Illustrated London News

Saturday 6th. March 1858

Fatal Accidents in Coal Pits.

Four men were killed on Thursday week in a pit called the Lodge Colliery, near West Bromwich. The men were at work about eighty yards from the bottom, when a large piece of the work gave way, fell upon them, and buried them. The quantity of earth which fell weighed about fifty tons. - A disastrous explosion of firedamp occurred at about two o'clock on the same day at one of the Lower Duffryn Collieries, Cwm Pennan, near Mountain Ash, Aberdare, belonging to the firm of Messrs. Thomas Powell and Son. It was soon ascertained that, out of thirty-two hands who were in the colliery, as many as nineteen had been killed.

Derbyshire Times

Saturday 6th March 1858

Page 2 Col. 4

Fatal Accident

On Thursday last, Mr Busby held an adjourned inquest at Clay Cross, on the body of John Sampson Banister, jouneyman bricklayer, aged 25 years. On the 23rd ult. deceased was helping to build some arching at the bottom of the Foundation Pit at Ankerbold, when some part of it fell in on him and killed him instantly. Verdict, "Accidental Death".

Derbyshire Times

Saturday 6th March 1858

Page 2 Col. 4

Accident in a Coal-Pit

An Inquest was held before Mr Busby, on Thursday last, on the body of Lott Knighton, of Clay Cross, coal miner, aged 24 years. Deceased was "holeing" in the Blackshale coal pit, belonging to the Clay Cross Company, on the 22nd ult., when about five or six hundredweight of coal fell upon him and killed him. Verdict "Accidental Death".

Derbyshire Times

Saturday 6 March 1858

Page 2 Col. 4

Man killed in a Lead Mine.

John Gilbert, a native of Tideswell, was unfortunately killed on the Tuesday afternoon last, about 3 o'clock, at the Dusty Pit Coal Mine, Eyam. Deceased, accompanied by another miner, named John Robinson, were working in the "Lower Gate" of the mine, and Gilbert had sat down about to have a pipe of tobacco, when a stone and other materials fell from the roof and killed him instantaneously. The deceased has left a widow and three children.

Illustrated London News

Saturday 13th. March 1858

No Headline

The Ulverstone Mining Company's water level has just been opened. The level is a mile and a half long, is 4 ft. 6 in. wide, and 6 ft. deep, the greater part of it being cut in solid rock, and it effects a drainage at the engine-shaft of 92 feet.

Derbyshire Times

Saturday 13th March 1858

Page 2 Col. 4

Fatal Accident

A most serious accident occurred on the 25th ult., at New Foundry, Alfreton, to a poor man named John Lambert who was engaged filling the stack for the first time, and was in the act of putting an empty barrow upon the chair in order that it might be lowered, and there being a quantity of slack the chain lowered sooner than expected, the poor man clinging to the barrow, fell headlong to the bottom, about 55 feet, and was killed on the spot. He was immediately conveyed to the house of Mrs. Shaw, the Old Butcher's Arms, Four Lane Ends. An inquest was held on the body the following day, when a verdict of "Accidental Death" was returned.

Derbyshire Times

Saturday 13th March 1858

Page 2 Col. 5

Mill Town Mine, Ashover.

The works are looking very well, and the next measure is expected to produce 300 loads, or nearly double that of last month. The shares in this mine have reached about 15 - 0d . The Company intend to declare a dividend at the half-yearly meeting in April or May next.

The New Midland Mine.

The new company are driving a cross-cut east and west, and one of the committee informs us that the ore already got will cover the cost of driving.

The Mill Dam Mine

The following is the last report issued by the agent of the mine:- Enclosed is my report of the Mill Dam and Gateside Mines. With regard to the former, I find that the main gates and gin-shaft are in most ruinous condition; to put them in order will be attended with considerable expense. I would, therefore, only repair the shafts and climbing gates, and merely keep the others open for ventilation and the under workings of the mine. The top working in each mine are poor at present, although there are 14 men and 4 boys working the same on "cope", and paying the average sum of 7 - 0d per load. I have also 3 men and 4 boys engaged in cleaning out the under level. Our progress here is slow at present, owing to the air being bad and very pernicious. I am with all possible dispatch driving a rip-gate west of Mill Dam. The ground is very favourable, but not any ore to value: Price of driving 30 - 0d per fathom.. I intend to drive this gate another six fathoms, and then put down a pump. This will not only give ventilation to the level, but will be very useful for other purposes. The Old Man's workmanship in this level is all pick work, and purely an Old Man's cutting. I have not the least doubt it has been driven to the Mill Dam Mine more than 300 years ago, and when emptied of its contents, which is sediment or water-settling, we shall be then able to intersect one of the most promising fields of mineral property

