

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 1st. June 1861.

Page 2 Col. 5-6.

Metals and Mining in this District.

The demand for Derbyshire hard coal is exceedingly brisk, and this branch of the coal trade is being developed by the coalmasters, owing to the ready sale for it. The Wallsend Coal Company, Newbold, Derbyshire, are sinking to the Blackshale bed. A new colliery, called the Foxley Oaks pit, was just been opened at Whittington, near Chesterfield, with great prospects of success. Messrs. Pierce, of Whittington, commenced the sinking of a new colliery in August 1859 to the Blackshale or Silkstone coal, and last week the men got down to the seam, which is about six feet deep, and of excellent quality. The shaft has been called the Foxley Oaks pit; and to celebrate the winning of the seam Messrs. Pierce gave a fete to their workmen and friends on Tuesday, in the ground adjoining their residence at Whittington. A novel feature was introduced in the proceedings of the day by the voluntary attendance of the workmen and a number of their families at church, where a very useful and practical sermon was preached by the Revd. W. Wheeler, the curate. Messrs. S. Beale and Company, of the Parkgate Works, have sent one of their patent armour plates, measuring 15ft. 6in. in length, 3ft. 2in. in breadth, and 4½in. in thickness, to Portsmouth dockyard, where it will be experimented upon in the forthcoming trials in Porchester Lake, under the supervision of Captain R.S. Hewlett, C.B., commanding Her Majesty's ship Excellent. The impetus which was recently given to the North Derbyshire Mining shares appears to have passed away, and this week the shares are considerably lower. The present dry season is very favourable to mining in the Peak, and if it continues so we may expect to hear good results.

Correspondent of Mining Journal.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 1st. June 1861.

Page 2 Col. 5.

Milltown Mining Company (Limited).

The half yearly meeting of this company was held last week at the Commercial Inn, Chesterfield, C. Binns, Esq., in the chair. The report of the directors and statement of accounts showed that the mine had been worked to a small profit during the last two months; but the directors did not see any probability of permanent beneficial results in continuing to work the present mine. The new mine (which is supposed to have been sunk very nearly through the toadstone) has standing some time, waiting till the old mine was abandoned, so that the plant might be removed; and the meeting gave the directors full power to take such steps as appeared to them most desirable. To carry out the intention of testing the new mine below the toadstone, it was stated that it would be necessary for the shareholders to take up the remaining 829 new shares created at a previous meeting. We believe that the shareholders generally are still sanguine of the ultimate success of the mine.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 1st. June 1861.

Page 3 Col. 1.

No Headline.

The withdrawal of a Bill for the formation of a railway to Bolsover has caused a great disappointment. It is hoped that the subject will be taken in hand by another company, the line carried forward to Mansfield. The rich beds of mineral in this neighbourhood have proved highly remunerative in the speculative point of view.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 1st. June 1861.

Page 3 Col. 1.

Discovery of a large Cavern.

A few days ago, a working man employed at stone getting on the side of the turnpike road, near Crowdecote, in this county, was surprised at finding, on the removal of a large piece of limestone rock, an opening to what, on further examination, proved to be a deep and very extensive cavern, stated by the discoverer to be "as big as a church, and studded all o'er with spar, fossils and curiosities". Of so much importance does he consider the discovery that he is making great preparations for the public to have easy access to the interior.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 1st. June 1861.

Page 3 Col. 2.

Summons for Wages.

Joseph Wilson, an engine tender, late in the employ of Messrs. Barnes, coalmasters, of Grassmoor, summoned them for £4-0-0d., being a month's wages. The manager, Mr. Bromley, asked Wilson to work in the pit while the engine was being repaired, Wilson refused on the ground that he was an engine tender, and was not justified in accepting any other employment but that for which he was engaged. Mr. Bromley continued that by the 10th. rule the complainant was bound to do other work in case of necessity, and in asking him to work in the pit he was doing it as an act of necessity. The complainant tendered his services as an engine tender, but they were not accepted, and he claimed the months wages. The Magistrates ruled that as the defendant had engaged himself as an engine tender, Messrs. Barnes had no right to require him to do other work, and they ordered the payment of the £4-0-0d. wages, and costs.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 1st. June 1861.

Page 3 Col. 2.

Another Summons for Wages.

John Drewry, a collier, summoned F.R. Pierce, of Whittington Colliery, for 10-0d. The complainant was at work in the pit, when a gate fell, and buried a coal waggon with dirt. Mr. Bousfield, the manager, stopped 10-0d. out of his wages, as the value of the waggon. He was not responsible for the repairs of the gates, and he refused to pay. Mr. Bousfield said the gates fell through the complainants sheer negligence. The case was dismissed.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 1st. June 1861.

Page 3 Col. 3.

No Headline.

John Barker, a smith employed at Staveley Works, summoned Thomas Emmersley for non-payment of £1-7-6d. wages. The complainant stated that his wages were £1-0-0d. per week, but Emmersley denied this, and stated that he had been paid at the rate of 18-0d. What wages were due to him were ready for him at the office of Mr. Barrow. The case was dismissed.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 1st. June 1861.

Page 4 Col. 2.

No Headline.

The miners at Dowlais, South Wales, have struck, and one of the Welsh papers states that 10,000 men are out of employment in that district, asking for an advance of wages. In Ebbw Vale the masters have give the raise asked for by the men, and this circumstance has, it is said, occasioned the more recent strike.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 8th. June 1861.

Page 2 Col. 1.

Advert - To Coalmasters, Brickmakers, and Others.

To be sold by private contract, a brickyard, with the necessary kilns, drying sheds, clay rollers, etc., in good working order, situated at Newbold, and lying near to the turnpike road, in the occupation of Messrs. Knowles, Clayton, and Company.

For further particulars, and to treat for the same, apply at the offices of Mr. Knowles, solicitor, Chesterfield,

June. 4th., 1861.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 8th. June 1861.

Page 2 Col. 1.

Advert - To Ironstone Miners.

From thirty to forty good workmen wanted. Apply to Mr. W. Higginbottom.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 8th. June 1861.

Page 2 Col. 2.

Advert - Tenders for Coal.

