

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 5th. September 1857.

Page 2 Col. 2.

Excursion to Chatsworth.

The workmen lately employed at the Tapton Colliery, who dined together on Tuesday last, at Stonegravels, to commemorate the closing of the Lockoford Works, intend, with their friends, having an excursion to Chatsworth, on Monday next. It is expected a very large party will be made for the occasion.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 5th. September 1857.

Page 2 Col. 3.

Sale of Eyam Mining Shares.

A number of these shares, quoted at £55, were sold on Monday by Mr. Schofield, and the price realised was £58-10-0d. per share.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 5th. September 1857.

Page 2 Col. 3.

Reports of Coal Mines.

The reports of the various Inspectors of Coal Mines to the Secretary for State were published on Monday. It appears that last year there occurred the following number of fatal accidents - viz., in the Northern District, 135; in the North and East Lancashire Districts, 84; in the West Lancashire and North Wales Districts, 103; in the Yorkshire, 52; in the Midland District, (Derby, Notts., Leicester and Warwick.), 46; in the Stafford, Worcester and Salop District, 70; in the South Stafford and Worcester District, 156; and in the Southern District, 65. In the Western Districts of Scotland 45 lives were lost during the year.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 5th. September 1857.

Page 2 Col. 3-4.

Mining.

A meeting of the committee of the Wheal Mary Great Consols Mine was held recently at Sheffield, Mr. Leader, of the Sheffield Independent, in the Chair. It was agreed that the services of Mr. Charles Collins, the secretary of the company, and Mr. John Taylor, the agent, should be discontinued forthwith, and that all books and papers should be forwarded to Mr. Brown, Rosehill, Chesterfield, who should arrange with Mr. T. Richards for the future working of the mine, and that Mr. C. Thorpe be appointed clerk and Superintendent. The shareholders who have not paid their last call of 10-0d. per share were requested to do so, as it is intended to unwater the mine, and ascertain its capabilities. The Sheffield Union Banking Company were appointed bankers. Mr. Brown was appointed to act generally on behalf of the committee. We have nothing to report of material importance with respect to the Derbyshire lead mines. The Eyam (Dusty Pit) are getting some good ore, and will again have a large sale. The Brightside, now that the company have recovered from the loss occasioned by the insolvency of the late Mr. Royse, will soon be in a good position again. The Peak United are driving a level, but at present they have not got to anything promising. The North Derbyshire Company's Wren Park Mine, like many others, has been flooded by the late heavy rains, but they will soon be in a working condition again. The operations at Calver Sough are being proceeded with vigorously. The newly-formed Stoney Way Mining Company, at Matlock, are putting down a 16 horse engine to pump the water out of the mine and the company are sanguine that they will be able to unwater the mine without much difficulty. The Mill Dam Mining Company are endeavouring to negotiate terms with the proprietors of some mineral ground adjoining. There has been a great enquiry for shares, many of which have been taken up by the residents in the locality of the mine.

Mining Journal.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 5th. September 1857.

Page 32 Col. 5.

Enormous Yield.

A large boulder of quartz was found in a ravine near Pilot Hill, El Dorado county, from which 74 pounds of rock were broken from the richest portion, which, when melted and assayed, yielded 1760 dollars. The entire weight of the boulder is estimated at from 1100 to 1300 pounds, and it is thought that the yield be over 15,000 dollars. Messrs. Dayton and Bunkmeir, the owners of the prize, have been for a long while, in company with two others, working the claim with a poor return, and but a few days before the discovery, brought out their two partners by paying each 600 dollars for their interest in the claim.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 5th. September 1857.

Page 3 Col. 1-2.

The Closing of the Tipton Colliery.

On Tuesday last, a large party, numbering upwards of 150, sat down to an excellent dinner under an enormous marquee, erected in the paddock, at the back of Mr. Turner's, Hare and Hounds, Stonegravels. The party, which consisted of the several workmen until recently engaged by Mr. Robert Stephenson, in the Lockford Colliery, at Tipton, met to celebrate, by a dinner, the closing of the Colliery, in order that all who had been engaged in these works might upon the breaking up, have a meeting in which they could unite socially and harmoniously together accompanied by many of their friends. The stoppage of these works must be seriously felt in the vicinity, as it has thrown from three to four hundred men and boys out of employment, who in all probability must now locate elsewhere.

The tables which were decorated by flowers, were at three o'clock spread with a substantial fare, to which the company did ample justice by sending little else than "bare bones" away. Among the company were Messrs. W. Howe, Samuel Parker, Daniel Cooper, of Staveley, George Parker of Clay Cross, Thos. Halliday, Hudson, Thos. Longwith, of Staveley, John Parker, H. Kirk, etc., etc.

