

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 5th. August 1854

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Advert - Clay Cross Schools.

The Clay Cross Company being about to commence the erection of a large school at Clay Cross, and the neighbourhood being desirous of expressing their appreciation of this benefit to the largely increasing population, have obtained the consent of the proprietors to a public demonstration on this occasion, and S.M. Peto, Esq., M.P., accompanied by the proprietors of the Clay Cross works, has accepted the invitation of the committee to lay the foundation stone.

The ceremony will take place on the 15th. of August, at 1 o'clock, and lunch will be provided at 2 o'clock.

The public will be admitted by ticket only, at 3-6d. each, to be had at the Post Offices, Chesterfield and Clay Cross.

No tickets will be issued after Thursday, the 10th., and their number is necessarily limited.

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Advert - To Builders.

Persons desirous of contracting for the erection of new schools and other buildings in connection with the same, at Clay Cross, near Chesterfield, for the Clay Cross Coal and Iron Company, are hereby informed that the plans and specifications may be seen at the offices of Mr. Henry J. Stephens, architect, Post Office Chambers, Derby, after the 7th. inst.

Tenders, to be delivered sealed up, and endorsed "Tender for Schools" at the office of the Company, at Clay Cross, under cover to Mr. Charles Binns, on or before 10 o'clock, a.m., on Monday, the 22nd. inst.

The lowest tender will not necessarily be accepted.

Derby, August 22nd., 1854.

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Advert - To Builders and Contractors.

Persons desirous of tendering for the erection of schools to contain 400 boys and girls, together with a reading and lecture room, also several house, with other buildings and works, for Richard Barrow, Esq., may obtain further particulars by application to Mr. Watson, of the office of the Staveley Works, after Monday, the 31st. inst.

Sealed tenders to be delivered on or before Saturday, the 12th. of August next.

Mr. Barrow does not pledge himself to accept the lowest, or any, tender.

The Staveley Works, near Chesterfield, 19th. July, 1854.

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Gold Mining in Derbyshire.

Owing to considerable excitement produced by the reported discovery of a "gold" mine in a hillside overhanging the River Lathkill, Mr. F. Barker, of Bakewell, has obtained assays of some of the pyrites. It appears that the rock in which the gold ore was said to be found is a species of trap, locally called toadstone, the igneous origin of which favoured the supposition that it might contain gold. This toadstone is spread over a very wide area, and is generally intercolated between beds of limestone. It frequently happens that several feet in depth of the upper surface of the toadstone is in a more or less decomposed state; and iron pyrites occur in portions of this decomposed stuff. It was in this pyrites that the gold was said to have been found. An assay of pyrites and clay, gives more than an ounce and a half of gold per ton of stuff. An assay made by other parties, gave a produce of silver about equal in value to that of the gold. A ton of the stuff assayed thus contained a value of about £12; for which the cost of abstraction and waste by the process, must of course be deducted in order to arrive at the value of the ore. Out of the sample taken at the top of the second toadstone at the Wheels Rake Mine, near Alport, five grains of gold per ton of pyrites were obtained. From a sample of iron pyrites from the Wheels Rake Mine, Alport, which contained galena, one ounce, three pennyweights and 6.4 grains of silver, containing a very small quantity of gold per ton were extracted. The result of the assay obtained from the hillside above the Lathkill River, gave 4 pennyweights, 13.3 grains of silver, containing a very minute quantity of gold per ton. These experiments were so discouraging to the hope of finding any general diffusion of precious metals in the toadstone of this district, as to give reason for the utmost wariness in embarking in any expensive search for them; we publish it as a warning to all parties disposed to adventure in gold mines. A few pounds of ore are sufficient for obtaining an accurate assay, and samples may be procured from numerous places where the decomposed toadstone lies at, or near, the surface of the ground; or where it been laid open by mine levels. Samples of ore, taken from the different parts of the mine intended to be worked, ought to be carefully assayed, and if the results be favourable, a fair trial may be made of the cost per ton for which the ore can be obtained.

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Pursuit of Science under Difficulties.

Mr. Calvert, has lately been exploring the portions of Derbyshire and Staffordshire for gold and other minerals; but meeting with an accident that has laid him up for some days, he was seen on crutches last week investigating the extensive iron veins at Cauldon Low, which have been laid bare and left by the vast quarrying operations that have been for many years going on.

