

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 2nd. February 1856

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Advert - Boythorpe Colliery.

Messrs. Hoskin, Knowles and Company, respectfully inform the public that they are supplying the Boythorpe coals as 5-0d. per ton, at the pits.

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Advert - Wanted.

An Engine Tenter for the pumping engine at Hasland Colliery. A good character and a practical knowledge of pumping is indispensable.

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Thefts at Collieries.

Samuel Fletcher and John Selby, two men who live at Spring Street, Sheffield, were on Monday last, charged before the magistrates at Chesterfield with breaking into and plundering the office of the Tapton Colliery, near Chesterfield. Mr. ??????? appeared for the defence. Selby was discharged, and Fletcher was committed for trial at the assizes. Selby was then committed for trial on a charge of breaking into and stealing a bottle from some works of Messrs. Appleby and Company, at Upper Tapton. Bail was allowed.

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Pit Accident.

A very serious accident happened to a labouring collier, named Thomas Slater, residing at Brampton, on Monday last, whilst engaged in doing some repairs to a shaft of the Speighthill ironstone pits, in the parish of Wingerworth. He was engaged about 8 yards from the bottom of the shaft, when a quantity of bind fell, and large lump struck him with great force on the occiput, by which he was driven down the shaft striking against the timbers as he fell. Besides the severe injuries about the head and shoulders, the right thigh was fractured, and he was bruised in other parts of the body. He was removed without delay to the hospital, where the fracture was reduced by Dr. Walker, and at present the case is going on favourably, but several weeks must elapse before the injured man can resume work again.

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Ashover.

In exploring the old works at the Mill Town lead mine, some caverns have been discovered sufficiently large to contain a cottage. Some parties think they are natural, but others that they are the work of miners, by pumps, candles, etc., having been found there. On Tuesday last, some gentlemen from Clay Cross visited them when one of the party narrowly escaped destruction, by falling from a ladder in ascending the mine. It is not known whether he missed the step of the ladder, or was affected by foul air in the mine; but by the assistance of Mr. Fletcher, of Ashover, who was present, he escaped with some severe bruises, having fallen several yards.

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Park Gate Iron Works.

A large contract for the Government is now being executed at these works. The order is for an immense quantity of metal plates, used in the construction of gun boats. The plates are composed of wrought iron, each measuring 15 feet 6 inches long, 3 feet 1½ inches wide, and 4 inches thick. Each plate takes 6 tons of metal, and when planed and finished its weight is 5 tons. The process of manufacture is peculiar and interesting, and worthy of inspection by the curious in such matters.

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Boythorpe Colliery

Messrs Hoskin, Knowles and Company respectfully inform the public that they are supplying coal at 5/- per ton.

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Damaging Crops by Lime Smoke.

Broadhurst v. the Clay Cross Colliery Company.

The plaintiff is Mr. Benjamin Broadhurst, landlord of the Ambergate Station Hotel, who farms a quantity of land in the locality of the Ambergate Lime Works. The defendants are, Sir Samuel Moreton Peto, baronet, William T. Betts, Sir Joshua Walmesley, M.P., and William Jackson, Esq., M.P. Mr. Newbold, of the firm of Milnes and Newbold, Matlock, appeared for the plaintiff; and Mr. Unwin, of Sheffield, was for the defendants. The plaintiff claimed for loss of wheat crop in Hagg Field, £9-11-7d.; a loss of ditto in the Long Close, £13-11-3d.; a loss of crop of hay, £4-14-0d.; a loss of milk given by three cows, £8-1-0d. Total claims, £35-16-0d. All of which damages were alleged to have been sustained by the reason of the smoke from the limeworks at Ambergate, of which the defendants were the proprietors.

This case created considerable interest for the novelty of the claim, and occupied the court nearly three hours, a great number of witnesses being examined - the majority of whom proved the damage principally arose from bad farming, and not from the effects of the smoke. His honour, giving judgement, said he thought something ought to be allowed for the grass, but as for the corn, there was some difficulty. There was great discrepancy between the valuers, and he considered that, of all persons, surveyors differed more than any other clan. There was no doubt the land had been badly farmed, but from the evidence, he was compelled to throw out the claim for grain. As to the grass, he considered the plaintiff had made out his claim. With regard to the cattle, it appeared a cow milks badly on that land, and improved on other land; but a cow having sustained injury in her milking by bad herbage, could not be recovered till the year had revolved, and she had had another calf. There was no doubt that the loss in that case was made out. His verdict, therefore, was £4-0-0d. for the hay, and for the loss of milk £5- 0-0d.

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Advert - Tapton Foundry, Chesterfield, near to the Railway Station.

Charles Kinder begs to announce that he has on sale large stocks of slate, laths, and nails.

He continues to have the same means at command as heretofore for the supply of castings, in great variety.

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Leader - The Midland Mining Company.