The Hill Top Mine,

which adjoins Mill Dam property, and is on the same vein, is very rich, and the profit of the wokings since the measure of ore about Christmas last is estimated at something like £1,000. Several of the committee of Mill Dam made a thorough exploration of the works on Wednesday last.

Mining Journal.

Derbyshire Times

Saturday 13th March 1858

Page 3 Col. 3

Artificial Coal.

A curious communication, by M. Baroulier, has been sent in to the Academy of Sciences, describing a method of obtaining a substance possessing all the properties of coal. It is a fact generally admitted by geologists, that coal is the result of carbonisation of vegetable matter by heat under a strong pressure, and under circumstances calculated to impede the escape of their volatile ingredients. M. Baroulier proceeds in similar manner; he envelops a vegetable matter in wet crushed clay, and exposes it for a considerable length of time to a great pressure, and to a heat between 200 and 300 degrees centigrade (or the melting points of tin and bismuth nearly). Various kinds of saw-dust, subjected to this treatment, yielded different substances, possessing more or less the resinous lustre of an colour of coal, and burning with a bright flame.

Derbyshire Times

Saturday 20th March 1858

Page 1 Col. 1

Advert - Wanted,

A good steady burner, Regular employment found. Apply to Mr. George Knowles, Brampton.

Derbyshire Times

Saturday 20th March 1858

Page 2 Col. 2-3

Riggot v Lucas and another - Special Jury Case.

Mr. Macaulay, Q.C., and Mr. Brewer, for plaintiff; Mr. Mellor, Q.C., and Mr Mundell, for defendants.

The plaintiff was James Riggot, and defendants George Lucas and Stephen Thompson. The action was brought to recover damages, the declaration alleging that the defendants did, at Coal Aston, break and enter plaintiff's field, and take coal from under the same; also damaged a cottage, etc. Defendants paid into Court £20. Mr Macaulay, in opening the plaintiff's case, said that defendant did not deny undermining the plaintiff's land, for he had paid into Court £20. The plaintiff was the owner, by purchase, of a small piece of land at Coal Aston, near Dronfield, and on it was a cottage valued at £80. The plaintiff on this land built a house for himself to live in, a grocer's shop, and a beer house, which property had been considerably damaged and shaken by the undermining of the land. The property had become imperilled, and if it was attributal to the undermining of the land, the £20 paid into Court would not be one fifth of the amount of damages sustained by plaintiff. The defendants were the lessees of two coal mines, and under the landlords. In 1856 they were both working under their leases in the immediate neighbourhood of plaintiff's land; and in the autumn of that year the plaintiff discovered that there was something wrong. In his tenant's house the plaster began to fall.

The other witnesses examined were the underground bailiff and several coal miners, who had worked under the land in question. Mr. Dobbs, valuer, residing in Chesterfield, said he examined the cottage, which he found damaged to the amount of £80, and was at the present time a complete wreck. He also examined the new house built by Mr. Riggot, which was originally worth £300, and had been damaged to the amount of £150. The value of the land was also diminished in consequence of its not being safe to build upon it. This was the plaintiff's case.

Mr Mellor addressed the Court for the defendants, observing that he should satisfy the Jury that no damage whatever had been done to the plaintiff's property by defendants, but on the contrary it had been the fate of Mr. Riggot's house to be built on the boundary of an old working. He shold prove that the defendant's workings never extended to the premises, and that no injury had been sustained by them. The learned counsel called Mr. Deakin Wadsworth, a mineral agent of great experience; Mr. William Goodwin, mineral agent, Chesterfield; and Mr. John Booth, mineral agent, all of whom produced plans and stated that the workings under plaintiff's property were "old workings", where the coal had been got out probably 50 or 100 years, and produced samples of coal taken therefrom in support of their statements. They also proved that the defendants were not working, not had worked under plaintiff's land.

