cornwall; his last report, though not coinciding with his first (the interval of time accounting for this), speaks very favourably of the mine. The ore alluded to, as having failed in Mr. Evans's letter, was not in the bottom level, but some pitches left in the roof, which it was supposed might produce, before working out, 20 tons of ore a month, for about five months – they have, however, only produced 37 tons in all. The failure of these does not at all involve the future prospects of the mine; but, by realising £2000 less than was expected, has, of course, increased the outlay required from the shareholders. The bottoms are, and have been, quite unworkable, and will remain so till the shaft has been sunk.

Queen's Ferry, Flintshire, January 8

Henry Crockford

[From this letter, an explanation is certainly given in regard to the £1,000 stated as being unaccounted for in the letter of "A Shareholder." It was, as it appears, given "to the party who undertook the trouble of forming the company." We think that this fact should have been stated in forming the company. £1000, besides a large premium in shares, seems, to our thinking, good pay. Mr. Evans repeats, that the ore failed in the "bottoms" (though he is unable to account for it); and that, instead of getting, as was expected, 30 tons per month, only 40 tons were raised in six months. Mr. Crockford seems to deny, that the ore failed in the bottoms. He says: - "The failure of ore, alluded to by Mr. Evans, was not in the bottoms at all, but in pitches in the roof." The report of Capt. Williams evidently favours the assertion of Mr. Evans; though, if Mr. Crockford's be the correct version, the shareholders have still some hope left - and we shall be glad, indeed, to see it realised. That we have had the feelings of a large portion of the shareholders with us, in the remarks we have felt called upon to make, we have reason to know; and we hope they will not be without benefit in stirring the company to exertion, if the prospects of the mine warrant it.]

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Letter: The Kilbricken Mines, Ireland.

Sir, In your remarks upon the letter of Mr. Crockford, you state the company for working these mines are divided into 1300 shares – 650 to be retained free by that gentleman, and 650 issued at £10 per share. So far this is correct; but, as one of the original purchasers of a few of the 650 shares, at a premium upon £10 per share, I certainly understood at the time, that Mrs. Crockford's half of the mine was obliged to be sold, and that £5000 was the price. This sum was to be raised by the 650 shares, at £10 each, leaving a balance of £1500, to be paid into the London and Westminster Bank, towards working the mine, and to which Mr. Crockford was to add £1500, in respect of his own 650 shares. Mr. Crockford's version is, that he only received £5500, and that out of this the £3000 were paid towards working the mine. Even if this were the state of the case, there is a difference of £1000 unaccounted for. On the whole, there is great mystification somewhere; and I, for one, beg to thank you for bringing it before the public.

Cornhill, January 10

A Shareholder

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Letter: The Laxey Mines, Isle of Man.

Sir, Observing in your valuable Journal an advertisement for the sale of some shares in Laxey Mines, in the parish of Lonan, in the Isle of Man, with an account of their flourishing state, I must say, that I am glad to hear it – but I wish to state the fact, that I have not received any dividend for two years and upwards, and am moreover told, I shall have to contribute a considerable sum for loss incurred in the working of the mines during the time. I shall be glad if any of your correspondents can explain this.

Liverpool, January 11

A Proprietor

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Letter: The "Model Mine" – Wheal Trescoll.

Sir, In reply to the letter of "A.A.H." (Redruth), published in your last week's Journal, I beg to inform him, and all your numerous readers, that I am the projector of this new scheme, and that I live at No. 5, Whitefriars Street, City – consequently, within the sound of the bells of St. Paul's. I feel extremely thankful to "A.A.H." for his kindness; in commenting on the subject; and, whether his criticisms assume the form of satire or commendation, they will lead to the consummation of my wishes – viz., public enquiry into the merits of the undertaking. I never use Latin quotations, and do not profess to understand the meaning of quid pro quo; but this I do know, that the "Model" will be a quid to chew for a great many the next six months to come. All the shares in this mine were taken up the first five hours they were open to the public; and all I can say for the present is, that I hope the confidence reposed in me by the gentlemen that have come forward to patronise this undertaking, will not be misplaced. I propose commencing operations on the mine about the 1<sup>st</sup> of February; and, at the end of six weeks from that date, you will be able to see, if I have accomplished the task I have set myself to do – viz., to drive a level 137 fathoms for £137, timbering included.

Whitefriars Street, City, January 13

C.S. Richardson, C.E.

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Canon's Town Mine – Miners' Wages.

