

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 6th. September 1856

Page 2 Col. 2

Improvement in the Davy Lamp.

A correspondent of the Times states that M. Dubrulle has just perfected Davy's lamp, by establishing a connection between the burner and the shade, so that if the latter is withdrawn the light is put out. Thus are workmen prevented from exposing themselves to the risk of an explosion.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 6th. September 1856

Page 2 Col. 3

Termination of the Oaks Colliers Strike.

This struggle, which has extended over a period of ten weeks, was brought to a sudden termination on Saturday last, in consequence of a number of the men having signed articles to work for the proprietors. The result was that several more were expected to follow, when the committee at once resolved to close the strike. The strike has been a serious loss to the proprietors, amounting to many thousands of pounds, exclusive to the probable loss of many good customers, who have been compelled to get their supplies from other quarters.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 6th. September 1856

Page 3 Col. 1

Accident.

Yesterday (Friday) morning an accident occurred at the ironworks belonging to Richard Barrow, Esq., of Staveley, by which one of his workmen, an Irishman, received severe injury. He was assisting to move a bar of iron weighing 12 cwt., when the chain of the crane to which it was suspended suddenly broke, and the iron fell upon the poor fellows legs, crushing them very severely. He was at once placed in a cart and removed to the Chesterfield Infirmary, where he received every attention his case demanded.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 6th. September 1856

Page 3 Col. 1

Fatal Quarry Accident.

A most melancholy accident, which we regret to state has resulted in the sacrifice of one life, and two other parties have been so severely injured that it is doubtful whether one of them will ever be enabled to pursue any heavy laborious calling again. It occurred at the Bole Hill quarries belonging to the Messrs. Rutherford, of Wingerworth, on Monday afternoon last. It appears that William Higginbottom, Francis Bower, C. Wharton, and others were following their usual employment in the quarry, when a quantity of dirt and stone which were lying undermined unexpectedly fell, a portion of which caught Higginbottom as he was attempting to escape, and partially buried him, his legs being pinned under a quantity of the debris, but the upper part of his person seems to have been clear of the mass and not injured. Bower and Wharton at once rushed towards their companion to release him, but they had scarcely laid hold of him for that purpose before another fall took place, among which were several massive pieces of stone, which fell upon poor Higginbottom's chest and shoulders, and completely crushed him to death. Both of Bower's legs were also broken, and he was otherwise injured in a most serious manner. After securing the spot from any further harm, the workmen set about the extrication of the unfortunate men, and they were as speedily as possible released from the fallen mass. Higginbottom was quite dead, but the other two men were still living, although terribly shattered, especially Bower, whose injuries were above detailed. The assistance of Messrs. Holland and Jones, surgeons, of Chesterfield, was procured as soon as possible, and the fractures were reduced. He was placed in a cart and taken to the Infirmary at Chesterfield, which he reached about 8 o'clock. Wharton was removed to Mr. Rutherford's dwelling house, where he still remains, it being considered dangerous to remove him to Alton, in the parish of Ashover, where all the men reside. According to the last account, Bower was going on as well as could be expected, taking into consideration the severe injuries which he has received.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 6th. September 1856

Page 3 Col. 2

Robbery.

On Sunday morning, about 2 o'clock, a most daring robbery was committed on John Marshall, the engine-tenter at the Birdholme pits, in the parish of Wingerworth, belonging to the Derby Lane Iron Company. Whilst Marshall was proceeding outside his cabin to attend to his engine fire, he was felled to the ground by a heavy blow from a stick, and two men pounced upon him before he could give the least alarm to the men in the pit. They snatched his watch from his fob, worth between five and six pounds, and then decamped as fast as they could, all traces of them being lost in a few seconds. Two suspicious men were seen on the road at the dusk of night, and there can be no doubt they had hovered about the cabin until an opportunity presented itself to commit the robbery. It is surmised that they belong to the same party who perpetuated the robbery a night or two previous, by breaking into the parish church, for which they succeeded in carrying off about £2-0-0d. in money, chiefly in silver.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 6th. September 1856

Page 4 Col. 3

Fatal Accident in a Coalpit.

