

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 7th March 1857.

Page 1 Col. 3.

Advert - Sale by Mr. S. Denham.

To Brewers, Capitalists, and Others.

Valuable freehold property, at Brampton Back Lane, near Chesterfield.

To be sold by auction, by Mr. S. Denham (by order of the devisees in trust acting under the will of the late Mr. Charles Marples), at the house of Mrs. Pinder, the Star Inn, in Chesterfield, in the county of Derby, on Saturday, the 14th. day of March, 1857, at four o'clock in the afternoon, subject to such conditions as will be then produced, in the following lot:

Lot 1. All that compact dwelling house, with the barn, cowhouse, and other outbuildings, yard, garden, and premises thereto belonging, situated at Brampton Back Lane aforesaid, in the Parish of Brampton, in the county of Derby, as now occupied by Mr. George Harrison.

And also two excellent grass fields, adjoining the last described premises, containing 3a 2r 34p or thereabouts, also in the occupation of the said Mr. George Harrison.

The above promises are in good repair and well supplied with water, and situated about a mile out of Chesterfield on the Ashgate Road. The two fields have frontages to the road for a length of upwards of 200 yards, and are well adapted for building purposes.

Lot 2 All that old established beer house situate at Brampton Back Lane aforesaid, with the garden and piece of land, as now staked out from the adjoining fields, containing in the whole (including the site of the buildings) 24 perches or thereabouts, and is now occupied by Mr. Joseph Bown.

The Beerhouse, at a small outlay, might be greatly improved; and being the only public house in the immediate neighbourhood, and fronting a public and much frequented highway, and also being contiguous to an extensive colliery, and other works, offers peculiar advantages for doing a large amount of business, and is well deserving the attention of brewers.

The estate contains the valuable rake of Black Shale Ironstone, and the Black Shale and Brampton Thin Coals.

The tenants will show the premises, and for further information apply to the auctioneer at his office, in Chesterfield; or to Mr. A. Alderson, solicitor, Eckington, near Chesterfield.

17th. February 1857.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 7th March 1857.

Page 2 Col. 1-2.

Police Intelligence (part).

Robert Fletcher, Joseph Brewer, and Thomas Edwell, colliers, were brought up, charged with leaving their work at Lockoford Works, contrary to the rules. Mr. Parker, the overseer, attended to prosecute. The first named defendant stated that he had refused to work because Mr. Parker had ordered him to go into another mans stall, and he "didn't mean to do that for anybody".

Mr. Heathcote: "Were you there merely to do one kind of work?" Defendant: "Yes Sir".

Mr. Parker: No Sir. No man is engaged for one particular kind of work. This rule (handing it to the magistrate) is sufficient to show that. The magistrate read the rule, which clearly expressed that engagements were made with men to do whatever was assigned to them. Mr. Heathcote observed that the defendants were not to pick their own jobs, but do what their masters told them.

Fletcher in defence, said that he was sent by Mr. Parker to work some coal at 1-6d. a yard, and that as this was not enough money for it he didn't do it. Some other men then came up to the job, Mr. Parker ordered him to go to another part, but he wouldn't go into any mans stall to work for nothing.

Mr. Heathcote: Oh, you wont? Then we've done with you.

Mr. Parker, in explanation, said that when he fixed the price at 1-6d a yard, defendant said it was "too little". Other men soon afterwards came in, and he offered them the job at the same price, and they accepted the offer. Then Fletcher came back and said that if Mr. Parker would let him he would do the job for 1-4d, 2d less than he had previously offered him. Mr. Parker, however, refused to turn the other men off, as he had already engaged them.

Fletcher: It was a damned roguish action on them.

Mr. Heathcote: What's that? Defendant: It was a roguish action on them to do it for the money.

Mr. Heathcote: Nay, it was a roguish action of you. If you wanted to cheat them by offering to do it for less than they did. You might have had the same price if you liked. Do you want to ask Mr Parker any questions?

Fletcher: Yes. Mr. Parker! (The defendant here stopped, as if he had lost himself) Stop a minute. I'll tell you in a minute. (Hesitating). Its at my memory now. Oh, can you force me out of the place?

Mr. Parker: They all said they wouldn't do the work at the price.

Mr. Heathcote (to Fletcher): Don't you know that you are bound by rules to work in any place?

Fletcher (Boisterously): I never will go back to another man's stall while I've breath, there now! That's my temper!

Edwell urged in defence that he had left Mr. Parker some time ago, giving the usual months' notice before he left. He came back again, and received fresh employment, but did not sign any new contract. Mr Parker said it was not necessary to have a fresh agreement signed; he had written his name in the book once, and that was sufficient. It was just the same, he thought.

Mr. Shipton: No, it isn't just the same. When a man gives you a month's notice in the proper way, and leaves you the contract he signed is determined, and there is no further agreement. There requires a fresh agreement when another engagement is entered into, and you should always have it resigned and supply another copy of the rules.

Mr. Heathcote: What is you will and pleasure with two of these men, Mr. Parker?

Mr. Parker: Well, they said they wouldn't work, Sir.