The Nottingham Gaslight and Coke Company are desirous to receive offers for supplies (amounting in the aggregate to 30,000 tons) of soft coals, and soft cobbles or nuts, for the period terminating on the 31st. day of March 1862.

The large coals and the cobbles or nuts are to be separately delivered, where and as from time to time directed, by and at the expense of the contractors, upon the Gas Company's station in the East Croft, at Nottingham, and at the Midland Company's railway station, and also on the Gas Company's railway sidings at Radford and at Basford respectively; and at and after the rate of one fifth part of each total quantity in each calendar month, commencing with the month of September next, till the Company shall be satisfied with the amount of accumulated stock, and afterwards at such rate as shall be from time to time directed, till the agreed quantity shall have been delivered.

The Company will undertake to receive from each person or firm, whose tender may be accepted, a total quantity of 5,000 tons at least; they do not bind themselves to accept the lowest or any other tender or tenders, till after a satisfactory trial of the coals or cobbles and nuts, to which such tender or tenders may relate, shall have been made. They are to be the best of their kind, and as free as possible from sulphur, bats, bins, refuse, and dirt; and shall be weighed (20 cwt. to the ton) upon the railway company's machine, or upon such other machine as may be mutually agreed upon.

Payments will be made monthly, if and so long as the contract shall be duly fulfilled, to the extent of nine tenths of the invoices, and a balance shall be discharged upon the satisfactory completion of the contract.

Sealed tenders (to be made on forms obtainable at the Company's office), specifying the description of coals and the pits at which they are to be raised, and stating the price for deliveries at the several places and in manner and subject to the conditions aforesaid, must be delivered to the office of William Hunt, Esq., clerk to the Company, on or before noon on Thursday, the 20th. day of June next.

The contacting parties will be required to execute an agreement, to be prepared by, and on the satisfaction of the solicitor of the Company.

(By Order of the Committee)
T. Hawksley, Clerk to the Company

Nottingham Gas Office, 27th. May, 1861.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 8th. June 1861.

Page 2 Col. 5.

Letter - Our Footpaths.

Sir,

I am sorry to find that one of my old favourite walks is being greatly interfered with, how many happy couples have taken a pleasant stroll along the Broad Oaks, and we now find the footpath being greatly interfered with. The "bind" from the pit near Hady Hill has covered the path, and people are obliged to take a circuit around a large heap of rubbish before they can get onto the turnpike road, in fact, in a few years, if allowed to go on, the dirt and rubbish will reach the river, and the footpath will be entirely blocked. I think it is high time the authorities took steps to prevent such a nuisance.

I remain, your obedient servant,
A Young Inhabitant.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 8th. June 1861.

Page 3 Col. 1-2.

Fatal Accident to a Farmer at Staveley.

An inquest was held at the Crown Inn, on Thursday week, on the body of Mr. Joseph Crofts, farmer, of Duckmanton, aged 55 years. The deceased, who was a farmer of 91 acres of land, left his house on Wednesday morning, about half past five o'clock, with a horse and cart to go to Staveley for manure. The horse had run away several times before. Deceased had been several journeys that morning. A spare horse was sent from Duckmanton to Inkersall to assist in bringing the loaded cart home. John Belfit, of Marsden Moor, Staveley, labourer in Mr. Barrow's brickyard, said that about four o'clock on Wednesday afternoon he was standing against the gate head, between Staveley and Inkersall, where Mr. Barrow's colliery railway crossed the Inkersall road at a level. There are gates that shut across the line when the line is free, and across the Inkersall road when a train is coming. An engine was coming along the Inkersall ironstone yard along the line. Deceased was standing on the road, about 12 yards above the railway, with his horse and cart laden with manure. He has passed over the line coming from Staveley, and was waiting for the extra horse to pull him up Inkersall Hill. The engine and train had passed him once about ten minutes before the accident, going to the Inkersall ironstone yard. The deceased's horse was frightened, and started about five yards up the hill. The deceased turned his horse, and made it face the line. When the engine came up a second time the horse took fright again, and ran into Mr. Rodgers' fence, about six yards from the line, and knocked deceased down as it was jumping the fence. He fell with his head in Mr. Rodgers' field. The horse turned up the field, dragging the cart after it; the nearside wheel being over the fence, the cart fell over, and one of the wheels was on deceased's head and shoulders, killing him instantly. The jury returned a verdict of "Accidental Death".

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 8th. June 1861.

Page 3 Col. 3.

Metals and Mining in this District.

The Coal Trade, considering the demand and the present season of the year, is in a satisfactory state. The directors of the North Derbyshire Company held their monthly pay at Calver Sough last week, when the position of the mine was stated to be very satisfactory. The contractors for sinking have got down about two fathoms during the month, and the mine is comparatively free from water, 2 strokes per minute being the extent of pumping required. The present weather is highly favourable to the working of the Derbyshire lead mines, a number of which have scarcely sufficient water to dress the ore.

Mining Journal.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 8th. June 1861.

Page 4 Col. 2.

Accident at Unsworth Colliery - Two Men Killed.

On Saturday a serious and melancholy accident occurred at Unsworth Colliery, in the County of Durham, resulting in the death of the overman (Gascoigne), and a man named Ellison. The former was only 30, and the latter about 52 years of age. For several years Ellison had been employed as overman at Ox Close Pit, and both have left wives and children. The unfortunate men were last seen alive about half past four o'clock, on the morning of the fatal occurrence, having at that time gone down to inspect the waste or air course. In a similar quarter of the pit were two other men, and these not coming to bank till nearly four hours after their time, the question was asked, "Is all right with you?". The sad tidings were then announced, and between twelve and one o'clock the deceased men were brought to the heap. It is supposed that a fall or a change had taken place in the air, and the poor fellows had been choked by the after-damp. It is somewhat singular that eleven years ago on the 5th. of the present month, Gascoigne had a brother killed in the same colliery, of which Mr. Coxon is viewer.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 15th. June 1861.

Page 3 Col. 1.

Colliery Accident at Swanwick.

