

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 4th. November 1854

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Inquest before Mr. Busby.

On Friday, the 3rd. inst., at Clay Cross, on the body of Allan Radcliffe, a son of James Radcliffe, of Clay Cross, coal miner, aged 5 years. About 5 o'clock on Thursday afternoon the 2nd. inst., deceased was playing near the shaft of an ironstone pit, at Clay Cross, and accidentally fell down the shaft; he was killed instantaneously. Verdict, "Accidental Death".

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Midland Mining Company, Ashover.

A general meeting of the shareholders was held on Tuesday last was held at the Peacock Inn, Chesterfield, the object being to consider the propriety of creating an additional capital for the opening of the mine more fully. The agent's report was of an encouraging character, leaving little doubt that by judicious management the undertaking will prove beneficial to all parties concerned. It was resolved that an additional capital should be immediately made by issuing 1,600 10-0d. shares, giving the present shareholders the preference of taking them.

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Staveley.

On Thursday, the 2nd. of November, a man named George Musson was accidentally killed whilst at work in the Hollingwood Pit, Staveley, by a piece of coal falling upon him. When taken from the pit he was still living, but died shortly after, the nature of his injuries being of a most severe kind. He leaves a wife and two children to deplore his loss.

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A Letter.

Sir,

I find in your paper of last week a report of the bracing up of the new water company, and a suggestion to supply us Bramptonians of Mr. Elliott's dam. I think, whoever set up that scheme had a very faint knowledge of the quality of the water in Mr. Elliott's mill pond, for after leaving the pure springs above Holymoorside, it reaches Mr. Manlove's mills, where it is impregnated with the refuse of his dying- vats, and the contents of his water closets in use for a portion of his millhands. It also passes through Messrs. Hewitt, Longson, and Company's Bleach Works, where it is again adulterated with a portion of vitriol, manganese, soap, lime, etc., and then it reaches the milldam, from which some parties think we ought to be supplied. There we find Mr. Oldfield pumping into it nearly day and night of some old coal works, water which is strongly impregnated with ochre and iron, so that in the end it is little better than the River Thames, of mud and filth, celebrity. It may do to temper clay with, but not, I should say, to mix a pudding or a cup of tea.

I am, Sir, Yours, etc.,
A Bramptonian.

Brampton Moor, November 9th., 1854.

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Eyam Mining Company.

At the monthly meeting of the committee, held at Eyam, they made a sale of ore, the produce of 4 weeks, which realised the sum of £873. A dividend (the fifth since the annual meeting in April last) of 10-0d. per share on old shares, and 5-0d per share on the preference, amounting to £650, was declared payable on the 20th. inst. The state of the works is highly satisfactory, and it is probable that another dividend will be declared very soon.

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Important to Coalminers.

On Saturday last at the Huddersfield Court House, James Parker, a collier, in the employment of Sir John Lister Kaye, bart, was charged before the magistrates with disobeying the lawful commands of the colliery agents, contrary to his contract, under the statute 4th. George 4, cap. 58, sec (commonly called the "Servants Acts"). Mr. Marsden, solicitor, of Wakefield appeared for the complainant, and the defence was sustained by Mr. Roberts, solicitor, of Manchester. Mr. Marsden opened the case by stating that the statute referred to enacted that any collier being guilty of misconduct in service is liable to be committed to prison, to be kept to hard labour for a term not exceeding three months. The facts were briefly as follows: The defendant had contracted to serve Sir J.L.L. Kaye as coalminer, and to obey the lawful command of his agent at the Grange Colliery, where the wise and necessary precaution of using safety lamps is adopted to guard against explosions. It was deemed unsafe to entrust young boys (called hurriers) with lamps when the colliers were not present to control them, as ignorance or inexperience might lead to an ignition of gas which would place in imminent peril the lives of 60 or 70 persons employed in the mine and seriously damage the property. The defendant and other colliers had frequently, in defiance of well considered rules, sent young boys into the works before the men entered in the morning, and had made a practice of abandoning their duties at breakfast times, leaving the boys in the pit to work for them (sometimes in fiery places), whilst the men spent the rest of the day in the public house, or in idleness. The colliery agents gave orders that whenever a man had left the pit he should take the boy out also. The defendant and others have several times been fined for disobeying this salutary recommendation. On the 25th. ult., the defendant and two other colliers, after working a couple of hours attempted to ascend the mine, leaving their boys with the safety lamps in the mine, and when requested to take the boys out along with them, they positively refused, and insisted on being drawn to the bank. For the space of an hour they forcibly stopped the progress of work, and threatened to kill the underground steward if he interfered, and at length a constable was sent for to remove them. Mr. Marsden called Sir John L.L. Kaye's colliery agent (Mr. Beacher) and some other witnesses, who fully substantiated the before mentioned statement. Mr. Morton, the Government Inspector of Coal Mines (who was present) being appealed to by the Magistrates, declared that a fiery colliery, even with locked lamps, could not be safely conducted if young boys were left to their own guidance, and the observance of prudent rules and regulations was not strictly enforced by the managers. The Bench expressed a very decided opinion as to the disobedience and misconduct of the defendant, but manifested a desire to be lenient, in the hope that workmen would take warning, by the investigation. The defendant was committed to hard labour at the Wakefield House of Correction for 14 days. The prisoner instantly replied that he could "stand on his head for that short time", whereupon the magistrates intimated their regret that leniency had been misplaced. Joseph Rawe and John Noble, miners, were then charged with a similar offence at the same colliery, but on being placed at the bar they acknowledged their error, and asked for forgiveness, and Mr. Marsden consequently did not press for a conviction against them.

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Inquest at Staveley.

On Monday last, an inquest was held before C.S.B. Busby, Esq., coroner, on the body of George Masson, of Staveley, collier, aged 24 years. John Gascoyne, Barrow Hill, Staveley, collier, said: - I was in the Hollingwood coal-pit with deceased on Thursday, the 2nd. inst. Deceased was ripping up some coal at 9 a.m., I was 150 yards off; a boy came to me and asked me to go to deceased; I went to him; he had just been pulled from under the coal that had fallen on him. I could see no neglect on deceased's part. Pemberton, the underground manager, and myself, had cautioned deceased that morning. Verdict, "Accidental Death."

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No Headline.

On Saturday night the 4th. instant, two boys of Marsden Moor, near Staveley, got their faces severely burned by the explosion of gunpowder.

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Coal Pit Accident.

On Wednesday last, an inquest was held by Mr. Busby, at Dore, on the body of James Short, collier, who was killed by the fall of a lump of coal from a corve in which it was being drawn to the surface. After hearing the evidence of the two witnesses respecting the casualty, the jury returned a verdict of "Accidental Death".