Mr. Heathcote (to defendants): And you mean to stick to that, do you?

Fletcher repeated his assertion that he wouldn't work in another mans stall - he'd "go to Derby first". Mr Parker added that all of them had said the same thing.

Mr. Heathcote: Well, you've got them now. If you take work at a colliery you are bound by the rules of the place, and are not allowed to choose your own work.

Brewer ultimately consented to go back to his work, Edwell was discharged, and Fletcher was sentenced to one months imprisonment with hard labour. He was told he might go back to his work if he liked, but he exclaimed he "would sooner go to Derby".

When the sentence was passed, however, his courage was sucked in and he arranged with Mr. Parker and the magistrate to return to his employ.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 7th March 1857.

Page 3 Col. 1-2.

Inquests before Mr. Busby.

On the Friday 27th. ult., at Clay Cross, near Chesterfield, on the body of James Anthony, of Cellar Row, Clay Cross, colliery labourer, who was killed on the 16th. ult., aged 65 years. Deceased was holing in a pit, called the Black Shale pit, at Clay Cross, in the middle of the stall. He had holed under about a foot for a yard and a half in length. Deceased sounded the coal just before the accident, and it appeared right. The coal fell off to a back (i.e., a joint or slip) up to which deceased had not holed. One yard and a half of coal in length, one foot wide, and 18 inches deep, fell on deceased, and caught him on the head and neck and side of the back. A man named William Statham heard deceased groan, he ran to him and took the coal off him and tried to raise him, but could not. He called for assistance and raised him up, but life was quite extinct; his back was broken. The quantity of coal and bind which fell on deceased is supposed to be about 16 cwts. The jury returned a verdict of "Accidental Death from the fall of coal and bind in a coalpit". On the same day, at Oakerthorpe, in the Parish of South Wingfield, on the body of Joseph Redford, of Moorwood, in that parish, colliery labourer, who was killed on the 20th. ult. aged 12 years. Deceased worked at Mr. Jessops colliery, at Putterley (Butterley). About half-past eleven on Wednesday morning, the 25th. ult., he was on the pit bank, running an empty skip along the tramroad to go down the pit. There were two ropes in the pit, one up and one down. Instead of running the skip on the tramroad where the rope was up, deceased went along the tramroad where the rope was down. The consequence was that he and the skip fell down the pit together. The hanger-on at the bottom of the shaft saw the boy fall, and went to him directly. He moved his lips once and died instantly. His left leg was smashed all to pieces. Verdict, "Accidental Death".

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 7th March 1857.

Page 3 Col. 2.

Fatal Colliery Explosion at Shipley.

Five Lives Lost.

At 10 o'clock on Wednesday morning, a fearful explosion occurred in one of Mr Mundy's pits, in Shipley Field, South Derbyshire, by which five lives were sacrificed. It was known by the name of the "Hard Pit", and at the time in question about 200 men and boys were pursuing their dangerous and arduous vocation. There were 10 stalls or separate workings in the pit, but the explosion was confined to No. 9, in which some twenty men were at work, the gate being upwards of 700 yards distant from the mouth of the shaft. The stratum of coal having been loosened, the symptoms of a settlement were noticed, and two brothers named Starbuck, middle-aged men, with others, were actively engaged in propping up the roof, as is the usual practice, when an explosion described as like the rushing of the wind in a thunder storm was heard. Most of the men ran for their lives, but the Starbucks, instead of following their example, stayed to look for their sons. After an interval of five minutes, a second and louder blast was heard, and on other pitmen going up the workings, they found the dead bodies of John and Abraham Starbuck, a son of the latter, and two others lying at the entrance of the gate. They were not so much burnt, but had been evidently overpowered by the foul gas, and must have run a distance of thirty or forty yards. A dozen men and boys who were burnt were taken out of the pit immediately and conveyed to their several homes, where they were attended by Doctor Smith, of Eastwood, and his assistant. All, with one exception, are likely to recover. The following is a list of those killed and injured: Killed - John Starbuck, Upwards of 40 years old, Shipley-Field. (He was married, and had two boys in the pit); Abraham Starbuck, of Cotmanhay, brother of the above, aged 35 (widow and family); Abraham Starbuck, aged 12, son of the last named; Joseph Richardson, Shipley Common, aged 21, leaves a mother and grandmother, who are dependant upon him; Thomas Henshaw, of Cotmanhay, aged 12 or 13. The following more or less severely burnt:- Joseph Fowkes, of Tagg-Hill, Shipley, aged 12. This lad, who was the most seriously injured, still lies in a very precarious state; John Purday, aged 33, of Mapperley; Jos. Henshaw, aged 18, Cotmanhay; Thomas Bacon, aged 21, Shipley Common; Thomas Hart, aged 21, Cotmanhay; Thomas Severn, aged 30, Shipley Wood; Wm. Hawley, aged 30, Mapperley; William Smith, aged 28, Cotmanhay; a lad about 14, named Shaw, but better known as "Maggot". Several others were knocked down by the explosion, and were merely bruised.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 7th March 1857.

Page 3 Col. 2.

Fatal Accident.