An inquest was held on Wednesday week, before Mr. Busby, coroner, on the view of the body of Joseph Hunt, aged 56 years. Deceased was employed in a colliery at Pentrich, belonging to Messrs. Haslam. About 11 o'clock he was sitting down to lunch, when a portion of roof fell upon his head and shoulders. The deceased was conveyed home. Mr. George Boaler was the underviewer, and the stall was sufficiently timbered, and six men worked in it. Henry Booth and Jonathan Wright were the contractors. The roof was not a good one, and it was not considered that any person was to blame. A back weight of coal had caused the roof to fall. A verdict of "Accidental Death" was returned.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 15th. June 1861.

Page 3 Col. 1.

New Colliery.

A new colliery, which we had at various times reported as being in progress, at the Whitmore Lane, Belper, is now in full working operation. Messrs. Knowles and Company are the proprietors, and a day or two ago issued their tariff of charges to the public. The coal is reported to be admirably adapted for gas, engines, and for nail making purposes. It will, no doubt, find a ready sale in Belper and the neighbourhood, and we hope will prove a valuable addition to the labours and capital of the town, which just now stands greatly in need of it.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 15th. June 1861.

Page 3 Col. 1.

Colliery Accident.

An inquest was held at the Miners' Arms Inn, Dronfield, on the 11th. inst., before Mr. Busby, coroner, on the body of Henry Bennett, coalminer, aged 47. Deceased was at work in a pit at Ox Close Colliery, at Dronfield, on the day named, when a quantity of bind fell on him from the effects of which deceased survived only a short time. Adjourned till Monday next.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 15th. June 1861.

Page 3 Col. 2.

A Man Killed in a Mine at Calver.

An inquest was held at the Bulls' Head Inn, Calver, by F.G. Bennett, Esq., of the High Peak district, on Thursday, the 6th. instant, on the body of William Woodhouse, farmer and miner, who had been killed in the Red Rake Mine, at Calver, on the 5th. instant. It appeared in evidence that a large stone called a "rider" had fallen on him, and caused his death by crushing him. Verdict, "Accidentally killed when working in the mine".

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 15th. June 1861.

Page 3 Col. 2.

Metals and Mining in this District.

The general state of the Iron Trade is dull and unsatisfactory, and there is no probability of an alteration during the coming autumn, a great complaints exist as the mode of underselling which is adopted by the smaller houses. The make of pig Derbyshire iron is much on the decrease, and the steel trade is in a deplorable depression, owing to the position of the Civil War in America, and the seeming impossibility of any amicable settlement. The Coal Trade is in a more active state than during the last fortnight, and the export demand is on the increase. The rates are generally the same as last noticed. The castings for the Great Exhibition of 1862 have been commenced at the Staveley Works, and the London contractors have their own superintendent down at the works. We understand great progress is making with the contract under the well known energy of Mr. Barrow, the proprietor. A considerable amount of interest is felt with regard to the intended competition of the South Wales hard coal with the Midland Counties and Derbyshire hard, as to the price at which it can be raised and brought into the market. We believe the Derbyshire coalmasters need not fear being outpaced in the market by their Welsh competitors. There is no news of moment this week in connection with the lead mines of Derbyshire.

Mining Journal.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 15th. June 1861.

Page 3 Col. 3-4.

Fearful Coal-pit Accident at Clay Cross.

About Thirty Lives Supposed to be Lost.

Clay Cross, Wednesday Night.

We have this week to record one of the most fearful calamities that has occurred in this part of the county within our recollection. About thirty lives have been placed in jeopardy - however, by this time there is little doubt but that all are dead - by a rush of water from an old working into one of the largest pits belonging to the Clay Cross Company. The mine where the disaster we have to record took place is situated on the left of the Midland Railway Company's line at the north end of the Clay Cross tunnel. It is known by the name of the "Black Shale No. 2 pit", and is surrounded by a number of other collieries and old workings. The pit from which the water burst has not been worked for about twelve years, but we are informed the authorities were aware of the existence of the water which was in it. Between three and four hundred hands are employed at the Black Shale No. 2 pit, but at the time the accident was discovered only some 120 workmen were in the colliery. The miners, it appears, commence being drawn up at noon, and the bulk of the piece hands come out of the pit from that hour to three o'clock. Consequently, the men in the colliery were mostly datal workmen and driving boys.

The alarm that water was rapidly flowing into the pit was given at four o'clock on Tuesday afternoon, at which time, as above stated, there were, as nearly as can be calculated, 120 men in the workings. The intelligence rapidly spread, and the inhabitants of the quiet village of Clay Cross and the villages round rushed down to the brink of the pit's mouth. Inspector Gorman, of Clay Cross, was speedily on the spot, and endeavoured to keep the crowd back, but his efforts were in vain in many instances, there being no less than 1,000 human beings packed in any place where a view of the pit could be obtained. He was shortly assisted by Superintendent Ronayne, from Alfreton; Superintendent Hunter, Inspector Wheeldon, and P.C. Barnes, from Chesterfield; and Acting-Sergeants Connor and Adams. The scene was most heart-rending: men, women, and children screaming out for their missing ones - women crying out for their husbands and sons in a most frantic manner. Considerable difficulty was experienced by the police and their assistants in keeping the crowd from pressing too closely to the pit's mouth, as they prevented the men at the top rendering aid to extricate the unfortunate miners from their precarious and awful positions. As the chairs of each shaft arrived at the summit and deposited their living freight of half-a-dozen wet and almost unrecognisable beings at the top, there was a loud burst of applause from the crowd, and women ran frantically forward to see if either of the lucky ones belonged to them. The grief expressed as the chair reached the top at not finding the friend expected was such as would move any one to tears. The joy, on the other hand, expressed by friends at finding those whom they feared were lost, was not less affecting to the thousands who thronged the pit banks, or who formed themselves into groups of anxious spectators, to learn the state of the pit at the arrival of the poor fellows as they escaped from the watery element then raging at a depth of one hundred and twenty yards below. For three successive hours did the carriages descend both shafts, and it was not until the water had reached within a few inches of the roof of the archway leading into the workings that those heroic fellows who formed the discovery corps discontinued their efforts to save the lives of their brother miners. Various reports were circulated in the neighbouring villages, some averting that there were three hundred bodies in the pit; but on the confusion somewhat subsiding it was

ascertained that twenty three bodies were missing. At the time there was also in the pit between sixty and seventy horses, ponies and donkeys, used for drawing the corves from the workings to the bottom of the shafts. Not one of these animals have been saved. Several persons remained all night, and fresh arrivals from all parts during the night kept up the melancholy throng. Several families in Clay Cross have to mourn the loss of three of their members. Most of those in the pit at present are married men, and some with large families.

