

Derbyshire Times

Saturday 1st May 1858

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Advert: -

Wanted to purchase, a horse gin, apply to S. Nall, Derby Lane, Hasland, Chesterfield.

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A Monster Nugget

The largest and purest gold nugget yet discovered will be exhibited to public view at the Crystal Palace, on Saturday, the 1st of May. It weighs 1,743 ounces 8 dwt., and is of the computed value of £7,500. £10,000 was offered for it in Melbourne. It was found at a depth of 18 feet from the surface, at Kingower diggings, a place in the Bendigo district, about 120 miles from Melbourne, by a party of 4 diggers, who have brought it to England for exhibition.

Illustrated London News

Saturday 8th. May 1858

No Headline

On Wednesday week an explosion of firedamp occurred at the Broughton Hall Colliery, near Wrexham, which resulted in serious injury to four men.

Derbyshire Times

Saturday 8th May 1858

Page 2 Col. 2

Advert.

Good household coal in constant supply at the Wallsend Collieries, Newbold Road, Chesterfield.

Small coke suitable for stove or greenhouse purposes.

On Sale

A cart weighing machine, (Nearly new).

Hand Pump, with ten yards of pump trees complete.

A pair of superior 6 feet pulleys for flat rope, with pedestals, brasses, etc.

Apply at Colliery, or to Mr. William Baker, Chesterfield.

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Advert - In Chancery.

In the matter of the Act of Parliament of the 19th and 20th years of the reign of Her Present Majesty, entitled "An Act to Facilitate Leases and Sales of Settled Estates", and

In the matter of the Walton Hall Estate, in the hamlet of Walton, in the Parish of Chesterfield, in the County of Derby, devised by the will of the Reverend Richard Burrow Turbutt, deceased.

Notice is hereby given, that by virtue of the above-mentioned Act of Parliament, an application has been made to the High Court of Chancery, to be heard before His Honour Vice-Chancellor Kindersley, by the Reverend Henry John Goodwin, of Hinchley Wood, near Ashbourne, in the County of Derby, clerk, and Frances Eleanora, his wife, by Richard Henry Goodwin, of the same place, and of Aldershot Camp, in the County of Hants., an officer of Her Majesty's service, as son, and next friend, Frances Isabella Goodwin, of Hinchley Wood, aforesaid, spinster, and Henry Emillia Goodwin, of the same place, spinster (?), an infant by the said Henry John Goodwin, her father and guardian, and the said Richard Henry Goodwin, the Reverend Francis William Sharpe, of Tibshelf, near Alfreton, in the County of Derby, clerk, and the Reverend Joseph Nodder, of Ashover, near Chesterfield, in the same County, clerk, that an agreement with Francis Rookby Appleby, Samuel Gardner, and Henry Longden, carrying on business under the firm of Appleby and Company, for granting to them a lease of the ironstone under certain parts of the said Walton Hall Estate for a term of twenty-one years, determinable if the whole of the said ironstone shall be sooner worked out, may be carried into effect; and that a lease may be granted to them accordingly of the ironstone under certain parts of the said Walton Hall Estate. And notice is hereby also given that the said petitioners, or either of them, may be served with an Order of Court, or notice relating to the subject of the said petition at the chambers of Mr. William Morgan Bennett, at No. 2, Raymond Buildings, Gray's Inn, in the County of Middlesex.

Dated the 6th day of May, 1858.

W.M. Bennett.

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Leader: - Mining Speculations