This company, which started the Victoria mine, at Ashover, a year or two back, held a special meeting of the shareholders at the Peacock Inn, Chesterfield, on Wednesday last, for the purpose of discussing whether it be advisable to raise additional share capital to northwards develop the resources of this mine, which we are gratified to hear is beginning to assume a far more encouraging aspect than that which the shareholders till lately entertained of it. In the face of many difficulties they have battled on, through evil report and good report, since they commenced their undertaking, which has proved far more formidable than they originally deemed necessary to provide share capital for. Some unjustifiable remarks respecting the conduct of certain parties by whom the mine was first started, and by whom its affairs had been mainly administered, appeared in the Mining Journal of the 2nd. of February, furnished by a correspondent of that paper, residing in Chesterfield, which have grievously injured the prospects of the mine for a time, which have caused much pain to the parties deeply interested in its issue, feeling, as they ever have done, every confidence, that if properly opened, it would answer their most sanguine hopes of its capabilities to yield a vast supply of valuable ore. A more scandalous or unfounded aspersion on the honour of some of the directors and shareholders, we believe were never uttered, imputing to them as the writer does, direct breach of honesty, "causing a lump of ore, transferred from the mines at Eyam, to be tumbled down the Victoria Mine at Ashover, which was brought up again, and afterwards exhibited at Chesterfield and Mansfield, in the shop windows of tradesmen as the actual produce of that mine". A feeling of indignation at this grossly malicious statement has found vent amongst the shareholders at whom this venomous shaft was hurled, a complete denial has been given to the accuracy to this wanton mis-statement from the writer by whom it was penned, who has offered to apologise for the same, to contradict the accuracy of his information in the columns of that journal, in which it was first promulgated. We had prepared an expose of the pretensions which "Our correspondent in Chesterfield" possesses for the functions which he has taken upon himself to discharge, in respect to mining matters, but shall withhold our remarks until the promised apology has made its appearance, which we expect the Mining Journal of today's date will contain. Whom that correspondent is, (to whom all other correspondents were as a Palmer lamp with a farthing rushlight burning therein, to a Bude light), our mining friends in North Derbyshire will be somewhat surprised, if not vastly amused, to hear. His intimate knowledge of mining operations verily must be of a high order, we may judge of his antecedents in this line of business - his profound acquaintance with geological research extends, we fancy, about as far as his professed insight into the correctness of his statement, with regard to the toppling down of the Eyam nugget into Victoria's maw, and its subsequent fishing up again by the knowing shareholders, who hoisted thereby the value of their shares from £1 to a premium of between £6 and £7 per share. We do not know whether he ever trod earth's subterraneous ways, in search of her hidden treasures, but if he has done so, we imagine it was something like the flying visit the gaditanian paid to satisfy his visual curiosity about the celebrated Roman historian, or the no less renowned Andrew Horner's pilgrimage to the "land o'cakes" on his poetic mission, viz, to take a peep at the object of his fond choice, then, scotchman like, "look-in".

Of the truth of this mining mentor's interesting effusions, the following extract from a statement by Mr. James Bunting, the company secretary, will be the best criterion. He says: - "In reference to the represented trickery of obtaining a piece of ore, either from Eyam or elsewhere, it is base in the extreme, as the ore was got at the Victoria Mine, Ashover, subsequently sold to a

shareholder for 18-0d., and was conveyed to Chesterfield and Mansfield for exhibition. In addition to this, I can say we have had better specimens since. At the time the piece of ore was exhibited, shares were selling at £5 each, so that this, at the most, has only caused the advance of £1 to £2 per share."

If this charitable imputation upon the honour and integrity of certain gentlemen who have adventured their capital in an attempt to develop some of the dormant treasures of these long neglected mines, they have caused lurking suspicion abroad in mining speculators minds; we are happy to find it has caused none nearer home, inasmuch as we hear that it was agreed amongst the shareholders at the meeting on Wednesday, to raise the number of shares from 1212 to 2400 of £1 each, the new shares to bear a preference interest of 7½ per cent over and above all previous shares in this company. These new shares are to be offered to the present shareholders, in proportion to the shares they now hold, and they are to be given to the 6th. of March next to make up their minds as to their acceptance or not of them. In the latter event, they are then to be offered to the public.

This does not exactly look like "winding affairs up" as insinuated by "Our Correspondent in Chesterfield" whom the proprietary of the mine ought to thank blind gracefully for his generous attempts to stigmatise them with a character anything but becoming of men of honour and integrity.

We shall feel no less anxious to feast ourselves on the amende honourable of "Our Correspondent in Chesterfield" than the proprietors of the Victoria Mine, of whose probity and credit he has been so careful to conserve.

For the future, "Our Correspondent in Chesterfield's" valuable contributions on mining matters will be objects of special interest to us, and we shall not fail to give them our most careful attention and consideration.

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Fatal Accident.

An accident, which we are sorry to record has been attended with loss of life, occurred at the Spital Colliery, belonging to R. Barrow, Esq., on Friday morning last. Three miners were employed in sinking the shaft on the newly opened works, when one of them observed indications of the earth above giving way, and he gave the alarm instanter to his companions who made an attempt to escape by climbing up the shaft by aid of the pump pipes running up the side. Two of them fortunately succeeded in getting to the top before the rush of liquid earth had fallen in sufficient quantity to prevent their ascending the shaft, although they were buried up to their very chins in water and mud by the falling of debris. The third workman, named James Baggaley, however, was not so fortunate. The ??? materials completely buried him to the depth of upwards of 17 yards, which it is feared it will take some weeks to remove before he can be got up. He has left a wife and 3 young children. The shaft was commenced some years back, and it was being deepened when the accident occurred, which it is supposed has been mainly caused by the sodden state of the strata, by the water in which it has so long stood.

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Pit Accident.

On Friday morning last, a boy employed at the Speight Hill Ironstone Pits, belonging to the Wingerworth Iron Company, was killed by falling down the shaft.

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Inquest before Mr. Walker.

On Friday, the 22nd. inst., a boy named George Bennett, employed at the Speight Hill Ironstone Pits, belonging to the Wingerworth Iron Company, was killed by falling down the shaft, a distance of 53 yards. He was attempting to descend in the corve, when he missed the chain and overbalanced himself, and fell down. An inquest was held before H.E. Walker, Esq., deputy coroner, last evening at the Barley Mow, Wingerworth, and a verdict of "Accidental Death" was returned.