An inquest was held yesterday (Friday) morning before Mr. Busby, at the Midland Hotel, on the body of Thomas Pendleton - who met his death at the Inmanwell Colliery, Tapton, on Wednesday last. Mr. Hedley, the Government Inspector, was present. From the evidence of John Bradell, who was working with the deceased at the time of his death, it appeared that he went down the pit with Pendleton and two others, on Wednesday, for the purpose of repairing some air-pipes which had been laid down to clear out the sulphur and fire-damp from some old workings adjoining the new one. Upon reaching the bottom they found the pipes had been displaced by the water in the works, and witness, deceased, and the other men, began to put them right. They put two lengths of pipe in the heading, and cleared the sulphur out of the rise. As they put down each length they had to wait until the sulphur had cleared out. In one of these intervals they were all sitting down in the broad heading, talking together. The witness said there was a great cloud before them, as there always is with fire-damp, like fog rising in a valley. The deceased looked at it, and asked witness if it couldn't be got out? He replied that it could by means of pipes, but in no other way. Deceased got up and said, "Let me go by", and regardless of the remonstrances of his companions, he went forward. He then pulled off his cap and wafted it, as though he would disperse the damp. Witness called to him to come back, but the unhappy man drove on towards the heading. He then appeared to be losing his senses, and rushed off until he had got about twenty yards further than the pipes. Witness and his companions could then hear the poor fellow dying from the spot where they stood, but certain death would have been the consequence of their attempting to offer him any assistance. It was eight hours before the sulphur was sufficiently cleared to enable them to remove his body. The Jury returned a verdict of "Accidental Death from the fire-damp."

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 7th March 1857.

Page 4 Col. 4-5.

The Colliery Explosion at Lund Hill.

On Saturday, Messrs. Wood, Elliott, Woodhouse, and Holt, the eminent colliery engineers who have undertaken the management of the colliery temporarily, again met for consultation, with Mr. Morton, the Government Inspector, and at the conclusion of the consultation, which lasted some hours, the representatives of the press were admitted, and Mr. Wood gave the following explanation of the state of affairs. He said: When we last met, it was arranged that the pit should be filled with water up to a certain extent. We are pursuing that system, the brook having been turned into the pit about mid-day on Thursday. Nothing more can be done until the water has risen to such a height as will extinguish the burning matter. We have ascertained today that the water in the mine is of a considerably higher temperature than the water which is being poured into it, which shows that there is still a considerable amount of burning matter in the pit; justifying us, we think, in the steps we have pursued. We propose on Monday morning to commence uncovering the down-cast shafts, and preparing them for getting the water out in as short a time as possible after the extinction of the fire is accomplished. Mr. Morton, the Government Inspector, said he fully concurred in the propriety of the measures which were being adopted. The engineers then separated, on the understanding that they were to be summoned by telegraph to meet again as soon as the water should have attained a level agreed upon.

On Sunday, two more names were added to the already appalling list of persons killed, namely, those of Major Rooke, single man, of Barnsley, and John Booker, single man, of Darnall, brother to Henry Booker whose name appears in the published list. The shaft on Sunday was now partly open, the water running into it from the brook at a rather diminished rate in comparison with Friday and Saturday. At two o'clock on Sunday the temperature at the bottom of the air shaft was 99 degrees. From this it will be seen that the water had not yet reached the burning coal. It was, however, expected that this would be accomplished early on Monday, when some of the men, it was hoped, might descend the shaft, as far as the Abdy, or thin bed, for the purpose of stopping the communication between it and the down-cast shaft, in order to prevent any accidents from the accumulation of gas in these workings, as well as to afford greater facilities to those who will have to descend, either to clear the water or search for the bodies.

The explosion seems likely to affect the neighbouring collieries in a singular manner. We have been informed that seventy-three persons employed at a colliery not two miles distant from Lundhill, have sent in notices to leave, being alarmed at the recent catastrophe.

Orders were given, On Saturday, to the Sexton of the Parish Church, at Darfield, to prepare a number of graves to receive the bodies. The number to be interred there will be at the least 160. The graves will be made sufficiently deep to hold several coffins, which will be placed one above another, a layer of bricks will be placed between the different tiers. In the centre being placed a monument, recording the names of the men and the cause of their death. The adjourned inquest was resumed on Monday. On Saturday, Mr. Superintendent Green received instructions to summons some of the men who left the pit before the explosion took place.

The Adjourned Inquest.

On Monday the inquest on the body of Abram Turner was resumed at the house of Mr. Pepper, the Brampton Bull's Head Inn, Brampton, before Mr. T. Badger. Mr. W.H. Peacock,

solicitor, was present to watch the proceedings on the part of the colliery proprietors. C. Morton, Esq., the Government Inspector, was also present.