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Man killed at Ince Hall Colliery.

Charge of Manslaughter.

A collier named James Bate was killed at the Lane Side pit, belonging to the Ince Hall Coal and Cannel Company, on Thursday last, under the following circumstances: The deceased descended the pit for the first time that morning about 6 o'clock, and soon after 11 he and others came from their places to the bottom of the shaft for the purpose of going up. When the cage was lowered to the bottom, 4 persons got in, and the deceased was in the act of stepping in after them, and had got one leg over the side when the cage began to ascend, although no signal had been given to the engineer on the surface to wind up. As soon as the cage began to move, the "hooker-on" at the bottom of the shaft signalled for it to be lowered, and after it had been raised about 6 feet it was let down again. The deceased was caught between the cage and the "horse tree" or cross piece of wood for the support of the conducting rods; and he was found to be dreadfully crushed about the thighs and the lower part of the body; he died immediately afterwards. On Saturday last, an inquest was held on the body, at the Bay Horse, Ince, by Mr. Drifffield, County Coroner, and Daniel Brown, the engineer, was present, in custody of the police. It appeared from the evidence that no signal was given to the engineer to wind up: and, after deliberating nearly three hours, the Jury returned a verdict of manslaughter against him.

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Advert - Seven Acres of Mowing Grass, Colliery Materials, etc.

To be sold by auction, by Mr. Hatton, on Wednesday next, August 16th., upon the premises of Messrs. Swindell and Salt, Sload's Colliery, near Dronfield, at 2 o'clock in the afternoon, with 7 acres of mowing grass, complete gearing for the working of two coal-pits, three new pit ropes, gearing for ironstone pit, ten corves, three hacks, , four shovels, four coal picks, lot of sawn boards, five corbs, single turn, wheel-barrow, and other effects.

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Astronomical Observations in a Coal Pit.

On Saturday, Professor Airey, the Astronomer Royal, paid a visit to the colliery district of the Tyne, in pursuit of curious and important astronomical observations. For that purpose he was taken by Mr. Mather, a scientific gentleman belonging to South Shields, down Horton Pit, the deepest in the Tyne, 1,260 feet deep, to examine if it were possible to make arrangements in it for a series of delicate experiments and observations in reference to the pendulum, and the earth's action upon it there, simultaneously with a similar view on the surface, with a view to determine the weight of the earth and planets. Mr. Henderson and the other proprietors and officers of this splendid mine, gave every facility to the Astronomer Royal, and tendered not only the use of the mine, but their own personal services, for any future occasion. Everything at present looks encouraging for these important scientific experiments.

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Gold in Derbyshire.

Mr. Calvert has lately been exploring various parts of Derbyshire for gold; but, through the great rise in the iron market and the increased demand for iron ore, he has been called into Staffordshire to search for iron before having concluded his investigations in the neighbourhood of the High Peak, although not before having made an important discovery near Ashford, where he obtained a small sample of native gold from a layer of earthy ironstone, resting immediately on the toadstone, overlaid by the fossiliferous limestone. We believe he intends returning to the spot as soon as he shall have finished with his explorations in Stafford. He is at present in the locality of the Weaver Hills and Cauldon Low, where some very interesting and valuable discoveries are being brought to light.

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Gold Mines.

A meeting of the Over Haddon Gold and Silver Mine took place on Monday, at the Earl of Newburgh's Arms, Calver, Derbyshire, when the position and prospects of the Company were discussed. They had offers from various partners to purchase their mine, in order to create large London companies, but they had steadily refused. The meeting concluded with a resolution to advertise in the Mining Journal for the means best adapted to economically and successfully extracting silver as well as gold.

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The Derbyshire Mines.

Several mines in the neighbourhood of Chatsworth are progressing rapidly, and the ore on the surface is increasing so much that another sale of ore is appointed for Wednesday next. The substitution of economical machinery for manual labour, wherever practicable, is to be adopted in the Derbyshire mines. The lode ??????? discovered is now producing almost daily a great amount of ore, and it is estimated that the miners are realising from £2-10-0d to £3-0-0d. per week, each, ??????? to their contract, to get and dress the ore at £6-10-0d per ton.

