

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 4th. October 1862.

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Advert - To Colliers!!!

New Brampton Colliery, near Chesterfield.

Wanted from 20 to 30 good pickmen.

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Chesterfield County Court - Sampson v. West.

This action was brought to recover the sum of £1-19-8d. for materials supplied in working the brick-kiln. In 1850 defendant undertook to make bricks for plaintiff at a brickyard at Pilsley. Defendant was to find coals, materials for repair, and to make the bricks at a fixed price per thousand. In 1860 a fresh agreement was made and Sampson was to find coal and materials; in consideration of that alteration defendant was to make bricks at 4-0d. per thousand less money. The present claim was for repairs since 1860. His Honour gave judgement for defendant. Mr. Cutts appeared for the plaintiff.

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Stealing Brass.

Samuel Cowley was charged with stealing 14 lbs. of brass, the property of R. Barrow, Esq., of Staveley, on the 15th of September. the prisoner was formerly in the service of Mr. Barrow, in the foundry. On the 15th. inst. the prisoner went to the shop of Mr. Wilson, of Sheffield, dealer in old metal, and offered it for sale. Mr. Wilson refused to purchase it, and detained the prisoner until he had sent for the policeman. The prisoner attempted to make his escape, but was prevented. The prisoner, who pleaded guilty, was sentenced to 6 weeks imprisonment to hard labour.

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Important to Colliers.

Charles Maycock, a collier, summoned Enoch Goodwin, underground manager for the New Tipton Colliery Company, for non-payment of 2-6d. for wages. Mr. R.T. Gratton, solicitor, appeared for the Company. The complainant said he went to work about three weeks since for the Company, and having worked one day he left, because they did not agree as to the amount of wages he was to receive. When he asked the manager what his wages were to be, he told him to go to work and they would settle it in the next day, when he saw what he was worth. The next day the manager offered him 2-4d., but he would not work for that amount, and left the place. Mr. Maynard: You have signed an agreement to work for them. Complainant: But I signed no agreement for wages. Mr. Maynard (to defendant): Can you contradict what he says about not making an agreement for wages before commencing work. Mr. Gratton: We shall be liable to a penalty if we allowed anyone down the pit before they had signed the rules. I believe the young man was informed before he went into the pit that the wages range from 1- 0d. to 2-0d. per day, according to the merit of the workman. Mr. Goodwin: I told him that the wages range from 2-4d. to 2-6d. per day. Mr. Maynard: It is very hard upon a man to ask a man to sign a book when he does not know what he is signing for. Mr. Gratton: We told him that he would have wages at the current rate paid at pit. We are obliged to defend this case for the sake of the discipline at the pit, and not for the half-crown. If he had come the next day and said his wages were not sufficient we would have allowed him to go. The magistrates dismissed the summons.

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Eckington - Colliery Accident.

On Saturday an accident of rather a serious nature occurred to a man named Rodger Marshall, of Intake, collier, at Messrs. J. and G. Wells, Park Colliery, Eckington. The man was engaged in pushing a waggon on a tramway in the pit, which requires some exertions; he was proceeding rather quickly, when his feet slipped backwards from under him, and to prevent him falling on his face he hung to the waggon when both his arms were wrenched out of their sockets.

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Mr. John Hedley's Report on Coal Mines.