John Warhurst, fire trier in the Lund Hill Colliery, said: "On Wednesday, 18th. August, I had a conversation with William Lodge, a collier, in the top level of the pit. I went into his place about five o'clock. I examined it; it was quite clear of gas. When I had got to the bottom of the shaft he sent his hurrier to me. In consequence of what he said I sent a message to Lodge that his place was quite safe. I then gave Earnshaw, Lodge's hurrier, a lamp, and told him to try it for himself. In about a quarter of an hour I went to Lodge and found him. The lamp was behind the corve, I said, "Now, Lodge, have you tried it?" He said, "No, I don't understand it". I then took up the lamp, and went over the coal to the face. Lodge followed me. I then put the lamp to the roof, and said to him, "Now, you see there is no gas in". He said, "Yes, I see there is none". I then went and sat me down, and Lodge with me. He said, "I am satisfied there is no gas". He said, "In case anything was to happen what would be the consequence?" I said, "Very likely, I should be wrong in not making you work with lamps". He said, "If there was anything to happen he should make a bother". I said, "As you say so, I will make you work with lamps". He said, "You won't, I'll leave the place first; and, besides", he said, "what occasion is there to work with lamps?" This is about all that passed.

William Maddison, colliery viewer, said: In consequence of information being given to me on the 19th. instant, that it was thought that there had been an explosion, I immediately proceeded to the place, and arrived there about twenty minutes to one o'clock in the afternoon. Immediately afterwards, I accompanied those present, together with William Utley, underground steward, of Wembroke Main colliery, and proceeded to the bottom of the downcast shaft. On getting out of the tub, about 8 or 10 feet from the rails, we had to scramble over a large amount of debris and a large amount of open slides, to the lamp cabin, where we lit our Davy lamps. The fire at the bottom of the upcast was raging furiously. The whole of the arching was one mass of ruin, and the fire shooting between the stones. We could also see fire coming down the centre bord gate to the furnace at the bottom of the upcast shaft. We then turned to the west, with the hope of getting round to the fire; but in the first end in the rise to the upcast shaft we saw the flames shooting to the left and stopping us from going in that direction. We continued to the rise, and at the first corner at the next end we found the coal on fire, but so slight that it was afterwards put out. We got about one pillar higher to the rise. At this point Mr. Coe left us, and went still further up. He returned and said he had lost the air, and could proceed no further. We then came down the second bord gate, continuing along the ending to the south. He joined us in the horse road, about 100 yards from the shaft. At about ten or twelve yards along the horse-road, on the north side, we saw a horse dead. In front of him had been four or five tubs, on the top of which he had been blown by the explosion. We then proceeded a few yards further, and turned up the bord into the stables. We found one horse lying dead at the entrance, and another one just previously. The stables were found on fire. We went to the No. 3 bord gate about as far as the other cases (40 or 50 yards). We continued along the north horse road until we were within 40 yards of the face at the foot of No. 4 bord gate. At this point we found a dead body, but so blackened that we could scarcely tell whether it was burned or not. One of the party proceeded to the dip in the east, and into a water level which was then being driven, and found a dead body, which we brought into the horse road. Just at this time Warhurst, the foreman, came to us from the shaft bottom, saying that if we did not at once return there would be no means of escape. We did not leave the No. 4 bord gate until we had been in every direction in which it was possible for anyone to live. Mr. Coe went up the No. 4 bord gate, and we in no way returned until the lamps fired. We then returned along the north horse road to the shaft, counting the bodies as we passed them, and found them in all to be eight; the last one we had passed in our journey northward without having seen at all. On arriving near to the shaft, we again went towards the south end of the stables. We there found the fire raging so furiously that it was utterly impossible for us to go near it. The whole length of the stables had evidently been on fire

- coal, timber and all in a blaze. It was fearful to contemplate the difference in the state of the fire that exists at the time of our first visit and our return. In the first instance we might have gone up to the fire, and kicked it with our feet, in the second we dare not approach it by many yards. Again, we went past the bottom of the downcast shaft and to the upcast shaft, and found the fire there raging most furiously, the whole of the bottom being one white heat. We did not leave the pit until I myself felt convinced beyond a doubt that there could not be anybody living in the pit, excepting those who had come down. We then came out of the pit. It would be almost half-past seven. We proceeded to the office to consult with the proprietors. We had not left the pit many minutes before the whole of the men we had left down came out, declaring that it was utterly impossible for them to remain any longer. There was a consultation amongst those present and a question put to each of them as to whether anything further could be done for the recovery of the bodies, or whether it was their opinion that any one was then alive in the pit. The answer was by each, "I am decidedly of opinion that since examining the mine, there is not now a living person in the pit; and at this hour 7.40 p.m., it would be dangerous and unsafe for any man to descend the pit for any purpose now the fire is raging so bad; the only way is to close the downcast shaft, and it should be done at once". At 7.40 the flames arose, in my judgment, to upwards of 100 feet above the cupola top, the sparks from which rose at least 300 feet into the air. In pursuance of our unanimous decision, we then proceeded to close the two down-cast shaft pits, leaving the cupola open. I cannot give any opinion as to the cause of the explosion. Nobody objected to the closing of the shaft.

After the examination of other witnesses the inquest was adjourned till Monday next.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 14th March 1857.

Page 2 Col. 2.

Advert - To Brick and Tile Makers.

To be let, with immediate possession, the brick yard, at Stonegravels, late in the occupation of Abel Lee.

Apply to Mr. Shipton, Chesterfield.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 14th March 1857.

