

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 3rd. January 1857.

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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 - 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, wagons, 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 cwt., or 2-6d. per gallon. Address: Gothard and Hudson, Beetwell Street, Chesterfield.

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Advert - Inkermann Colliery, Brampton.

Goodwin and Swallow desire to inform the public that they are supplying the Black Shale coal at 6-8d. per ton, at the pit, and 8-0d. per ton delivered into Brampton or Chesterfield.

Coal from the Three Quarters seam, 5-0d. per ton at the pit, 6-4d. per ton delivered as above.

Orders left at Mr. Goodwin's office, Tapton Lane, Chesterfield, will receive prompt attentions.

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Advert - Investment for Capital.

English Mining Shares are the best known investment in the world, the dividend mines actually paying from 15 to 25 per cent, per annum, in dividends payable every two or three months, and the progressive mine shares often advancing from 100 to 500 per cent (and sometimes even more) on the outlay.

The undersigned, having an extensive correspondence in Devon and Cornwall, receives the earliest information relative to all the latest improvements in the mines, consequently can recommend to parties seeking investment those shares which are likely to prove most remunerative.

The present depressed state of the mining share market offers unusual facilities for capitalists to invest in a few first-class mines, which must shortly advance considerably in price and value. Every information, given personally or by letter, and a list of the most promising mines, with price attached, forwarded on application to

Henry Gould Sharp, Mining Share Broker. Offices: 2, Church Court, Clement's Lane, London.

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Chesterfield Police Court (part).

Robert Richardson, a workman at the Staveley collieries, summoned Henry Bingham, agent to R. Barrow, Esq., for 19-10d. for wages. Complainant stated that he was employed by Bingham at 2-4d. per day. On the 27th. November complainant gave notice that he should leave in a fortnight, and on the night of the 10th. December left his work. On the 11th. he went for his wages, and was told that he had left before the notice was expired, and his wages were refused. Defendant did not object to the amount but refused to pay on the ground that the notice had not expired. In answer to the Bench, Richardson said he had not been furnished with a copy of any Rules, and was not told on being engaged, that he would be required to give notice before leaving. He had given notice because he was told to do so. Defendant acknowledged that a copy of the Rules had not been given, and as Richardson was only employed on the bank, he did not consider it necessary to furnish him with a copy. The Bench considered if the Rules were binding on complainant, he ought to be furnished with a copy of them, and ordered the amount to be paid with expenses.

Joseph Burnham, another workman, claimed 21-7d. off the same defendant under precisely similar circumstances, which, together with the costs, was ordered to be paid.

Thomas Blackshaw, another of the Staveley workmen, summoned Daniel Cooper, agent to R. Barrow, Esq., for 24-9d. Complainant stated that he was employed by Mr. Cooper to work at tramping for 2-4d. a day, and the sum claimed was due to him. Mr. Busby appeared on behalf of the defendant. From the evidence it appeared that complainant was one of a number of men who get coal and deliver it at the bottom of the pit at a certain sum per ton, paying their own trammers, and that at the "reckoning" one of the party is deputed to go to the office and receive the money for the whole of them; after which, they divide it according to the work done by each man; but in this particular case one of the men named Dunlop had drawn the money and had decamped with it, and Blackshaw being so unfortunate as to lose his money, had sought to obtain it from Cooper. The case was dismissed.

A similar case against the same defendant was brought by Daniel Phinn, for 13-9d. which was also dismissed.

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Colliery Informations.

The following informations were laid under the 18th. and 19th. Victoria, cap. 108, by direction of Mr. Hedley, Inspector of coal mines:-