Other witnesses were examined, and His Lordship having summed up, the Jury retired to consider their verdict. On their return to court, after an absence of about an hour, the jury gave a verdict for the plaintiff for £10. This case, which finished the cause list, occupied the Court until 5 in the afternoon.

Derbyshire Times

Saturday 20th March 1858

Page 3 Col. 4

Wages Case

Mr Geo. Sidall, of Brampton, was ordered to pay William Flint 10 - 6d expenses for wages due to him for boring in a pit belonging to defendant.

Derbyshire Times

Saturday 20th March 1858

Page 4 Col. 1-2

Stealing Leather at Staveley

William Smith Dickens, 22 shoe maker, charged with stealing on the 25th January last, a quantity of leather, the property of Richard Barrow, Esq., of Staveley. John Barker, engine tenter at Mr. Barrow's works at Staveley, said that his employer had a shop at Handley Wood, where engines were repaired. On the 24th January witness saw some boxes in the shop safely locked up. On going into the shop the following day they were still safe. George Foulds, labourer, went to the engine shop on Monday morning, the 26th of January, and could not get in. William Barker, engine-wright, had charge of the shop in question. On going to the shop on the 26th of January, he found some of the boxes open and a great quantity of leather gone, also a great quantity of brasses and gas fittings, with a great quantity of copper wire rope, the leather was used for buckets. On the 9th of February Mr Radford, superintendent of police, at Chesterfield, showed witness some leather which he compared with a piece taken out of Mr Barrow's stores, and they corresponded. James Radford received information of the robbery, on the 27th of January and went to prisoner's house in consequence on the 6th of February. He found first a small piece of leather and then a larger piece concealed under the fire grate in the kitchen. Prisoner was not in at that time. When apprehended, witness showed him the leather produced and asked him where he had bought it? He said "I bought it, that's plenty". The Jury having consulted for a short time, then acquitted the prisoner.

Derbyshire Times

Saturday 20th March 1858

Page 4 Col. 2

Hawley v. Hicks.

Mr Sarjeant Hayes and Mr. Brewer for plaintiff; Mr Mellor, Q.C., for defendant. The plaintiff Elizabeth Hawley, is the owner of a colliery at Clay Cross, near Chesterfield; and defendant, Richard Hicks, is a coal dealer residing at London.

The action was brought to recover the sum of £179 - 19 - 2d. for coals sold and delivered on a monthly account.

Mr Sarjeant Hayes having opened the case in a brief speech, called,

Edward Taylor, of Brampton, Chesterfield, manager for Mrs. Hawley, who proved the agreement made with Mr. Hicks as to the monthly supply of coals, and also as to monthly payments. In October last he sent defendant his account for coal for the month of September, amounting to £179 - 19 - 2d. After the account had been sent he saw the defendant at the Angel Hotel, Chesterfield, about the 14th of October. He said he was in suit with the West Staveley Company, and he should be glad if plaintiff would allow his account to stand over. On the 22nd of October he received from defendant a letter stating that the suit was settled, and he expected the award in a few days, when he would send a remittance.

Mr Mellor, Q.C., after asking a few questions, said he could not resist the claim, and the verdict was taken for the full amount.

Mr Sarjeant Hayes applied for immediate execution, when his Lordship, after hearing the affidavit, ordered execution in four days.

Solicitor for the plaintiff, Mr. Clayton, of Chesterfield; for the defendant, Mr. Smith, London.

Derbyshire Times

Saturday 20th March 1858

Page 4 Col. 5

Topliss v. Hicks.

Mr Macaulay, Q.C., and Mr Wills for the plaintiff; Mr Mellor, Q.C., for defendant. The plaintiff is a colliery proprietor at Stretton, near Chesterfield, and defendant is the same as in the former case. The action was brought to recover a sum of money for coal sold to defendant, and on a cheque for £50, which had been given by defendant to plaintiff, which was afterwards returned to plaintiff by the bankers.