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Accident at Clay Cross.

An inquest was held at Stretton on the 4th. instant, before C.S.B. Busby, Esq., coroner, on the body of James Payrd, aged 11 years, who was killed at the Clay Cross Colliery. From the evidence of Joseph Statham and Joseph Parker, it appeared that when the deceased was riding on the skip of a train, he unfortunately fell across the rail under the skip, which pressed over his body, fearfully crushing his breast. Verdict, "Accidental Death".

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No Headline

The majority of the population of Airdrie, near Glasgow, is composed of miners, and these a mixture of Irish, Scotch and English, who profess to hold decided opinions on Protestantism and Roman Catholicism. On the 12th. of July, there was a demonstration of Orangeism at Airdrie, but the affair passed off peaceably. It has unfortunately turned out that the Roman Catholic party felt aggrieved at the simple display of the Orangemen on the 12th., and had "nursed their wrath to keep it warm" up till the racing meeting. The racing ground was cleared shortly after the last race, but it would appear that during the night two tents were kept open, and liquor liberally supplied. One of these tents was kept by a Mr. Cunningham M'Intyre, who carries on business in Airdrie, and whose premises there are said to be frequented by numbers of Orangemen. It appears that about three o'clock on Friday afternoon a party was making merry at Mr. M'Intyre's tent, and a fiddler was playing tunes which were alleged to have been of a party character. This excited the deadly ire of certain ribboned men, who collected in a crowd, and proceeded to the tent of M'Intyre, armed with stones, bludgeons, pistols, and shouting in the most horrible manner, to the alarm and disturbance of the neighbourhood. On hearing the yells of the exasperated ribboned men, those who were in the tent came out, when, after some altercation, a general onslaught commenced. Pistols were fired at the melee, which ensued, and bludgeons were handled with genuine Dennybrook barbarity. M'Intyre had his head and body fearfully smashed. A man named Reenie, who came to his assistance, also experienced the most brutal maltreatment, and both are now in such a condition that there is almost no hope of their recovery. Many others sustained injuries of less consequence, amongst whom was a lad named Donaldson, who had three ribs broken. The most painful result remains to be told. The firing of the shots alarmed the neighbourhood, and a man named M'Culloch, who keeps a toll-bar hard by, was awakened out of bed. Thus aroused he sallied forth to see what was going on, when he was assaulted by one or more of the bludgeon men, and received such serious personal injuries that he expired in the course of an hour or two afterwards. The unfortunate man who was thus untimely brought to his end has left a wife and a small family. Upon the appearance of the police, the ruffians made off in various directions, but were closely pursued and about a dozen speedily captured.

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A Clay Cross Veteran.

In our rambles at Clay Cross on Tuesday, during the progress of the holiday festivities in commemoration of laying the foundation stone of the new schools, we gazed with interest upon the little town, which owes its origins to the great enterprise of the company which has as yet but partially developed its gigantic mineral resources. The inquiring eye could trace in every direction progress and prosperity, and hundreds of neat and apparently comfortable cottage homes meet the eye in every direction. The hives of industry, with their blaze and smoke (which, by the by, we hope will soon be self-consuming, but that metropolitan compeers), seem to pause awhile, to allow their swarthy occupants an opportunity to commemorate the educational movement, which may at no distant period exercise so potent and salutary an influence on the future history of the promising, thriving little town of Clay Cross. In common with scores of other delighted spectators, we contemplated the animated spectacle presented in every direction, and attentively observed the sinews of its prosperity - the industrious classes who throng the streets, and appear so gratified with the unwonted pageantry of the day. In seeking information from various operatives - from whom we were desirous, by personal investigation, of ascertaining the number, and the moral and social condition, of the sons of toil who contribute so materially to the wealth of the place, we ?????????? addressed our queries to a bystander, of whose intelligent aspect we correctly opined that he might impartially supply us with the requisite information. The old man informed us, in the course of conversation, that from his childhood he had been engaged in mining, and that he is one of the first workmen ever employed in the Clay Cross collieries. The old man, became so animated in describing the astonishing changes wrought in Clay Cross during the past fifteen years, graphically described the marvels performed by steam enterprise, in transforming a barren and desolate moor to a thriving town, and causing habitation and manufactories to spring up mushroom like as regards rapidity, but resembling the oak in vitality and vigour. Our informant, (John Smith), further supplied us with other details, which will prove not uninteresting to our readers. He bore on his body innumerable scars and wounds, which, though not received in the battlefield, were the results of casualties when in the pursuit of honest labour in a more legitimate sphere of action - the coalfield. This miner is a striking illustration of the dangers and risks constantly incurred by this class, with labouring in the bowels of the earth, but modern skill and science has in late years continually diminished the number of colliery accidents. During the period of upwards of half a century this veteran collier has sustained the following injuries, the result of the various accidents to which colliers are exposed, from the four elements, earth, air, fire, and water. His right leg was broken in two places below the knee, his kneecap was also broken, and the thigh fractured; his left leg had been broken in two or three places, and a splinter of bone had been extracted from his thigh, several ribs had, at different periods, been broken, and spine had been injured to such an extent that his life had some years since been placed in imminent peril. One arm was broken, with a wrist dislocated, portions of his fingers are also wanting, and numerous minor injuries had been sustained. He was 66 years of age, and although so sadly maimed and mutilated, he earned two pounds at the last draw. This intelligent old veteran entertained us with anecdotes of colliery spirits 90 years ago, on the authority of his father, who is still living in the neighbourhood of Clay Cross, having reached the patriarchal age of nearly a century.