Within the last year or two there has been a rapid development of the mineral resources of this division of the county, scarcely paralleled in the annals of former mining enterprise throughout the mining districts of North Derbyshire. Not only has this enterprise extended itself to coal and ironstone mining operations, a field for which it is of the most extensive kind, presenting an inviting prospect of a fair return to the busy capitalist, but it has manifested itself into the lead mining districts, which at the present moment are objects of more than usual attention, as may be seen by the weekly reports of some new scheme, for opening up some new mine, launched into public notice. Chesterfield would seem to have become a kind of central mart, for which the operating machinery giving birth to these schemes, is put in motion; and go where you may "Mill Dams", "New Midlands", "Haslam Pipes", "Stoney Ways" and a host of other strange cognomina, form no inconsiderable share of common conversation. So important has the matter of "share accounts" become, that we actually find a quiet old town has been drifted into a current, into which a few years back, it would have been deemed almost a hair-brained prediction to have asserted that she would have run, viz., that of a central focus and the establishment of a "Mineral and General Stock Exchange". A week or two ago, we were told by a contemporary, who seems to be more anxious about chronicling matters of this sort than recording events as they rapidly succeed each other, "the mineral interest in Derbyshire had been light and the necessity for establishing a place for the transaction of business relating to the disposal of mining property", and that "a number of persons interested in mineral property, met on Wednesday evening, (the 14th of April) in the Market Hall, for the purpose of establishing "a Mineral and General Stock Exchange". Now we are not going to cavil at this onward movement - a movement which we rejoice to see, believing as we do that no county in the kingdom presents so inviting a field for legitimate enterprise in this respect as our own, or one where there is a more promising return for capital so invested; but we must indeed confess that we have doubts, very grave doubts, whether all this flourish, all this apparent activity is real, or legitimate, especially as we happen to know something of matters behind the scheme; how this machinery is set in motion. Could we see men of standing, men of capital and well-known enterprise, at the head of the movement, directing, counselling in these mining schemes, which have so unexpectedly jumped up into existence, our doubts will then, to a great extent, be removed; but it for want of this very element in what is presented to public favour, that we entertain them. Nor are we the only individuals who would seem to have caught the alarm - a far more weighty authority than the mere ipse dixit of a newspaper authority, has sounded the tocsin of caution on Monday week. John C. Newbold, Esq., Steward of the Wirksworth Great Barmote Court meeting, held in that town, said in alluding to legitimate mining, than "although he was convinced that good must arise from persons banding together for the bona fide purposes of mining, he held a contrary opinion in respect of companies which were got up for the purpose of creating and dealing in shares. He was sorry to observe a tendency this way amongst certain parties, who are only misleading themselves and others, he felt certain that such proceedings must, sooner or later, be productive of disastrous results". This is just our opinion, and it is on that very ground that we would earnestly warn parties who may feel disposed to dabble in those share transactions, that most assuredly, sooner or later, they will be caught, and these "disastrous results", so truly predicted by the authority (no mean one) just quoted, will overtake them. Some of these schemes we regard as mere bubbles, got up to trade in by parties whose knowledge of mining matters can only be of the meanest and most contemptible nature, and whose usual place of transacting business in the "buying and selling and getting gain" is some public house

bar, or a "stock exchange" of some such like respectability. We repeat, such schemes, so managed, are thus tossed to and fro, now in this speculator's hand, and now, for the advancement of a solitary half-a-crown per share, shifted into the shoulders of others to undergo the like process, are open to very grave objections and suspicions - a suspicion which even the establishment of "a regular place for the transaction of business relating to the disposal of mining property" will scarcely suffice to remove, so long as these transactions are surrounded by such objectionable elements, and carried on by parties whose only object can be to trap the unwary and induce them to become investors, by representations anything but founded upon facts. Before speculating in these mining shares, we would advise intending purchasers to visit the localities in which some of these schemes are situated, and make enquiry of disinterested parties on the spot, and we feel assured they will in many instances ascertain that the bright prospects pictured for them by these sanguine schemers have no existence whatever, except in the imaginations of those by whom they are so unhesitatingly put forth. To legitimate, bona fide enterprise, we shall ever extend our warmest support. With bubble projects we shall, as a matter of duty we owe to the public, not fail to wage implacable hostility, wherever or by whomsoever they may be fostered and promoted.

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Saturday 8th May 1858

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No Headline.

On Wednesday the adjourned inquest was held at the Angel Inn, Clay Cross, touching the death of Valentine Shaw, who was killed on the 20th. April, in the Blackshale Pit, at Woodthorpe. The Jury returned a verdict of "Accidental Death". Mr. Hedley, Government Inspector, was present.

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No Headline.