On Friday, August 29th., Mr. Busby, coroner, held an inquest on the body of John Walker, a lad 15 years of age, who was killed on the previous day in a colliery belonging to Messrs. Dunn and Company, Birley Vale, Beighton. Deceased was "holing" coal in the No. 9 pen when a mass of coal slipped and fell upon him. An hour and a half elapsed before he could be extricated, and though just alive he died on reaching the mouth of the shaft. The slip was purely accidental, and no blame is attached to anyone. Verdict "Accidentally Killed".

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 6th. September 1856

Page 4 Col. 3

Accident at the Wingerworth Stone Quarry.

On Monday afternoon a serious accident occurred in a stone quarry belonging to Mr. Rutherford, of Wingerworth, by which one man lost his life, and two others were severely hurt. About two o'clock in the afternoon of Monday, the 1st. of September, a number of labourers were employed getting stone in the quarry, which is open, and worked perpendicularly, when unexpectedly a mass of from 15 to 20 tons of stone slipped and fell (in pieces) a distance of 15 feet, upon three of the quarrymen. Two of the men were only buried up to the waist, and were got out alive, but the other, a labourer, named Joseph Higginbotham, was so completely wedged in by the masses of stone, that 28 men were engaged for nearly two hours before he could be extricated. When got out he was quite dead, though he lived an hour and a half after the stone fell upon him. On Tuesday, the 2nd. September, Mr. Busby, coroner, held an inquest on the body at the Barley Mow public house, Wingerworth, where evidence in accordance with the above facts having been adduced, the jury returned a verdict of "Accidentally killed".

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 6th. September 1856

Page 4 Col. 3-4

Loss of Life at a Colliery.

On Tuesday, the 2nd. September, an inquest was held (by adjournment from the 16th. of August), at the Old Butcher's Arms Inn, Oakerthorpe, before C.S.B. Busby, Esq., coroner, touching the circumstances attending the death of Edward Radford, aged 45, and William Wagstaffe, aged 35, who were killed on the 13th. of August last, by the falling of some brickwork in a shaft of the Highfield Colliery, belonging to Mr. William Worswick, in the hamlet of Oakerthorpe, parish of South Wingfield. The evidence disclosed a lamentable disregard on the part of those in charge of the works, for the safety of the workmen, the coroner severely censured Mr. Lee, the manager, Pickering, the engineer, and Bishop, the watchman of the shaft for the culpable negligence and indifference they had manifested for the safety of those employed in the shaft. The manager had taken no precautions to ensure the safe prosecution of the work; the engineer was in bed at the time of the accident, and refused to get up when informed of it, and Bishop, the night-watchman, who was away from his post when the fatality occurred. The jury returned a verdict "that the deceased were accidentally killed by the falling of some brickwork in a shaft of Highfield Colliery".

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 6th. September 1856

Page 4 Col. 4

A Revolution in the Iron Trade.

Speaking of Mr. Bessemer's recently promulgated discovery in the production of iron, the *Wolverhampton Chronicle*, a journal which speaks on the matter with the voice of the Staffordshire ironmasters, says; - "a discovery so simple, yet so great and unexpected, and the results so extensively important, that some amount of doubt as to its immediate perfection may be excusably entertained. There is not, so far as we understand, any chemical difficulty whatever in the way of invention. On the contrary, through its chemical action - that is, by the infusion of compressed atmospheric air into the mass of melted iron in the cylinder - it works the chemical changes effected by puddling, and at the same time supplies that mechanical motion in a mass which the puddler with his long iron bar can only with great labour effect. The liquid iron, owing to the intense heat gained, literally boils, and bubbles, and the scum is cast off; and taken from the cylinder in the state it is "semi-steel"; allowed to remain a little longer, it becomes, as thickened liquids after the evaporation of portions of the aqueous contents often do, of a pasty and stringy character - of that consistency which gives the fibre to the iron. We take it for granted that the cost of the production of iron will be materially diminished, and the consequent appliance of it to many purposes yet unperceived take place; hence a greater demand, a greater manufacture, and greater employment."