The Newbold Band was in attendance and played frequently during the evening. H. Kirk was repeatedly called upon, and he with other gentlemen, favoured the party with several songs. These intermingled with the "puff of the wood", kept the company together to a late hour.

After the cloth was removed, Mr. Wm. Howe was unanimously called to the chair, and that gentleman gave the usual loyal and patriotic toasts, "The Queen"; "The Prince Consort and the rest of the Royal Family"; "The Army and Navy"; observing that they stood in great need of their services just now, and they ought to be thankful to have them to fly to at a time of such great emergency. (Hear, Hear).

Mr. Pitt was called upon for a Recitation, he gave the "Three Warning" which much amused the company.

The Chairman said the next toast they would all receive with great pleasure, it was His Grace the Duke of Devonshire, the Lord Lieutenant of the County; and he was glad to hear that he was in much better health than he had been. The toast was heartily responded to.

Mr. Longworth said with permission of the Chairman he would propose a toast; he was quite satisfied that every man there would drink it with the greatest zest. The gentleman he mentioned had been a factotum for them all, he had set them all to work from beginning to end. It was the health of Mr. Robert Stephenson he had to give, and he should have been happy to have proposed the health of his father Mr. George Stephenson, had he been alive; he went in by inch and rose to be the greatest man in the kingdom - no man was superior to him, no Lord in the land; he had great talent, energy, and perseverance. Every man could do the same thing, they could all get up to be great men if they would persevere. If they were out of situations they need never want, they must persevere. He, Mr. Longworth, was not a rich man, but he began by perseverance and advanced himself to his present position which was a comfortable one and he was sure he should never be in want. He concluded by proposing the health of Mr. Robert

Stephenson, and whom there was not a more worthy or active, a more talented man living. (Loud and prolonged cheering).

The Chairman rose and said he would add a few words to what his friend had just stated, he said old Mr. Stephenson was possessed of a large amount of talent and perseverance; that was true, he rose from the lowest rank, his father was a fireman, and the great George Stephenson rose from a man earning 14-0d. a week, step by step to be the great man of the age. His inventions all classes were reaping the benefit of, they were great ones. They might not in his day be thought great but they were great now. He was the inventor of the Stephenson Lamp, it was superior to the Davy Lamp, it would not go out, and at a large meeting a number of people voted about £2,000 to Sir Humphrey Davy for his invention, while at the same meeting £100 were only given to Mr. Stephenson, although he was the original inventor; but he did not take the oil in a bladder into the drawing-room, he waited to see what merit would award, and he was afterwards at a meeting in the Newcastle Colliery presented, for his invention, with a silver cup containing one thousand guineas. He invented the locomotive, we thought nothing of it individually; we could go and jump into a train and go sixty miles an hour, but he was the man who invented it. He made the Manchester and Liverpool line but he was strongly opposed in the undertaking because he was a poor man but he carried it through successfully, it was one of the greatest undertakings, that line over Chat Moss, every one and all said he could not do it, but he did, yes he was poor, and all knew the difficulties a poor man had to contend with. Too much could not be said of such a man, how by his great perseverance he conquered every difficulty and rose to the eminence he attained. There was not a more talented man living than Mr. George Stephenson was in his day. (Cheers). The health of Mr. Robert Stephenson was drunk with musical honours.

Mr. George Parker said he had much pleasure in proposing the health of a gentleman in whom they were all interested, and as it was the closing up of the Tapton Colliery it was necessary that some one should say something about it, one who was connected with it and them; one who had disinterestedly, for the benefit of all, filled his office night and day, always ready to facilitate the work and keep them safe. He knew they would drink the health with as much pleasure as he had in proposing it, as he was sure they all knew how to appreciate his conduct - the health of Mr. Howe, their Chairman. The toast was loudly cheered and drunk with musical honours.

The Chairman thanked his friend Mr. Parker for proposing his health, and also the company for the manner in which they had received it; he felt he was quite undeserving so much praise, he had only done his duty, he always did what was in his power to promote the benefit and good feeling of the workmen when called upon; he had been called up many nights and at all hours, but had attended the summons with pleasure. (Hear, hear). He sincerely regretted the closing of the Tapton Colliery, as all must do who were in any way connected with it, but he hoped, as it was closed, that every man would soon find another and better place. (Cheers).