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Advert - Wanted, as Underground Steward.

A man who thoroughly understands the getting of coal by short work. Apply to Mr. Goodwin, Land and mineral Agent, Chesterfield.

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The Over Haddon Gold and Silver Mine.

A meeting of the proprietors of the Over Haddon Gold and Silver Mine took place on Monday, at the Earl of Newburgh Arms, Calver, when the position and prospects of the company were fully discussed. The shareholders conceived the course they had all along pursued was the best and only one and could perhaps save them from that general suspicion in which the gold machines had involved many companies. They had offers from various parties to purchase their mine in order to create large London companies, but they had steadfastly refused to sell. They had had favourable reports from assayers of every class, and numerous certificates sufficient to find employment for half the brokers in town, but they had never drawn a prospectus or spent a sixpence in advertisement, being resolved that suspicion should not have cause to rest upon their doings; therefore the mine engineer was never solicited nor the broker admitted, and it appears they are yet pursuing the same cautious persevering course, for whilst the principal shareholders continue to maintain their large interests undiminished, the smaller ones are endeavouring to increase theirs; and any shares transferred are principally amongst themselves. The meeting concluded with a resolution to advertise for the means best adapted for economically and successfully extracting silver as well as gold.

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No Headline.

Several colliers were summoned for having left their employment at Messrs. Lucas' Collieries, Dronfield, without giving due notice. Mr. Lucas stated that it was customary to give and take a month's notice. The underground steward was called to prove that the men were engaged at those terms. No evidence was however offered to prove that they were informed of that arrangement when they were first employed. The Bench censured so loose a way of procedure, and dismissed the case.

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No Headline.

Barnsley, and its neighbourhood, have achieved a notoriety for colliery explosions. Another has now to be added to the long list which their annals already furnish. On Tuesday morning, a few minutes after 6 o'clock, firedamp exploded at the Lund Hill Colliery, which is situated in a valley between Wombwell and Hemingfield. Such was the violence of the report that it was heard at a distance of several miles. The colliery is the property of Messrs. William Taylor and Company, and has not yet come into working operation, no coal having, up to this, been reached. Four persons were in the shaft at the time the explosion took place. They had descended for the first time since the preceding Saturday, and no sooner had reached the bottom than the foul air came in contact with a naked candle and ignited. The headgear at the top of the shaft, which was of a heavy description, was dislodged and smashed to pieces, and some of the timbering was thrown a distance of fifty yards. A brick-layer, who was about to commence work, was blown into the air to the height of about 30 yards, and then fell to the bottom of the shaft. The workmen in the vicinity hastened to the scene, to render every possible assistance under the awful emergency. A temporary headgear was substituted, and every effort made to render assistance to the unfortunate men. Four bodies, greatly mutilated, were soon taken out, but life was extinct. Two men were also found so seriously injured as not to be expected to recover.