

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 1st. November 1856.

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Advert - Tapton Foundry.

Castings in great variety, and at reduced prices, supplied by Charles Kinder.

Tapton Foundry, (near the Railway Station), Chesterfield.

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Advert - To Builders, Slaters and Others.

Welsh Slates, of Superior Quality, kept in stock, at Charles Kinder's slate yard, adjoining Tipton Foundry (near the Railway Station), Chesterfield.

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Embarrassment of Fox, Henderson, and Company.

We regret at length to state that the frequent rumours respecting the stability of this important firm, which, singular enough, had died away, when their confirmation was at hand, cannot now be denied; the firm is unable to meet its engagements. On Saturday the fact became known to one or two in Birmingham in the confidence of the house. The liabilities are unsecured and amount to £150,000, the principal creditors being Glyn and Company, the Ebbw Vale Iron Company, etc. According to the statement of Mr. Coleman, the accountant, the assets are more than sufficient to pay 10-0d. in the pound; and it is said that the plant and stock are valued very moderately. A few of the largest creditors met in London on Monday, and the position of the business was thoroughly discussed. The best feeling was manifested towards the principal members of the firm, and although it was not competent for such a meeting to carry resolutions, and therefore nothing was decided upon, it was understood that it would be expedient to pay off all the small debts, say up to £100, and arrange that time should be given to the firm to pay the larger creditors by instalments. The firm have at present large and profitable contracts on hand, and construing the feeling of the meeting, and the obvious interests of the creditors, it is possible that there will be no stoppage of the works, which course, in the event of an arrangement, will be carried on under inspection. We may state that this unfortunate suspension has been caused principally by a serious loss, amounting to about £70,000, by the Danish railway, for which the house contracted.

Birmingham Journal.

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No Headline.

A large number of the workmen employed at the Bishopwearmouth Iron Works, have received notices of discharge in consequence of the depression in the iron trade.

Newcastle Messenger.

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Education of Colliery Children.

A number of the working coalminers in Yorkshire and Lancashire have for some time past been endeavouring to promote the education of their offspring by seeking for the extension of something like the Factory Act to all boys employed in collieries. At present many boys are employed at collieries, either in assisting to get coal, or about the works on "the bank", and little or no time is allowed for their education in school. Some of the clergy and other influential parties have taken the question up, and the draught of a bill has been presented to Earl FitzWilliam, a large coalowner, who it is said cordially approves of it; and before it is brought before Parliament it will be submitted for approval to Lord Wharnccliffe, the Earl of Effingham, and other coal owners. The object of this bill is to render it compulsory for every boy, before being employed at a colliery, to produce a certificate that he has attended school a certain time, and also that when he is so employed he shall be sent to school half his time, the same as the younger workers in factories.

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The Coal Trade.

During the month of September, 1856, the exports of coal from the Northern, Yorkshire, Severn, Scotch ports, and from Liverpool, were 587,744 tons. France is our best customer, taking nearly 100,000 tons. Last year the export during September was 467,799 tons.

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Tremendous Coal Explosion.

Loss of Life.

Cardiff, Monday.

At half past five o'clock this morning a terrific explosion shook the neighbourhood of the West Bute Dock, and was heard as far as St. Fagan's, four miles to the westward of the town. On enquiry it was found to have occurred on board the fine Prussian barque Frederic Retzlaff, from a light taken by a coal-trimmer to commence his work, which ignited a quantity of hydrogen gas escaping from the coal on board and confined by the hatches being down all day (Sunday). The vessel was blown into a complete wreck; two of the crew were killed on the spot; and the mate of the Pandora, lying alongside, was killed by a portion of the wreck falling on his head; ten men were taken to the Infirmary by an engine of the Taff Vale Railway Company, and some deaths were reported to have occurred there, but as yet unascertained. The first mate was blown into the dock and was got out of the water with difficulty; the second mate was blown through the roundhouse on to the quay, and escaped with slight injury; one of the crew was blown on his bed through the ship's side, and was found under no. 7 coal tip unhurt. One of the anchors, weighing nearly two tons, was blown over the fore-stay, a height of 15 feet, and falling into a barge alongside, sunk it; but, providentially, there was no one on board. The coal-tip (No. 7) at which the vessel was loading was set on fire and much damaged, and the adjacent branch of the Taff Vale Railway was covered with debris. The ship took fire, but there being plenty of assistance at hand, the flames were speedily extinguished. The windows of the houses several hundred yards along the Bute Dock Road were broken, and those of the Taff Vale ballast office were wholly blown in; in fact, the concussion was so great that throughout the town it was mistaken for an earthquake, and caused the utmost alarm. The vessel was sunk at her moorings, and is shattered almost to pieces, but her masts are standing, with the exception of the main top-mast blown away.