Derbyshire Times.

Tuesday 9th. September 1856

Page 3 Col. 1

No Headline.

The Cardiff Guardian says that the Taff Vale Railway have magnificently shown their sympathy, and acknowledged their connection with the Vale of Rhondda collieries, by voting £400 to the relief of sufferers at Cymmer. His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales has subscribed £50.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 13th. September 1856

Page 2 Col. 2

Mr. Bessemer's Discovery.

We condense the following from the Birmingham Journal: - The invention of Mr. Bessemer with a view to the conversion of crude metals into malleable iron has produced an extraordinary sensation in the iron trade, not in this district alone, but in Wales, in Scotland, and on the Continent. That Mr. Bessemer has made a discovery which may hereafter lead to very important results is not to be denied, but he has placed it before the public in a remarkably crude form; but this has been done - the trade has been thrown into confusion; people are holding back their orders, and every ironmaster of importance is received with applications from all who are interested in the trade, for information as to what will be the effect of the new discovery. Now we have no hesitation in saying that there will be no immediate effect; indeed, we have reason to know that Mr. Bessemer himself admits that there are considerable difficulties yet to be overcome; we must also add, that for some reason or other he has not taken the best means of having his invention fully tested. Several small pieces were shown here on Thursday by gentlemen who had witnessed the experiment, and who also admit that there are very great difficulties yet to be got over. A small piece of "finished" iron, four or five inches long, was made from the wrought iron produced in Mr. Bessemer's process, at one of the works in this district on Thursday morning, but it was stated that it had been hammered up prior to the operation. But we are unable to go further than this; it has been stated openly, and upon most respectable authority, that wrought iron, produced by Mr. Bessemer's plan, was submitted to the test of rolling for finished iron, but nothing remained but dust, which was gathered up in a shovel. If such is the quality of the malleable iron made upon the new principle, why of course the trade is not likely to be revolutionised at present. There may be exaggeration in this statement, but we have no reason to believe that it is otherwise than that stated, at least it proves the necessity of having the experiment fairly tested. Further, we may add a statement made to us, which, if correct, is certainly somewhat extraordinary; it is that those who have been present at experiments made in London have not been permitted to fully satisfy themselves as to their character; another reason certainly why there should be experiments made in this district. Many remarkable stories have been afloat as to terms already offered to the inventor for permission to use his process; the patent for Belgium is said to have been licensed for a large sum; yesterday it was very confidently stated by a gentleman who had been present at last Monday's experiments, that a house in Wales had secured the license for the principality for a consideration of £10,000 for twelve months, with a further sum of 10-0d. per ton on royalty, and some ulterior advantage. The name of the house was not given, neither was the report credited by those who know the Welsh ironmasters; indeed, nothing is more improbable than that in the present very imperfect state of the discovery any such bargain should have been entered into.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 13th. September 1856

Page 2 Col. 2

New Mode of Manufacturing Iron and Steel.

