

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 2nd. March 1861.

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Leader - A Word to Colliers' Wives.

We address ourselves to a class, some of whom, at least, we are quite sure we will reach, although we may not succeed in making ourselves heard by all in the neighbourhood. There be they who cannot read; these we hope to communicate with through their gossiping friends who can. What we have to tell them is something in which they are deeply concerned, something which their future happiness is concerned, the happiness of their husbands, the safety of their homes.

The judge at the Chesterfield County Court - an excellent, wise judge - says the colliers of this district are getting into a very bad habit. They start on credit at the small shops, and when they have money to pay with the money is appropriated to other purposes. In many cases, his Honour says, colliers' wives run their husbands into debt whilst their husbands are hard at work. This we have reason to know, is too true, and the result is County Court summonses after summonses, distresses after distresses upon the household furniture, and often committals of the husbands to prison.

Now we would earnestly warn the women against this bad system. It is hard work for a man often labouring from morning until night, to find himself brought to misery and distress by the woman who should comfort, console, and cheer him in his toil. For their own sakes, too - we would put it in this selfish way - wives should be more careful, and rather store up for a rainy day than bring clouds of misery about the house by their own bad and unholy practices.

"Keep out of debt - Protect the pockets of your husbands - Fear debt as you would the devil - Regard it as a monster of frightful evil - shudder at it as you would at your imaginary death ticks and warnings of bad import," is our advice to you wives of working men; and remember that Judge Cantrill has actually expressed desire to imprison some of you for ruining your husbands. The judge has not the power to do so yet - but laws are made very quickly in these days, and there is no knowing what may be done to punish the wicked ones if they persist in their evil doings.

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No Headline.

On Friday last a young man named Joseph Swift, of Cromford, was apprehended and brought before C. Clarke, Esq., at the office of Messrs. Milnes and Newbold, charged with obtaining money under false pretences. Prisoner had paid a visit to E.M. Wass, Esq., and represented himself to that gentleman as being in his employ at the Crich mines, and succeeded in obtaining £3, on the condition that the same should be deducted from his wages at the time of payment. He also succeeded in obtaining a sovereign from the agent at the mine under a similar circumstance. He was committed for trial at the ensuing Assizes.

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Dreadful Colliery Explosion - Eight Lives lost.

At one o'clock on Wednesday, an explosion of firedamp occurred at the New Linnyshaw Pit, near the turnpike road between Swinton and Stocks; and it resulted in the deaths of eight persons, and in the very serious injury of a ninth, whose life is despaired of. The pit forms one of several in the neighbourhood belonging to the Bridgewater Trust. It is comparatively new, and the owners, on account of the firedamp in it, had, as a precaution, recently appointed both an inspector and an under-looker, to reside in the immediate vicinity. The explosion occurred in what is known at the Seven-Foot Mine, which has but recently been opened, so that the workings are somewhat contracted. About fourteen men and lads were working in the mine at the time of the explosion, and both the manager, Mr. Daniel Timmins, and the underground inspector, Mr. John Jones, had only left the mine about half an hour previously, after having examined the ventilation, etc., and found everything perfectly satisfactory. The noise of the explosion attracted the attention of the men in the other parts of the colliery, and the manager and the underground inspector having been sent for, a search was made for the men who were known to be working in the "Seven-Foot". Sixteen or seventeen men were engaged in the search. Two boys were first found, suffering from the afterdamp. They were immediately sent up and attended to by Mrs. Timmins, in the managers house hard by, and under her treatment they soon recovered. About two o'clock, an hour after the accident, James Lyon, one of the miners, was brought up quite dead. William Knight, a miner, was found next, lying in the waggon road. He was still living, but was much burnt. He was suffering also from the afterdamp, and was immediately sent up, carried to the house of the manager, where Mr. Booth, surgeon, of Swinton, who had been called to the spot upon the disaster being known, attended to him. John Latchford, the fireman, was next met with. He was lying dead in a "end" above the waggon road, and was much burned. The exploring party gradually made their way along the waggon road and found four more men, all dead, viz., Thomas and William Cooke, drawers; William Crampton and Joseph Wilcock, miners. As the ventilation was restored the party proceeded into the far end of the waggon road, where they found the dead body of Peter Hope, assistant fireman. He was not burned, but had been suffocated by the afterdamp. The remaining man was known to be Edmund Rushton, miner, who had been engaged in driving an "end" above the waggon road. He was found dead in the end, having been suffocated at his work by the afterdamp. He was neither burned nor "blown". The bodies of the poor fellows were carried to the pit's eye as soon as they were found; when all had been discovered they were taken up to the pit's mouth, and conveyed to their various homes in the neighbourhood. After the finding of the bodies, a careful search was made for the safety lamps, which were used by each man. They were all ultimately found, and were apparently perfect, except one or two the gauzes of which were found separated from the lamps.