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The Iron and Coal Trades.

More disasters are disturbing the districts of South Staffordshire and East Worcestershire. The partial stoppage of Messrs. Fox, Henderson, and Company, of the London Works, near Birmingham, and consequently upon it a foundry near Wordsley, has created considerable anxiety, and no one knows what such suspensions may lead to. Preliminary meetings of some of the creditors of the firms alluded to have been held, and the whole of them will be called together in a few days to examine the state of their affairs, and decide whether or not time should be given them for payment, and also the carrying on of their works. Several ironmasters who can do so have agreed to blow out some of their furnaces and reduce their make, as they find it impossible to sell pig iron at present rates to realise anything like a fair margin of profit, and to stock pigs would be unwise at the present high prices of materials.

Wolverhampton Chronicle.

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Coal near London.

Coal is said to have been discovered not far from London, but the exact locality is not stated.

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Inquests by Mr. Busby. (Part).

On Tuesday, the 4th. of November, at the White Swan Inn, Chesterfield, on the body of Francis Grey, of St. Mary's Gate, Chesterfield, colliery labourer, who died on Sunday night, November 2nd., aged 23 years. Deceased was a trammer at the Hollingwood Pit, Staveley, belonging to Richard Barrow, Esq. There is an air-door in the pit which shuts across the tram road and it is the duty of the trammers themselves to open and shut this door when they pass through it. It is in a side gate, which has an inclination of half an inch in a yard downwards, from the stall to the incline. The rail runs of itself and requires to be held back against it. On Thursday last, the 30th. of October, deceased was taking a wagon down the incline, when he allowed the wagon to come too quickly and he was crushed between the wagon and the door. He was got out on the bank in an hour, and taken to the hospital at Chesterfield, where he died about a quarter past six on Sunday evening. Verdict - "Accidental Death".

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The Cymmer Colliery Explosion.

It is understood that the Attorney-General will appear on behalf of the Crown to conduct the prosecution against Mr. Jabez Thomas and other persons against whom a verdict of manslaughter was found by the jury at the Cymmer catastrophe. The case will be tried at the next Swansea Assizes.

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Bessemer's Patent.

The Lord Chancellor gave judgement in this important case on Tuesday morning. His Lordship did not, in his judgement, enter into any examination of the arguments which had been urged at the bar, but simply announced that he had carefully looked through the papers on each side, and that he would grant the Great Seal to Mr. Bessemer, because there was much in his process not contained in that of Mr. Birch. Care should, however, be taken by Mr. Bessemer in his final specifications, not to include any matters likely to infringe on Mr. Birch's patent.

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Advert - To Ironstone Getters.

To be let by private contract the getting of the ironstone in the West Staveley Colliery estate. For particulars, apply at the office of West Staveley Colliery, Whittington, near Chesterfield.

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Advert - To Hauliers, Contractors, and Others.

To be let by private contract the working of the mineral waggons, by horse power, to and from the junction with the Midland Railway, and the pit banks on the branch line. For particulars, apply at the office, West Staveley Colliery works, Whittington, near Chesterfield.

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Eyam Mining Company.