The new process of manufacturing iron and steel, recently patented by Mr. Bessemer, was tried at the Dowlais works last week. By this process the crude iron runs from the blast furnaces along a gutter into a vessel somewhat like an ordinary cupola furnace, when the cold blast is turned on. By this means, contradictory as it may appear, a heat inconceivably intense is generated, caused by the oxygen of the atmosphere combining with the carbon contained in the iron. There is a rapid boiling up of the metal, which is tossed violently about and dashed from side to side, throwing off the silica and other earthy bases which are combined with the crude iron. In half an hour a malleable iron or steel, fit for working in the forge, is produced, wholly dispensing with the intermediate process of making iron into pigs, refining, puddling, and squeezing, with their attendant labour and cost of fuel. It is asserted that by this new mode a much better quality of iron can be produced, and at a cost of £2 a ton cheaper than by the ordinary process of the last 70 years. At Dowlais the blast pipes by some means became clogged, so that the full amount of cold air could not be brought into contact with the liquid metal; nevertheless, the experiment was considered eminently successful. Iron of a tolerable quality was produced, capable of being worked by smiths into the various articles that may be required. This new process of manufacturing malleable iron will no doubt be speedily brought into general use, and produce a complete revolution at the various works.

Merthyr Guardian.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 13th. September 1856

Page 2 Col. 5

Midland Railway.

The Ripley branch of this railway was opened for passenger traffic on Monday, the 1st. instant. It is about 10 miles in length, running parallel with the turnpike road from Derby to Ripley, and is a single line, but, from the great activity in the several coalfields adjacent, it is believed that ere long a double line will be required. Most of the collieries in the district are being extended to meet the increased demand for coals consequent on the improved means of transit; they include the Kilburne, Marehay and Whiteleys, and other collieries. The Marehay and Whiteleys companies in addition to their existing works, are sinking in close proximity to the line, a large shaft at Whiteleys, which, it is expected, will be finished and ready for working in a few weeks. The Butterley Company are also opening a large coalfield near the terminus at Ripley; two very wide shafts being sunk in the midst of an excellent pillar of coal. The seams of coal there lie very deep, so that, although the sinking is being proceeded with as rapidly as possible, it is not expected that these pits will be got fully into work until the end of 1857. The Butterley Company are constructing a line of rails through their extensive coalfields from the Erewash Valley to join the Ripley branch. When all these works are in full operation they will furnish a large mineral traffic for the new line. The trains are arranged so as to run three times a day each way.

Derbyshire Times.

Tuesday 16th. September 1856

Page 2 Col. 3

Opening of a new Coal-field

The Blackshale bed of coal has just been reached by the sinkers employed at the West Staveley collieries by Messrs. Muschamp, Harrison and Canter, a Barnsley firm. The two shafts in question, which were commenced under the superintendence of Mr. Harrison, about twelve months ago, are nine feet in diameter within the walls, and ninety yards in depth from the surface. They have been executed in an expeditious and substantial manner; and it has also been gratifying for the proprietors that no accident has hitherto occurred to any of the men employed in the undertaking. The measures, in some instances, were of remarkable strength, there being several yards of rock and ironstone to pass through, which necessarily impeded the operations but ultimately proved advantageous, as the mine now possesses "a safe, strong roof". The seam is of a superior quality, being virtually the old Silkstone; and there are five feet of pure coal, clear and bright in its appearance, and for consumption characterised by all the excellences of the celebrated Staveley beds of coal. The present proprietors have arranged for the working of more than 300 acres of this coalfield.

Correspondent to the Manchester ????????????

Derbyshire Times.

Tuesday 16th. September 1856

Page 2 Col. 4

Colliery Explosion at Oldbury.

The last of the five inquests held upon the bodies of the eleven men and lads who were killed by the explosion at the Lord Ward's Ramrod Hall Colliery, near Oldbury, on the 13th. of August, took place of Friday, September 12th., at the Dudley Arms Hotel, before R. Docker, Esq. At the conclusion of the evidence, the foreman announced that the Jury found that Baker's act in taking down a fire in his basket was a wilful act. After some explanations, the verdict was returned that he had wilfully and recklessly neglected to perform his duty. The jury again retired for half an hour. On returning the foreman said: "We think that Baker wilfully did it; we can't think that he maliciously did it". A verdict of manslaughter was then recorded against Baker.

Derbyshire Times.

Tuesday 16th. September 1856

Page 2 Col. 5

Rating of Mines.