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Page 4 Col. 2.

Anticipated Lock-Out in the South Yorkshire Colliery District.

The relations between the colliers and their employers in the South Yorkshire district are at present in a very unsettled state. The men at the Woolley Colliery, who have been out for rather more than a week, still continue on strike. Summonses for the ejection of such as those that resided in the cottages of the proprietors have been issued, and were heard before the magistrates on Wednesday, when warrants of ejection were granted in 32 cases. The Wombwell Main colliers are also out, and, so far as we hear, without any likelihood of immediately coming to terms. The men at the Victoria Colliery, belonging to G. Sutcliffe and Company, remained out on Monday owing to some dispute amongst the men themselves, which it was expected would be settled on Wednesday. It is much to be regretted that such a state of things should exist, as it must in the long run prove highly injurious both to masters and men. The impression is that ere long another general lock-out will take place.

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Page 2 Col. 2.

Advert - A Brickyard to Let,

in Kent Lane, with Shed, Kiln, Rollers, and Working Materials all new. Apply to Mr. David Allison, Holywell Cross, Chesterfield.

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Page 2 Col. 5.

Letter - The Truck System.

Sir,

Would you be kind enough to allow me a few lines in your valuable periodical on the above subject, which is now carried on to an alarming extent in the neighbourhood of Eckington and the adjoining parishes.

A case came before the magistrates at the Eckington Petty Sessions last week, when a poor man sued his employer for £3-7-11d. of wages, stating that he had only received 15-6d. in money since the last Christmas to keep a large family with.

The magistrates ordered payment of the amount, and stated, in indignant terms, that if the complainant had laid the information of paying wages with goods in lieu of money, the defendant would have found himself in a very awkward position.

There are four or five different parties at this time carrying on in the Truck System, though in an evasive way.

Under the 29th. section of George the 2nd., chapter 33, and more recent Acts, I believe that masters paying their workmen otherwise than in money are liable to a penalty of £10, half to go to the informer, and half to the party so aggrieved, to be recovered by distress, or in default, six months imprisonment.

Yours, etc.,  
Fairplay

March 6th, 1861.

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Page 2 Col. 6.

Mill Town Mining Company (Limited).

The special General Meeting of this Company was held at the Commercial Inn, Chesterfield, on Friday, March the 1st., to consider the propriety of closing the old mine. C. Binns, Esq., occupied the chair. It appeared that since the directors had come to the determination to call the shareholders together for the purpose above named, the miners employed had opened into much better work, and consequently it was deemed advisable not to close the old mine at present; but, at the same time, the directors were empowered to do so when they considered it advisable. It was stated that the capital of the Company would not allow of both the old and new mines being worked together.

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Page 3 Col. 1-2.

Mining in Derbyshire.