The half-yearly meeting of this company was held on Wednesday, at the Black Rock, Castle Street, Sheffield, Mr. Pitt in the chair. The secretary having read the notice convening the meeting, the chairman read the report as to the working and the future prospects of the company, which were in the highest degree satisfactory. The following statement was read: Mr. Thomas Gregory, solicitor, of Eyam, having addressed several letters to the company's attorney, asserting that his land near the Dusty Pit Mine shaft, was not free to the Company, and having threatened proceedings against them for mining his land, unless some arrangements were immediately made with his assent, Mr. Unwin, and other shareholders in the Mine, waited upon Mr. Gregory, at Eyam, on Friday, the 7th. inst. The result of the interview was that Mr. Gregory had not satisfied the deputation that his land, or indeed any land, within the liberty of Eyam, was not free to the miner, but in fact those gentlemen were of opinion that it was lawful for every miner, in accordance with the custom of mining laws, and also by Act of Parliament, to "dig, delve, subvert, and overturn all manner of lands, meadows, closes, pastures, meres, marshes, etc., for ore, in whose inheritance soever or possession of the same be it", and the committee firmly believed such to be their privileges. Thereupon it was resolved - "That in the event of Mr. Gregory or any other landowner attempting to stop the company in their legitimate mining operations by commencing any action against the company, the committee have full powers to defend any such actions, or take such other steps and pursue such cause in the matter, as to them shall seem best for supporting and defending the rights of the company".

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Suspension of Fox, Henderson, and Company.

A meeting of the creditors, at Birmingham, was held on the 7th. and a statement made in which it appears that the amount of claims upon the firm against which securities are held is £171,689. With regard to the proposals of the other creditors, the impression seems strong that the estimates of £128,700 assets to meet £114,178 of liabilities is likely to be ultimately borne out, especially if the administration of the estate should be conducted with friendly forbearance. Messrs. Glyn and Company are among the creditors fully secured, but they have intimated that, instead of paying themselves at once by forced sales, they will wait for favourable opportunities. Baron Hambro, also a considerable creditor, is acting in a similar spirit. It was determined to carry on by inspection. The inspectors appointed were Messrs. J. Robinson, J.T. Chance, C.L. Browning, S.H. Blackwell and M. Land.

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Fatal Accident.

On Tuesday last a serious accident happened at a pit belonging to the Messrs. Wells, near to Pebley Inn, Barlborough. Joseph Wells, one of the partners, had been removing bricks out of a pit they had given over working, and was leaving his work, and ascending the pit, and got to within a few yards of the top, when the iron at one end of the turn barrel broke in two, and he was precipitated to the bottom of the pit, a depth of about 40 yards, the turn barrel and other parts of the machinery falling in after him. Mr. Wilkinson, surgeon, of Harthill, was immediately sent for, a distance of a mile, but the poor fellow when got out was dead. Deceased was conveyed in a cart to his house at Barlborough, where he lies awaiting the coroner's inquest. His head is dreadfully crushed and beaten in. It is a singular circumstance that Well's wife dreamed last week that she saw him falling into the pit where he was killed, and that she cried out in her dream and awoke him, and mentioning her dream to him. He told her not to take any notice of it, that it was only a dream; but unfortunately it has been too truly fulfilled.

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The Coal Trade in Derbyshire.

Now the winter has commenced in real earnest, the principle contributor to our domestic comfort - coal - begins to be in greater request, and within the past week considerable activity has been displayed at most of our leading collieries. With increased demand an increase in prices will doubtless follow, which will be no small boom to many of our smaller coal-owners, who for several months past having been working their collieries at little or no profit, in consequence of the low figure obtainable even for the best qualities in the leading markets. The Derbyshire coalfield seems likely to partake largely of the increased stimulus, the coals raised in the district being very much in request for domestic and manufacturing purposes, there being almost variety raised at different depths from the surface. Whittington, near Chesterfield, is undergoing a rapid transformation from a secluded country village to an important seat of manufacture. A railway branch of nearly two miles and a half in length is now in an active state of formation, at the expense of W. Fowler, Esq., the enterprising owner of several collieries in the neighbourhood. The branch leaves the Midland Railway line near the Lockoford Works, and for the present will terminate at Sheepbridge, midway between Chesterfield and Dronfield, from which latter place considerable traffic will be derived from the extensive iron-works in that locality. Early in the spring it is intended to continue the line up the Barlow valley, in which are some thousands of acres of coal of the finest quality, as yet untouched and undeveloped, in addition to beds of the most valuable ironstone, which will take several years to exhaust. Near Sheepbridge, several shafts to the Blackshale coal-bed are about to be commenced by a combined company of capitalists to reach which several thousands of pounds will have to be expended. Six new blast furnaces upon ten acres of ground, on a large scale are to be taken in hand very shortly, and it will not be at all surprising if in a few years a thriving hive of industry springs up in this locality, which contains so many elements of wealth within its bosom. At the east end of Whittington a magnificent stack of new furnaces, comprising all the modern improvements in iron and steel is beginning to rear its lofty head, in the erection of which a vast quantity of materials have been consumed from the Ashover and other quarries in the neighbourhood. This is the property of the Messrs. Firth, the eminent steel manufacturers, of Sheffield. In the southern part of the Derbyshire coalfield - several new openings are about to be made in the neighbourhood of Ambergate, where coal is found to exist in large quantities.