John Roberts (of Lelant), and William Nicholls (of Penzance), were summoned by half-a-dozen miners, for non-payment of wages. Mr. Roscorla attended for the defence. Henry Curnow stated, that Capt. Roberts had agreed with himself and comrades to work the end of a mine, called Canon's Town Mine, in the parish of Ludgvan, at £3-10-0d per fm., but upon the understanding that they were to be paid the usual wages of miners, alleging, as a reason, that he was about to sell some shares. After working some time on the end, they were put about other work, and at the end of the month they were paid off with £1 a man. They now applied for fair wages, and considered 23-0d each was now due – which would make their wages about 50-0d a month. Mr. Roscorla cross-examined the witness, but elicited nothing in favour of the defendants. Mr. Carne said, it appeared that £3-10-0d was less than the men ought to have had; but the captain had said, I want to sell shares – it will look better, and I will pay you wages. A thousand witnesses might be called after that. If parties transacted business in that way, they must take the consequences. Captain Roberts denied the statement in toto. The men said, that the same end was subsequently taken at ¼d a fm. Witnesses were called for the defence, but without altering the case. Mr. Roscorla intimated, that he had been wrongly instructed in the matter, and appeared indignant thereat. The men were ordered to be paid £1 each. John Williams and comrades summoned the same parties, under somewhat similar circumstances, with a like result.

Penzance Journal.

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Accidents.

*Devon Great Consols* – T. Nicholls fell down a shaft at Wheal Maria, and fractured his skull: he was not dead when taken up, but is not expected to survive.

*Arbour House Pit, Great Lumley* – T. Dixon, a tub driver, aged 11, whilst driving a horse with three tubs of coals, fell off the first, was run over, and killed.

*Cwm Celyn* – John Jarvis, his son, and another man, had gone to work, in Cwm Celyn Three-Fourth Pit, the colliery called the Big Vein, which is worked in what is called long work. Over the pit there is a rock top, which was never hitherto known to fall, without much previous notice. Jarvis, as usual, upon going to work, tried the top to ascertain if it was right, finding it, as he thought, safe. He was speaking with the man and his son, who stood by at the time, when the top fell, without any warning, and injured the two men very seriously. The son, George Jarvis, who was 10 years of age, was literally crushed to atoms, so that his remains were gathered in a sheet to be conveyed home. The poor lad was employed as door-keeper in the pit. – Monmouthshire Merlin.

*Tipton* – T. Bagnall, aged 12 years, was killed by a fall of stone at Mr. Giles's limestone pit, Dudley Port.

*Bilston* – S. Harris was killed by a fall of coal at Mr. Ward's colliery. The deceased was burnt, about eight week's since, in one of the stone pits at sandy Gay colliery.

*Clay Cross Colliery* – A boy, named Fox, was employed breaking the waggons on the incline, when his break-stick broke, and he fell between the wheels, and so shattered his arm, that it as found necessary to remove it at the shoulder joint. He was etherised; but reviving before the operation was completed, the surgeon again proceeded to apply the inhaler, when, coming in contact with the flame of the candle, it suddenly exploded, with a loud report; fortunately, however, no persons were injured, and the lad is doing well.

*Ripley* – J. gent was so injured by a fall of coal in the Mare Hay coalpit, that he died two days afterwards.

*Holywell* – T. Williams, while ascending the shaft at the Lletty Colliery, was entirely, through his own carelessness, squeezed against one of the bearers, and afterwards fell 58 yards; he was quite dead. He had been cautioned of his recklessness the day before.

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Accidents.

*Kingswinford* – Three colliers, named W. Twigg, M. Guest, and J. Hodgetts, were suffocated, while working in Black Pit, Tansey Green.

*East Rainton* – T. Smiles, aged 12 years, while playing with several other boys, imprudently got upon a crank of the fly-wheel of the Moorsley Pit Engine-house, to ride round whilst the engine was in motion; and, having lost his hold, he fell by the side of the wheel, whereby his left thigh was broken, and he was otherwise severely injured. He died the same evening.

*Consols Mine, Gwennap* – As R. Burrows was running down some attle, at the 175fm level, in Davey's Shaft, a large quantity fell away unexpectedly on him, and completely buried him. Several persons immediately set to work to clear away the stuff, but it occupied them four of five hours to do so, and when they had succeeded he was quite dead.

*Byer's Green Colliery, Durham* – After his labour, W. Jones had ascended the pit, and, having a candle in his hand, reached over to the oil lamp to light it. George Thubborn, the banksman, shouted to him to come off the pit. He came from the lamp, turned to the left, instead of the right, walked into the shaft, and fell to the bottom. A man immediately descended the shaft, but found him quite dead. Three sides of the shaft were fenced, and the open space where he had fallen was only about 2ft 9ins. The deceased had probably been dazzled with the glare of the lamp, and thus prevented from seeing where he was moving to.

*Spath Colliery, Rochdale* – As R. Fenton and M. Ronsley were descending Messrs. Knowles and Thompson's pit, they had got but a few yards when the rope broke, and they were precipitated about 100 yards, and both killed.

