

Derbyshire Times

Saturday 6th November 1858

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Staveley New Colliery.

We have received a sample of coal from the Hollingwood New Pit, taken from a bed 6 ft in thickness. It is really a "black diamond", beautifully bright, as a coal should be, when a coal.

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Eyam Mining Company

We are informed that a great improvement has taken place in the ore works at Dusty Pit, belonging to the Company. The men, when at work on Wednesday last, cut into a very rich vein, ranging 18 inches wide, and nearly a solid one.

Illustrated London News

Saturday 13th. November 1858

No Headline

On the afternoon of Thursday week the Cae Coalpit, near Llanelly, Carmarthenshire, was inundated by an inrush of waters from old adjoining workings. There were fifteen colliers in the pit, of whom ten were drowned.

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Saturday 13th November 1858

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Fatal Pit Accident.

On Saturday morning a fatal accident happened to a miner named Samuel Rawson, aged 38 years, who was employed in the ironstone mines belonging to Mr. Barrow, at Hady, near Chesterfield. The deceased was at his work on Saturday morning, when about 8 feet of the roof fell upon him and dislocated his neck. He was heard to cry out "Oh, Dear", and died instantly. An inquest was held on the body yesterday (Monday), and a verdict of Accidental Death was returned. The ironstone mines are much in need of Governmental supervision.

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The Colliers of South Staffordshire.

Nearly all these men, it will be remembered, after returning to work a few weeks ago on their employer's terms, again gave notice to leave, unless their requests, that their masters should give them, some one shilling and others sixpence a day, more than they were being offered, should be complied with. In most cases these notices expire next Saturday. In anticipation of that day, the men assume or who are recognised as the guides of the rest, have held a meeting, and have passed resolutions expressing their desires that the differences between themselves and their employers should cease. With a view of arriving at this very desirable issue, they offered to accept half the rise they had previously required. If this offer should be treated with "contempt", they appeal to the public to help them to gain their "just rights". They notify their intention of holding a public meeting in the forenoon of Monday, at Horsley Heath, and invite their masters to meet them at that meeting and inform them of their decision.

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The Colliers at Rawmarsh.

A great meeting was held on Wednesday at the Four Lane Ends, near Stubbing. Considerable interest was manifested in the proceedings in consequence of there being present 30 men who had been brought by Messrs. Charlesworth's agent from West Bromwich, near Birmingham, to work at the Warren Vale Pit, but who, on ascertaining that their men were out on strike in order to maintain their right to remain in the Union, declined to work, stating as their reason that they had been brought down by false pretences. The men addressed the meeting, and after several other speeches it was resolved unanimously that the men now out on strike should not succumb to the demands of the colliery owners, in reference to the Union.

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No Headline.

John Pollard, of Wigan, proprietor of the Wigan Examiner and the Colliery Guardian, was on Wednesday committed for trial on a charge of forging script, representing shares in the Wigan Building Society. It is supposed that the prisoner's robberies amount to £2,000.

Illustrated London News

Saturday 20th. November 1858

Frightful Accident.

The local papers record the occurrence of a dreadful accident at the works of the Thrybergh Coal Company, Kilnhurst, near Rotherham, on Friday week, by which the lives of two men were sacrificed, and that of a third terribly jeopardised. It appears that a new shaft is being sunk on the premises of the company, and that the nature of the strata to be excavated renders blasting operation necessary. On the day above mentioned three men, named Hurst, Dyson, and Jagger, were lowered into the aperture to make preparations for blasting : they laid the powder and lighted the fusee, and then signalled to be drawn up, at the same time getting into the bucket or cage by which they were to ascend. The signal not being responded to, Dyson got out of the cage to repeat it, as they were in immediate danger from the explosion of the blast. Just as he got out, however, the cage began to move up. Dyson, to save himself, clutched desperately at the receding machine, which caused it to oscillate violently, and soon afterwards it caught against some obstruction in the shaft and capsized. Dyson and Hurst fell to the bottom, but Jagger clung to the rope and succeeded in reaching the top, but before he did so the powder below exploded, and the two unfortunate men in the shaft were blown to pieces. Their remains, which were scattered in all directions, were recovered very shortly after the catastrophe by Jagger and a party of men who descended the shaft, and were removed to the Ship Inn, Kilnhurst, where an inquest was held by Mr. Badge on the following day, and a verdict of "Accidental Death" returned.

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No Headline.

A public joint-stock company has been formed for working the Whittington Collieries, the property of Mr. Pearce. It is said that £48,000 is to be given for the mineral field, park, some buildings and cottages.