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No Headline.

A firm in Staffordshire have taken from Mr. Curwen a 99 year lease of a plot of land contiguous to the harbour at Harrington, Cumberland, for the purpose of manufacturing haematite iron. Contracts have been entered into for the erection of furnaces, and operations have already commenced.

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More Wonders.

The process which Mr. Bessemer has rendered so beautifully simple it is asserted that a Lyons metallurgist has still further simplified, and it is also said that the same individual has performed the greater wonder yet, namely, he has discovered a process by which aluminium can be extracted from any kind of clay, at as little cost as iron can be extracted from iron ore. If that statement should prove to be well founded (and even if it should not who can doubt that the discovery in question will be made before long?), a metal which we already apply to so countless a variety of purposes, and which Mr. Bessemer's invention will enable us to employ to a much greater variety still, will soon be rivalled in cheapness and plentifulness by a metal at once more serviceable and more beautiful than silver. Crossing-sweepers will then eat with better than silver forks, off better than silver plates, food cooked in better than silver pans and kettles. Verily we do live in an age which knows how to advance material civilisation. After this one could scarcely be surprised at any answer to Mr. Cobden's question, "What next?".

Correspondent of Reading Mercury.

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Advert - Newly Invented Anti-Friction Solution.

Gothard and Hudson.

Beg to Inform colliery owners, higglers, carriers, and the interested public generally, that they are now prepared to supply, in large or small quantities, their newly invented

Anti-Friction Solution,

which is acknowledged to be the most economical and durable lubricator now in use. It is suitable for pit trams, waggons, carts, and every description of vehicular conveyance and agricultural implement, and is far superior to the ordinary kinds of grease and oil.

Price 12-0d. per hundredweight, or 2-6d. per gallon.

Address: Gothard and Hudson, Beetwell Street, Chesterfield.

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Chesterfield County Court.

Hackney (Mark) v. Booker and Co.

This is a case adjourned from last Court. The plaintiff, a miner, sought to recover £3-10-0d. for mining work executed for defendant, who are coal-masters at Dronfield. The case so abounded with technicalities, that it was some time before it became at all intelligible, and, His Honour declared he was completely beclouded as to the nature of the claim, and the cause of dispute. From the statements made on either side it appeared that defendants engaged to the plaintiff in June or July last to drive the headings of a coal-pit, for which he was to be paid 35 shillings per yard while working through the stone, and 17-6d for "bind" or soft measures. As it too often happens in these sorts of engagements, no written agreement was entered into. The plaintiff commenced his work, and all went right until he arrived at where the "bind" abounded. He went forward 14 yards, when a dispute arose as to the price to be paid. Plaintiff claimed 7 out of 14 were stone, and for working which he was entitled to 35 shillings per yard, whilst on the other hand defendants contended that only 3 yards were stone, and the other 11 soft measures, for which he was only entitled to 17-6d per yard. Mr. Booker, one of the defendants, agreed to pay plaintiff 35 shillings for 3 yards after he had arrived at the soft measures, but Hackney contended he was entitled to 35 shillings for the 7 yards, and brought the action to recover the balance on the 4 yards for which he had only been paid 17-6d. per yard. His Honour said he would not decide the case unless more satisfactory evidence could be produced, and eventually the case was further adjourned in order that the work might be viewed by some practical man. Mr. Critchlow, Mr. Rangeley's foreman, was fixed upon for referee, and upon his certificate judgement would be given.