John Oldfield, miner, Whittington, was charged with fraudulently stacking ironstone, the property of William Higginbottom, Whittington. Joseph Marsden said: I am a labourer, and work for Mr. Higginbottom, at Whittington. I loaded the stone from the stack which had been made by Oldfield's banksman about a fortnight ago. The stack should be 2 feet 8 inches, and the stone on the outside. When we got to the inside, the stacking was very shallow - one place we measured was only 1 foot deep, instead of 2 feet 8 inches, and the stone was very rubbishy and bad, and a good deal of dirt and bind mixed with it. William Higginbottom, the complainant, said: I employed John Oldfield to get the ironstone in this pit; it was his duty to get it, and see it was properly stacked and dressed. I saw Oldfield frequently during the time he was getting it, and told him it must be dressed. I went every fortnight to measure the stack, and the good stone was always at the top: A trench was dug and the earth thrown into the middle of the heap, to fill up the bottom. He was to have 6-6d for every ton of 22 hundredweight, or 6-6d for every square yard on account, until it could be weighed. I saw the stone while it was being carted away, and found a good deal of rubbish and clay arranged in the centre of the heap to deceive me. I was charged for 180 tons by prisoner, which he has been paid for but when weighed, there was only 81 tons 9 cwt. Committed to Derby Gaol to hard labour, for one calendar month.

Derbyshire Times

Saturday 15th May 1858

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Letter - The Exchange for Mining Stock.

To the Editor of the Derbyshire Times.

Sir,

The strictures on "Mining Speculations" in your last publication are worthy of the serious consideration of all who may feel inclined to have "a doing" as the phrase usually runs, at mining luck. One half of the schemes about which so much is said are, I am confident, put up with no other view than to afford an opportunity for some few individuals, resident in and around Chesterfield, to dupe the unwary to become purchasers of the shares which they have taken care to secure to themselves on their first promotion, with a view to get them into the market, so soon as their own gross misrepresentations have created the necessary excitement in the public mind, that men have an opportunity of growing "rich by magic", as you naively term it. One week we hear that such a mine is likely to turn out to be a veritable "Eldorado". The fact is blazoned forth from public house to public house, where generally these mining promoters contrive to meet, and after a little backing and edging by some of these disinterested spectators, some uninitiated dupe is tempted to become a purchaser at a premium which the obliging vendor assures him will very soon be still considerably higher, as some inexhaustible vein is soon expected to be reached which will eclipse all other schemes in richness and value. No sooner have the knowing ones disburdened themselves of the surplus incubus, at a very considerable advantage of course, than the "mineral State of Denmark" comes to light, and down the shares tumble below par, to the great discomfiture of the vendee, who, instead of being a "biter" of others, finds himself "bitten", but, under the circumstances, finds it advantageous policy to "grin and bear" to a more favourable turn in the market takes place, should any redeeming chance present itself to send the shares up. It is notorious that some of these unscrupulous individuals have made their boast about the extensive gains by these transactions, which they regard as perfectly legitimate, on the plea, it is to be supposed, that "all is fish that comes to the net", no matter how brought thither. Whether the introduction of an "Exchange for Mining Stock" will obviate this objectionable feature in these transactions, is doubtful, particularly as there seems to be a want of anything like explicit information as to how matters are managed in connection with it, or the parties by whom its affairs are administered. So long as this is the case, the public will naturally shake their heads and ask, "Cui Bono", or rather it may be said, "Cuius Bono", or in the established ..... "surmise need not point to a reply". Money-making is the almost universal response. There are, it is true, some on the committee of management who would scorn to perpetuate a wrong in regard to these share transactions, and who are known to be men of sterling business habits; but they form an exception, and not the rule on "Change", not that I would cast a reflection on any one who may happen to be among the favoured few admitted thereon. As you hinted, "to buy and sell and get gain" is, perhaps, the greatest fault that can be laid to their charge, rather than a legitimate desire to become investors with a view to mining development at all risks. There seems to be a want of candour in the managing authorities, and an absence of information, which some of them, at least, appear studious to keep to themselves, or if afforded it comes through so suspicious a channel that its authenticity or reality is very much doubted. This I imagine to be the "objectionable element" to which you alluded. The sooner this evil to the well-being of the "Exchange" is removed, the better - at least if the bone fide intentions of the promoters of the scheme desire to see it fulfilling those functions which it is meant and so well calculated to serve. That the lead mining districts of North Derbyshire present an inviting field for investment there can be no two opinions; - But we want the "right men" to