*Cappon Field Colliery, Bilston* – J. Fizard, while working on the bank, caught hold of the rings of a skip about to be landed, when the whimsy raised the skip, taking him off his legs, and he fell down the pit. He was immediately picked up by a man who was working within a few yards of the bottom of the shaft, when his skull was found to be fractured, and his body dreadfully cut and bruised – he was quite dead.

*St. Helens* – H. Morris, aged 12 years, was killed by a fall of coal at Ashton's Green Colliery. A companion, named Highcock, was dangerously injured by the same accident.

*St. Denis* – A frightful accident occurred in the extensive establishment of M. Cave, the engine-builder, Faubourg, St. Denis. A vast quantity of iron was in a state of ebullition, when suddenly the furnace burst, and the scalding metal flowed forth as lava from a volcanic crater. Eight workmen, being unable to get away with sufficient rapidity, had their feet surrounded by the boiling mass; and the poor fellows were so dreadfully injured, that it is feared they must have their legs amputated.

*Alfreton, Derbyshire* – T. Pursglove was killed while working in one of the pits here.

*Tupton* – J. Higginbottom was killed from the effects of fire-damp.

*Dudley* – J. Heath and D. Turner were killed by a fall of coal, in Burn's Lane Colliery.

*Dudley Wood Furnaces* – As J. Parish was filling a barrow with burnt ironstone, at the British Iron Company's Works, a quantity, weighing about 5 tons, suddenly fell upon him; and, though he was immediately extricated, he was so severely burnt, that, after lingering some time, he expired.

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Serious Charge Against a Colliery Proprietor.

For some time past suspicion had been entertained that the workings of the coal mine of Mr. Bleasdale, known as the Chapel Colliery, in Wigan, near the Wesleyan Methodist Chapel, in Wallgate, have been extended beyond his legal bounds, and under very valuable portions of property in several parts of the town. Mr. Bleasdale holds the Chapel Colliery on lease from Col. Walmsley, but has also at various periods purchased other portions of coal under land near or adjoining. The Earl of Balcarres, it appears, some time ago, agreed with him to drive a drift through some land of his Lordship's, to enable him to get the coal under an adjoining property. In the lease from the Earl, powers were reserved for his Lordship's viewers to go down the mine at any time and inspect the workings in the property of his Lordship; and under this power a surveyor descended the pit in December last, when it was found that the coal had been gotten much beyond the limits prescribed, and that a drift had been made under the church yard, and under the parish church. Rumour had been much afloat on this subject, and it has been stated that the miners have been heard blasting in several other directions from the pit's mouth. Last week a warrant was obtained against Mr. Bleasdale, on a charge of feloniously getting coal belonging to the Earl of Balcarres, and it was placed in the hands of proper officers for its execution. Subsequently to this, Mr. Bleasdale was seen in the town, but he has hitherto avoided apprehension, and remains at large. On its becoming known to the colliers employed in the mine, that the officers were in possession of authority to apprehend Mr. Bleasdale, they quite disarranged the working apparatus of the pit, not only taking away a material part of the engine, but also the ropes off the pulleys, and likewise destroying the current of air through the workings. All this was done to prevent any person descending the mine; and, in addition, the most fearful threats were held out, that they would throw any officer or other person down the pit who might attempt to descend. Matters remained in this condition until Friday, when a person named Grimshaw, lately Underlooker to Mr. Bleasdale, and another man named Bleasdale, an agent and a relative of the proprietor, were taken into custody as accessories to the felony. They were the same afternoon taken before the mayor, at the Town Hall, when Mr. Mayhew and Mr. Ackerley appeared on behalf of the prosecution, and Mr. Hilton and Mr. Leigh for the defendants. Mr. Tarbuck, viewer for the Earl of Balcarres, who had been in the pit in December last, and examined the mine, proved the nature and extent of the workings. Evidence was also given, of considerable length, by witnesses, of different transactions concerning the mine, in which the defendants were engaged. At the request of Mr. Mayhew they were remanded until Tuesday last, for the production of other evidence. Mr. Mayhew also made an application to the bench for the attendance of the police officers to prevent a breach of the peace on the parties proceeding to examine the workings, which was apprehended from the threats held out. The court said they must have necessary protection. Bail was offered for the defendants' future appearance, but was refused. Since Friday surveyors have been down the pit making the necessary explorations of the extent and direction of the workings, from which important disclosures are expected.

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British Mining (part).

*Coatlithe Hills* – I have again put the men to clear the secure the level east from A shaft, and shall endeavour to get to the limits of the old workings as quickly as possible. January 15.

*Cubert Silver-Lead* – In the 35fm level, going east, the lode is 1ft wide – spar, mundic, and lead, worth half a ton per fm., or £6 or £8 – a very kindly lode indeed; west, in this level, we have just now cut the elvan, which is at present very hard; this we have found to be the case in every level in the coming in of the elvan; the lode is 18in wide, composed of soft spar, flookan, and lead, worth £4 per fm. In the 25fm level west, the lode is 18in wide – spar, mundic, and lead – a very promising level, worth from £3 to £4 per fm. In the 15fm level west, the lode is 2ft wide – spar, mundic, and lead, but not rich for the latter. – January 14.

