

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 3rd. May 1862.

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Ill-Using a Pony.

George Limb, a collier, at Staveley, was charged by James Youngman, overman, at Staveley Works, with ill-using a pony. John Yeomans said that on Thursday the 19th. of April, about dinner time, he saw a boy holding a pony's tail while the prisoner thrust a stick in its inside. He told him that if anyone else had seen him he would be sent to prison. He asked him what the d..... he had to do with it, and that he did not care a b.... what they did to him. William Stevens said that he was in Seymour Pit at the time, and saw the prisoner use the stick in the way described. Henry Dickson deposed to examining the pony, and found it could not put its tail down, the skin being all off. The prisoner denied doing anything to it. Fined 2-6d. and costs, or 14 days to hard labour.

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Belper - Fatal Accident.

A man named John Trueman, 25 years of age, was killed on Saturday at the Whitemoor Colliery. Mr. Sale opened an inquest on Monday, but it was adjourned to enable the Government Inspector to attend.

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Mosbro' - Colliery Accident.

On Monday last, about 7 o'clock a.m., at Plumbley New Colliery belonging to John Rhodes, Esq., Woodhouse, about a ton of bind fell on James Newton, coalminer, Mosbro', thereby breaking his leg (midway between the ankle and knee) and otherwise injuring him. No one was present when the accident occurred, and the poor fellow was obliged to draw out his leg from under the debris, and crawl as best he could for 26 yards. He was conveyed home, and Mr. Harwood, surgeon, and his assistant, Mr. Burrows, were in prompt attendance, and on their recommendation he was removed to the Sheffield Infirmary.

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Barnsley - Strike at the Elsecar Iron Works.

On Monday last a case was heard before T. and T.E. Taylor, Esq., at Barnsley Court House, which excited a great amount of interest. Last week a strike took place at the ironworks of Messrs. Dawes, at Elsecar, in consequence of Derbyshire grey iron being introduced, without any admixture of what is known as "plated iron", which makes it more difficult to work. There had previously been a strike about three weeks ago on the same ground, and the manager of the works sent to the men, and promised to introduce 1 cwt. of plated iron to 3 cwt. of grey iron. He did so for about a week, but he returned to grey iron again - principally Derbyshire iron - which the men alleged took them from three to four hours per day extra to work it. When they had the Derbyshire iron mixed with the plated in the proportion above stated, they could get the work out in 9 to 10 hours. They got no more pay now than then, although they were obliged to have an extra meal, and the work was so hard and so hot that the men frequently fainted under it. They could not endure it any longer, and had all left without giving notice. Warrants were issued against five of the men, three of whom were apprehended. The case of one of them, Benjamin Ward, was gone into at great length. Mr. Roberts, of Manchester, "the people's Attorney General", appeared for the defence, and Mr. Newman, the prosecution. The hearing lasted from 2 in the afternoon till 6 in the evening, when it was adjourned till next Monday, at half past 10 in the forenoon. Mr. Roberts complained bitterly of the men being apprehended instead of summoned and applied for bail. Mr. Newman had not the slightest objection, and the men were discharged on a simple promise to appear. The other two shortly afterwards surrendered, and were discharged on making similar promises.

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Swanwick - Fatal Accident in a Coalpit.

On Monday morning last, an accident which terminated fatally, happened to a man named George Wright, of Swanwick, near Alfreton. Deceased and a man named John Staples were engaged in sinking a pit deeper, at Mr. Morewood's Swanwick Colliery, and Staples had to ascend the shaft for something. When he got to the top he shouted to the deceased but received no answer, he went down the shaft and found the deceased lying on the ground with a severe wound in his head, but he was alive. He was taken home and died about five o'clock in the afternoon. An inquest was held yesterday (Friday), before Mr. Busby, coroner, and a verdict of Accidental Death returned.

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Establishment of a Miners' Widows' and Orphans' Fund.