do this. The enterprising tradesman, whose business profits may afford him margin to run the risk without injury to his trade, in case of failure, - the capitalist who makes money in a variety of ways, in short, any and all whose means come within the range of such enterprises, may, with benefit to themselves, and certainly to the localities in which mining operations may be carried on, make a moderate stake, without at all impairing their means; and such an investment I conceive to be the only true and legitimate one in which these mining schemes should be promoted, on the limited liability principle. A more mercenary speculator, whose end and aim is solely to grab at "loaves and fishes" which his misrepresentations can manage to fish up amid the busy turmoil of every-day life, deserves no better consideration than to be classed among the black-legs with which society is infested. By all means let enterprise be promoted, but let us have it in a genuine spirit.

I am, Mr Editor, Yours Faithfully

"A Cautious Speculator"

Chesterfield, May 11th 1858.

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Pit Accident.

On Thursday afternoon, an ironstone labourer called Oldfield, who was employed at one of the pits at Glasshouse Common, Whittington, fell down the pit, twenty-one yards deep, and has since died of the injuries received. He was conveyed to the Chesterfield Hospital and Dispensary immediately after the accident, and received every necessary attention until death terminated his sufferings.

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Cowden Rake Mining Company

The directors of this mine, accompanied by Mr. S.F. Holmes, surveyor, inspected the whole of the mineral property on Monday. The extent of the sett is upwards of three miles long, half a mile of which is a continuation of the famous Magpie Vein, which at the time of being worked was the richest mine in Derbyshire.

Telegraph.

Illustrated London News

Saturday 22nd. May 1858

No Headline

Fatal Colliery Explosion. - An explosion of firedamp occurred at the Wingerworth ironstone-pits near Chesterfield, on Monday, and resulted in the death of four persons, one of them being the manager of the works. About 400 men are employed in the pit; but at the time of the accident only the four men who were killed were engaged in it.

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No Headline.

At the Wakefield Police Court, an engine-tenter, named John Goldthorpe, has been charged with violating the rules of the Haigh Moor Colliery, causing the death of a miner named Crowther through negligence. He was sentenced to one month's imprisonment.

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Colliery Explosion at Birdholme.

A terrible accident has happened in one of the ironstone pits belonging to the Wingerworth Iron Company at Birdholme. On Saturday afternoon the men cut some fresh water which caused the bottom workings to be flooded so that the men could not resume work. On Sunday nothing was done at the pit, except to renew a bucket which had been worn out. On Monday morning a miner named Spike went down the shaft to ascertain the depth of the water, and on his being drawn up again he reported that it was only about a foot from the roof of the drift. The engineman soon afterwards discovered that something was wrong with the pumps, and he called the attention of Wm. Timms, the engineer, to the fact, and he, with Jefferson, his assistant, went down the shaft to examine the pumps. They found the "clack" out of order, and proceeded to repair it. Whilst they were doing this Bradshaw, the deputy, and Blagden, the banksman, remarked that there were two asses in the pit, and that if they were not removed they would be drowned. Bradshaw sent Blagden into the engine-house for a lamp. He brought a safety lamp and an oil lamp with him. The safety lamp they lighted before going down. After they had been down the shaft some ten minutes a terrible explosion took place, which shattered the brickwork at the bottom of the shaft and caused the immense weight of it to fall in. The force of the explosion was so great that the hats of several men, who stood at the mouth of the pit, were blown into the air. Since the accident the workmen have been endeavouring to check the water in the cistern, which belongs to the top lift of pumps, so as to prevent it going down the shaft, and also to purify the air in order that the workmen may descend in safety to explore for the bodies of the four men whose lives have been lost.

The following is a list of the dead: - Wm. Timms, engineer; John Jefferson, assistant; Thos. Bradshaw, the deputy; and Wm. Blagden, the banksman. Bradshaw and Timms have each left large families.