*Dean Prior and Buckfastleigh* – In driving in the 20fm level west, on the south part of the lode, a further improvement has taken place since my last report; the lode is now composed of capel and spar, intermixed with horseflesh and yellow ore of rich quality; I am much pleased with our prospects in this direction; the pitch in the back of this level is producing some good work, the indications are very encouraging. I beg also to state, that I have set a pitch in the back of the 10fm level, at 12-0d in £1. We are making all the progress we can as to sinking the engine-shaft, while, at the same time, we are getting on with the surface work; we have disengaged the drum from the small or lower wheel, and the carpenters are engaged removing and refixing the same to the 24ft wheel, which, in the course of a few days, will be completed, when the fixing of the crusher will be proceeded with as speedily as possible. – January 19.

*Drake Walls* – In Brenton's engine-shaft there are good branches of tin – the ground hard, and spare for sinking. The 50 end, west of Brenton's, under the arch, poor, but the height of an end is no criterion – our tin ground runs on floors. The stopes, in the 40, east of Brenton's – good branch; the stopes, in the 40, west of machine-shaft – good saving work; the stopes, in the 40, east of machine-shaft – saving work. The stopes, in the 33, east of machine-shaft – saving work; the end under the 33 arch, east of machine-shaft – good branches; Johnson's engine-shaft, sinking below the adit – good branches, but small. We are now putting up a horse-whim, temporary, to draw the work up, preparatory to the new engine going to work, which will be about the middle of next month. The last of the engine arrived at Calstock, on the 2<sup>nd</sup> inst. The driving west on the north lode, near the Tamar, has been suspended in order to bring up a lobby, to unwater the drivage, which is now complete. We shall at once resume our driving west. We intend sampling the middle of next week – say 20 tons. – January 15.

*East Crowndale* – The ground in our engine-shaft is much the same as last reported upon – a blue killas, with small branches of spar, containing yellow copper ore. We have fixed the bearers, &c., for a standing lift in the 47fm level, which will be set at work next week; the shaft is now down 52fms 2ft 6ins. I am glad to state, that my very sanguine expectations with regard to the 47fm level, on the north lode, are now being realised; we have a lode 2ft wide, 16ins of which is good saving work, and still continuing to get better; you may safely calculate on a rich course of ore in this level before the end of another week; the lode is composed of peach, spar, mundic, and copper ore. The 47fm level east, on the course of the north lode, is gradually improving in appearance – this lode is 18ins wide, with a leader of ore about 2ins wide, and increasing in size – is composed of mundic, spar, flookan, and ore. The lode in the engine-shaft, at Rix Hill, is not

quite as good as I expected to find it – is 4ft wide, composed of a greenish elvan, peach, spar, and tin. We have suspended all other operations on the course of these lodes, until the new steam stamps be erected, to return the tin already on the surface. January 15.

*Galloway* – The ground in the shaft sinking here has become very hard; and inasmuch as the lode is gone west – viz.: the north and south ones – we have considered it most judicious to follow the above lode, which will give facility to our sinking, and ease our cost to a given depth; the present feature of this lode is very inviting. – January 15.

*Great Michell Consols* – The lode in the sump-winze is 6ft wide, containing mundic, fluor, peach, spar, and ore, yielding some saving work. In the 35fm level, west of the sump-winze, the lode is very large, having opened into it 7ft without reaching the south wall thereof; it is altogether of a most promising description, being composed of Mundic, spar, peach, and can, with some rich ore intermixed throughout. We are dressing another parcel of ore, and hope to get about 50 tons for the next sampling. On the whole, I consider our prospects very encouraging. – January 19.

*Holmbush* – The ground in the 132fm level cross-cut, south of the diagonal shaft, is much the same as last reported on. The lode in the 120fm level, west of the slide, is 12ins wide, composed of spar and stones of ore; we expect to intersect the lead lode in this level within one week from the present time; the tribute pitch in the back of this level, east of the great cross-course, is still producing a fair quantity of copper ores. In driving east in the 110fm level, from the western part of the lead lode (about 2fms), we have intersected another, and, we think, the main part of the lead lode; it is 4ft wide, composed of quartz and stones of rich silver-lead ores; each end (north and south) is worth £10 per fm, in ground that is very favourable for driving. The lode in the 100 fm level south, is 3ft wide, composed of spar and stones of lead; we have just cut a branch, or lode, in this end, which, apparently, is running east and west, but as yet we can say nothing of its size and underlie; that part seen is composed of spar, mundic, blende, prior, and spots of copper ore; we shall be able to report more fully on it next week. The lead pitches throughout the mine, on the whole, are looking pretty well, and producing a fair quantity of lead ores. We have set two men to drive east from the western part of the lead lode, in the 90fm level south, to prove whether the eastern part, just intersected in the 110fm level, holds up so high, and lies in that direction; we shall prove it in the 100, by rising above the back of the 110, on the course of the lode. Our parcel of lead ores was purchased by Benj. Somers, Esq., at £18-11-0d per ton, and its weight is 20 tons 4cwts 2qrs. We expect the same to be shipped on or before Monday next, from the information we received from the ship agent. – January 18.