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Eyam and Foolow

These villages, besides the surrounding country, have sustained a great loss in the rather sudden demise of the late Mr. Wm Wyatt, farmer, lead merchant, land agent, and a warm supporter of mining speculations. The great influence he possessed he uniformly exercised in the cause of progress and the advancement of liberal opinions; and in exhibiting utter detestation of hollow hypocrisy, and grovelling narrow-mindedness. On this basis he built up a fabric of great honour and reputation, which will long endear his memory to an almost innumerable train of friends; and his energy in matters of business may serve as an example to all who would make upward progress in life. In all public matters appertaining to a great distance around, he
....., but with a pure disinterested purpose, then rarely failing to leave entire satisfaction as a mark of foresight of remarkably clear judgement. In the elections for the Northern Division of this county, he was a rallying point; always exercising his unbounded influence in the cause of Liberalism. His keen foresight in business made him wealthy, but not parsimonious; his affectionate feelings made him honoured and beloved by his family, neighbours and friends; and of the latter, many will have cause to say, "We shall never see his like again".

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No Headline.

The agent of the Mill Dam Mine reports as follows: - "The new shaft is already sunk 26 fathoms, and we are still progressing very satisfactorily. Our last 6 weeks work has been very heavy in expenses in new materials, but our future workings in sinking will not be so heavy; and, at the same time, we shall be able to sink down a great deal further than we have done. The under level has been watered for the last three weeks, but I have had the men employed in dressing up the ore before the winter sets in. On the whole we are going on well".

Mining Journal

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Frightful Accident.

On Saturday last as Wm. Shatwell, son-in-law to Ezekiel Wood, of the "Parks" Inn, near Buxton, was blasting stone at the Harpur Hill limeworks, belonging to the Cromford and High Peak Railway, a shot which he had set did not explode in the period expected, for which he left the place of security usually resorted to on similar occasions, and went to examine the cause, and re-light the "touch" should it be necessary, Scarcely had he got to the place ere the charge exploded, and shattering his right arm to pieces - in fact, what was left of it hung by a piece of skin - breaking a leg, and severely cutting the other, besides blowing him down the rock, some 30 or 40 feet, and fracturing his skull. The poor fellow was speedily removed to the "Parks", and surgical assistance rendered as soon as possible. W.P. Shipton, Esq., surgeon, removed the arm, but there was not the slightest hope of his recovery, and he expired on Monday evening last.

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Eyam - The Brandy Bottle, Providence, and Edge Rake Mines.

A meeting has been held on the 4th instant, at the Bold Rodney Inn, Eyam, to inspect the plans and estimates of these celebrated mineral veins, with a view of bringing them into working operation. The estimate, plans and terms of agreement were laid before the meeting and explained by Mr. F. Cocker, mineral agent, Eyam, when it was stated that the lead ore obtained from these veins yields no less than 70 percent of lead, and that the Providence and Edge Rake shafts are sunk on a very rich vein, supposed to be a continuation of the ones on the celebrated Eyam Edge Veins. It was also stated that the present workings of Brandy Bottle are at the junction of the Golden Ball, the New Edge, and the Far Edge Veins, and that the work done hitherto has been only for discovery, consequently the workings are only reached by narrow contracted gates, hading sumps, and every other characteristic of want of capital to develop resources of veins which are believed to be beneath and to yield no less than 18cwts per fathom. The opinion was competently expressed that a plumb shaft was the only desideratum to make these works very profitable. The above mines are situated in the Manor and Liberty of Tideswell, and pay 1 dish in 20 for lot and cope, and 1 in 40 for tithes. One point was particularly noticed and commented on, viz., that the works were below the amygdaloidal stratum or channels, a circumstance of much interest, as the ore has a tendency to increase downward under this stratum. An adjourned meeting, to be held at the same place, was fixed for the 25th instant.

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The Colliers Strike.

A conference of colliers' delegates of Derby, York, and Durham, has been held at Leeds, for the consideration of the present position of coal mines in those districts. In an address issued by the Convention, the delegates advise unity amongst the colliers, in order to preserve and advance their interest as labourers. They also urge that there should be no more strikes; that the funds hitherto thrown away in strikes should be accumulated for the purpose of enabling themselves to become capitalists; that trade guilds should be formed to carry out these objects. A model code of rules, the delegates added, was being prepared, and this, if approved, would, it was hoped, "tend to general action, and be productive on the general interests of this present oppressed class".

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Open-Air Meeting of Colliers.

The colliers of South Staffordshire, held an open-air meeting on Monday, and Horsley Heath, near to the Dudley Port Station of the Stour Valley railway. There were about 350 persons present. On Saturday night the notices for the advance terminated at as many as 180 Thick and 136 Thin mine pits in South Staffordshire. At the meeting, the names of about 4 masters were given who had consented to comply with the terms of the men, and it was resolved that the men who could not get the rise should not resume work, and that those who did get it, should be required to pay it over weekly to the support of those who were standing out for it. It was not so stated at the meeting, but it has been learned by the police authorities that at several pits the men have gone in without obtaining the advance. It was stated at the meeting that information has been received from the Yorkshire Union of the willingness of the men of Yorkshire to make common cause with the men of Staffordshire; and that Mr. Roberts had informed the Staffordshire men that the colliers of Durham were ready to help them.