The cause of the dreadful disaster originated at the south end of the colliery, which abuts on the old working of the Black Shale No. 1 pit, and was discovered by a miner named Nathaniel Dawes. This workmen, whilst engaged in excavating, observed the coal come more freely than usual, and was further alarmed by the issue of a stream of water between the dirt and the coal. He communicated his fears to the miners on his exit from his working, which is about a mile distant from the bottom of the shaft. The underviewers immediately took every precaution for the safe recovery of the men, and the highest praise is due to Messrs. John Parker, Brown, George Parker (underviewers), Thomas Bryan, James Riggott, Mr. Turner, assistant superintendent of the mine, and Joseph Bradley, for their bravery in descending and searching the pit. Mr. Howe, the head engineer, also rendered valuable assistance. A telegraphic despatch was forwarded to Mr. Hedley, the government inspector of mines, at Derby, who, in company with Mr. Binns, the general manager to the Company, came from Derby by the fast train, which usually passes the Clay Cross station, but on this occasion was kindly stopped for the accommodation of Mr. Hedley and Mr. Binns. Singular to relate, Mr. Hedley had only just returned home from Warwickshire, and on arriving on the Derby platform to proceed to the Clay Cross Company's mine, he met with Mr. Binns, who was returning home with his family from a visit to the seat of his father-in-law, Sir Joshua Walmsley, in Wiltshire. Mr. Binns, it appears, had had no intimation of the fearful calamity, which intelligence was conveyed to him by Mr. Hedley, whom he at once accompanied to the scene of the disaster.

A number of remarkable stories are told by the men who were at the bottom of the shaft, and a man named Thomas Bryan figures as a great hero in them. He was carried along the workings by the stream, and rescued several men and boys who were drowning. He was accompanied by four other brave fellows, named Frederick Smith, William Armson, John Vallance, and John White, and many may thank them for their lives. During their "voyages of discovery" in the water, they ascertained it had closed the door of one of the roads to the bottom of the shaft. Bryan heard some person praying behind the door, and, by the advice of John Parker, he speedily knocked the brickwork out, and succeeded in dragging a man named George Bunce through the hole he had made. The boy Jones, aged 12 years, was seen at the bottom of the shaft, and when about to be rescued he cried out he would not leave his favourite pony, and he at once darted off, and has no since been heard of. Alfred Smith had a number of men working on the south side of the pit, and during the rush of the water he went to them and informed them of the accident that had occurred, and consequently many of them were saved. Joseph Hawley had been rescued, but he went, whilst the water was up to his neck, in search of his father-in-law, and has not since been heard of. Thomas Leary, a boy of 10 years of age, during his progress to the bottom of the shafts, described some curious incidents of poor half-drowned horses yoked to corves, vainly endeavouring to free themselves from their fetters.

At present there is not the slightest hope of recovering the bodies, the water being still up to the roof of the archways. Unfortunately, at two o'clock yesterday morning, the conductors of the up-cast shaft gave way, and the means of emptying the pit of water by that source failed. By the use of two pumps, worked with steam power, and a temporary wooden cistern unceasingly drawing up water from the downcast shaft, the pit is eased of 300 gallons of water per minute. Notwithstanding these exertions made, the pit was last night quite as full of water as on the previous evening, and a number of men were engaged in claying up the Kilburn shaft, which supplies the water to the old workings of the Black Shale No. 1 pit. The last-named old

working had been the receptacle for the waters from most of the adjacent collieries and ironstone works. Until the water is checked in the manner described it is feared none of the bodies will be recovered.

Faint hopes are still entertained that some of those yet in the pit may be brought out alive, but when we state that the door which admits air to the workings has been closed with the rush of the waters, it is more than probable that those miners who may have reached the high levels where the waters could not approach have died of suffocation.

The names of the twenty-three persons at present buried in the colliery are as follows: -

Thomas Street, Clay Cross, married
Joseph Wood, ditto, married, and family
Joseph Hawley, ditto, married, and large family
Eli Forrester, ditto, married
Richard Siddons, ditto, married
Thomas Wood, ditto, widower, and family grown up
Joseph Wood and William Wood, sons of the above Thomas Wood, and both single young men
John Butterfield, aged 13, Clay Cross
Reuben Jones, aged 12, ditto
Francis Bradley, Clay Cross, married
Thomas Carr, ditto, single
Thomas Brunt, ditto, married, with no family
John Buxton, ditto, widower, and family grown up
William Parker, ditto, married
Samuel Ashmore and George Ashmore, two boys, brothers, of North Wingfield
John Mills, Clay Cross, single
Samuel Coates, Shirland, single
William Holmes, Clay Cross
Joseph Wilbraham, ditto
William Vernon, ditto
William Walker, Pilsley, single

Amongst the parties who visited the scene and were wishful to render assistance were Drs. Wilson, Houghton, Goodall, and Denton, all of Clay Cross; Revds. A.C. Grayson and R.C. Willey; and Messrs. Jeffcock, mineral agents.

W. Jackson, Esq., M.P., one of the partners in the firm, was present. Too much praise cannot be awarded to Mr. Binns and Mr. Hedley, who stayed at the top of the pit the whole of the night; and the former gentleman had prepared blankets, brandy, and other remedies likely to be required should any of the unfortunate men be rescued, - but, alas! they were not required.

A report was circulated this morning that an explosion had taken place in the mine during the night. A rumbling sound was heard by some persons on the pit bank, and it is thought some of the men in the levels had been climbing up the workings to free themselves from the water, and that their candles had ignited the gas which must have accumulated for want of ventilation, and that it had thus been exploded. Of course the truth of this cannot be ascertained until the water is cleared out.

Clay Cross, Thursday.