The select committee appointed to enquire into the law and practice of the rating of mines have published the evidence taken before them. They say: - "Your committee have entered, late in the Session, upon an enquiry, large and complicated in its nature, embracing the question of rating throughout the whole of the mineral districts of England and Wales, and have not been able to extend the enquiry beyond the districts of Cornwall, Devon, and Derbyshire. They have therefore confined themselves to reporting the evidence taken before them, and they would recommend the reappointment of the committee in the next session of Parliament" ..

Derbyshire Times.

Tuesday 16th. September 1856

Page 3 Col. 2

Discovery of Ancient Coins. (Part)

On Saturday last a quantity of silver coins of the reigns of Edward the 6th., Elizabeth, James the 1st., and Charles the 1st., was dug up by some workmen employed under the Messrs. Carrington and Company, of the Derby Lane Ironworks, at Speight Hill, in the parish of Wingerworth, forming a highly interesting collection of coins in these reigns, the pieces being in a very fair state of preservation, and the silver of which they are composed, being exceedingly pure for the period at which they were minted. Whilst removing the soil from the surface of the ground with a view to preserve it for the restoration after the ironstone pits shall have ceased to be worked, the labourer employed, observed several coins of a clayey colour at about a spade's depth from the surface, which led him to make a further examination. After carefully turning up the soil, he discovered 53 coins in close contiguity, having been apparently deposited altogether in a bag or stocking, or some such receptacle, which after the lapse of many years had completely decayed, leaving the pieces to mix with the clay in which they were embedded. The pieces were carefully picked out by the workmen and the ground further examined, but no clue to any other deposit was obtained, near the spot. Parties brought the coins to a watchmaker living in Chesterfield, who having examined them, and ascertained that they were genuine silver, purchased the whole after the rate of 5-3d. per ounce, the price of old silver. On washing away the clay it was discovered that the pieces consisted of what appeared to be shillings and sixpences of the reigns above denoted, although the larger pieces were about the size of the present "florin", and the smaller about that of a shilling, but much thinner, and the circular form somewhat imperfect, which may be partially accounted for by the time they had been underground, and the greater liability their thinness rendered them to be chipped by a slight pressure of the fingers.

(The articles carries on to describe them).

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 20th. September 1856

Page 2 Col. 1

Letter - Colliers and their Employers.

Sir, I wish, through the medium of your valuable journal, to call the attention of the public to what I consider, and what everyone must consider, a piece of great injustice, namely, - the power vested in magistrates of compelling one party to a contract to comply with the terms of such contract, while they have not the power to compel the other party to fulfil their part. I allude to the fact of colliers, both in this district, and indeed throughout the country, being brought before the magistrates, for their leaving their respective places of work without having given previous notice of their intention to do so; and who are almost invariably ordered by the magistrates to return to their work, and pay the costs incurred. Should they refuse to return and serve out the usual notice, they are sent to prison. Now, I do not mean to say, that it would be fair on the part of colliers, or any other operatives, to leave their employers at a moment's notice, unless the said employers had been guilty of some unjustifiable act towards them. Indeed, it would be very unfair, and might cause serious inconvenience, by stopping the whole or a part of the works. But what I contend is, that as a magistrate has not the power to compel payment for piece-work (and the majority of colliers work by the piece), therefore, although any collier working on the above plan may have agreed to give notice of his intention to leave, but still leaves without doing so, it is unjust on the part of a magistrate to force him to go back, because the magistrates could not compel his employer to pay him his wages at the expiration of his notice. In that case he would have to resort to the County Court, and the County Court would render him no assistance if he happened to have no money to pay the fees. The case, then, amounts to this, - a magistrate can force a man to work, under pain of fine or imprisonment; his employer can, if he chooses, refuse to pay him his wages; and, if he be without money, the County Court will not help him. We talk of Russia: - is there in Russia a law more unjust than this? - I remain, Sir, your very obedient servant.