*Kirkcudbrightshire* – Having had a breakage in our machinery since last report, but little has been done in the 50fm level end west. The lode in the 40 end west is 4ft wide – easy ground; the lead part of the lode not taken down, but presenting strong features. The lode in the 30 end is very wide – in fact, we have not found the north wall; it produces in our present driving 1 ton of lead per fm. The lode in Keith's Shaft, about 3fms before this end, and (say) within 3fms of depth to this level, has a lode about 3½ft to 4ft wide – lode greatly improved the last few feet, should say 1½ ton per fm. of lead. The winze sinking under the 40fm level is in a hard rock, and the men working it have refused it at £7 per fm; it yields upwards of 1 ton per fm., and we shall be sure to let it even on tribute. ....

*Tincroft* – Highburrow Lode, in the 142 east of engine-shaft, continues large, and produces fair quality tinstuff. The lode in the 120, east of Martin's East Shaft, is 4ft wide, worth £15 per fm; the stope in the back of this level is worth £16 per fm. The winze which was sinking in the bottom of the 110 is now communicated to the 120; after a few days we shall be able to raise tinstuff more expeditiously, and at less expense; I now propose to put the men that were sinking the winze, to open a plat at Martin's East Shaft, in the same level, in order to commence sinking the said shaft below that level as soon as possible, that it may be got in the 142 by the time that

level gets forth; this is of great importance, as we have gone over about 80fms of good tin ground in the 120, the bottom of which level cannot be available as it should, till the 142 be driven forth and through the cross-course (which is 2fms to the east of Martin's East Shaft), and the said shaft be communicated thereto – the pitches on this part of the mine continue much the same as usual. The 90 end west, on Chapple's Lode, has very much improved since last report – it is now worth £30 per fathom; the pitches on this lode continue to produce fair quality ore. In the north mine, the lode in the 100 east is small and unproductive, being very near the cross-course; beyond which, in the level above, we had a good lode; the lode in the 100 west is 20in wide, producing some good quality ore. The lode in the 90 west is 20in wide, worth £5 per fm. The lode in the 80 east is 4ft wide, worth £8 per fathom for tin – other places remain stationary. Palmer's Shaft is being sunk on the east part of the south lode, which is at present unproductive in the shaft; the 80 west, on north lode, is worth £5 per fm. The eastern winze, in the bottom of the 70, is worth £5 per fm; the lode in the western winze, below the 70, is 5ft wide, worth £15 per fm, and very promising. The lode in the 70 end west is 3ft wide, worth £8 per fm, the stopes in the back of the 70 are worth £15 per fm – stoping by 12 men, at an average of £4-10-0d per fm. The lode in the 60 west is small and unproductive. At Wheal Providence, the sumpmen are now in course of fixing the pitwork to the 20fm level, and hope to complete it in a few days, and get the water in fork to the bottom. – January 17.

*Treleigh Consols* – Christoe's Shaft, below the 110fm level, will be sunk to the 120, and we shall commence cross-cutting to the lode by the end of next week. In the 110, east of ditto, the lode is 2ft wide, with good stones of ore, with a better appearance. In Garden's Shaft, below the 100fm level, we have been fixing a lift this week, but little done in sinking; in the 100, west of ditto, the lode is 3ft wide, with a small quantity of pre; in the 100, east of ditto, the lode is 20in wide, more promising, with good stones of ore. In the 90, west of ditto, the lode is 20in wide, not so good as last week – worth £5 per fm; in the winze, below the 90 west, the lode is 3ft wide, worth £8 per fm. In the 80, west of ditto, the lode is 20in wide, producing good stones of ore, and very kindly. In the rise, above the 70 west, the lode is 18in wide, but little ore. In the good, west of ditto, the lode is 2ft wide, with a more promising appearance, but not much ore. At Wheal parent we have cross-cut north to the new shaft. We have set a new pitch in the back of the 80, west of Garden's, to four men, at 3-0d in £1. – January 15.