Messrs. George Hoskins, Luke Knowles, and Samuel Briddon of the Boythorpe Colliery, were charged with a violation of the third General Rule, in not having a working shaft properly fenced when not at work. Mr. Hoskins stated that although the pit was not fenced round it was securely fenced by a wagon being placed over the top of it. To this Mr. Hedley objected, that anything placed over the top of the pit was calculated to impede its ventilation. Fined £1-0-0d. and 10-6d. costs. The same parties were also fined £5-0-0d. and 8-0d. costs for not having and producing a proper plan of the said colliery. They were then charged with not having "Special Rules" for the said colliery which had been established more than a year. Mr. Hoskins said they had Special Rules for the Grassmoor Colliery, and imagined they would do for the Boythorpe Colliery. To this Mr. Hedley replied that they had been told there must be separate rules. It was necessary that every separate colliery should have its Special Rules signed by him. They were in the first place sent to the Secretary of State who forwarded them to him for his approval. If found satisfactory he signed them, and they were returned to the proper party. Fined £5-0-0d. and 7-0d. costs. They were also fined 4-0d. and 7-0d. costs for not publishing the Special Rules; and 1-0d. and 7-0d. costs for not supplying copies of the Rules to persons employed at the works.

Mr. Matthew Knowles, of the Newbold and Dunston Colliery, were charged with not having the working shaft, where the natural strata was not safe, properly cased, in accordance with the Fourth General Rule. Mr. Hedley stated that he had been into one of the working shafts of the colliery. The strata were not, under certain circumstances, safe. They were liable to be acted upon by atmospheric influences, and might fall upon any poor fellow going down. It was lined by rubble part of the way up. He had objected to the walling. He (Mr. Hedley) had only known of this colliery about three weeks since; but Mr. Knowles had shown every disposition to carry out his suggestions. Mr. Knowles stated that he had not applied to Mr. Hedley, thinking he would call on him to give him the necessary instructions. Fined £1-0-0d. and 9-6d. costs. Mr. Knowles was then charged with not having a proper signal. The Fourth Rule required every working pit or shaft shall be provided with some proper means of signalling from the bottom of the shaft to the surface, and from the surface to the bottom of the shaft. Mr. Knowles considered that as the pit was but 16 yards deep, there was no signal required. Mr. Hedley was of a different opinion; in peculiar weather it might not be possible for persons to hear each other from the top to the bottom of the pit, and the Act of Parliament required that there should be a proper signal each way. Fined £1-0-0d. and 7-0d. costs. Mr. Knowles was also fined £5-0-0d. and 7-0d. costs for not having Special Rules; 1-0d. and 7-0d. costs for not publishing Special Rules, and £1-0-0d. and 7-0d. costs for not distributing Special Rules to the workmen. An information against Mr. Knowles for not having and producing a working plan of the colliery was withdrawn on his paying the costs and promising to get the plan made.

Mr. Caleb Mitchell, of Newbold, was charged with not having a working shaft cased or lined, in accordance with the Fourth Rule. Mr. Hedley stated this to be a very bad case. The strata was so loose that he could pull half a ton of it down with his hand. Fined £5-0-0d. and 9-6d. costs. Mr. Mitchell was also charged with not properly fencing a working shaft when not at

work. A fence had been placed round a pit, but of so slight a nature as to be insufficient for the purpose required. Fined £1-0-0d. and 7-0d. costs. Mr. Mitchell was also fined £5-0-0d. and 7-0d. costs for not establishing Special Rules; 1-0d. and 7-0d. costs for not publishing the same; and 1-0d. and 7-0d. costs for not delivering copies thereof to the workmen.

Mr. Charles Steele, of Hollingwood Common, was fined £1-0-0d. and 9-6d. costs for not having the working shaft properly fenced; £5-0-0d. and 7-0d. costs for not establishing Special Rules; 1-0d. and 7-0d. costs for not publishing the same; and 1-0d. and 7-0d. costs for not distributing copies thereof to the workmen.

The informations were supported by Mr. Busby, Mr. John Cutts appeared for Mr. Matthew Knowles and Mr. Mitchell.

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The Grassmoor Colliery Accident.

The bodies of the two unfortunate men who were killed at the Grassmoor Colliery, as previously narrated in this journal, were taken from the debris of the shaft, on the evening of Friday week, when a jury was assembled to view the mutilated remains. The inquisition was adjourned till Monday, when after a lengthened investigation, the Jury returned a verdict of "Accidental Death".

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Advert - Inkermann Colliery, Brampton.

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The Late Death of Four Men at Blaenavon.