On Tuesday, a meeting of coalowners of the West Yorkshire district was held at the White Horse Hotel, Leeds, for the purpose of considering the propriety of establishing a society for relieving women and children who are left destitute by accidents to their husbands, fathers, and relatives, in coal mines. Mr. J.T. Fenton, of the Waterloo Colliery, occupied the chair. Mr. Rayner, the secretary pro tem, stated the object with which the proposed Association had been contemplated. After considerable discussion, it was moved by Mr. Rayner, and seconded by Mr. Charlesworth - " That a district association be established performing a fund for the support of widows and orphans of miners and other persons who are accidentally killed in the prosecution of their labours at the collieries on the north side of the Yorkshire and Lancashire Railway". The resolution having been unanimously approved, it was stated, in a conversational manner, that it was desirable to fix the weekly contributions of each miner at a penny; and that every collier, on entering upon an engagement at a pit, should be requested to subscribe that penny a week to the accident fund; and the coalmasters, for their part, should contribute at least 2-6d. in the pound, or one eighth of what miners subscribed, and that the support of the general public should also be invited. The gentlemen who had inaugurated the movement constituted themselves into a committee, with power to add to their number, for the purpose of settling the necessary details for the new organisation, and the meeting was then adjourned for a fortnight.

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Wilful Damage in a Colliery.

John Harrison, a collier, in the employ of the Wingerworth Coal Company, was charged with having been guilty of certain misconduct in omitting to couple a waggon, whereby damage was done amounting to 25 shillings. The defendant said he was not guilty, as there was a man in the pit to examine them. Mr. Shaw said: I am employed at the Lings Colliery. I engaged the defendant to see that the trucks were alright in the level before they were sent off. He omitted his duty, the consequence was that a number of waggons had run down the incline and were smashed. Mr. Ward said it was not the first time defendant had neglected his duty, as he appeared to have made a regular practise of it. He receives 3-8d. per day wages. Mr. Barrow: Is it a special work? Mr. Ward: Yes, Sir. He is ordered to examine the trucks regularly. Thomas Hill: I work at the Lings Colliery. When the defendant ordered me to let down the trucks, I asked him if all was right, and he said, "Yes, let them off". I let them down the plane, and because they were uncoupled eight of the trucks were broken. Mr. John Godber said he had examined the waggons and found the damage to be 25 shillings. Mr. Ward, one of the managers, said they had brought the case before the Bench as the defendant had struck the engine tender on the head with a piece of iron and threatened to kill him. Mr. Barrow said the magistrates had no power to order the Company to deduct the damage from his wages. Mr. Ward: Can you commit him to prison for a fortnight? Mr. Hallewell (Magistrate's clerk): Have you not power by the rules of your colliery to deduct the wages of the men who do damage? Mr. Ward: Defendant has not signed my rules. Mr. Barrow said the evidence was sufficient to justify them in sending the defendant to prison. Mr. Ward said he did not desire that, as the man had a wife and a large family. Mr. Barrow (to the defendant): Are you willing to pay the damages to the Company? The defendant said he was, and upon doing so he was discharged.

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Wages Case.

William Bamford, of Seymour, Staveley, summoned Samuel Perry for non-payment of £2-6-4d. wages. The defendant did not appear. The complainant said he had worked for the defendant as machine clerk, and his duty was to see that the tubs were properly weighed. He served him until the 23rd. of April and left then because he could not get his wages. The amount of the claim was ordered to be paid.

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Alfreton - Singular Colliery Accident.

An inquest was held on Friday, before Mr. Busby, coroner, touching the death of George Wright, of Swanwick, coalminer, who died on Monday. Henry Hesketh, of Alfreton, collier, said that he was at the pit top, at Swanwick Old Colliery, belonging to Mr. Morewood. It was a gin pit 106 yards deep. He was banking, and a boy was with a horse. Deceased was at the pit bottom. The gut was drawing dirt. He did not know that the accident had occurred. There was only deceased and John Staples down. Four tubs had been drawn that morning, but he had not seen anything fall from them. John Staples called at the bottom for someone to assist him to get deceased up. The deceased was got up in 10 minutes, and was alive, but injured on the crown of the head. He was taken home and died the same day. He did not know at all how the accident happened. The deceased never spoke. The deceased might have fallen from the tub when coming up the shaft, or something might have fallen from the tub. Deceased knocked for the fifth tub to be brought up before the accident happened. John Staples, who was at work with the deceased, said he heard something fall to the bottom of the shaft. He waited five minutes to see if deceased would come. He went to the bottom and found him lying there. He said "George", but the deceased could not speak. His opinion was that something had fallen from the tub and struck the deceased on the head. A verdict of Accidental Death was returned.