We have to notice, in reference to the Derbyshire lead mines, that there is a desire, now that the new railway is approaching them, to develop still further the mineral resources of the county. The Mill Town Mining Company having undertaken to sink through the toadstone, have found the task more formidable than they estimated, and the result will be that further capital will be required. This company is one of the few public companies which have paid dividends. The shares have gradually been declining, but from the highly respectable board of management at its head, the shareholders may rest assured that the expenditure will be honest and economical. The Hill Top Company, we learn, are willing to pay their own expenses in the late Chancery suit. The right of the Mill Dam Company to pour water into the swallow has been established by the decision of the arbitrator. The North Derbyshire Company are continuing to sink their new shaft. We learn that some of the shareholders are considerably in arrears with their calls, and that in March the Company will put their law in operation, either to compel those in arrears to pay up their calls, or to forfeit their shares.

Mining Journal.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 9th. March 1861.

Page 4 Col. 3.

No Headline.

The inquest on the bodies of the men who were killed by the explosion of gas at Worsley Colliery was held on Saturday; and after an examination by the jury, a verdict was given in accordance with the evidence. The deceased came to their death by an explosion, but there was no evidence to show how the explosion originated. The miner who was rescued from the pit alive has since died, making the ninth killed by the explosion.

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Page 3 Col. 1.

Dunstone Hall in a Dangerous State.

The floors and walls of the kitchens, greenhouses, etc., of the above named building have given way to such an extent as to put the owners in daily fear of its falling to the ground. It is caused by some pillars being taken out of a coal pit underneath, owned by the Dunstone and Barlow Company. A meeting of the trustees was held on Wednesday to investigate the matter.

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Page 3 Col. 2.

Cutthorpe.

On Wednesday, the 6th. inst., a serious accident occurred at the Abbey Dale Ironstone Pits, by which Thomas Watkinson was thrown down the pit and killed, though, strange to say, not a bone was broken or even dislocated; the injuries were internal. On Friday an inquest was held before C.S.B. Busby, Esq., coroner, when, after a lengthy and careful investigation, the jury returned a verdict of "Accidental Death". On Sunday last the remains of the unfortunate youth were committed to the earth at Old Brampton Church, amid tears from many sorrowing friends. Though but fourteen years of age, he had been a scholar in the Sunday School eight years, and the superintendents, teachers, and scholars testified their respect by attending the body to its last resting place. May he rest in peace!!

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Page 3 Col. 3.

Mining in Derbyshire.

The Derbyshire lead mines are, on the whole, making satisfactory progress. The Eyam Company have declared a dividend of 10-0d. per share, besides leaving over about £700. The Mill Dam Company have recently had a good sale of ore, and the mine is looking promising. The Mill Town Company, at Ashover, have sunk through the toadstone, and there is a prospect of their getting into good work again. A special General Meeting of shareholders has been held to consider the propriety of closing the old mine. It appeared that since the directors had come to the determination to call the shareholders together, the miners had opened into much better work, and, consequently it was deemed advisable not to close the old mine at present; but, at the same time, the directors were empowered to do so when they should consider it advisable. It was stated that the capital of the Company would not allow both the old and new mines to be worked together. The North Derbyshire Company are continuing their sinking operations at present. The time will soon elapse for the payment of the arrears of call, we understand that the committee intend to take proceedings against those shareholders in arrears, and either compel them to pay up or forfeit their shares. Nothing tends so much to depreciate the value of a mining property as the apathy of the shareholders in meeting the demands made upon them. The local share markets have been steady, and there has been a good business done in railway, bank, and other stocks. The quotations of many of the mines are merely nominal.

Mining Journal.

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Page 3 Col. 4.

Leaving Service.

Martin Barker was charged by John Carr, agent for the Sheepbridge Company, with leaving his service, at Sheepbridge, on the 9th. inst. Committed for 14 days hard labour.

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Page 3 Col. 4.

No Headline.

Samuel Stocks and Joseph Fletcher, colliers, both of Clay Cross, were brought up on warrant, charged by Mr. John Brown, underground bailiff to the Clay Cross Company, with being absent from their work on several occasions. Stocks, who received a good character from Mr. Brown, it being his first offense, was ordered to pay expenses and costs, £1-1-9d., and return to work. Fletcher was committed to the County Gaol for one month.