On Saturday an inquest was held at the Kings Arms, near Blaenavon, on the bodies of the deceased, whose names were Charles Young, aged 51; William Evans, 37; James Young, 28; and John Taylor, 47. It was shown that the men had gone into danger after being duly cautioned. A verdict of "Accidental Death", was returned.

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Page 3 Col. 1.

Clay Cross.

A short time ago a paragraph appeared in this and other local papers relative to an accident which had happened to James Swaney, an Irishman, employed by the Clay Cross Company, which was of so serious a character as to preclude hope of recovery; indeed, a great matter of surprise was, that he survived the accident. Amputation of the right leg above the knee was performed by Mr. Mackarsie, surgeon to the Coal and Iron Works, assisted by J. Holland, Esq., of Chesterfield, but so extensive were the burns in many parts of the poor sufferers body that he never rallied from the shock the system had received. For six weeks, however, nature made strenuous efforts for recovery, during which time the Clay Cross Company, in whose employment he had been but for a day or two, gave orders for his supply with everything needful for his support and comfort; orders involving them in an expense of 17-0d. or 18-0d. per day. Notwithstanding all the care and attention he received, the burns never assumed a healing appearance and even the stump sloughed extensively, and the left leg and foot ultimately mortifying, the poor fellow sank rapidly at last, and died on Monday the 5th. instant, having previously expressed his gratitude for all the doctor, nurse, and Company had done for him. On Tuesday an inquest was held on the body, before Mr. Busby, coroner, at Clay Cross. After hearing the evidence, which in substance was similar to the facts we stated at the time of the accident, the Jury returned a verdict of "Accidental Death".

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Page 3 Col. 2.

Damaging a Colliery.

Yesterday afternoon, Owen Denby, George Vardy, John Riley, Patrick Gibbons, and Henry Oldfield, were charged before Mr. Maynard and Mr. Heathcote, with wilfully damaging on Saturday afternoon last, the roofing of the Lockoford Colliery, by knocking down a prop by which many tons of bind had fallen causing a stoppage of the works until Thursday afternoon. According to the evidence of Joseph Arnold, it appeared that the mischief had been done by the defendant Denby, the others being more or less implicated out of mere wantonness that they might have a holiday whilst the damage was being repaired. The charges were proved against Denby, and he was committed to jail for 14 days with hard labour. The others were discharged.

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Page 2 Col. 3.

Inquests before Mr. Busby.

On Tuesday, at Dronfield, on the body of John Radford Shufflebottom, a miner, 17 years of age, who was killed on Friday morning. The deceased and two others were working in an ironstone pit, at Bull-Close, Dronfield, belonging to Mr. Henry Rangeley; and deceased was taking wagons to the drift of the pit bottom, and where he was, there was only room for one man to work at a time. They were undermining the strata, and they began at the lowest part of the drift and worked upwards, and they had driven several yards on each side. A noise was heard, and the deceased cried out for help. Two workmen who were near ran to him, but he was buried alive for a great number of yards up the mine. Great exertions were used, and the men succeeded in getting within two or three yards of Shufflebottom, and afterwards to within a yard of him, when more earth fell. Shufflebottom repeatedly called out, "Oh dear, my back". The men asked him how he was. He replied, "I am alright; only I think the stuff has chopped by legs off with falling on me". He was lying on the back of a wagon. He lived all the morning, continuing to call out, till about half past twelve o'clock at noon, when his voice ceased and he is supposed to have died. They could not extricate the poor man until eleven o'clock on Saturday night, as the earth continued to fall faster than they could remove it. The Jury returned a verdict of "Accidental Death".