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Nottingham - Strike of Pitmen.

The workmen engaged at Mr. North's extensive collieries at Cinder Hill, have abandoned their work. After holding a meeting, at which almost all the men were present, in Broad Oak Field, adjoining the pits, they refused to return to their work. The cause of complaint would be learned from the following resolutions, which received the unanimous assent of the meeting. "That great reductions have been made in the wages payed at the Cinder Hill pits, that notice has been given for a further reduction of 4d. per ton, which consists of 128 lbs. to the cwt., 27 cwt. to the ton, there being 1 ton 10 cwt. 3 quarters 12 lbs.". Resolved, "That the workmen of the Cinder Hill pits ask for 3d. per ton advance, that a check machine man be employed to see that justice is done between the master and men, and that the latter do not return to work until they have gained their object".

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The Gold Fields of British Columbia.

"Already", says the Liverpool Mercury of the 14th. of April, "a rush has set in for British Columbia which bids fair to rival that to Australia, when gold was first discovered there. Writers on the spot speak in extraordinary terms of the almost fabulous richness of the gold-bearing districts; and these reports have not only been attested by the new Bishop, and the local government authorities, but also by the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, who in the House of Commons stated a short time since that not only were the accounts published true, but that they were far under the mark. Already a bank has been started, which was suggested, enrolled, and set to work in the course of a few days, the capital being readily subscribed. What, it may be asked, are the extraordinary circumstances of this Colony which could give rise to such an amount of official and practical encomium as is referred to in the preceding quotation? This question may be conclusively, though very briefly answered by the subjoined extracts from a letter which appeared in the Times of the 25th. March, dated Vancouver Island, January 20, 1862, from the special correspondent of the leading journal of Europe. After describing the geographical position of the Fraser River, which he states to be the main artery of the auriferous region, and which with its principal branches gives "a continuous stretch of auriferous riverine territory upwards of 1,000 miles in length, extending for many miles back into the country on both sides, but not including the tributary rivers which fall into the Fraser" ... "Gold is also found in most of the tributaries of the Fraser, of which no less than 59 are known".

The writer next describes the terraces or "?????" as the miners call them, which skirt the river and its tributaries, running along the margins of the streams, at intervals, for miles in length, varying from a few acres to a few miles in breadth. "These terraces," he proceeds to say, "contain vast deposits of gold, and to be worked to advantage the 'bench diggings' must command a stream of water supplied from a source higher than their own surfaces, so as to enable the miner to apply the water to the face of the 'bench' by a hose. A good strong stream playing on the face of the hill will disintegrate a great quantity of 'clay dirt' in a short time. The floating rubbish or 'dirt' is caught in a long sluice at the base, provided with 'rifles' on the bottom, and spread with quicksilver to catch the gold. This mode of mining is called by the miners 'hydraulic mining'. Such was the wealth of the Cariboo that no quicksilver was used, for the miner could afford to lose all the 'fine dust' and to be satisfied with the 'lumps'". This system of bench-mining is seemingly an exceedingly simple process, which whenever worked, has "paid well". This class of diggings, the authority quoted considers to be "of great prospective value. They will give employment to two interests - capital and labour. They are generally situated within easy reach of supplies. They are more accessible to all the influences of civilisation than more interior localities. They are in the neighbourhood of some good land, which will enable the labourer to alternate his time between mining and husbandry, and where he can make his home." "With such advantages to the miner as those above referred to, and under the primitive style of operations described, along the tract between Fort Hope and Fort George, a distance of about 270 miles the daily individual earning of all employed may be estimated says the Times special correspondent, "at sums between three dollars and fifteen dollars."

About sixty miles eastward and southward from Fort Hope, the writer quoted from says, "We come to the Similkameen. These mines yielded, last season, 16 dollars to 17 dollars a day to the head occasionally. A party of three men took 240 dollars in three days work from 'sluice

diggings' and the rock used in rock used in wet diggings yielded ??, and up ?? dollars a day to the band. Number of miners, 200, of whom 150 were Chinese.