On visiting the scene of the catastrophe today, we found many workmen still congregated in the vicinity of the pit, and we were informed that the name of another man had been discovered, viz., Alexander Batteson (married) - thus making 24 persons known to be missing. From the accounts given by the workmen, we are afraid that this number will not include the whole of the human beings still in the pit, as the names given are miners who lodged and lived in the Company's houses. These, however, employ others under them, and it is supposed there are, in addition, several strangers in the pit. We heard one man say he could give the names of 32 men, but 24 is the number that has been found out by the authorities. In one part of the pit the road rises one inch in a yard; three men and a boy were employed near this road, and it would be impossible for them to escape, as seventy-five yards from them the water would touch the roof - one of the boys, who was rescued nearly at the last, stated that he heard one of these men fire a shot, so that no doubt if they have not perished by water they have been suffocated by the smoke from the powder. At eleven o'clock on Wednesday night a larger tub was suspended to the rope to draw water, and up to eleven o'clock today the height of the water had been reduced one yard. After that time the water gained, and at five o'clock was as high as ever, notwithstanding the great stream that is being constantly drawn out. An engine is being erected for the purpose of working a pump, so that the quantity of water drawn out will be considerably increased. The Kilburn pit, which is nearly useless, is much deeper than No. 1 pit, from where the water is running into No. 2 pit (the place where the catastrophe has occurred), and the company are endeavouring to turn the water into the pit, and divert its course from the place where the men are. We may mention that the bottom of the shaft of the No. 2 pit is much deeper than the other part of the workings, and consequently an attempt is going to be made to get into the old workings, and follow the course of water into No. 2 pit, and endeavour to bring some of the bodies to the surface; but no doubt most of them will have made their way to the bottom of the shaft. Mr. Markham, of Derby, Mr. Hedley, Mr. Binns, Mr. Woodhouse, and W. Jackson, Esq., M.P., have been superintending the operations all day. At five o'clock today a still larger tub was suspended to the rope. In conclusion, we may say that the state of affairs are no more favourable than yesterday, and we are afraid it will be several days before any of the bodies will be recovered.

Clay Cross, Friday, 5 p.m.

On visiting the pit today we found a number of colliers and women still congregated (the latter weeping for the loss of their husbands and other relations) in the vicinity of the colliery. The water has been stopped in No. 1 pit, and very little is supposed to be running into the pit where the catastrophe has taken place. A powerful engine is nearly erected to work a new set of pumps in the pit, and no expense is being spared by the company to bring the lost ones to the surface as soon as possible. A large tub is still bringing water out of the pit, and has on an average brought 10,000 gallons an hour out during the past night: but when the pumps are got to work that quantity will be nearly doubled. The water still remains above the furnace drift, that being the first place where access to the men can be obtained; and before this can be reached the water must be reduced several feet. On asking the opinion of a man who has worked in the mine a great length of time, and who is experienced in these matters, he said he thought many of the men might be brought out alive, from the fact that a great deal of air was shut in, and as long as there was any oxygen contained in it the men might live. There was plenty of room in the workings for the men to get at without being in the water, but if the air became carbonized then they would die. He said he had known men placed in a similar predicament in a pit in the north, who lived on the flesh of the horses for a great length of time. The new engine and pumps are expected to be at work tonight or the first thing in the morning, and great hopes are held out that the men will soon be released, either dead or alive, from their present position. In addition to the above 24 names, we have been informed that a man named Riley is amongst the unfortunate colliers, and no doubt in the end several more men than those names we have mentioned will be discovered. The large tub ready to put on last night at five o'clock was found

to be too large to work; it would have weighed 15 cwt., and would have held two tons of water - so that it would have been a dangerous experiment to have attempted to work it. The present tub brings out 160 gallons each lift. The old pump has been stopped whilst the new engine is finished. The Government Inspector and his colleagues are still superintending the operations.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 15th. June 1861.

Page 3 Col. 5.

No Headline.

Charles Radler, collier, of Staveley, was charged by George Ord, of the same place, with cruelty to a horse at Staveley, on the 24th. of May. It appeared from the evidence of Elijah Calladine, who is a collier living in Staveley, that the defendant had care of a horse, and was leading some coals when he called to the horse to stop, which would not, and the defendant then threw a stone at it and hit him on the eye, and the horse almost fell, and could not see afterwards. Other evidence was called to prove that the horse was all right when he went out. Godfrey Martin, of Chesterfield, veterinary surgeon, was also called, who said that he was called in to see the horse after the accident. His eye was ruptured; he has lost the sight of it, and will never have the use of it again. Ordered to pay 7-6d. to be stopped out of wages.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 22nd. June 1861.

Page 2 Col. 5.

Leader - The Clay Cross Catastrophe.

One of those terrible calamities which unfortunately frequently mark the history of mining has recently thrown this neighbourhood into a state of much consternation. The last week, up to the latest moment, we published all the harrowing details of the misfortune. This week, in another part of our paper, we continue the dreadful story. In this place it is only our intention to offer a few grave comments, and make an appeal on behalf of the widow, the fatherless, and the orphan.

We reserve any remarks we may have to make upon the cause of the catastrophe. A proper inquiry is being instituted: when that is completed we may have something to say upon it. In the meantime we can only hope that the matter will be thoroughly investigated, and that something will, at once, be done to relieve, in some measure, the sufferings of those who have lost all they hold dear on earth. The case of those who are left destitute in consequence of this great calamity is one which certainly appeals to all classes. The misery is at our own doors. We have, we may say, witnessed the striking of the blow which has fallen so heavily upon many a household. Public sympathy and assistance is all the recompense we can offer to the sufferers. We know that this is no return for the loss they have sustained, but it is all a benevolent public can offer, and it will at any rate, tend to smooth the rugged path to sudden penury. Those who have gone we can do nothing for; but those whom the dead ones have left behind we can do much for, and we hope a committee will at once be formed for the collection of subscriptions for the sufferers by this terrible calamity at Clay Cross.