Mr Topliss proved that he supplied defendant with coal in 1857 and January last. On the 15th December he received a cheque from defendant, which has since been returned to him. At the time the cheque was given he owed £2 - 4 - 3d on the back account. Since that time he had supplied him with coals, but had not received any money in payment. £26 - 16 - 0d had been paid into Court.

Mr Mellor, Q.C., called defendant, who said, I am a coal merchant residing in London. I gave a cheque to Topliss for £50, in anticipation of coals to be sent. Afterwards he was told that Mr. Topliss had ceased to be at the colliery, and I therefore told the bank not to pay the cheque. I did not receive any coal on that cheque. I afterwards wrote to the colliery and coal was sent, for which I paid £40. Finding that Mr Topliss had nothing more to do with the colliery, I sent him the £26 - 16 - 0d. that was due to him at the time he was at the colliery. I have not received any coal for the cheque I sent to Mr. Topliss.

By Mr. Macaulay - I received no coals after I sent the cheque, excepting for what I remitted cash to Mr. Broad, the station-master at Stretton.

Mr. Broad, the station-master at Stretton, proved that on the 18th of January he received a consignment of coals from defendant of 73 tons 7cwts., which were put into Mr. Hicks's trucks and forwarded to London. On the 24th of January I sent 60 tons 13cwt to Hicks, London; the carriage being paid by Topliss. I received a cheque for £40 for the 60 tons 13cwt., which I handed over to Mr Topliss.

His Lordship said that it appeared to him to be question as to the quantity delivered.

Mr Mellor, Q.C., summed up the defence; and Mr. Macaulay, Q.C., having replied. His Lordship said the action was brought to recover £50 on a cheque that had been dishonoured. The real question was whether the plaintiff had delivered the coal at Stretton Station on consideration of having received a cheque for £50. The two witnesses for the plaintiff, he considered, were uncontradicted. The Jury gave a verdict for £54 - 5 - 6d.

Solicitors for plaintiff, Mr Jessop, Alfreton; and for defendant, Mr Smith, London.

Illustrated London News

Saturday 27th. March 1858

No Headline

The mining works of the Victoria Mining Company, at Runswick, near Whitby, sunk by subterranean action on Monday morning. The damage is estimated at £15,000 but there is no personal injury.

Derbyshire Times

Saturday 27th March 1858

Page 2 Col. 1

Advert - Sale by Mr Hatton.

To Builders, Farmers and Others.

To be sold by auction, by Mr Hatton, in the brick-yard, Brockwell Lane, Chesterfield, on Tuesday, the 13th April, at one o'clock, 2,000 of draining tiles and pipes, about 30,000 bricks, about 16,000 pan tiles, 4,000 suff bricks, 1,000 sexangular floor bricks, about 1,000 ridge tiles, 200 culvert slabs, 1,500 coping bricks, 1,000 half-moon bricks, 500 strawberry tiles, 7 wheelbarrows, brick pressing machine, two fire-pans, moulding frame, tile mould and frame, 16 planks, a lot of trestles, a fan, about 1,800 feet of tile boards, a pipe machine, two sets of turnstakes and ropes, 3 corves, water barrel, shovels, spades, pick axes, sundry lots of bricks and tiles, and other effects.

The whole without reserve.

Derbyshire Times

Saturday 27th March 1858

Page 3 Col. 2-3

R. Wright v. Rangeley - Special Jury Case.

The action was brought to recover £20 - 18 - 6d, for damage done to plaintiff's land at Dronfield, in consequence of it being undermined by defendant. Mr Busby appeared for the plaintiff, and called,

R. Wright, who said that in 1852 he entered into a agreement with Mr. Rangeley, and in consequence of that he began to get ironstone under his field, called the Bottom Stony Marsh. He made about 1acre 3 roods of pit hill in the field, and had damaged about 6 acres where the carts had gone over. Mr John Greaves made a measurement of the damage. He measured it at six and a half acres, and said it was worth £3 per acre. The defendant would only allow him 2 acres for damaged land. He (the plaintiff) did the soiling for Mr. Rangeley, and Mr Weston (agent to Mr. Rangeley) measured it himself.