The Cariboo diggings have already been incidentally mentioned. These are situated in the district through which the rivers flow, which feed, and also those which empty the Queshella and the Cariboo Lakes, and include the Queshella and the Cariboo Rivers, together with their tributaries. Mining began in this district in 1859, and was so successful as to lead to the discovery of the "Cariboo Diggings". Concerning these Governor Douglas supplied, as quoted in the Times of the 27th. of March, the annexed statement from a Cariboo Miner, Mr. Steele. This statement, which was taken down in writing by the Governor, is as follows: - "Steele's Company consisted of five partners of which Mr. Steele, an American, was one. Their claim was on William's Creek, (Cariboo). In the summer they sawed the timber themselves and made their own sluices. Their claim did not prospect so good as many other claims. Nevertheless they went at it with a will; made nothing the first three days; persevered, and on the fourth day made 4 oz.; of the fifth day 10oz; and the sixth day 41oz. (The market value of 41oz. of gold in sterling is "200-4-2d.). From that time after the sixth day's work when the return rose to 41oz. a day, it kept increasing, until it reached 387oz. a day; and the last day's work yielded 409oz. The five partners employed 'four hired hands', to assist them to clear away the tailings. The claim was one of the most difficult to work, as it required 8 feet to 18 feet of the top stripping of superincumbent earth which covered the auriferous stratum, or 'pay dirt'. This latter was composed of blue clay, six feet thick, mixed with gravel and decomposed slate. The whole area of the mine worked was 80 feet by 25 feet, and the yield amounted to 105,000 dollars, equal to £21,875. That so much gold was dug out of so small a space as 80 feet by 25 feet is a pregnant fact. It proves that the wealth levied in this remote region lies concentrated in masses thick and plentiful, which is corroborated by the shortness of the period of labour - not over two months actual work".

The special correspondent of the Times says, "The surface of the mineral region is being skimmed - not efficiently worked. But by and by the miners will be satisfied with ground which they now neglect. This time is distant, however, owing to the extent of the field unless the country receives a large edition to its mining population. I suppose it would take half a million of miners to bring the mines into play. It is calculated that it would take a much larger population to develop them efficiently". He continues: - "Another cause influences the miner in his conduct. Wages generally are high for all kinds of labour. Common labourers get three dollars a day at the lowest - some get more. Farm labourers get £6 a month, and are 'found'. I pay an English labourer whom I found working on the roads, £10 a month, and he finds himself, for looking after my horse and doing odds and ends about the place. This was his pay from the road contractor. Mechanics get 5 dollars - £1 a day.

Having given these, and numerous other similar details as to particular and considerable distant points, to indicate, rather than describe, the peculiar riches and susceptibilities of the Colony, and as some measure illustrative of the condition and prospects of settlers in that extensive tract of country, the same writer says: - In the foreign sketch I have confined my observation to such portions of the country as have been proved to be auriferous. To give a perfect description of the gold field is out of the question. In fact, much of it is still undiscovered, and must continue unexplored in a country of such dimensions as British Columbia, extending over five degrees of latitude, and embracing a great portion of ten degrees of longitude, and which contains some 200,000 square miles of surface. Such an extend of country, and having such resources of gold, silver, and other metals, and a large quantity of agricultural and pastoral land, is an empire, and will require a large population even to explore it thoroughly. Suffice it to say, that as gold has been discovered at many points all over these vast surfaces, and in quantities hitherto unequalled, the gold field of British Columbia is practically illimitable and its wealth inexhaustible.

In concluding his extraordinary but most invaluable letter, the writer of the communication - as has been already mentioned oftener than once, is the special correspondent of the Times, and as such occupies an accredited position, both as regards intelligence and integrity, and whose averments are vouched for on the responsibility of that high class journal - says: - "My advice to emigrants from the Old Country will be short, and, while it can be easily remembered, cannot be misunderstood. British Columbia wants two classes only - men with money, and men with bodily strength - capitalist and labourers. Both classes will do well. The one will find lucrative employment for his labour. If either fails, it will be its own fault. Should either of these two classes be married, let them bring their wives and families; the more numerous their progeny the better."

In the opening paragraph of these cursorily compiled notes, it is stated that the reports concerning the beneficial opening for emigration in British Columbia had been attested by the Bishop and Local Government authorities. This important fact, having been witnessed to directly, is corroborated incidentally in a letter which appears in the Times of the 7th. of April, from the Revd. John Garrett, vicar of St. Paul, near Penzance, honorary secretary to the Columbian Emigration Society - a society recently constituted for conducting the emigration of industrious women, from the country, to British Columbia. In this letter, the reverend writer says: - "Those who go not under the protection of this society, will agree to take service on reaching the colony, in such situations as the Governor and Bishop, and those acting with their authority, may consider best suited to their several cases."