John Charlesworth, banksman, employed at the Pinxton Colliery Works, was summoned by Mr. North, underground bailiff, with being absent from his post and neglecting to examine and see that all was safe previous to the men going into the pit to work. Fined in the mitigated penalty of 1-0d. and 10-6d. expenses and costs.

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Page 4 Col. 2.

Dreadful Colliery Explosion and loss of Twelve Lives.

Another of those terrible calamities for which the collieries of the Aberdare valley district have become unhappily notorious, occurred at between seven and eight o'clock on Friday, in the "Four Feet Vein" Pit of the Blaengwawr Colliery, Aberdare. The colliery, which belongs to Mr. David Davies, was considered an unusually well ventilated one. The men went below to their work at the usual time. The explosion took place at about twenty minutes past seven o'clock, and upon its becoming known above ground the utmost terror prevailed, and relatives of the unfortunate miners, in their ignorance of how many or who had been killed, giving way to the most poignant, and in many cases maddened, grief. The officials lost no time, when the calamity was known, in taking the steps necessary to ascertain the extent of the sacrifice, and to rescue the survivors from their dangerous entombment in the mine. Messengers were dispatched for medical as well as other assistance, and Dr. Davies, the surgeon to the works, hastened at once to the colliery, and rendered the most anxious and kind attention to the survivors. Eleven poor fellows were brought out dead. A painful feeling was excited in the case of another man named Thomas Jones. The poor fellow was brought out alive, but greatly injured, and struggled hard with death for three or four hours, during which time Dr. Davies paid to him the most unremitting attention. The "Grim Warrior", however, proved too strong for him, and he succumbed. Beside the men above mentioned, there are several others who are injured and burnt with greater or lesser severity, and whose fate cannot of course be determined. Every attention which kindness and skill can suggest is being paid to them, and it is hoped that at any rate the greater portion of them will recover. The causes which led to the explosion are as yet involved in obscurity, and as the men, in the excitement which prevails, seem unable to give any explanation of it, it will probably remain undiscovered until an examination of the works has been made. Information of the terrible calamity has been forwarded to the coroner and also to the colliery inspector for the district, Mr. Brough, and no doubt a very searching enquiry will be instituted. Several of the men who were killed have left widows and orphans, and the catastrophe has plunged the neighbourhood into a state of the deepest gloom.

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Page 4 Col. 4.

The Nottingham Forgeries.

At the Nottingham Assizes on Saturday last, before Chief Justice Cockburn, Francis Edward Shipley, Jun., aged 32, colliery proprietor, and formerly Sheriff of Nottingham, was charged with forging the acceptance of Thomas Pacey, coal merchant, Fiskerton, near Newark, in a bill for £67-16-0d.

Mr. Eaton, manager of Wright's Bank, said the bill in question was sent up to London for the bank on the 28th. of August to Messrs. Robarts and Company. On the 31st. of August it was returned dishonoured. Witness returned it to the purported acceptor, Thomas Pacey, of Fiskerton. The clerk of Mr. Hudson came to ask after the bill, and afterwards Mr. Hudson came himself, for witness detained the bill to ascertain the accuracy of the acceptance.

Cross-examined by Mr. Macaulay. Mr. Hudson had two accounts there, a trade account, and a private account. Hudson is a commission agent and bill discounter. The bill was merely paid into Hudson's account, and was not discounted by the bank. Hudson had never before sent a dishonoured bill; he had no notice of the bill being dishonoured. Late in the day Mr. Hudson came for five other bills, but witness did not give them up.

Henry Hudson said he was an insurance agent and a bill discounter in Nottingham. Previous to May last he had discounted bills for Mr. Shipley. In the month of May he received the bill produced accompanied by a note requesting witness to discount it, stating that it was a good bill. Witness placed £40 to the prisoner's credit on another transaction, and sent him a cheque for the balance. The whole of the bill produced is in prisoner's handwriting, except the signature of the acceptor. Before the bill was dishonoured prisoner called upon witness, saying he had brought the money for Pacey's bill. Witness told him he had not received it back from the bank. He handed witness £70 in banknotes, the latter said he would send his clerk on the enquire about the bill, and he returned without procuring it. Prisoner then appeared very much agitated, and witness said, "Now, Frank, be candid with me and give me a list of all your irregular bills on my books, and I will go to the bank and withdraw them". Witness looked the bills over, and found Pacey's on the list. Witness made a list of the bills which Shipley said were irregular. Witness went to the bank for them, but they would not give them up.