*West Wheal Jewel* – No lode taken down in the past week on Wheal Jewel lode. In the 42fm level, east of the little cross-course, on the south lode, the lode is 8in wide, unproductive. In the cross-cut, in the 30fm level, west of Quarry Shaft, the ground is more favourable for driving. In the 20fm level, west of Quarry Shaft, on Tolcarne Tin lode, we have not cut the lode as yet west of the cross-course; in the deep adit, west of Quarry Shaft, on the same lode, the lode is 15in wide, worth £6 per fm, in the shallow adit, west of Quarry Shaft, on the same lode, the lode is 18in wide, unproductive; the stopes, in the bottom of the adit, east of Pryor's winze, on the same lode, the lode is 5ft wide, worth £35 per fm. In the stopes, in the back of the 12fm level, west of Pryor's Winze, on the same lode, the lode is 4ft wide, worth £30 per fm; the stopes, east of George's Winze, in the bottom of the 12fm level, are worth £9 per fm. – January 17.

*West Wheal Maria* – There is no important alteration in the cross-cut south in the 54fm level, in the past week; there is pretty much water issuing out of this end; and I am still of opinion, that we are not far from a lode, or branch. – January 18.

*Wheal Adams* – The ground in the 50fm level south continues favourable for driving, and congenial for lead. Since our last report we have intersected another small branch containing lead, but have not reached the flookan, which cannot be more than 4ft from the present end; as soon as we reach this, we propose extending a level south on the quartzose lode, and then to rise on it, in order to communicate with the 40, to lay open ground from one level to the other, which will be stoped at a tribute of about 5-0d in £1; we can say nothing about the eastern lode

at this level before we cut into the flookan. The ground in the 18 cross-cut is very favourable for driving; and the numerous small branches daily intersected, containing mundic and lead, are very promising indications. In the tribute department an improvement has taken place, which may be seen by referring to the setting-sheet accompanying this report. Although much before our usual time, we propose sampling about 30 tons of silver-lead next Saturday, which will be a superior parcel to the last, which parcel contained an unusual proportion of antimonial sulphured of lead, containing less silver than it formerly produced. We have in one of the lead pitches, in comparatively unexplored ground, grey copper accompanied by quartz contiguous to the lead part; this copper contains silver as well as a small portion of gold; we have broken about 4 tons of it – and when it is brought to the surface and dressed, it shall be carefully assayed, and you shall know the results. – January 18.

*Wheal Benny* – Our cross-cut, in the 20fm level, north of Ford Shaft, is driven about 4fms north of the great lode we cut in December last, and calculate we shall have from 2 to 3fms farther to drive to intersect the Ford lode. In my last it was there mentioned of the lode passed through, which is from 4 to 5ft wide in the above level (20), and when intersected in the shaft, 11fm deep, it was from 1ft to 14in, and not looking so promising as a present. In conjunction with this we have several small branches falling into this lode in depth, and would recommend the sinking of Ford Shaft 10fms deeper, which can be accomplished in about 4 months, and then drive north to intersect this champion lode, where all the branches will fall in at or about this given depth (30). Our cross-cut south is driven about 56fms, and shall have 30 or more fathoms to drive to intersect the lode at the southerly part of the sett; when intersected, it will leave some 50fms backs. An air machine, worked by a small waterwheel, is erected, and will enable us to go, if required, 300 fms. We have other lodes in this part, which, by cross-cutting north and south can be seen at this depth. – January 19.

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Mining Notabilia (Extracts from our Correspondence.)

Devon and Courtenay Consols – There is a good improvement here. In driving the 40fm cross-cut, north from the Engine Shaft, towards the lode, about 4½fms from the shaft, they have intersected a lode 1ft wide – copper ore and mundic, very good work for copper; I should think it is worth £12 per fm. This is not the main lode: I calculate there are three or four fms more to drive in the cross-cut to reach it, and these are some of the branches come together, which were cut in driving the 30 from the shaft to the lode; but it looks well for the main lode; also, it will not be driven on for a week or two, before the cross-cut is extended further towards the lode, to make room for another pare of men.

Tin Vale – A rich lode was cut here on Monday in adit B, worth from £10 to £20 per fm, and they are only paying twenty-one shillings per fm for driving.

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Mining Company of Ireland.

The following gentlemen were elected directors for the year: - Messrs. E. Atkinson, F. Barker, M.D., T. Bewley, F.A. Codd, J. Dawson, I. English, E.A. Gibbon, R.R. Guinness, Sir R.J. Kane, M.D., J. Magee, T. Mooney, J. Murphy, J. Perry, T. Pim, and W. Stephens.

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Sheffield Mining Company.

The works of this company are still progressing. The level or adit is now passing under the village of Eyam, and will ere long be in a state for progressing more rapidly.

Sheffield Iris.

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Colliers' Strike.

The contemplated strike at Camlay coal pit, Dalmellington, wrought by the Messrs. Houldsworth, in consequence of a reduction of wages, was carried into effect last week. On Saturday terms were offered to the workmen, but refused on Monday, and in consequence the men were ordered to clear the pit. On Tuesday they were replaced by a party of colliers, said to be from Kier coal pits, who were carefully escorted to the work.