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Fatal Pit Accident at Staveley.

On Monday last, a fatal accident occurred to a young man named Charles Hunt, 18 years of age, who was employed as an ironstone getter at the pits of Mr. Barrow, Staveley. At four o'clock in the afternoon, the deceased had finished his work for the day, and was being drawn up out of the pit in the usual manner. When the chair reached the top, the men engaged in drawing it up were surprised to find it empty. A search was made, and the deceased was found at the bottom of the pit smashed to death. It is conjectured that while being drawn up in the chair, he was seized with a fit or an apoplectic stroke, or dizziness, and that he fell out. The machinery was carefully examined, and was found to be in perfect working order, so that the accident cannot have occurred through any defect of this nature. Deceased was a native of Eckington, where he resided, and was much respected for his intelligence and exemplary conduct.

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Mines.

The little flashes of excitement which burst out now and then, and lead us to expect a reaction that shall last, and break up the dull monotony that has so long continued in the general as well as in the mining markets, have not yet led to the results we have looked for. Business to a certain extent is doing, and enquiries are made almost daily for mining investments as well as for mere speculations, but not, on the whole to the amount that we might reasonably, looking at the abundance of money and the good price of metals, have expected by this time. Great complaints are also made of the absence of business in other securities on the Stock Exchange, which is so far consoling, in as much as it shows that mines have their fair proportion of attention.

Mining Journal.

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County Court, Chesterfield.

Paramore v. Crofts.

Plaintiff sought to recover 13-0d. for work done in a pit. Plaintiff and defendant had taken a pit to work between themselves and agreed that for every day that either of them stopped away 3-6d. should be forfeited. Defendant had been away 3 days, and there was a balance of 2-6d. besides, owing to plaintiff. Ordered to be paid at 8-0d. per month.

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Fatal Accident at Whittington.

Yesterday (Friday) an inquest was held before Mr. Busby, coroner, at the Municipal Hall, Chesterfield, on the body of Thomas Camm, labourer, who was accidentally killed at Whittington, on Thursday, at the Steel and Iron works of Thomas Firth and Sons, of Sheffield.

James Camm, of Froggatt Yard, Chesterfield, bricklayer's labourer: I am brother to deceased, Thomas Camm, who lived in Saint Mary's Gate. He died on Tuesday last, and was 28 years of age. He had a wife and two children.

Frederick Horsford, Brimington: I am a furnace builder employed by the Messrs. Firth, at Whittington. The accident took place about half past three on Tuesday. Camm was employed as a labourer and was lowering a few blocks and ropes from a baulk in connection with the roof of a building. He had lowered the blocks and I saw him safe on the baulk. When I had put the blocks on my shoulder, expecting deceased to follow. I got about 25 yards, but returned for a ladder and met a man named Cantrell, a fitter; he said he believed that someone was fast in one of the wheels of the little engine. I got up on the wall and found that deceased was lying beside the engine pulley - his foot on one side of the pedestal and his body on the other, resting upon a plank, his leg being fast between the pulley and the pedestal. His leg was crushed from the thigh to the ankle. I immediately got assistance, and removed him from the engine to the Forge Inn. Mr. Gill, surgeon, was sent for, and arrived in about ten minutes. I believe the accident occurred by deceased attempting to step across the engine shaft on which the pulley worked, to get a nearer way down: the pulley is about 2 foot 6 inches in diameter, and runs about 150 times a minute. I believe the pulley must have caught his foot and pulled him down. There were no straps at that end. The machinery is finished and perfect. I consider the occurrence purely accidental. He was one of the best labourers I ever had.

Charles Gill, surgeon, Whittington: I saw deceased whilst he was entangled with the machinery. There was difficulty of access to him. I am of opinion that every exertion was used to extricate him as soon as possible. As soon as he was extricated I attended to him. I found a compound fracture of the thighbone and one of the bones below the knee, with extensive lacerations of the soft parts up to the hip joint. His pulse was good, and I considered him in a fit state to be removed to the Hospital, after I had ligatured the arteries and rendered other necessary assistance. I accompanied him to the hospital, and remained with him until he died. When he arrived at the hospital his pulse was lower, but slightly revived after a stimulant being administered: shortly afterwards he gradually sank. I consider deceased died from the shock to the nervous system, haemorrhage, and the want of action of the heart.

The Jury returned a verdict that deceased became accidentally entangled between the pulley and pedestal of a steam engine, whilst in motion, and his death was accidental.