On cross-examination the witness said he had charged 20 percent for discounting this bill, and admitted that the prisoner had acknowledged to him on the 8th. of August that he had been forging bills.

Thomas Pacey said that the acceptance, "Thomas Pacey" on the bill produced was not his handwriting. Never had accepted a bill from the prisoner, and had no dealing with him at all.

Mr. Macaulay having addressed the jury on behalf of the prisoner, witnesses were called to character, and the learned Judge having summed up, the jury returned a verdict of Guilty, with a recommendation to mercy.

Francis Edward Shipley, Jun., who was convicted of forgery on Saturday last, withdrew his plea of "Not Guilty", to five other indictments for similar offenses, and pleaded "Guilty". He was sentenced to three years penal servitude.

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Page 2 Col. 4.

Advert - To Let.

A Brick and Tile Yard, and may be entered upon immediately; with kiln, sheds, rolling mill, and machine; also an excellent bed of clay, and plenty of water, situate on Brimington Common. Apply to Mr. James Dickson, Brimington Common.

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Page 2 Col. 6 to Page 3 Col. 1.

County Court, Chesterfield.

Guest v. Fowler.

The claim £8-19-0d. This action was brought to recover the sum named from William Fowler, Esq., colliery proprietor, of Whittington. Mr. Busby appeared for the defendant. From the whole of the evidence adduced it appeared that the plaintiff was for some time in the employ of the defendant as a contractor, and as such he undertook to reset the foundation of an engine - work which required to be speedily as particularly well done. Such was not the case. The time occupied in so doing was considerably over the time specified, and but very imperfectly completed, with incurred a loss to the defendant and company amounting to upwards of £100. Some battings were also included in the claim, which had been used in one of the pits at Whittington. He (plaintiff) had presented a bill to defendant, containing particulars, for payment, but he refused to pay for the battings until proof of their having been used was submitted to him, and also for the full amount charged for the resetting of the foundation. Subsequently, however, the plaintiff accepted part payment as a discharge of the whole claim, and the account was, as defendant naturally thought, settled. The plaintiff's witnesses were evidently "too far gone" to assist him very materially, and spoke very suspiciously to the fact of using some of plaintiff's battings, but that was without any orders from the manager of the colliery. After the evidence of the defendant, cashier, and manager, the two latter speaking positively as to no orders being given for the battings; also William Carr, who spoke to the imperfect manner in which the work had been done, and the consequent loss to the proprietors, His Honour condemned the irregularity of such a proceeding as accepting part payment of a claim as a whole of the same, and after a careful review of the whole evidence, allowed the plaintiff £2.

Tickhill v. Fowler.

Plaintiff, James Tickhill, sought to recover from the defendant, W. Fowler, Esq., of Whittington, £1-16-0d., monies due to him from a club formed on the defendant's works in case of sickness, and for which 3d. in the pound was stopped. The plaintiff became a member of the club, which was not enrolled, in July of last year, but it was not long before sickness compelled him to have to resort to its benefit. He received the same for 6 weeks, at the expiration of which time the money was stopped on the plea that he was suffering from an "old complaint". From further testimony it was proved that the plaintiff had only paid to the club 4-0d. and had received 56-0d. The Judge said he was not entitled to receive any more, and he was therefore non-suited.

Glossop v. Edis.

The plaintiff in this action, James Glossop, of Marsh Lane, sought to recover the sum of £1 from Newell Edis, treasurer to the workman's club of which we have already made mention. The plaintiff, who was employed by Messrs. Fowler, said that the amount claimed had been stopped, at various times, from his wage for a club for which he was not eligible, being over 70 years of age, and the rules of the club held that none should be admitted members over 50 years of age. No witnesses were examined, and the defendant (complainant??) was non-suited on the ground that he had sued the wrong party - it should have been his employer.