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Coal Exports.

According to the monthly statement of Messrs. W. and H. Laird, the export of coal in October was 516,070 tons against 404,086 in the corresponding month of last year.

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Lamentable Accident.

On Saturday last, an accident of a most serious nature happened to Patrick Kelly, an Irish labourer, employed at the Clay Cross furnaces. Whilst engaged in wheeling calcined ironstone from a large heap, which was still very hot in different parts, he incautiously undermined the lower portion, leaving the upper part, which was clinkered or caked together, the metal being in a particularly fused state, unsupported, in which position it remained for some time, apparently unnoticed. After a while a whole mass suddenly came down, and before he could make his escape out of the way, he was embedded in a quantity of the fallen materials nearly up to his middle, and some time elapsed before he could be released, in consequence of the half-fused metallic ore hastily cooling and forming into a compact mass, requiring to be separated before the parties who rushed to his aid could rescue him. During this brief interval the poor fellow was suffering the most excruciating pain from the heated mass in which he was firmly fixed, and he earnestly implored to be carried and thrown into the reservoir close at hand to be relieved from his intense sufferings. When released he was found to be most severely burnt about the legs, the right leg especially being injured to such an extent that amputation was deemed necessary. This was skilfully performed by Mr. Mackarsie, surgeon to the Company's works, assisted by Mr. Holland, of Chesterfield, just above the knee joint. The thigh of the other leg was a most extensive burn in the inside several inches in length, which it is feared has penetrated deeply into the flesh. Up till Wednesday the case was progressing favourably but so fearful are the injuries which the unfortunate sufferer has received in different parts of the body, that his recovery is very doubtful. He now lies in a very precarious state. The great wonder is that he ever survived at all.

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Fatal Accident at a Coalpit.

On Monday last an enquiry was opened at the Furnace Inn, Hasland, before Mr. Busby, coroner, and a respectable jury, touching the death of John Gough, aged 13 years, who was killed at the Wingerworth coalpits, at Walton, on Saturday morning. The body having been viewed and identified, the inquest was adjourned until Thursday, the 27th. inst., when it was resumed. It appeared from the evidence that deceased was employed as labourer at the Tupton coal-pit, Birdholme, in the township of Walton. The colliers ascend and descend the shaft of the pit by means of a "cage" (a square platform, without sides) which is worked by an engine, fixed at some distance from the pits. The banksman signals the engineman when the "cage" is to be raised and lowered, as the case may be. This signalling is effected by means of a wire attached to a knocker in the engine-house. On Saturday morning the deceased was standing on the bridge which crosses the pits mouth, waiting to descend the shaft. The "cage" was then two and a half yards above the level of the pit. The banksman gave the signal to the engine-man to lower the "cage", which he did to below the level of the pits mouth. The banksman signalled for the "cage" to be raised a little, and it was drawn up to the level of the bridge. Deceased put one foot on the "cage", and caught hold of the chain by which he swings with one hand. Just at that moment, without any signal having been given, the "cage" went up a yard and a half, and the lad, either from a fear, or being unable to maintain his hold, fell on to the bridge, and then down the pit, a distance of 72 or 73 yards. He was brought up in five minutes, but was quite dead. He was dreadfully cut about the head, and one leg was broken. Joseph Hoole, the engineman, said he was not aware the engine was going at the moment the "cage" was drawn up. The brake had not sufficient power on the fly-wheel to stop the engine all at once. He had been employed four days at the engine, but he had been for many years employed as an engine-tenter. He had stopped the engine when he received the signal from the banksman, but the brake not being sufficiently strong, the strain caused the "cage" to raise. The jury returned its verdict of Accidentally Killed.

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Claim for Wages.

This was a case adjourned from the last Petty Sessions in which Elijah Wall, a collier, claimed 18- 4d. for wages from Frederick Bousfield, who is employed at the colliery works of Messrs. Pearce, at Whittington. The magistrates, after hearing both sides, dismissed the case.