William Maycock

Furnace Hill, Walton, Chesterfield.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 20th. September 1856

Page 2 Col. 1

Bessemer's Patent.

At the last meeting of the Liverpool Polytechnic Society, it was stated that experiments had been made at the Mersey Iron Works for the purpose of testing Mr. Bessemer's plan for the manufacture of iron. A small quantity of the iron, after having been heated under the new plan, had been rolled in one of the mills. After this process it was considered by practical men as nothing better than burnt cast iron instead of refined iron. In place of being like wrought iron, a showing a fibrous texture, it had a most brilliant crystalline appearance.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 20th. September 1856

Page 3 Col. 2

Chesterfield Police.

Divisional Petty Sessions.

Municipal Hall, Saturday, September 13th. - (before E.G. Maynard, Esq., and W. Milnes, Esq.)

Brewster's Sessions.

The Bench was engaged a considerable time hearing applications for public-house licenses for various parties residing within the Petty Sessional division. Mr. Busby appeared for the majority of the applicants.

Mr. Thomas Dyson, grocer, of Staveley, applied for a license for a beer-house in Staveley. The Bench considering additional beer-house accommodation to be quite unnecessary - refused the license.

Mr. Busby made application on behalf of Mr. Benjamin Rodgers, of the Devonshire Arms, situate at the Three Lane Ends, at Handley, in the parish of Staveley. Mr. Busby urged in support of the application that there was no such house within a considerable distance of the spot, which was contiguous to one of Mr. Barrow's largest pits; accidents occasionally occurred at this pit, and in his (Mr. Busby's) capacity as coroner for the district he had often experienced inconvenience in the absence of such a house, the inquests having to be held in the school-room, which was both objectional and inconvenient. A certificate was put in signed by the Rev. W. Macfarlane, the churchwardens, and other parishioners, in favour of the application. It was stated that should the license be granted the Duke of Devonshire (to whom the property belongs) will erect a commodious house in lieu of the existing one. The Bench, after a long consultation, granted the application.

Mr. John Hopkinson, of West Handley, who had given notice of a similar application, then withdraw it - two licensed houses in the same locality being quite unnecessary.

Mr. Busby next made a similar application on behalf of Mr. Sidney Orwin, of the Miner's Arms, at the east end of the parish of Whittington. The house, he said, had been recently erected at a considerable expense, and it had been constructed with a view to afford every accommodation for the purpose of a public-house. In the immediate neighbourhood extensive collieries had been commenced by Messrs. Harrison, Muschamp, and Company, as well as the erection of furnaces at a steel works by the Messrs. Firth, which had given a great stimulus to building operations, and already a small village was springing into existence. The Springwell collieries were also within a short distance, and there was no similar accommodation within a considerable distance of the house, the village of Whittington being the nearest point. He then put in a memorial signed, by the overseers, churchwardens, and others approving of the application, and recommending it to the favourable consideration of the Bench. Among the signatures were those of Messrs. Harrison, and Company, W. Black, Esq., and the junior warden of the parish of Whittington. The Bench considering that a large population was likely to exist in that part of Whittington, granted the application.

Mr. Cutts, jun., applied for a license of behalf of Mr. John Hollingworth, of the Malt and Shovel, in the last named house. The Bench refused the application.

Application was made for a license on behalf of Mr. Salmon, of Brimington Common, where a large population is growing up, chiefly in the ironworks there and at the neighbouring pits. The house is within half a mile of Brimington, where there are three licensed houses. The application was refused.

The license of the White Horse, Whittington, kept by Mr. Joseph Hartley, was restored, the former one having been suffered to lapse last year, the then occupant having omitted to seek its renewal.

Mr. Cutts applied for a license on behalf of Mr. Paul Turner, and Mr. Edmond Williamson, of Staveley, both of which the Bench at once refused to grant.