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Page 3 Col. 1.

Whittington: A Caution.

Charles Kay and William Orwin were each charged by John Carr, colliery manager to Messrs. Fowler and Company, with leaving the service of that company without notice. From the evidence it was shown that defendant, Kay, was engaged by the complainant to get coal in one of the pits, and he (Kay) consequently contracted with Orwin to load for him. Neither of them were allowed, as a matter of course, to commence work without signing and receiving copies of the rules. They did sign them, but being shown into the stall, Kay demurred in consequence of the quantity of water that was in the stall, which was the contrary to the agreement between himself and defendant, viz., that the stall was to be perfectly free from water. He then left the pit, and the other defendant necessarily followed. Both defendants, after a short deliberation, were found guilty, and sentenced to 14 days hard labour. After the prisoners had been removed, the Bench communicated to them, through Superintendent Hunter, that they could, if they thought proper, appeal against their decision.

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Page 4 Col. 1.

Embezzlement at Church Gresley.

James Goacher, 30, labourer, surrendered to take his trial on a charge of embezzling the money of his employers, Messrs. Robinson and Foreman, colliery proprietors, Church Gresley.

Mr. Manson prosecuted, the prisoner was defended by Mr. Flood.

The Jury returned a verdict of "Not Guilty of Wilfully Misappropriating the Money". This being an acquittal, the prisoner was discharged from custody, his Lordship advising him to be more careful in future. The verdict was received with a murmur of surprise by the audience, which was a large one, the feeling being evidently shared in by the learned Judge.

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Page 4 Col. 4.

The Nisi Prius Court.

Bell v. Parker.

This was a special jury case, the action being brought by Sarah Sheppard Bell and Elizabeth Bell, as mortgagees of G.Y. Wilkinson, Esq., against the defendants, the executors of the late Robert Stephenson, to recover the sum of £450, the amount of a year and half's mineral rent, reserved under a lease granted by Mr. Wilkinson to the late Mr. George Stephenson, at the Tipton Colliery, near Chesterfield. The defendant's alleged by their pleas that the coal leased was in fact exhausted. The Macaulay, Q.C., Mr. Sergeant Hayes, and Mr. Field, were for plaintiffs; and Mr. Mellor, Q.C., and Mr. Mundell for the defendants. The case was one of a purely technical character, possessing little interest, and not requiring a lengthened report. A number of leases and various deeds were put in.

Mr. William Goodwin, mining surveyor, of Chesterfield, was examined to prove that he used to measure the coal for the lessors, half-yearly. In 1853 or 1855 he was also instructed by Mr. Stephenson's agent to measure it for the lessees. Sergeant Hayes was about to examine the witness upon the quantity of coal yet ungot, and the quality of it, when the learned judge said that the question might better be referred to a scientific man. He did not know whether there was to be a conflict of evidence upon that point.

Mr. Mellor: They say, My Lord, that there is more coal to be gotten than they say can be gotten by any reasonable expenditure of money, skill, or science.

The Judge: If you allow there is coal to be gotten than the verdict must be for the plaintiffs, for you are liable to pay rents. Surely, a scientific man might decide that question.

The suggested reference was not accepted, and the witness was examined and cross-examined at great length of the quantity and quality of the coal left in the colliery. His evidence in favour of the plaintiffs was not shaken.

John Allen, a collier, who had worked in the colliery for eight years, and went over the works twice in ??????, said the coal was never better than when the works were stopped. He could not tell why they were stopped. Another collier, named Madin, also worked at the colliery when it was stopped, and another named Straw, had worked there for wight years, and he corroborated the evidence of Allen and Madin, and his examination concluded the case for the plaintiffs.

Mr. Mellor then submitted that the transaction amounted to a purchase of the coal which was paid for, and that there was no lease in point of fact.

