

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 4th. April 1857.

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The Lundhill Colliery Explosion.

Upwards of a week has now elapsed since the commencement of operations for emptying the pit, during which time the proceedings have gone on with the greatest rapidity, and no interruptions have taken place. Rumours have been afloat on several occasions that some portions of the bodies of the unfortunate men killed by the explosion have been drawn out with the water. These reports, however, had no foundations, and nothing has yet been drawn out along with the water except pieces of wood and other debris. A month at least will elapse before a great number of bodies will be reached, even if no considerable delay take place. Many of them, it is to be feared will have been altogether consumed, particularly those in the vicinity of the cupola (and being dinner hour there was a large number there) by the fire, which raged most fearfully in that part of the pit. The subscriptions for the relief of the sufferers up to the present time amount to nearly £8,000, and the suggestion of Mr. Joseph Locke, M.P., - the forming of a Permanent Fund for the relief of the widows of miners killed by accidents in coal mines, and the forming of an institution for the education and bringing up of the children, is likely to be carried out. The suggestion met with considerable encouragement, and there is no doubt but that the colliery proprietors of the district will liberally contribute towards the establishment of an institution, the want of which has long been acknowledged, and which will be the means of doing an incalculable amount of good to a class hitherto little thought of or cared for.

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No Headline.

On Saturday, the 28th. of March, 1857, an inquest was held at Oakerthorpe, before Mr. Busby, on the body of William Walker, of Belper, labourer at ironstone pits, aged 56 years. Deceased worked for the Oakerthorpe Company getting ironstone at the openwork called the Brown Rake, at Oakerthorpe. He was working on Friday, the 27th., holing to get out as much as he could from the bottom without shifting the top, when the face fell on him and buried him all but his face. The stuff was got off him and he was taken to the Anchor Inn, Oakerthorpe, but he died as soon as he got there. Verdict, "Accidental Death".

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Police Intelligence (part).

Samuel Fletcher was brought up charged with leaving a steam-engine of which he had the charge, at the Black Shale Colliery, Staveley. It appeared that defendant ought not to have left the engine until a certain signal had been given. Fined £1-0-0d. and costs.

Herbert Hawkins was fined 2-6d. and costs for neglecting his work at a colliery at North Wingfield.

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No Headline.

Three men were killed by an explosion of fire damp at a colliery near Swansea, on Friday.

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Letter.

Sir, Colliery accidents have of late in this neighbourhood been frequent, fatal, and frightful. What awful calamities have befallen the inmates of many a household in the destruction of fathers, sons, and brothers! What widows and orphans are now lamenting the untimely fate of those who in life they held dear indeed! No doubt often these accidents have been the result of carelessness and inattention, and sometimes of causes over which they have no control, but I fear in many cases, that the proprietor neglecting to provide tools and general working gear of such quality and material as would greatly tend to assure the life of the working miner in his most hazardous employment. An instance of the last mentioned class occurred the other day in the Wingerworth Estate. A neighbour of mine, who is employed there, together with three other men, were about to ascend the shaft at the conclusion of their day's labour, but fortunately there happened to be a corve of slack in the chair, and thus two men were saved from being dashed to pieces. The corve of slack was hoisted nearly to the pit's mouth, when the chain snapped, and the corve was precipitated to the bottom, smashing all before it; fortunately the men were under the protection of the roof or they would have been smashed too. I have frequently observed on all grounds where chains instead of ropes are used, that by constant friction and exposure to the weather these chains hang together by the merest thread, and the only wonder is that there are so few accidents by their snapping in two under the strain they are subjected to. Chains ought in no instance to be allowed. I am sorry to bring this subject thus publicly before your readers, and the only consideration that induces me to do so is - to induce those in whose hands the lives of so many are placed, to have nothing undone to render the precarious tenor of a colliers life, as secure, as good tools, good gear, and good management can make it.

Yours Faithfully, L.S.

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Bankruptcy of Fox, Henderson, and Company.

The balance sheet shows a nominal surplus of £35,248. In the Times it is said these figures seem unexpectedly favourable, but it is nevertheless affirmed that the valuation of the assets has been made with care, and that a very satisfactory final result may be hoped for.

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Fatal Colliery Accident.

On Monday last, a fatal accident occurred at the Wharncliffe Silkstone Colliery, to a man named John Sanderson, aged 32 years. Deceased was engaged as coal miner, and was going on with his usual work, when part of the roof fell upon him. A projecting mass fell upon his head, and several tons of coal and roof having fallen upon him, it was with some difficulty that he was extricated; but life was extinct when he was taken out.