Mr. Busby, made an application on behalf of Mr. Hrown (?) of the Crispin beer-house, Ashgate Road, Upper Brampton, near to the new colliery works of Messrs. Goodwin, Swallow, and Company, for whose workmen it was urged to be necessary. A memorial signed by the churchwardens, assistant overseer, S. Melland, Esq., Messrs. Goodwin and Swallow, L. Knowles, and others was put in, recommending the application. Mr. Waller (the town clerk), and Mr. Cutts opposed the application, which was refused.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 20th. September 1856

Page 3 Col. 3

Leaving a Colliery.

George Jowitt, a collier, was committed for fourteen days imprisonment, with hard labour, for absenting himself from an engagement under Messrs. Goodwin and Swallow, of the Inkermann Colliery, Brampton, without having given due notice.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 20th. September 1856

Page 3 Col. 5

The Bessemer Process.

A report upon the Yorkshire Iron trade is the Manchester Guardian says - "The Butterley Iron Company have been making experiments with the Bessemer plan, and have transmitted several pieces of the metal, after being made into what the inventor calls semi-steel, to a large steel firm at Sheffield, for experimental purposes, in order to ascertain whether the iron, after being made into ingots, can be practically worked up for cutlery purposes. The Derwent Iron Company, who have made some of the largest pieces of malleable iron known, and for which they have on several occasions obtained prizes, have tested the invention of Mr. Bessemer successfully. We hear that Mr. Bessemer is preparing to make some experiments in Manchester, in obedience to the request of a number of the trade, and that for the purpose he will erect one of his furnaces. The trade will be admitted, by invitation, to witness the process of the invention". - In the Wolverhampton Chronicle, of Wednesday, we read: - "There is not, we believe, anything fresh to state respecting Mr. Bessemer's invention. No specification has as yet been filed, nor can we suppose that it will be entered until within a few days of the limited time in February next. In the meantime, experiments, we have reason to believe, will be vigorously continued. It is certainly too much to say that the discovery has fulfilled the required conditions; but it would be exceedingly rash to come to the conclusion, as some have done, that through the invention no improvement can be effected. Experiment and practice alone can test its merits, and this call seems to be about to be extensively taken".

Derbyshire Times.

Tuesday 23rd. September 1856

Page 3 Col. 3

The London Coal Trade.

The importation of sea-borne coals into London, from the 1st. of January to the 31st. August, 1856, amounted to 1,998,173 tons. During same period in 1855, the amount was 1,943,804 tons; showing an increase of 44,369 tons. Coals by railway and canal from the 1st. January to the 31st. August, 1856, amounted to 807,878. During the same period last year the amount 677,790 tons; showing an increase of 130,688 tons.

Derbyshire Times.

Tuesday 23rd. September 1856

Page 4 Col. 4

"Walls-end Coals".

It is curious to reflect that the above name for every day fuel is derived from our Roman conquerors. At the eastern termination of the great Roman wall was midway between Newcastle-upon-Tyne and the sea, at a large colliery (now worked out) which has produced an excellent description of household coal, therefore called Walls-end coal; the high estimation of which has led to the appellation being extended to other kinds.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 27th. September 1856

Page 2 Col. 3

A Relic of Ancient Seas.

At the Pippin mine, Eyam, belonging to the Eyam Mining Company, was found, a short time ago, a beautiful and surprisingly perfect cast of a Bellerophon, a fossil shell of the genus *Monothalamous*, nearly applied to the *Argonantae*. This splendid relic is deposited in the Eyam Library.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 27th. September 1856

Page 3 Col. 2

Davenport (Thomas) and Brown (Ensor) v. Goodwin, Swallow and Swallow.