Ayr Observer.

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Accidents.

*Bunn's Lane Colliery, Tividale* – J. Heath, aged 12, and D. Turner, aged 10 years, were buried by a fall of coals.

*Ince, near Wigan* – As two lads, named J. Morris and W. Platt, were working as drawers, a quantity of roof fell, killing the former, and injuring the latter.

*Tincroft Mine* – R. Hampden was killed while working here.

*Torncliffe (Thornccliffe) Works* – J. Miller was killed by an explosion, whilst working in Messrs. Newton, Chambers, and Co.'s Silkstone Pit.

*Stirchley Ironworks – A Whirl – Awful Event, and Loss of Life* – On Saturday morning a dreadful event took place at one of the pits at Stirchley. A company of men and boys were being let down into the pit, when, dreadful to relate, one of those destructive and awful misfortunes took place, called a "whirl," or by some a "runner" – that is, the chain flew off the barrel, and precipitated them all to the bottom, by which dreadful occurrence three poor boys were killed in a moment. There were about 16 men and boys in the chains, and several of them have been more or less injured. The three boys were in the centre of the group, upon whom the chains fell, and they were killed almost instantaneously. Doubtless, at the coroner's inquest, a strict investigation will be made as to the circumstances of the truly lamentable accident. – Shropshire Journal.

*Donnington Wood – Distressing Accident and Loss of Life from Firedamp.* – On Thursday last one of those lamentable and distressing events took place near the Muxton Barracks, in Donnington Wood Field, which so frequently occurs in the pits connected with iron-works, by which human life in a moment becomes a prey to death. In the present fatal instance, a workman of the name of Rushton, had gone down with another man to prepare a pit for working, and not being sufficiently aware of the presence of foul air, commonly called firedamp, his light caught it, and in a moment it exploded, forcing him many yards from the place where he was, burning him very badly, and proving his death. The other workman was very much injured, but yet he helped to get his fellow workman out of the pit, and take him to his house. A coroner's inquest has been held upon the body of poor Rushton, and a verdict of accidental death returned. Unfortunately, he has left a wife and family to lament and feel his loss. The other sufferer, we are happy to learn, is getting the better of his injury, and likely to recover. – Shropshire Journal.

*Fatal Accident* – On Monday last two men were killed, and one seriously injured, by the falling of a portion of machinery, at a coal-pit at Brymbo, near Wrexham. It appears that as three men were being hoisted up at six o'clock in the evening, on leaving their work, a portion of the machinery gave way when they were about 12 yards from the top, and the unfortunate men were precipitated to the bottom of the pit. Two were killed, and the other lies in a very precarious state. The names of the deceased are Edward Penny and John Jones.

*Fatal Coal-Pit Accident* – On Saturday afternoon last, as a man and two boys were descending one of the shafts at Laffak Colliery, near Parr, the rope broke, and all three fell to the bottom of the pit, and were killed upon the spot. The mine is 147 yards deep, and the browman perceived the rope to break when the three persons had arrived about midway down the pit, and,

therefore, they must have fallen about 70 yards. The names of the deceased persons are, William Fairhurst, aged 46; John Fairhurst, his son, going of 11 years of age; and Caleb Roby, also in his 11<sup>th</sup> year. – Liverpool Mercury.

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Ayrshire Iron Company.

We are gratified to learn, that the first payment of 10-0d per pound was paid on Friday and Saturday last, to as many of the creditors as it was possible to overtake; and that the amount has been defrayed entirely from the money contributions of the shareholders – the sum already received in this way being upwards of £70,000. Instalment bills, payable at six and twelve months, have been, at the same time, handed over in liquidation of the other 10-0d. The remaining creditors, we understand, are to be settled with from day to day, as they apply. – Scotch Reformers' Gazette.

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British Mining.

*Devon and Courtenay Consols* – The sumpmen have commenced sinking the engine-shaft, and cutting ground for cisterns, bearers, &c. In our cross-cut, driving north, to cut the lode, we have intersected a small branch, underlying south, containing mundic, spar, &c.; notwithstanding the large branch of ore that we intersected last week, the ground and distance in the cross-cut continuing north, intimates that there is yet another lode to the north, which we calculate to be our main one. – January 25.

*East Crowndale* – The men engaged in our engine-shaft here have, during the past week, been employed in fixing a standing lift in the 47fm level, and taking up water in the shaft; this is now completed, and sinking will be resumed next week. The lode in the 47fm level west still continues to improve – is now 3ft wide, with two well-defined walls, underlying about 4ft per fm., the whole of which is good saving work; from the very uniform and favourable appearance of this end, good and profitable returns are now being made; the lode is composed of peach, spar, mundic, and ore, and at present worth £10 per fm, and will, without doubt, before the end of next week, be worth £20 per fm; we have taken the men from the western end, and placed them in this, in order to avail ourselves of quickly making returns from this course of ore: the eastern end, in the 47fm level, has still a small branch of ore, about 2in wide, and, for the present, suspended; the lode in the engine-shaft, at Rix Hill, is, with regard to appearance and quality, just as when reported on in our last. – January 22.