Now we are never by any means guilty of what may be called "cant", there is little sermonising in our leaders, because we think preaching sermons is not the province of the journalist. But upon this occasion we cannot help urging upon the miners who read this journal a serious consideration of the responsibilities which rest upon them. First of all they should remember that their employment is specially hazardous, and that the meanest among them has a soul to be saved. It is an awful thing to be summoned without a moment's warning to give an account of the doings of a lifetime; to realise in its fullest sense the fact that "in the midst of life we are in death". The fearful truth was realised a week ago by several at Clay Cross, and never a week passes but is recorded, in some part of the country or other, fatal accidents in coalpits. Death may come at one time in the shape of firedamp, at others in falling earth, or in sudden inundations of water. But whatever form it assumes, it is ever striking its victims; and if the great reaper can be said to be at all partial in his visits, he is certainly very frequently heard of in the workings of coal mines. This should not only act as a caution to miners with regard to the manner of their lives in a moral and spiritual point of view, but temporally also, as concerning the futures of their wives and families. A collier should always endeavour to be prepared for a dark day of misfortune. The joining of benefit societies, Odd-fellows and other clubs, are steps in the right direction. "To be forewarned is to be forearmed"; "Out of evil cometh good". These are two good old proverbs, and our earnest hope is that out of the Clay Cross calamity the good which is to come will be a forewarning and a forearming in every respect against the terrors and miseries of such events in the future.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 22nd. June 1861.

Page 2 Col. 6.

The Iron and Coal Trades of Yorkshire and Derbyshire - June 13.

The Iron Trade continues to be remarkably dull and depressed, and underselling is said to exist to a considerable extent. The prospects of an improvement are very remote, and will be so until affairs in America have taken a more pacific aspect. The Coal Trade is in a tolerably healthy state, considering the season and the depression existing in the manufacturing districts.

Mining Journal.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 22nd. June 1861.

Page 3 Col. 1.

The Colliery Accident at Clay Cross.

We have visited the scene of the late lamentable accident at Clay Cross daily, but, up to Thursday night, we had not any hopes of the bodies of the 25 unfortunate men being recovered for some time. We stated in our last, that a new pumping engine was being put down, to work the pump in the shaft, and this was got into full operation on Friday night, but was soon out of order, as it was found that the sucker was damaged and would draw no water. A large tub, manufactured by the Midland Railway Company, was suspended on the rope on Saturday, and on Tuesday this tub ascended and descended about 56 to 60 times in the hour, each time bringing up about 260 gallons of water. We were informed that a new pump was in course of manufacture and would soon be ready to be put in the shaft, which would draw a considerable quantity of water. Since Monday, the water has lowered a few inches each day, but nothing to mean anything. It is positively concluded that all must have perished, either from drowning, suffocation, or hunger. Some colliers assert that the men might live on the carcasses of the horses, but we doubt if they have been able to survive for so great a length of time. A "drift" is being made from the New Foundation Pit to the part where the men are supposed to be. The distance of ground to be cut through is 130 yards. The men have been put on about four hour "shifts", and have by these means succeeded in cutting through ten yards every 24 hours. The feed of water from the old workings has been stopped and operations are proceeding at No. 1 Pit, to endeavour to gain access to the workings where the unfortunate colliers are. The "drift" is expected to be finished by Sunday or Monday. The loss from cattle(?), without calculating the expenses of the present operations, will be over £1,500.

In addition to the most heroic attempts to rescue the men (which we published in our last), we might mention that a man, named Thomas Roden, came down an inclined plane, where the current of water was running with maddened fury, and brought with him two boys. Whilst he was proceeding to the bottom of the shaft, he "nailed" two more boys and succeeded in landing the four safely out of the pit. We cannot speak too highly of the services rendered by T. Bamford, J. Unwin, J. Riles, G. Silkstone and G. Dunn, but for want of space we cannot fully detail their many heroic acts. Several have to thank them, as well as their Creator for present existence. Two or three had narrow escapes from meeting the same untimely death (we make use of this term because we fear it is so, we hope otherwise) as the unfortunate men now in the workings.

On Sunday hundreds visited the scene of the catastrophe - the different trains from north and south were well laden with visitors for Clay Cross. The inns were also thronged with visitors on foot and by conveyances. The ostlers made an additional 2½d on Sunday; but what was there for the excited crowd to see? They were wishful to arrive at the pit, and when they got there they beheld a large pair of wheels over which a rope was continually at work, and about every minute a bucket emptied its bulk of yellow liquid, which rushed down a wooden spout, along a cut in the bank, into a brook below. The water appears thick, and when it has travelled about half its distance it is white with foam. On the banks of this small cut a number of men, women, and children are sitting. Some of them are relations to the unfortunate fellows below, and they watch each bucket throw out the element that has been the cause of the unfortunate disaster with the greatest interest. A number of these poor, heartbroken creatures take their position early in the morning, and keep it until the shadow of night warn them it is time to depart.

Clay Cross, Friday, 5 p.m.

Since Wednesday the water has been lowered 16 inches per day. About 20,000 gallons of water is brought out every hour, and there is yet three yards of water to drawn out before the furnace drift can be reached. A number of coffins have been made for the reception of the bodies, as all the men are now expected to be dead. The drift from the New Foundation Pit has yet to go 60 yards, and taking the average of yards worked per day, and also the water drawn from the two pits, there will be no chance of the bodies being reached before Friday next. Numbers of persons still visit the scene of this lamentable accident.

(From the Reporter).

More of half a million gallons of water are raised from the inundated mines, by means of iron tubs worked by the engine that draws the coals at the pit now filled with water. When the water has been lowered about 10 feet, access can be secured to the workings, this, from the rate the water is being lowered, will be accomplished in about 100 hours. It is not improbable that many of the persons in the mine may be alive, as half a million cubic feet of atmospheric air is sealed up; this would be sufficient to support the life of more than twenty persons for many days. Although the water which has inundated is poisonous, being strongly impregnated with sulphate of iron, commonly called copperas, there is in the mine a sufficient supply of water to drink, and accessible. There are several ponies in the mine, and these will supply, in an extremity, food for the persons in the mine.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 22nd. June 1861.

Page 3 Col. 1.

Inquests before Mr. Busby.

An inquest was held at Eckington, on Wednesday last, before C.S.B. Busby, Esq., on the body of Henry White, of Old Lane, aged 17. It appears that deceased worked for Messrs. Mills (Wells), at the Renishaw Park Colliery, and on Monday last he was brought home from work fearfully burned all over the body. On the day named he was sending up a corve, containing some turpentine, which became ignited, and thus caused deceased's death. The inquest was adjourned to the 26th. instant.