Mr. Daniel Cooper called upon the company to fill their glasses to the health of Mr. Samuel Parker, who was better known amongst them than he was, but he, Mr. Cooper, knew him to be a good and kind friend; he was a north countryman like himself, he was born near to him, and when he came to the south of England and met him, he soon claimed his acquaintanceship. He believed Mr. Cooper was a good master, masters sometimes had little difference with their men, but with a good understanding between all parties they were soon wrapped up again as they ought to be. (A voice "How was the Staveley men behaved to"). He was glad to see that closing scene of the Tapton Colliery and hear they had all done well, he was pleased to be there, they all appeared so happy and respectable - they were as good a class of colliers as ever he saw, and he believed Mr. Parker was a good master, was liked by them all (several voices "We love him") and he felt happy to propose the health of Mr. Samuel Parker. He

hoped, he had no doubt but that he should see all their happy faces again. (Cheers). A question had been asked by some man "How are the Staveley men behaved to?" In reply he would tell them that two men worked five days last week, and they received 32-6d. each for holeing. He proposed a bumper and thumper to Mr. Samuel Parker. (Prolonged cheering).

The Chairman said he quite agreed with Mr. Cooper, he thought they could not find another master like Mr. Samuel Parker, he was a good man and a true one; and he hoped all the workmen would all go where they might do as well, they could not do better. (Hear, hear). - Why not try Clay Cross? - there were some good men there, and he hoped they would find them. (A voice - "But none as good as Sam").

Mr. Thomas Straw, of Newbold, said it did not matter where they worked, their only object was to do good, and whether they worked for Mr. Samuel Parker or any of his family, they would do justice to their employer, and he proposed a toast "May the working man prosper".

The Chairman next proposed the health of Mr. Halliday, who had been at the colliery since he was a child, and who by his attention and perseverance had risen inch by inch and step by step, until he had become the chief clerk. (Three hearty cheers were given).

Mr. Halliday, in reply, thanked the chairman, his fellow workmen, and his friends, for the way they had received and drunk his health. It was true what Mr. Howe had said; he went there at a very early age, at 6-0d. per week, and if he had risen, it was entirely owing to his own industry, but he had friends in Mr. Howe and Mr. Parker to give him advice. With reference to the Tipton workmen, he was certain they were as good a class as could be found in the neighbourhood. (Hear, hear). His feelings upon the present occasion in meeting them were mingled with pleasure and with pain - pleasure in spending an evening so pleasantly among them and pain under the circumstances, that a separation was about to take place. (Hear). But, it was now certain they must part, and in conclusion, he wished they may all get good situations. (Cheers).

The Chairman gave the "Health of the Invited Strangers". He was glad to see so many friends around him, from Staveley and Clay Cross. They did not meet every day, and it always afforded him great pleasure to meet a friend. He, the Chairman, did not consider himself a stranger, but one of the Tipton workmen; he would couple with the toast, the names of Mr. Cooper and Mr. Hudson.

Mr. Hudson and Mr. Cooper returned thanks, the latter gentleman remarking that it was the first meeting of the kind he had attended: he liked such meetings, they encouraged that sociality that ought to exist between all parties. He had lately met a number of the workmen at a treat given at Staveley, by his master, Mr. Richard Barrow, at the opening of a new school, which was a magnificent building, that was the only occasion he had met workmen together in the south of England; he liked to see a good class of workmen and he would fight hard to get for every collier, 5-0d. a day clear; but he should be very sorry if they were not first-class men. Mr. Barrow was one of the most liberal men in the neighbourhood, and he would wish, he knew, every man to have a good day's wage for a good day's work. (Cheers).

The Chairman gave "our Worthy Employers, Mr. Richard Barrow, and the Clay Cross proprietors", and may we long enjoy such worthy masters.

The toast was rapturously cheered, and many of the party retired from the tent to the house, where the remainder of the evening was pleasantly spent.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 12th. September 1857.

Page 2 Col. 1.

Advert - Tapton Colliery Workmen's Tea and Ball.

A Tea Party and Ball will be held on a spacious marquee at the back of the Hare and Hounds, Stonegravels, on Monday, September 14th., 1857.

Tea at 5 o'clock; Dancing at seven.

Admission to the public: To the Tea and Ball, 2-0d.; and to the Ball only, 6d. Tickets may be had at Mr. Turner's, Hare and Hounds Inn, Stonegravels. Tapton Workmen's wives admitted free; Tickets at the marquee.

A first-class tea will be provided, and Messrs. Kirk and Blake's Quadrille Band is engaged to attend.

Intoxicating drinks will not be allowed in the marquee, but may be obtained at the Inn.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 12th. September 1857.

Page 2 Col. 3.

Fire Damp Explosion.