*Exmoor Wheal Eliza* – We have cut through the north lode of the adit level, which is about 7ft wide from the south to the north wall, and underlying from 18in to 2ft in the fathom north; it is a promising lode, composed of a fine gossan and mundic, with spots of copper ore, a very kindly lode, to the depth of only 4fms from the surface. By cutting the lode in this level, we now can ascertain the distance we have to drive from the engine-shaft to cut this lode in the 12fm level, taking the underlay (say) 1ft 9in in a fm. the average of the above; the distance from the engine-shaft to the lode in the adit level is 10fms 2ft – the shaft being 12fms deep below the cross-cut; the lode in that level (say) 14 fms. This I should recommend to go on with immediately with four men, and keep four men driving on the course of the south lode. We have now, while I am writing, the last pump for our new lift brought to the mine, and the lift will be all in the place before we leave work this evening, but shall not be able to put to work until Monday, as we are not ready with the whole of the smith's work, in consequence of the delay of two days this week; the horses could not bring materials to the mine, owing to the fall of snow we had on Monday and Tuesday last. – January 22.

*Galloway* – The lode in the shaft, which we are sinking here, continues large – say about 5ft wide, containing more mundic than we have seen hitherto, with a pretty large flookan, and, on the whole, a very kindly lode. – January 22.

*Great Michell Consols* – The lode in the sump winze continues 6ft wide, containing mundic, fluor, peach, spar, and ore, producing some saving work. In the 35fm level, west of the sump winze, the part of the lode being carried 4ft wide, has still that promising appearance, composed of Mundic, spar, peach, and can, with some rich ore intermixed throughout. – January 26.

*Holmbush* – We have intersected another small string of spar and mundic in the 132fm level cross-cut, south from the diagonal shaft, underlying north. In the 120fm level, west of the slide, we have just intersected the eastern wall of the lead lode, which has drained the winze. In the bottom of the 110fm level (sunk some time since, about 3fms below the level, but was suspended in consequence of so much water), we have now set it on tribute for copper, at 9-0d in £1; both the north and south levels, in the 110, on the eastern part of the lead lode, are worth £10 per fm; the pitches, in the back of this level, on the western part, wrought at 8-0d in £1 on the value of the lead, are still productive, and the men earning wages. In extending the 100fm level south of the lead lode, we have intersected another east and west branch, 3in wide, composed of spar, mundic, and sprigs of copper, underlying south 1ft in a fm; in this level we have six men driving east from the western part, to intersect that part of the lode cut in the 110, should it hold up as high in the same direction, which we think will be found the case, from the large stream of water issuing from it in the 110; nothing like it has been seen in the levels above; the lead pitches, in the back of the 100fm level, are still yielding a fair quantity of lead. We have also two men in the 90fm level driving east from the western part of the lead lode, to prove if there be another part in that direction in this level.

*Wheal Trehane* – Kelly's Shaft is sunk 6ft below the 45fm level, and the shaftmen are now engaged in cutting whim and cistern plats, and preparing the necessary work for fixing a lift in that level, which, when completed, we shall resume sinking with all possible speed; we have cut in towards the lode here about 8ft; and should the ground continue as favourable for cross-cutting as at present, I expect the lode will be cut in the course of next week. In the 35fm level north the lode is 2ft wide, and will produce about 8cwts of lead per fm; the stopes, in the back of this level, are turning out a fair quantity of tolerably good work. The same may be said, also, of the stopes in the back of the 30fm level north. In stopping the bottom of the 20 south, and back of same level north, we are raising a small quantity of very rich work, and some gossan ore, part of which is tolerably rich in silver. We have now about 25 tons of good quality ore dressed towards the next sampling.

*Wheal Trelawney* – We are still progressing favourably with Phillips's Shaft. The lode in the 52fm level, north and south, is very similar to my last report, and the ground is much the same; the stopes, in the back of this level, are producing a fair quantity of ore. The lode in the 42 north is without much alteration, worth £8 per fm; the stopes here, and to the south of the shaft, are producing about the usual quantity of ore. The lode in the 32fm level north is worth £5 per fm. I cannot speak of any particular change in the stopes in the back of this level. We have resumed sinking Trelawney's Shaft, under the 42, where the ground is rather hard, and set at £18 per fm. The 22 cross-cut east is much as usual. The lode in the 30fm level, north of Vivian's Shaft, presents a beautiful appearance, and is worth £8 per fm; and, from its character, there is reason to hope that this part of the sett, when developed, will considerably augment our returns. – January 25.