On Tuesday, at Clay Cross, on the body of Phoenix M'Guineass, aged 20. Deceased with several others, were employed in an ironstone pit by Jonah Slater, who had taken the working by contract under the Clay Cross Company. On Saturday, M'Guineass, Martin Hoyland and two others named Garrett and Sawyer, were working together. In the evening Hoyland and M'Guineass left their work and went to the bottom of the shaft, for the purpose of being drawn up. It was dark, and they had one candle between them; but the rain which descended the pit put it out, and they were in complete darkness. They managed to find their way to the box which is used to convey the mineral from the bottom of the pit to the top. M'Guineass shouted out "Coming up", which is the only signal they have in ascending the pit; but no one from the mouth of the pit answered. In a short time afterwards, while they were in the box waiting, they were suddenly drawn half way up the pit, and then as suddenly lowered down to the bottom. The rain, which had come down upon the two lads in the box rapidly, induced Hoyland to get out of the box and shelter himself, he called out to M'Guineass, "Phoenix, come out". Phoenix, who was in the box and holding on by the chain, said, "No, we shall be drawn up just now". Immediately afterwards the chain was drawn up, when Hoyland ran to lay hold of it to get into the box and he was surprised to find that the box was at the bottom. He called out "Phoenix", who answered "What". He said "Are you going up". Phoenix answered "Yes", and his voice then sounded as though he was near the top of the pit, which was forty yards deep. Suddenly the machinery stopped, and M'Guineass was left clinging to the chain for about five minutes, endeavouring to maintain his hold, but he became exhausted and fell down the shaft to the bottom. There was no-one near the mouth of the pit nor at the bottom, until the noise occasioned by the fall of the body brought several miners to the spot. M'Guineass had fallen on a wagon at the bottom of the shaft, though alive he was most frightfully injured. He died very shortly afterwards. The Jury returned a verdict of "Accidental Death"; and the coroner, at the request of the Jury, censured the bailiff of the pit for his neglect, telling him that he had narrowly escaped being sent for trial for manslaughter.

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Accidents in Ironstone Mines.

Although Parliament, in 1855, passed a measure for the better regulation of coal mines, no provision whatever was made for the better management of ironstone mines, in which a greater proportionate number of accidents occur than in coal mines. Sir George Grey has just sent for a return of the number of inquests in the Hundred of Scarsdale, Derbyshire, which has been forwarded; Mr. Busby, the coroner for the district, feeling the great importance of some legislative enactment for the regulation of ironstone mines, has addressed the following letter to the Home Secretary on the subject: "Sir, I have the honour to enclose the return you required duly filled up. Within my district the number of inquests in 1856 have been comparatively few; but from the numerous large collieries and other works arising up in the neighbourhood, the number will probably increase considerably in future years. The Act of 1855 for the improved supervision of collieries has been very successful in causing better arrangements than formerly had been made for the prevention of accidents. The ironstone pits, however, although more dangerous to work than coal mines, are wholly without efficient superintendence, and accidents often happen in them which would not occur if similar precautions were taken to those which the Act requires in the case of coal pits. The negligence, which generally arises from insufficient arrangements on the part of proprietors, does not fall within the range of manslaughter; when death ensues, as most accidents in these mines arise not from any particular act of culpable negligence, but from a general want of proper system. I conceive it would be a great protection to the ironstone miners if the ironstone mines were placed under the same supervision as collieries". The Home Secretary has forwarded an acknowledgement of Mr. Busby's letter, and thanking him for the suggestion. Mr. Busby was occupied on Tuesday investigating two fatal accidents in ironstone mines, in one of which very great negligence had been exhibited.

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Perilous Leap into a Coalpit.

A most perilous leap was taken a few days since while hunting with Mr. Roch's hounds, at Bolton Hill, Pembrokeshire. The whipper-in, James Morgan, in taking a hedge, jumped his horse into an unfenced coalpit, 30 feet in depth, which lay unobserved on the other side of the hedge. Man and horse went down the shaft, at the bottom of which was a depth of 18 feet of water. Fortunately the sides of the pit had been made sloping, so that, before the horse was entirely submerged he came to footing on the slope, where he maintained his hold. The rider was thrown into the water, but on rising grasped the saddle, and thus held his head above water until assistance arrived, when ropes having been procured he was safely drawn up, and save for the shock, perfectly uninjured. The horse was next drawn out, also unhurt. They received every attention, and soon recovered from the accident.

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Page 2 Col. 4-5.

Another Colliery Accident.