Page 2 Col. 3.

Advert - Explosion at Lundhill Colliery, near Barnsley, and loss of 186 lives.

In Consequence of a communication having been received by me from Messrs. Newman and Sons, Secretaries to the relief committee at Barnsley, soliciting subscriptions in aid of the 89 widows and 190 orphan children and some of the sufferers in this terrible calamity, and the intimation having received the approval of the town council of this borough, I hereby give notice that subscriptions towards the relief of the widows and children who are the sufferers will be received at Mr Roberts, Bookseller, High Street, and at the three different banks in Chesterfield, where subscription lists have been left.

Wm. Drabble, Mayor.

Chesterfield, 12th. March 1857.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 14th March 1857.

Page 2 Col. 3.

The Lund-Hill Colliery Explosion.

On Saturday afternoon a meeting of the gentlemen who had charge of the pit was held. With regard to the time when it would be safe to descend the pit, it seems the running in of the water has not yet obtained the object in view, viz. - the extinction of the fire, and the committee has determined to allow it to run-in for another week, in order to prevent unnecessary risk to the lives of the men who would have to go down the pit. A question relating to the duty of inspectors to coal mines has also arisen. The large mine of Lundhill, where 200 men were constantly at work, was never inspected since its opening by the Government Inspector. The question is asked, whether it is Mr. Morton's duty to inspect a mine before or after an accident has occurred. Would an official inspection prevent an accident? The temperature of the mine is still 40 degrees above the natural heat. The appearance of the works has scarcely varied for the last ten days, the water still continuing to run into the pit, and on Sunday had reached more than 20 feet up the shaft. At collieries in the neighbourhood uneasiness is apparent. The consternation and terror caused by the awful catastrophe has not been altogether confined to the immediate sufferers by it, but has penetrated the home of almost every collier, and brought more forcibly to their notice the dangerous and often fatal nature of their hazardous calling. The adjourned inquest was resumed on Monday. Several of the colliers who worked in the pit were examined, and they all deposed that they had never had occasion to complain of the state of the pit, and that it was in good order up to the time of the accident. Nothing was elicited as to the cause of the explosion, and the inquest was adjourned.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 21st. March 1857.

Page 2 Col. 2.

The Colliery Explosion at Lundhill.

It was generally believed at the close of last week that operations would, on Saturday, commence for draining out the water; but these anticipations have not been realised. While the water had on that day risen to a height of 36 feet up the shaft, which was 6 feet higher than was at first calculated upon as being sufficient to extinguish the fire, yet such is the high state with the temperature of the water that it has been determined to continue running it into the pit until Wednesday next.

After a long consultation of the engineers, on Saturday, Mr. Nicholas Wood, of Newcastle, stated on behalf of the gentlemen on whom the responsibility of opening the pit now devolves, that they had, after deep consideration and enquiry, come to the determination to let the water run into the pit until Wednesday afternoon. On that day they intended again to meet, by which time they expected the water would have risen to such height as to extinguish the fire, which they were of opinion was still burning. They had given orders that every preparation should be made to commence drawing the water off on that day, should they deem it safe to do so. Therefore no time would be lost in commencing the emptying of the pit, should they be of opinion that the fire was extinguished.

The temperature of the water in the upcast shaft on Saturday was 71 degrees Fahrenheit in the water at the top; whilst at the bottom of the water, which was 31 feet deep it was 64 degrees; the temperature of this shaft 2 feet above the water was 71 degrees. The depth of water in the downcast shaft was 36 feet, whilst in the upcast shaft it was 31 feet.

A day or two ago an accident occurred at the colliery, which had nearly been attended with fatal consequences. As some of the men who were engaged in repairing the Melton and Abdy seams, and doing other repairs in the downcast shaft were being drawn up, the man in charge of the engine did not stop in time, and the chair was run into the headgearing. Two of the men, both of whom we believe were saved from the mine at the explosion, had their lives placed in extreme jeopardy. Fortunately, however, by the presence of mind and dexterity of the men they escaped without serious injury - one of them succeeded in jumping out of the chair, and the other clung to the headgearing, and both were thus saved.

Some interest is already excited as to where the water shall be turned when drawn out of the mine; many persons being of opinion that its effects will be most injurious, if turned into any stream used for domestic purposes. To obviate this, it has been suggested that a quantity of some powerful disinfecting liquid should in the first instance be mixed with the waters. At all events, there is no doubt but that the attention of the mining engineers and medical gentlemen will be directed to this important consideration.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 21st. March 1857.

Page 2 Col. 5.

Letter.

Sir, in looking over your Derbyshire Times of the 7th. inst., I find an inquest has been held on the body of Thomas Pemberton, who came by his death from suffocation in Mr. Clayton's colliery, Chesterfield. As accidents are frequently occurring in collieries I wish something could be done to make employers of collieries engage no one but competent managers, particularly in fiery mines. As regard the above accident, I beg to state the first General Rule and the fourth Special Rule has not being acted upon, otherwise there is no doubt but the man's life might have been spared. I will just mention or make a few observations, hoping you will find a small space in your valuable paper, on the subject.