An adjourned inquest was held at the Miners' Arms, Dronfield Woodhouse, on Monday last on the body of Henry Bennett, who was killed at the Ox Close on the 10th. instant. The particulars appeared in our last. The jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 22nd. June 1861.

Page 4 Col. 3.

Fearful Accident at Monkwearmouth Colliery.

On Monday evening, a dreadful accident occurred in the Deep Pit of Monkwearmouth Colliery, attended with loss of valuable property, though happily with but little loss of life, and much less than there might have been. It appears that the last run of coal tubs was coming away from the bottom of the incline bank, in the pit, and had got a short distance up when the foremost ones got off the way. To guard against the consequences of such accidents, there is fixed behind each what is called a "bull", with two "horns", and when tubs run off, the "paul" is inserted, and the effect is to make the horns stick, one into the road, and the other into the roof, so that the tubs cannot run back again down the pit. But in this case the men had been obliged to ??? out the horns to get the tubs onto the way, and whilst they were thus engaged the coupling bolt of the foremost one broke, and eleven of the coal laden tubs rattled down the incline with the horns projecting before them. At the bottom were waiting three horses and train of light tubs to bring the men up, some of whom had already taken their seats in the tubs, and the train was waiting for others. But as soon as they heard the runaway tubs coming down, the men leapt out in a hurry on one side, while a man and a boy got out on the other side, where the horses were standing. The tubs jumped to the latter side on reaching the bottom, and killed the three horses. The boy was completely crushed to death, while one of the horns ripped up the man's thigh, penetrating his bowels and inflicted injuries of so desperate a character that he is scarcely expected to recover. Had the tubs jumped to the other side the loss of life would have been fearful to contemplate; but the men would have been quite safe had they retained their seats in the tubs, and ten empty ones would have stood before them. The horses were strong and valuable ones, being worth upwards of £30 each.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 29th. June 1861.

Page 2 Col. 4.

Advert - Partnership.

Wanted, a partner (sleeping or active) in working an ironstone field, now in profitable operation. Capital required for half-share £200 to £300. Apply to Mr. Samuel Denham, auctioneer, Chesterfield.

27th. June, 1861.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 29th. June 1861.

Page 3 Col. 1.

The Colliery Accident at Clay Cross.

During the past week the greatest exertions have been made to reduce the quantity of water in the flooded pit at Clay Cross, and since Tuesday last upwards of half a million gallons per day have been drawn off, and since our last notice up to Friday evening the level of the water had been reduced up to 15 feet in the shaft, and it is expected by Monday that the water would be lowered sufficiently to admit of an examination of the pit through the furnace drift at the upcast shaft. The furnace drift in the upcast shaft is a considerable height above the bottom of the pit, and it will admit of an examination of the mine at a much earlier period than would be possible if the water had to be withdrawn entirely out of the shaft, and the pit entered from the bottom in the usual course, as there is still about 20 feet of water in the downcast shaft. The mode of drawing the water from the pit is peculiar. The guides in the upcast shaft were broken immediately after the accident, below the level of the water, when it was found impossible to draw it out of the upcast shaft with buckets running in the guides. After the most anxious consideration of the subject, it was then determined by the engineers, Messrs. Woodhouse and Jeffcock, Mr. Hedley, Government Inspector, Mr. Binns, and Mr. Markham, to employ a very heavy balance weight upon the rope in the upcast shaft and to double the size of the water tub, the power of the engine being exerted to its utmost in both directions, and the balance weight assisting by its gravity in drawing up the full bucket. By this mode of working it has been ascertained that the quantity of water drawn from the pit was greater than it was when two tubs were employed, as there was a saving in time in discharging the water from one tub instead of two.

The drift that was commenced immediately after the accident has been proceeded with great activity, and it has progressed at a rate of 10 yards per day, progress which we believe has never been hitherto accomplished in a similar undertaking, five yards per day has been considered a great undertaking. By about Saturday (this day) this drift will strike into the old workings, and if the mine should be free of gas, the pit will at once be examined; but there is now every reason to believe that an examination of the pit will be accomplished nearly simultaneously from the drift and from the downcast shaft. It is supposed that there are twenty five men and lads in the pit, and there is still a strong belief that there has not been any considerable quantity of coal gas given off from the workings since the accident occurred, and if so the pit still contains a sufficient quantity of air to support life; therefore we still hope that some, if not all, may be found alive, more especially as there was a case occurred in the North of England some years ago where a body of men were buried for six weeks under similar circumstances, and the journal which was kept by the men is still preserved in the British Museum. The men and lads at Clay Cross pit have been in eighteen days this day (Friday). Mr. Jackson, M.P., one of the principle proprietors, has been to the works several times since the accident, and has evinced the greatest anxiety in the matter.

Notwithstanding the many precautions used, one or two slight accidents have occurred to the men employed in getting the water out of the pit. On Wednesday week, Joseph Owen had a narrow escape from being dashed to pieces, under the following circumstances: - attached to the water-tub are two levers used for the purpose of raising the valves and letting the water out of the tub on its arrival at the top of the shaft. Two men are stationed at the top for the purpose of pressing the levers with their feet and on the day named Joseph Owen of Tupton Moor, put his feet into the shaft too soon. The engine pulling the rope rather too high, and the man was

jerked up some height and thrown with his face onto the iron slabs near the pit mouth, narrowly escaping falling into the pit. His nose was broken, and he was much bruised on different parts of his body. He was conveyed home, and under medical aid he is progressing favourably. An accident occurred at No. 1 Pit on the same day, which might have resulted in the loss of five more lives. Several men were engaged in the old workings where the water had come from, and a deal of soft dirt had accumulated in the bottom. They had put a number of props up to keep the roof safe, but, in consequence of the unsoundness of the floor, the props gave way and the men were partly buried in the debris which fell from the roof. They were extricated before anything serious happened.

Clay Cross, Friday.