The Lord Chief Justice said he would like some authority on the point, in which, however, he differed from Mr. Mellor; and he would reserve it on Mr. Mellor's responsibility if he pressed it.

Mr. Mellor said he had no authority, and would not press his objection. The learned counsel then proceeded to address the jury for the defendant, and submitted that the question to

be put to the jury was whether any portion of the coal said to be left in the mine was or was not gettable by any reasonable expenditure of science or skill.

Mr. Samuel Parker, manager of the Tapton Colliery, was examined at length on the state of the seams, and he described in much minuteness the various faults and flaws in the working, the evidence going, on the whole, to show that the quantity of coal left would have cost extraordinary science and expense which could not have repaid the outlay. The coal would cost 6-8d. to 6-9d. per ton to get it to the pit's mouth ready for sale. Coal was then sold at 5-3d. per ton. The witness also swore that the workings would have been extraordinarily expensive from the faults found in the mine, which workings he alleged to be necessary he described in detail.

In answer to Mr. Macaulay, he said he was told by Mr. Stephenson to stop the workings. He believed that there had been a large lump of money lost by some one's imprudence before this stopping, he did not know that that was the reason why the works were stopped.

During the examination of the witnesses for the defendant, the learned Chief Justice frequently sought to elicit from the defendant's counsel the nature of the defense. He thought that it was no answer to the action to prove extraordinary expense in working the colliery, which had been leased subject to the usual mining risks, and if they were to enter upon the question of defendant's losses they must also consider their gains. If they had made 100 percent and now came forward when there might possibly be a loss of 4 or 5 percent and said, we have exhausted all the coal that could be got at a reasonable expense, that would be answered by the plaintiff by saying, "We let you this colliery to get coal at the usual risks, and those are yours".

The case, however, proceeded, and,

Mr. Woodhouse was then examined, and said that in 1859 he went to examine the colliery. The ventilation was bad in the south-west workings, and a considerable quantity of explosive gas; and if there had been a fall in the barometer there would probably have been a violent explosion. He recommended Mr. Stephenson to lay out a large sum of money in improving the air-course or to abandon that part of the pit. The expenses would have been greater than the advantages. In the south-east part the roads were dirty, bad, low and wet, the water falling from the roof. He thought an effort should have been made to recover the assumed 13 acres of coal in that part of the working.

Mr. William Saunders, clerk to the last witness, was examined with reference to the quantities of coal left in the workings.

The learned Judge then said that the question he should put to the jury was whether they thought there was any coal left unworked in the colliery which could be worked. It was not for the defendants to say that they would pay the rent so long as the workings were profitable, and cease to do so when they became unprofitable.

Mr. Mellor said he could not carry the case any further.

The Lord Chief Justice then directed the jury to find a verdict for the plaintiff, for the full amount claimed, and he should not reserve any point of law as the facts were so clear.

The jury found a verdict accordingly.

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Page 3 Col. 2.

The Late Nottingham Forgery Case.

At the Nottingham Court of Bankruptcy, last week, Francis E. Shipley, came up to claim his certificate. Mr. Mapels appeared on behalf of the bankrupt, and stated that his client was the father of Francis Shipley, who had been convicted of forgery at the late Nottingham Assizes. The father and son had been in partnership, but unfortunately the son did not keep faith with his father. He contravened certain articles of the partnership that had been agreed upon between them, and raised money by means which, though improper and wrong, were entirely unknown to his partner. Mr. Brown, who appeared for the assignees, hoped the court would give a first class certificate to the bankrupt, with whom they had entire sympathy in his present deplorable position. The learned Commissioner expressed sympathy with the bankrupt, whose conduct in the transaction was free from all blame. He had great pleasure in awarding him a certificate of the first class.

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Misbehaviour in Service.

Isaac Johnson, of Staveley, was charged by Martyn Seymour with misbehaviour in service, at Staveley Works. Pleaded Guilty. To return to his work, and the cost (10-6d.) to be deducted from his wages.