Mr John Greaves, land valuer, said: In April, 1854, he made the measurement for Mr Wright, and found that there was 4 acres 1 rood of damaged land, half an acre of pitbank, and great quantity in different parts where the carts had gone through the field. He went over the land again in the spring of 1855. It was completely damaged for agricultural purposes. He did not notice the soiling that had been done. Mr James Turner said that he saw the land that was damaged; it was not fit for agricultural purposes. The carts had gone over the field wherever they could get. He was not aware of the quantity that was damaged.

Mr Rangely, for the defence, said : Your Honour and Gentlemen of the Jury, I shall call before you Mr. W. Weston, who left my employment shortly after he measured the land. He gave me an account of the land when it was measured, and so certain was he that the measurement was right, that he entered it in my ledger. When the plaintiff left the account at my house, I said I did not know whether it was right, but would look over it, and when I looked at the book, I found a great difference in the bill. He made the measurement from two to four acres. He had two pits and a number of coke ovens in the same field.

Samuel Weston, At the time I made the measurements I was agent for Mr. Rangeley, but have since left. I gave my measurement to Mr Rangeley, which Mr Wright did not dispute. I made great allowance on the part of the plaintiff. There were two acres, and I allowed him £3 per acre.

Cross - examined by Mr Busby; The size of the field was about 10 acres. There was a great deal we had not gone over at all. I was not aware that Mr Greaves had gone over the land. A great deal of land was damaged by Mr. Wright's own colliery.

Isaac Hadyn said he remembered the bill coming in, and Mr Rangely sent him to measure the land. Mr. Wright's son-in-law, (Mr. Holmes) accompanied him, and when he (witness) measured it, he made a great allowance on the part of Mr. Wright There were 13 roods of soiling. Mr. Holmes never made any objection to the measurement.

Mr. Cartledge said he had been with Mr. Wright bringing the bill to Mr. Rangeley, and he disputed it, and he (witness) went over the land with Mr. Hadyn.

Mr. Busby then addressed the jury, and said : Your Honour and Gentlemen of the Jury, you have now heard the facts of the whole case, I must say that I was not aware of the objections which the defendant was going to raise. Mr. Greaves, who was a disinterested party in the action, had gone over the land, given, what he thought, a just measurement of the whole of the damage done. It was shown that the damage has been done by the land being undermined and the carts going backwards and forwards on the land, and I think that when you have looked through the whole facts of the case you will find a verdict of £20- 18- 6d for the plaintiff.

His Honour then carefully summed up the evidence, and said: The action in brought for £22 -3 - 6d, but £1-5-0d has been paid into court, leaving the claim to be £20 - 18 - 6d. The greatest item in the bill that was in dispute was £12 - 5 - 0d for damage done to 4 acres 1 rood of land, which had been measured on the part of the plaintiff by Mr. Greaves, and then on the part of defendant a man measured who says that his measurement was not disputed. He thought that the opinion of Mr. Greaves would be biased, as he would wish to do justice to his employer, which would be so on the part of the defendant. He would tell the jury that the defendant had paid into court £1 - 5 - 0d, and it was for them to consider whether the plaintiff was entitled to any damages for the land.

The jury after having retired for a short time brought in a verdict for plaintiff. Damages £6 - 6 - 0d.

Derbyshire Times

Saturday 27th March 1858

Page 3 Col. 4

Terrible Landslip near Whitby, Yorkshire

A short time ago a company was formed in Leeds styled The Victoria Iron and Cement Works Company, Limited. They commenced ironstone mining a Reckhills, near Runswick, 9 miles north of Whitby, on the sea coast, at which place they also erected furnaces and other costly buildings, the whole establishment occupying, it is said, an acre and a half. On Monday morning, at three o'clock, the night-watchman heard subterranean rumblings, and gave the alarm. Other officers arrived, but only to witness the total destruction of the works. The enginehouse chimney first fell - then the furnaces and other erections. The whole site sunk or slipped bodily down. Positive information as to the cause is not yet obtained. Some say subterranean action, others a landslip as usual on the sea coast. Being night time, no one was at work, so that no personal injury was sustained. The total loss is roughly estimated at £150,000. Mr Andrews, one of the managers, has left for the officers at Leeds, to communicate the disastrous intelligence.