Mr. Busby appeared for the defendants. The plaintiffs, who are ironstone getters, claimed £16-19- 8d. for getting 42 tons 12 hundredweights of ironstone, and driving 14 yards of heading from Messrs. Goodwin and Swallow, who are proprietors of the Inkermann Colliery, Brampton. The plaintiffs contracted with the defendants to drive the headings of an ironstone pit, and get the ironstone, at 6-0d. per yard and 6-0d. per ton respectively. The terms of the contract were, that whilst the headings were being driven, which is a laborious and unprofitable process preliminary to the ironstone being got out, they were to be paid 6-0d. per yard, but that when they were getting the ironstone, 6-0d. per ton was to be deducted for the advance made during the time the headings were being driven. The men continued to work until the 21st. August, when the damp having got into the pit, they were compelled to discontinue work, and the plaintiffs alleged that the sum claimed was then due. His Honour strongly condemned the practice of making contracts that uncontrolled circumstances might prevent being fulfilled, as in this case. The men were willing to work, but could not do so on account of the damp. The sixpences must be deducted, and that would leave plaintiffs £13-1-5d. Order made accordingly.

Derbyshire Times.

Tuesday 30th. September 1856

Page 2 Col. 1

Coal as a Source of Nitrogen.

It appears that coal, on an average, contains 2 per cent of nitrogen - and that thus at least half a million pounds worth of ammonia (at 5d. per pound) is driven into the air through the chimneys of the metropolis alone - nearly as great a loss as is suffered by the waste flowing into the Thames through its sewers. Professor Way suggests that, though manufacturers of gas try but little to save this ammonia, yet it might be possible in certain cases to conduct the distillation of coal profitably, with ammonia as the principle end in view, and coke and gas as subsidiary considerations; and when coal, as at the pit mouth, can be had for four shillings or five shillings a ton, then can be made to yield by distillation twenty shillings worth of ammonia, the manufacture of the latter product in this way might be profitably conducted.

Derbyshire Times.

Tuesday 30th. September 1856

Page 2 Col. 1

Mr. Bessemer's Invention.

An eminent authority on all matters metallurgical, writing to a friend of his in Birmingham, says, with reference to Mr. Bessemer's process: - "The idea of producing wrought iron without mechanical labour is to me ridiculous. He professes to tap off the metal like pig iron, but what I saw tapped off was as fluid as pig iron, and apparently at about the same temperature. Now you and I know something about the infusibility of wrought iron. As the removal of the carbon is effected, the iron becomes a pasty, comparatively infusible mass; but the oxidation must be carried beyond the degree at which the metal ceases to be liquid (You may be assured that wrought iron is not melted in Bessemer's apparatus); and how then can Bessemer's jets of air get at the interior of such a mass? It is a manifest impossibility. Imagine a big crucible, like Bessemer's apparatus, containing 7 or 8 hundredweight of metal in that state. The process is a modification of the refinery process." Speaking of an experiment at which he was present: - "One or two good practised men, who were present with me, said the metal looked to them like "burnt iron". There are some curious points to be investigated. An ingot is quite cellular, brittle - cannot be rolled - without further manipulation, brilliant, and apparently consists of little grains possessing only a slight degree of malleability, agglutinated together". Respecting an experiment on some of the grains of metal, he says: - "There were flattened under the hammer, but the edges were cracked all round. That a kind of cast steel may be produced I doubt not. Let the puddler's lay their fear, for at present at least of Bessemer's process, I think (I may be wrong, but I don't think I am), will not replace puddling".

Birmingham Journal.

Derbyshire Times.

Tuesday 30th. September 1856

Page 2 Col. 3

A Colliery flooded.

The heavy rains that have fallen since Saturday have overflowed the colliery works belonging to the Reverend Mr. Pierce, at Whittington, near Chesterfield, and work is entirely stopped. The headings are filled to the extent of 6 or 8 feet deep, so that several hundred pounds damage has been done. A great portion of the roof of the colliery has fallen in, and in many places the surface of the ground is completely honeycombed. So rapid was the rush of water - increased by the bursting of several old headings - that one pony was drowned before it could be rescued, and the rest of the horses were saved with the utmost difficulty. Mr. Pierce's loss will be very heavy.