The report of Mr. Hedley, the Government Inspector of Mines for Derbyshire, Leicestershire, and Warwickshire, for 1861 is just issued, and it presents much valuable information. The loss of life during the year has been 69, against 50 in 1860, which increase is attributable to the accident at Clay Cross last year, in which 23 lives were sacrificed. The production of coal steadily increases. In 1861, 6,503,319 tons were raised, being an increase of 228,319 tons on 1860. Mr. Hedley, in referring to shaft accidents, suggests the use of strong ropes or chains to the cage. As regards the important question of bratticed shafts, he says, he has never ceased to represent the insecurity of them. There were 10 such shafts at one time in his district, he has succeeded in having three of these provided with a second shaft. Four collieries have for some time provided a second, which in a few months will be complete. It should be compulsory at every colliery to provide two shafts or outlets, and that such shafts should be provided with machinery for lowering and raising persons, and that bratticed shafts be only used for making communication between such shafts. That where two shafts are upon or near the same level in the inclined seams, and liable to inundation of water, there should be a communication from the rise side of the shafts into such shafts; or another shaft or outlet to the rise part of the workings. He also recommends the including of all ironstone mines under the Inspection Acts, and adds that the dangerous state of some of the shafts are a frequent source of accident. The system of working ironstone mines by contractors on a more extended scale than in coal mines, renders it necessary that discipline should be enforced at every mine. Mr. Hedley also supplies an elaborate account of the Clay Cross accident, and alludes to the munificent subscription of £2,000 for the relief of the widows and children. There are 14 widows and 32 orphans caused by the accident; the former, without children, are allowed from 8-0d. to 4-0d. a week and their coals, and those with children from 12-0d. to 14-0d. with coals.

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Fatal Accident at Whittington.

An inquest was held on Wednesday last, before C.S.B. Busby, Esq., coroner, on the body of Amos West, aged 36 years, who died at the Chesterfield Hospital, on the previous evening, from injuries received at the Brierly Wood Ironstone Works. The following evidence was adduced:-

Emily Bates, wife of John Bates, of Newbold Moor, coalminer, said: The deceased, Amos West, is the late husband of my husband's sister. He was a labourer employed at the ironstone quarry, Whittington, and lodged with me at Newbold Moor. On Tuesday the deceased left home at 5 o'clock in the morning to go to work.

Charles Silver, of Sheepbridge, said: I am employed as a ganger for Mr. Pocklington, at his ironstone works, Brierly Wood. It is an open hole, and not mined. There are from 40 to 50 men employed there. About 5 o'clock yesterday afternoon deceased was employed driving horses that brought the empty waggons from the tip into the open hole. I was standing near the place where he had to bring back his waggons. It is about 200 yards from the tip. When deceased got to the "pass-by", he had to stand while the full waggons went past him. While standing against his waggons, his horse sprang forward. It only made one spring and deceased fell on the tramroad, and the empty waggons he was guiding passed over his chest. There were six waggons in the train, only one went over him, but he had to bear the pressure of the other five. As soon as deceased fell we ran to him and pulled him out. I put deceased in a cart and he was taken at once to Chesterfield Hospital. He opened his eyes once, but did not stir or speak. The loaded waggons passed safely down the incline and was about 6 or 7 yards from deceased at the time of the accident. No-one was to blame. There was a fall of stone from the face of the works at the time the horse started. It might have been that which startled the horse.

Mr. Rowland Hill, house surgeon to the Chesterfield Hospital, said that deceased was brought to the Hospital about half past six last night. I examined him and found a slight wound on the side of his head, there was no fracture. He was suffering from concussion of the brain with compression, and died half an hour after we got him upstairs. Mr. Jones saw him previous to his death; there did not appear to be any injury to his chest. I examined his chest carefully, there may have been internal injury. The wound to his head might have been caused by deceased falling backwards against a hard substance. He died from concussion and compression of the brain. The jury returned a verdict in accordance with the above evidence.

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Desperate Attempt to Murder an Inventor at Leeds.

Mr. Mallon, a mechanic living in Holbeck, Leeds, has recently invented a coal-cutting machine, by which the work of 12 men can be done in a days labour. On Wednesday morning, about half past four, Mr. Mallon started from home to go to his ordinary employment at the Kirkstall Forge. As he left his own door he saw three men in the street, and, as he suspected they meant mischief, he endeavoured to avoid them. With this object, after passing along the Globe Road, he struck onto the canal bank near the Wellington Lock of the Leeds and Liverpool Canal, but he soon saw that his feint had been anticipated, for one of the men was then in front and two behind him. He was knocked down at once, and one of the miscreants then passed a rope round his neck, and attempted to strangle him. Mallon, however, with great presence of mind, placed his hand between the cord and his neck, and thrust his other hand into his frontal assailants eye, with such force that the injury to the fellows pupil must have been severe and excruciatingly painful. The scoundrel screamed out, "Oh, my eye", and left hold of Mallon, but the other two ruffians got hold of complainant, and pitched him into the lock. Mallon fell some nine feet before reaching the water, but, as soon as he touched the stream, he felt himself relieved, for he is an excellent swimmer. He recollected swimming about in the canal for some ten minutes, and then reached the lock gate, by which he regained terra firma, but he was so exhausted, that he was obliged to lie down on the bank, and here he was found by a workman, and conveyed home. The outrage can only be attributed to the spite of the miners about his invention, for he has repeatedly been threatened by letter of late, and told to insure his life, for his enemies were determined to "serve him out".