First, Mr. Editor, I would have all managers be subject to examinations before Her Majesties Inspectors of Coal Mines. Second, in case of a fatal accident, it would be much better, when the jury was empanelled, to have one half miners and managers from neighbouring collieries, so that when a case of this kind is brought before the Inspector and Coroner, it might be fully investigated, and if proved to be brought off by negligence of certain parties, they might be punished as a warning to managers and miners generally. Many other cases like the above accident are brought before a jury of men who know no more about a pit or mining business than from hearing statements from other people. It is very injurious to the miners of this and other districts, who, I am sorry to say, have not that intelligence to speak out for themselves. I beg to state, if the above observations had been resorted to, the verdict in the above case would have been different.

I remain, Sir Your Obedient Servant ,
Richard Dean, Coal Miner, Chesterfield.

March 14th., 1857.

[We print the above letter, without subscribing to its sentiments. Every precaution was taken, as was fully proved on the inquest, to prevent the accident to which our correspondent refers. His suggestions, however, are worthy of attention.- ED D.T.]

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 21st. March 1857.

Page 3 Col. 4.

Lund Hill Explosion.

Subscriptions for the sufferers of the Lundhill Colliery explosion already reach a large amount. From all parts it is at present about £5,000, and this includes a donation of £200 from Her Majesty the Queen, and of £100 from his Royal Highness Prince Albert. We trust the inhabitants of Chesterfield will contribute to so worthy a cause with as much liberality as possible, so that the hundreds of sufferers by this melancholy calamity may be spared from the miseries of poverty being added to their afflictions from the loss of their friends.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 28th. March 1857.

Page 2 Col. 5.

Mining in Derbyshire.

We continue to receive satisfactory accounts of the continued progress of lead mining in the Peak of Derbyshire. The prospects of the North Derbyshire Mining Company are of a cheering character, and the productive results of the mine will soon become an established fact. A plan of the district has been compared, showing the bearings of the different veins which intersect each other in that rich mineral district, in which the North Derbyshire Company's mine is situated. As soon as the pumps are put in repair, the Company will proceed to get ore immediately at the Wren Park end of the mine. According to the plan of the district, the Company cannot fail to reach a vein of immense wealth, which runs direct from the sett of the Eyam Mine to the mouth of the Calver Sough Shaft. We hear that the repairs to the pumps have been delayed a little, in consequence of the delay of the party who had engaged to supply the machinery for raising them. The Brightside, Eyam, and Chapeldale shares are firm, and the premium of the latter class of shares has again increased.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 28th. March 1857.

Page 2 Col. 3.

Mining in Derbyshire.

Great excitement had prevailed at Eyam and the neighbourhood within the last few days in consequence of one or two meetings which have been held by a few of the freeholders there for the purpose of taking action to contest the question with the Eyam Mining Company as to their assumed right to get lead ore under certain lands which are determined "ancient freeholds". It appears that up to the time the Eyam Company commenced operations, these lands had always been exempt from the mineral customs of the country, and no one could commence mining in those particular lands without first obtaining leave from the freeholder. When the Act of Parliament was applied for in 1852, it was attempted to upset this principle by placing Eyam upon a level with the other liberties, but this point was hotly contested in Parliament by the Eyam Freeholders, who employed a counsel and attorneys at an expense of £700, and the result was that a clause was inserted in the Act exempting these ancient freeholds from the operations of the Mineral Laws until it had first been proved by Law that these freeholds in question were subject to the mineral laws of the country. The freeholders at present complain grievously of the Eyam Mining Company for raising ore out of the lands without making the slightest acknowledgement to the freehold (except in one solitary instance), and they have invited the co-operation and assistance of a few Sheffield gentlemen, who are connected with mining in North Derbyshire, and our correspondent informs us that the matter is speedily to be brought before a legal tribunal to prove the rights of the respective parties. We are assured that the parties interested in this movement disclaim any intention to interfere with the mineral rights of the Eyam Company.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 28th. March 1857.

Page 4 Col. 3.

No Headline.

The fire has been nearly extinguished in the Lundhill Mine, and the process of pumping out the water will soon commence. The subscriptions for the families of the colliers who suffered, now amounts to £7000: The Queen has subscribed £200, and Prince Albert £100 to the fund.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 28th. March 1857.

Page 4 Col. 4.

A Monster Nugget.

The largest nugget yet discovered is now in London. It is in the possession of Messrs. Connell and Company, Broad Street Buildings. It weighs between four hundred and five hundred pounds. Very little gold is to be seen on the surface, but this cannot be taken as a criterion of the amount of gold which will be found when the operation of crushing has been performed. It was turned up in the sands of the Commissioners Lower Paddock, Louisa Creek, New South Wales. When it was first seen some persons were sanguine enough to estimate its value at £20,000. The names of the fortunate finders are Patrick Agen and John Downey. It was brought over in the Saint Julian, in the charge of Mr. Blake, of Waterford.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 28th. February 1857.

Page 4 Col. 3-4.

The Colliery Accident at Lundhill.