The productiveness of the Gold Fields of British Columbia is further avouched for than even in the testimony and intelligence of the well- informed special correspondent of the Times, in the annexed extract from a communication by Mr. H. Bauerman, of 22, Acre Lane, London, which appeared in the Times of the 9th. of April. It has reference to another subject, but proceeds as follows, - "It may be of interest to some of your readers to know that at the commencement of the current year the following firms were engaged in the purchase of gold dust and bars at Victoria, Vancouver's Island: - 1. Messrs. Wells, Fargo and Co., bankers and general express agents; 2. Messrs. Macdonald and Co., bankers; 3. Messrs. Marehand and Co., assayers; 4. Messrs. Robertson and Co., assayers; 5. The Bank of British North America - all subsiding in £1,500,000 worth of gold, the greater part being bought by the first firm, Wells, Fargo and Company". In a despatch from Governor Douglas, C.B., dated 14th. November, 1861, to His Grace the Duke of Newcastle, it is stated: - "At this moment, there is an amount of gold dust in the hands of miners from Cariboo, residing in Victoria, exceeding one quarter of a million sterling, and men may be seen hawking bars of gold through the streets of Victoria."

In an able and well considered leading article, the Times comments prudently upon the different prospects held out by British Columbia to different classes of emigrants, and in doing so, remarks, with respect to agricultural and other labourers: - "Such persons, by farm service, by road making, and by the care of horses, and other ordinary employment, may obtain, in British Columbia, from 12-0d. to £1 a day, besides their rations. The country is beautiful, abounding in wood, water, and grass, with a soil so deep as often to form a serious addition to the labour of the gold-digger, with the certainty of a good market for produce."

In a country which abounds with such an aggregate of advantages, there can be no doubt that a fine field is open for the profitable employment of labour to an extent offered by no other region in the world, nor must it be forgotten that these advantages, large and tempting as they undoubtedly are, are vouched for by the

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as a necessary consequence, the means of access to this highly interesting colony is a matter of major importance at the present time. Till now the ordinary means of transport has been by the overland route; but this has been found to be beset with dangers and inconveniences. A long journey over unsettled country, exposed to the vicissitudes of climate, privation, and the perils of hostile natives, have acted as serious drawbacks to the progress of those intending to sojourn or to settle in British Columbia. Another route was by sea, but this has hitherto been carried on by a small class of ships, quite unsuited for so long a voyage, and presenting no inducements to intending emigrants. Now, however, it is satisfactory to know, that the importance of the trade has drawn the attention of many of those persons who have conducted, with so much credit, the immense carrying trade between Liverpool and Australia, and we see that Messrs. H.T. Wilson and Chambers are about to run some of their magnificent clippers between Liverpool and that colony - a circumstance of great importance to intending emigrants.

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Barnsley - The Elsecar Foundry Strike.

The case again came before the Barnsley magistrates on Monday. Mr. Marshall, the magistrates clerk, read a letter from Mr. Roberts, of Manchester, stating that as he had received no communication from his clients since the last hearing, he considered the case to be settled, and therefore should not be present. The magistrates sat as on the former occasion, and T. Taylor, Esq., said they had considered over the evidence as far as it went, and they were of the opinion that Mr. Jukes, the manager of the foundry, had not kept faith with the men as regarding the quality of the iron served out; therefore the case as against Brian Ward was dismissed. The announcement was received with a cheer (which was immediately suppressed). To the astonishment of everyone round the table, an application was made to have the remaining cases adjourned, a request at once acceded to by Mr. Newman.

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Extraordinary Situation for a Bird's Nest.

On Friday afternoon as the waggoner of Messrs. J. and G. Wells, employed at the Renishaw Park Colliery, was engaged in moving a truck loaded with large coal, he saw a bird fly out from the waggon. When the truck was unloaded a starling's nest was found, with three eggs in it, near the bottom of the waggon. The bird had evidently found its way through the intricacies of the coal almost to the bottom of the waggon, and had, singularly enough, chosen that place to deposit its eggs and rear its young.