Two of the bodies were recovered on Thursday morning, and removed to the Furnace Inn to await an inquest.

Recovery of the Bodies - Inquest.

The bodies of the four unfortunate men were recovered on Thursday and Friday, and an inquest was opened to investigate the cause of the accident before Mr. Coroner Busby, at the Furnace Inn, last evening. After the identification of the bodies, the inquest was adjourned until Wednesday the 7th. of June, to be re-opened at the Municipal Hall, Chesterfield, to allow the attendance of Mr. Hedley, Government Inspector of Coal Mines, who was volunteered to assist in the investigation. The body of Thomas Bradshaw, through whose negligence in using the oil lamp instead of a safety lamp, it is feared the accident occurred, was found near that of Blagden, not more than two or three yards from the bottom of the shaft, showing that the foul air had been fired as soon as they had entered the heading. The clothes were completely stripped from poor Bradshaw's person, and the body was much burnt, and presented a most mutilated and distressing appearance.

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Police Intelligence.

Silas Moss, of Staveley, miner, was brought up on a warrant charging him with leaving the service of Martin Seymour, agent to R. Barrow, Esq., Staveley, by whom he was engaged to work as a collier. Committed to Derby for a month with hard labour.

Derbyshire Times

Saturday 29th May 1858

Page 1 Col. 4

Advert.

Good household coal in constant supply at the Wallsend Collieries, Newbold Road, Chesterfield.

Small coke suitable for stove or greenhouse purposes.

On Sale

A cart weighing machine, (Nearly new).

Hand Pump, with ten yards of pump trees complete.

A pair of superior 6 feet pulleys for flat rope, with pedestals, brasses, etc.

Apply at Colliery, or to Mr. William Baker, Chesterfield.

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Page 3 Col. 1

No Headline.

On Wednesday a meeting of the directors of the Mill Dam Company was held for the purpose of signing an agreement for the renewal of the lease, and also to decide on the site for a new shaft. The terms for the extension of the lease were considered satisfactory, and the agreement was duly signed by the directors. The lease will, therefore, be extended for twenty years beyond the expiration of the present term.

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The Late Fire-Damp Explosion.

The bodies of the four unfortunate men who lost their lives by the late lamentable accident by an explosion of foul air in the ironstone pits at Birdholme, were, on Sunday afternoon, interred at Brampton and Hasland, and those of Timms at Trinity Church, Chesterfield, followed by Mr. Richardson, the superintendent of the mines; Mr. J.M. Cooper, manager and cashier; and Robert Corry, the chief engineer of the company. Upwards of 100 members of the Terra Firma Lodge of Odd Fellows, M.U., of which deceased was a respected member, also joined in the procession. A most touching address, which drew tears from many a stout heart, was delivered over the grave by P.P.G.M. Henry Ford, in the presence of a large concourse of spectators.

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Advert - To Contractors, Colliery Proprietors, Agriculturists, and Others.

C. Jackson, chemist and druggist, Burlington Street, wishes to inform his friends and the public that he has accepted an agency for the sale of Oxide Iron and Zinc Paints, a new and improved article superseding white lead, being equally good as a preservative, and of lighter substance, thereby covering more surface and effecting a saving of at least 20 percent to the consumer. The Oxide Iron and Zinc Paints have for years been used as a marine paint with great success.

Timber covered with two coats of this paint have effectively resisted the action of salt water and worm when all other paints have comparatively failed.

To Colliery Proprietors, Contractors, and Farmers they are invaluable, as on exposure to the heat they undergo a chemical change or demi-galvanic action, converting the paints into a pure glaze, acknowledged to stand a red heat better than any other pigment.

Sold in casks at 28-0d. per hundredweight, any colour. Sample cask, 28lbs., forwarded carriage paid on receipt of 7-0d.

The paints are to be used and prepared in the ordinary manner with linseed oils and turpentine.

C.J. has also in stock, (of superior quality),

Anti-Friction Grease  
Tram Grease  
Pine Oil for Colliery Use

Also, refined neatsfoot oil prepared expressly for engine purposes and fine machinery.

Paints, Oils, and Varnishes, of every description.