On Sunday morning last a terrific explosion of fire damp took place at Birdholme Pits, belonging to the Wingerworth Iron Company. The Company has several ironstone pits in that locality, which are worked by means of an engine fixed at the bottom of the valley near where the Derby road crosses it, about a mile from Chesterfield. Here a downcast shaft in connection with the various workings has been sunk, at the bottom of which an air furnace is kept constantly heated, so as to assist the ventilation by rarefied air. This shaft has been sunk several yards below the ironstone workings down to the coal measure, known as the Tupton Bed. This lower level serves as a sump deposit for the water from the higher levels, which is raised by pumping apparatus attached to the engine. From this shaft a heading has been driven for a distance of 30 yards along the coal measures. This is partially filled with water in its course, from which it rises or lowers according as it is raised or lowered in the sump in the shaft. At the head of the working it is supposed that a very large quantity of explosive gas had accumulated, which had forced its way through the water during Saturday night, and then found its way to the ventilating shaft. The furnace-man went down about 8 o'clock to renew the fire, which had got very low, and then returned to the surface. In about half an hour, when it is surmised that the fire had got to a certain height, the whole accumulation exploded with a terrific force, carrying all before it - timber, brickwork, and everything on top and bottom of the shaft. The debris was scattered in all directions several hundred yards from the shaft mouth. Had it been a working-day, it is impossible to tell the loss of life which must have occurred, from 18 to 22 men being usually employed in and around the spot. This is the third explosion that has taken place in these pits within the past year or two, all of which have occurred in a similar way.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 12th. September 1857.

Page 2 Col. 3.

Tapton Colliery Workmen.

On Monday last the workmen lately employed in the above colliery, managers, and their friends, in number about 200, betook themselves on a pleasant excursion from Stonegravels to Chatsworth. They passed through Chesterfield about nine o'clock in the morning, by a number of carriages, bearing flags, preceded by the Chesterfield and Scarsdale Brass Band. Upon arriving at Baslow the party stayed for lunch, and after doing full justice to that part of the programme, they proceeded to Chatsworth through the principal gate of the park, and by special permission inspected the house and gardens. They afterwards enjoyed themselves in the beautiful grounds of this delightful retreat, and at four o'clock returned to the Baslow to dinner, where they harmoniously spent the remainder of the day, returning to Stonegravels about 10 o'clock in the evening. The day was exceedingly fine, and the whole of the party was highly delighted with the day's enjoyment. It will be seen by advertisement that the same party intend having a "Tea and Ball" on Monday next, in a marquee, at the back of the Hare and Hounds, Stonegravels. Every provision is made for the workmen, their wives, and friends, to enjoy themselves, and we have no doubt but that under Mr. Turner's good catering, the company will spend a happy evening together.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 19th. September 1857.

Page 1 Col. 3.

Advert - On Sale.

For a short time, at Tapton Colliery, a quantity of engine slack, convenient for loading to cart, or boat on the canal. Price 1-0d. per ton for cash.

Tapton Colliery, 18th. September, 1857.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 19th. September 1857.

Page 3 Col. 1.

Eyam Mining Company.

The committee, at their meeting on Thursday resolved to smelt the ore they had for sale, as they considered the offers made by the smelters were below its value. The ore raised during the past six weeks is 116 tons.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 19th. September 1857.

Page 2 Col. 5.

Tapton Colliery Workmen's Tea Party and Ball.

The entertainment took place on Monday evening last, in a marquee, erected in the back of Mr. Turner's, Hare and Hounds, Stonegravels. The party did not muster so strong as was expected, only 84 sitting down to tea, and those principally the wives of the workmen. The tent was decorated with flowers and evergreens; and in various parts were hung banners bearing the following Mottoes: "A good name will stand forever", "A sound conscience is a wall of brass", "Temperance is honourable", "A good name will shine for ever", etc. The small attendance of visitors may be attributed to the dull appearance of the weather, which portended rain, but those present much enjoyed the recreation. After tea the tables were removed for dancing, and the party during the remainder of the evening "tripped gaily" to the strains of Messrs. Kirk and Blake's Quadrille Band, which was in excellent tune.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 19th. September 1857.

Page 3 Col. 1.

Staveley.

Last Tuesday morning about three hundred of the colliers at the Speedwell Mine, belonging to R. Barrow, Esq., turned out for a rise of wage; and a deputation waited upon that gentleman, but he was not at home; they were ordered to return to their work until Mr. Barrow returned, which they did to the satisfaction of the towns-people.

Correspondent.

Illustrated London News

Saturday 26th. September 1857

Fatal Boiler Explosion in Durham.

On Sunday morning, one of the boilers at the Trimdon Grange Colliery burst with a report like the explosion of a magazine of powder. The chimney was split, the stone walls blown to atoms, the boilers shifted out of their places, and a large number of houses damaged by bricks, stones, pulleys, metal pipes &c. The boiler had split in two ; the upper part was blown over the tops of six or eight houses, and fell about 100 yards distance from the place. The other part was lifted over the engines, houses, and railway, at a distance of about 150 yards. On clearing away the stones and rubbish near where the boiler stood, the dead bodies of two young men were discovered, the one named John Orton, the other Roper, the fireman. A child playing in the street was struck by one of the bricks, and there seems to be little hope of its recovery.