A portion of the following appeared in our second edition of last week:-

The number of men in the pit at the time of the accident is said to be about 190, only 25 of whom have been taken out, and from the fire-damp in the colliery, it is feared that no more will be found alive.

The names of persons drawn out alive were as follows:-

Abraham Turner, Wath, got out alive, but since dead; Wm. Donkin and John Donkin, Hoyle Mill; Wm. Habbishaw, Wm. Corbridge, Abraham Levett, Henry Chipchase, Thom. Smith, Joseph Tunncliffe, Wm. Hartley, John Hammerton, Thomas Bell, John Booth, Geo. Warrindon, Aaron Hickson (seriously injured), John Ellis, Thomas Naylor.

List of Killed Men in the Pit.

Charles Kellett, Richard Kellett, Thos. Kellett, Joseph Kellett - Brothers, residents at Hemingfield.

Richard Kellett, Thos. Kellett, Richard Kellett - Sons of the above.

Henry Beevers, Elijah Beevers - Brothers.

Joseph Hunt, Samuel Hunt - Brothers, Lund-hill.

George Gee, Thomas Gee - Brothers.

Barnet Bailey - Father and one son.

John Russell, Stuart Russell - Brothers.

Charles Walker, George Walker, James Walker - Brothers.

Joseph Smith, James Smith, John Smith - Father and two Sons, Lundhill.

Edward Garbutt, John Garbutt, Wm. Garbutt - Father and two Sons, Lundhill.

Israel Hobson, John Hobson - Father and Son, Lundhill.

Henry Barraclough, Charles Barraclough - Brothers, Lundhill.

Wm. Maughan, Geo. Maughan - Brothers.

John Grimshaw, Joseph Grimshaw - Brothers, Wombwell

Sampson Lowe, Geo. Lowe - Brothers, West Melton.

Charles Coates and James Coates, Brothers, Wombwell.

Thomas Pollard and Wm. Pollard, Father and Son.

Wm. Illingworth and John Illingworth, Father and Son.

Thos. Dunstan and Richard Dunstan, Brothers.

John Cutt, Wm. Cutt, John Cutt, Geo. Cutt - Father and three Sons, Lundhill.

George Mason, Benjamin Johnson, James Coates, John Smith, John Helliday, Richard Corbridge, Arthur Lichfield, William Lichfield, and James Lichfield, Brothers, John Hodgson, George Dawson, Benjamin Batty, Charles Ludrick, Amos James, George Townsend, Thomas Hilton, Israel Hobson, Thomas Farmer, Henry Barraclough, Charles Barraclough, Joseph Witney, Edward Walker, Alfred Windle, Dennis Bush, George Tattershall, William Thompson, George Scholey, George Shepherd, John Livesey, David Howarth, Thomas Wilkinson, Stephen Turner, and Abraham Turner, brothers, William Hutchinson, Samuel Parkinson, William Monks, Robert Burland, Thos. Naylor, Barnett Batley, J. Frost, Ezra Hillingworth, John Wilkinson, T. Franks, Joseph Goodall, Samuel Lawe, and Ezra Lawe, brothers, J. Carr, Geo. Thompson, J. Child, J. Bellamy, Wath, Charles Coates, Wombwell, Ed. Rainer, Hemingfield, Michael Baine, Wath, James Walker, Lundhill, Wm. Wigfield, Hemingfield, John Beevors, Wombwell, Wm. Illingworth, Lundhill, Thos. Drury, West Melton, George Moore, Wombwell, John Hobson, John Scott and George Gill, Hemingfield, Robert Moore, Wombwell, and Henry Wilson.

Nappers: - John Illingworth, James Drury, William Cooper, John Dawson, Ed. Simmonds, Geo. Blackburn, and Samuel Abbott.

Hurriers: - Joe Holdham, John Malkin, Wm. White, and Daniel Chisholm.

Packers: - Robert Fletcher, Thomas Logan, Thomas Dunstan, James Barlow, Abram Nettleton, John Denton and Thomas Denton, father and son, John Mitchell, John Stevenson, and James Barlow, Henry Howcroft, Joseph Margison, Joseph Simmonds, W. Pickles, "Chick" Broadhead, -- Fawcett, peter McAllister, Robert Howarth, Charles Milner, James Stothard, Robert Pulleine, Matthew Cowen, and Henry Mellor, hurriers, Wm. Horsfield, Josh. Smith and Joseph Crosland, of Lund-hill.

The stables which were situated at the bottom level, have been entirely consumed, as well as three horses in them.

Of the 18 men who were taken out alive on Thursday afternoon, one of them, named Turner, died during the night. Perhaps the most lamentable part of this awful catastrophe is the suspense in which the families are kept as to the finding and identification of the bodies, for as the pit will have to be kept sealed up until the fire is completely subdued, it is impossible to state when the bodies will be recovered, the probability being that several days, at least, must elapse before they can be got out.

One of the men who had been taken out informed our reporter that in his attempt to get to the bottom, he had to walk over a number of bodies, all apparently lifeless. The foreman also, to whom our reporter is indebted for some of the particulars, stated that in his last descent, he penetrated to a considerable extent into the deep level, and pulled out seven or eight men, and placed them at the bottom level. He was then obliged to give up the search, the fire damp nearly overpowering him, and had he remained any longer it would have been impossible for him to make his way back.