Shortly after two o'clock this morning the spears in the shaft where the water was drawn out broke, and up to three o'clock this afternoon they had not finished repairing them. Of course this stopped the operations in drawing the water, but no time has been lost in putting the spears again into working order. There is between four and five yards of water in the pit bottom yet, but the water has been lowered an average of one and a half to two feet every twenty four hours during the last few days. In fact it is so much lowered that it was discovered this morning that the sucker of the pumps could be got at and repaired. This was being packed when our reporter left, and was expected to be in good working order in about an hour, so that it will materially assist in bringing out the water. A large engine of about 30 horsepower is being erected for the purpose of working some new pumps in the shaft. Numbers of people may still be seen loitering about the shaft. The drift from the Foundation Pit is expected to be through in the course of 24 hours, and the recovery of the bodies may be daily expected.

Derbyshire Times

Saturday 29th. June 1861.

Page 3 Col. 3.

Jonathan Bennett v. William Adams.

This was an action brought by Jonathan Bennett, Brampton, to recover the sum of £20, with interest, from the defendant, Williams Adams, of Cutthorpe. It appeared that in or about the month of May, 1860, complainant entered into an arrangement with John Brown, Esq., Rose Hill, for to work a certain colliery, at Cutthorpe. He began, and was for several months before he got the pit in a fit state to work, and up to January, 1861, he had got coal which only amounted in value to £8-10-0d. The cost of working the pit up to this time amounted to £60. The plaintiff's arrangements with Brown, which were entirely by cavil, were that no rent should be paid unless some coal was got, and £25 was to be the minimum rent. On the 30th. of January, 1861, defendant, from representations made to him, by ????????, who had been employed by the plaintiff, agreed with the plaintiff for the purchase of the pit for the sum of £50, £30 of which he paid, and gave a promissory note for the surplus. Plaintiff had repeatedly asked for the claim, but defendant evaded payment by asserting that he had had to pay rent which was due previous to him taking the colliery. His Honour, after a careful review of the whole evidence, thought that as the defendant had taken the colliery with its benefits, he had a right to its burdens, and gave a verdict for the plaintiff, with costs. Mr. Busby appeared for the plaintiff, and Mr. Cutts for defendant.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 29th. June 1861.

Page 3 Col. 3.

Savage Assault at Whittington.

Edward Woodhouse was charged with assaulting James Millington, at Whittington, on the 15th. inst. Mr. Busby appeared to support the charge. Complainant, on being sworn, said: I am a miner, and live at New Whittington. I work for the West Staveley Colliery Company. I have been in their employ about a month, and came from Mr. Barrow's works. I am a Staffordshire man. On Saturday last I went to Chesterfield Market and returned about twelve o'clock. I went into the Wellington Hotel for some drink for supper. There was seven of us to supper. When I had got the ale I met three men, one of them asked me if I would allow his mates to sup. I said "Yes", and I gave it to the defendant to drink. He drank some, and then threw the rest of the ale in my face, crying out, "This is the b----- Yorkshire fireman". Somebody knocked me down, but I could not see who it was, as I was blinded with the ale. I begged of them to spare my life, but they knocked me up and down for about 50 yards. They kicked me, and the defendant jumped on me. My wife and Mrs. Wilcockson came up; as did also a policeman, and they ran away. I had received 19-1d. from Mrs. Wilcockson in change, and when I recovered it was gone out of my pocket. I never was in his company before in my life. My nose was broken in the affray. I bled very much, and the blood may be now seen on the pavement. Other witnesses corroborated these facts, and the defendant was fined £2-10-0d. and 16-6d. costs, and was, in default committed to Derby for 1 month's hard labour.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 29th. June 1861.

Page 4 Col. 3.

Fatal Colliery Accident from an Explosion of Firedamp.

One of those fatal explosions of firedamp which has rendered the South Yorkshire coalfield somewhat notorious, but from which during the last two or three years it has been more than usually free, took place in the Old Mill Colliery on Wednesday morning. The colliery, which is about half a mile from the town of Barnsley, is the property of Mr. W. Day, and has been worked for many years. As usual at most old pits in the neighbourhood where the workings have been long out and free from gas, naked candles were used by most of the men in coal-getting and hurrying. About six o'clock in the morning most of the men and boys had gone down, shortly after which the explosion took place, and a number of men and boys at once rushed to the bottom to be taken into the cage. This was promptly done by those at the top, when it was found that one poor fellow named George Rollin, 17 years of age, employed as a day man, was quite dead, while a number of others, men and boys, were more or less injured, some of them being so seriously burned that their recovery in several cases is said to be doubtful. Two or three boys in particular appear to have been seriously burned, but the deceased Rollin bore no particular marks of being burnt, having been evidently killed by the afterdamp. At the time of the explosion there would be somewhere about 130 or 140 men and boys in the pit, but as the accident occurred close to the bottom, probably not more than 50 yards from it, many of those in the higher workings were not aware for some time that there had been an accident, the only indication being what colliers term a strong "waft", or rushing of air past them. This was followed by the smell of the gas which had exploded, when they at once ran out, some of them remaining some time after the occurrence. Those working near the bottom were the sufferers, receiving the force of the shock. A donkey was brought out, very badly burned, and the animal appeared to suffer much. The injury done to the working was but slight, and the repairs speedily made. The inquest was held on Thursday afternoon, and Mr. Morton, the Government Inspector, was in the town in a few hours after the accident, and inspected the colliery during the afternoon.

Upwards of 20 men and boys, it is ascertained, were injured more or less by the explosion, being chiefly burnt about the face, hands, and arms; several of them so seriously that they are now lying in a precarious state. On Wednesday evening only one death had been reported. The names of the parties are: - George Rollin, collier, now dead; and the injured, Evans Jagger, Wortley Street, boy; Charles Burkinshaw, Blucher Street, young man; Samuel Styron, Rich Lane, boy; John Garside, Slack Hills, married man; Thomas Cherry, Thomas Street, boy; John Daley, Shaw Street, married; George Armitage, Pall Mall, boy; Thomas Beevers, Old Mill; Charles Kay, and James (his son), Barebones; John Morris, Wilson's Piece, boy; Joseph Oxley, Pogmoor, married; James Grossley, New Street, married; James Gilberthorpe, Cannon Street, married; Richard Abbott, Shambles Street, married; James Gothard, Sackville Street, married; -- Brown, School Street; Richard Hepplestone, Church Field; Charles Overend, New Street, boy; Thomas Cawthorne, Sackville Street, boy; James Chadwick, Primrose Hill. Some of the above, however, we may state, are only slightly burnt.