An accident occurred at Lockoford Works on Thursday morning last, at about twelve o'clock, which will result it is to be feared, in the death of one of the miners. From the information we were able to gather on the spot, soon after the accident, it appears that two men, one of them the unfortunate sufferer, Edward Bridgett, of Church Lane, were working together in the pit, when Bridgett suggested to his companion the precaution of trying that portion of the works in which they were engaged, in order to ascertain whether it was in a safe condition. They had no sooner struck the coal, however, than an immense mass fell in, completely surrounding Bridgett, while his companion was fortunately hurled out from the spot and thus escaped injury. The manager, Mr. Parker, proceeded almost immediately with some workmen to poor Bridgett's assistance, and Dr. Jones was on the spot to attend to him when released.

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Page 2 Col. 5.

Eyam Mining Company.

The annual feast given by the proprietors of the Eyam Mine to the work people took place on Saturday last, at the Miners Arms, Eyam. Upwards of 80 of the work people sat down to dinner, and full justice was done to the staple commodities, roast beef and plum pudding, and the adjuncts of old English hospitality.

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Page 2 Col. 5.

Eyam Mine.

On Tuesday last a serious accident occurred at the Eyam Mine, by which two men, Bateman and another, very narrowly escaped destruction. While driving in the gate they were suddenly overwhelmed by the fall of water, which burst through at a height of 25 or 30 yards above them. The force of this may be easily imagined, when it is stated that the body of the water was about 4 feet by 1 in bulk, and falling upon them from so great a height, the weight was terrific. The consternation among the other workmen was very great, but being discharged by the captain from leaving, it did not spread to the village, and they were consequently enabled quietly to pursue the objects of delivering the two men from their perilous position, which was fortunately accomplished after several hours. Nearly at midnight the sufferers were returned to mother earth, not much the worse from the severe drenching and escaping with no ultimate worse consequences than the alarm.

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Kaen v. Walters.

This was an action brought to recover the sum of £3-18-4d., which the plaintiff alleged was due to him on account of work performed by him in the pit of defendant's father, for 3-2d. a day. Mr Broomehead, of Sheffield, appeared for the defendant. Kaen, who is a miner, alleged that he had worked about 47 days in defendant's mine without receiving any wages, when he was dismissed from his employ without a moments warning. As well as could be understood from his exceedingly confused statement, he had entered Mr Walters service again soon after this, and was paid regularly for his labour, the former amount, however, remaining still unpaid. From this engagement he was also discharged without receiving any warning. The opposite side proved with reference to the alleged debt, that no money had been owing to him, and the judge considered that it was highly improbable that an individual who lived upon his daily labour should be able to suffer his wages to run into arrear for so long a period. It was also satisfactorily established that he had been discharged for insolence and inattention to duty. Judgement for the defendant.

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Page 3 Col. 1.

Alfreton.

An accident occurred at the High Field Sinking Pits, belonging to William Worswick, Esq, on Sunday last, to a man named Samuel Knewes, employed as engine tender. On Sunday last the men had to put in a pipe belonging to the pumping engine, when the expansion pipe of the boiler blew from its place. The poor fellow being against the pipe at the time, the force of the steam knocked him down and scalded him severely. It is feared that he will loose the sight of one eye, and he now lies in a very precarious state under the treatment of Mr Turner, surgeon.

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Died - John Cutts.

On the 30th inst., at the Manor House, Chesterfield, after a long illness, John Cutts, Esq., solicitor, aged 63 years.

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Death from falling down a Stone Quarry.

Last Saturday evening, Mr. Jonathan Wrigley, cloth manufacturer, of Long Wood, near Huddersfield, returning from Rochdale, took the lower footpath over Long Wood Edge, where there is a great number of stone quarries worked close to the footpath, rendering travelling by night very dangerous. He fell down into one quarry known as Scarlett's Quarry, 36 feet deep, and lay there until ten o'clock the next morning, when he was discovered by a son of Mr. Scarlett. Mr. Wrigley was carried to the Dusty Miller Inn. Two surgeons were sent for and found that Mr. Wrigley had several ribs broken, and severe contusions on his head and different parts of the body. Mr. Wrigley lingered until 12 o'clock on Sunday evening, but he expired. The Jury who enquired into the case, viewed the place of the accident, and recommended a wall to be built, so as to prevent further accidents.