At half-past nine on Thursday night, the fire in the pit had reached a fearful height, the cupola appearing one mass of flame, of great brilliancy, which illuminated the country for miles. The scene at this time was truly awful, the vast body of flames throwing out in striking relief groups of persons in every direction, nearly all of them showing unequivocal symptoms of having lost some one belonging to them. The great portion of those present during the night were women, many of whom had lost husbands, as well as sons, and whose deep grief it was most painful to witness. Towards seven o'clock, great fears were entertained that the coal in the bank would ignite, from its close proximity to the flames of the furnace, and it was deemed advisable to telegraph to Sheffield for the fire engines. Their services, however, were not required, as the efforts of the firemen and others were sufficient to keep the fire subdued. About eight o'clock at night, a consultation took place amongst those present, including the proprietor, and was the opinion of these gentlemen that the only course that could now be adopted, - as there was not a shadow of a doubt that all the men in the workings were dead, - was to completely close the pit, so as to smother the flames. The whole of the pit was then, with the exception of the cupola, closely boarded over, which, when known to the persons around, called forth lamentation, of the most painful and distressing description, as the hope to which so many had still hold, was taken away, and the full force of the awful bereavement became more plainly evident to the most sanguine. The bodies in the pit as now ascertained to be about 165, the names of upwards 150 being given by the parties in charge. Out of this number it is calculated that more than 100 have left wives and families, so that there is scarcely a working man's house at Lund-hill, Wombwell, and the neighbouring villages but is the scene of mourning. In some places the entire male portion of families have been swept away, - one family of Kellett having to deplore the loss of no less than seven of their sons. In many instances two, three, and four brothers and fathers, and one, two, and three sons have shared the same fate. Up to one o'clock on Friday the cupola still sent forth a dense body of smoke, showing that a large quantity of the coal at the bottom was still burning.

Almost the whole of Saturday last, the cupola, which had been levelled with the ground, and covered over, with the exception of a small portion, emitted a good deal of smoke, which, if anything, increased towards evening. Goldworthy's apparatus for manufacturing carbonic gas, which it was expected would be put in operation, so as to force a large stream of it into the pit, was not put in requisition.

The water of the engine, which is sent down the pit at the rate of from 200 to 300 gallons per minute, is generally considered to be (the) best and most likely step for extinguishing the flames that could possibly be taken, and great confidence was expressed at the meeting that the result would soon become apparent. During the day the thermometer was let down for about 20 yards into the cupola, to test the amount of heat. At two o'clock in the morning it stood at 97, whilst at four o'clock on Friday afternoon it was fully 105 degrees. However, it considerably varied, ultimately having a lowering tendency, as will be seen from the following report of Mr. Coe: - "Saturday, six a.m., 82½; 8.30 a.m., 87; 10.10 a.m., 96; 1.30 p.m., 95; 3.30 p.m., 85; and up to a late hour on Saturday there was very little variation". On Sunday and Monday the report was as follows: - 4 p.m. Sunday, 79; 12 p.m., 77½; 2 a.m. Monday, 77; 4 a.m., 77; 6 a.m., 76; 7.30 a.m., 78; 10 a.m., 78.

From the statements of some of the men who were taken out of the pit unhurt on Thursday night last, it would appear that the explosion gave scarcely a minute's warning. One of the men, however, with a courage and decision almost superhuman, on the first slight warning, rushed to where his son (who was hurrying for him) was, and placed him safely at the bottom of the shaft. He then went back and brought out another lad, and also assisted two men to reach the spot where there was the only chance of safety. As the cause of the dire calamity is in course of thorough investigation by the Coroner's jury, it may be remarked without touching or

hazarding an opinion on the subject, that the manager, Mr. Coe, who was down the pit a short time before the explosion, is a man in whose ability the colliers had the fullest confidence. This was perhaps more fully shown when his connection with the Oaks Colliery terminated some months ago. A few weeks after he left, the Oaks strike took place, one of the main objects of which was ostensibly to get Mr. Coe back to the pit, as the men believed that under his guidance there was greater safety. After the strike had been concluded, and Mr. Coe had become manager at Lundhill, some of the turn outs found employment under him. Among these was one of the ringleaders of that movement, a man named George Thompson, who had been a soldier, and had seen much service in the East Indies.

One of the most painful scenes witnessed by the searching party whilst exploring the pit, was in connection with a man named Joseph Simmonds, who it appears was found in the bottom almost the last, and the party caught hold of him to put him into the chair. Suddenly, however, he broke away from them and rushed towards one of the workings. A second time they caught hold of him, but the unfortunate man, no doubt delirious from the gas he had inhaled, fought, struggled, and after every attempt to hold him got away, and ran with great fury up the old workings where it was impossible to follow him. He now lies in the pit, amongst his unfortunate comrades.

The inquest on the bodies was commenced on Monday last, and, after an investigation which resulted in no information with regard to the cause of the explosion, it was adjourned till the following week.