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Advert - Whittington Collieries, Chesterfield.

For Sale, a large quantity of rough slack, loaded into merchant's waggons or carts, at 1-6d. per ton.

Also Dunston or Marrs Nuts,	2-6d. per ton
Ditto, riddled,	3-0d. per ton

Delivered into any canal boats, 6d. per ton extra.

Apply at the Collieries.

F. Bousfield, Agent.

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Barlow - Important Poor Rate Case.

Mr. Joseph Swan, late colliery owner at Barlow, was summoned for non-payment of £7-0-3<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>d. Poor Rate due to the overseers of Barlow. Defendant in answer to the summons said he objected to paying. The son of the assistant overseer produced the rate book to prove that the rate was duly allowed on the 12th. of July, and published on the church door. Defendant had been often called on, but declined to pay. Defendant said the colliery was not at work at that time the rate was allowed, having ceased working on the 25th. of May, and not since recommenced. The overseers said the pumping engine had been at work all the time. Mr. Maynard said the defendant should have appealed against the rate. The Bench had no power to release him from payment now. He was sorry the Bench would have to make an order on him for the rate and costs, and they could not help themselves. It was a pity they did not look after the matter before. Order made with costs of 12-6d.

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Extensive Robbery of Brasses and Clever Capture of the Thieves.

William Tomlinson, of Clay Cross, engine tender, and Matilda Tomlinson, his wife, were brought up on remand from the previous Friday, charged with stealing 54 lbs. weight of brass bearings, the property of the Clay Cross Company. It appears that the first intimation that the Company had of their loss was by a letter Inspector Gorman received from Mr. Inspector Leonard, of the Sheffield Detective Police, intimating that he had got a quantity of brass which he suspected was stolen from the Company. Upon this information Mr. Binns sent John Walters, an engine-wright, to Sheffield, who saw the brass in Mr. Leonard's possession, and identified it as the property of the Company. This brass Mrs. Tomlinson had brought to Sheffield for sale on the previous Saturday. On being taken into custody Tomlinson and his wife denied the charge. Both prisoners were committed for trial at the next Quarter Sessions. It appears from the information in the possession of Mr. Leonard, that extensive robberies of brasses from the Company had been going on for some time.

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Stealing Brasses.

William Tomlinson and Matilda Tomlinson were charged with stealing, at North Wingfield, on the 4th. of October, 54 lbs. weight of brass, the property of Sir S.M. Peto, bart, and others. The prosecution against the male prisoner was withdrawn for want of evidence. The female prisoner, who at first pleaded Not Guilty, withdrew her plea, and substituted that of guilty of receiving the brass. Sentenced to 6 weeks hard labour.

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Terrible Pit Accident - Four Men Killed.

A very melancholy accident happened on Friday afternoon last at the New Priestfield Colliery, Willenhall, about three miles from Wolverhampton, which resulted in the instantaneous and frightful death of four men. The colliery is the property of Mr. Henry Ward, ironmaster, by whom it is being worked. At about half past four on the day mentioned five men named respectively, Farshaw, aged 32, Michael Curty, aged 27, Thomas Lewis, aged 31, John Ginty, aged 26, and a young man Edward Evans, were all ascending to the surface of the earth up the shaft of a stone pit. They were all riding in a cage locally termed a tackle, which is attached to the winding rope. Over this cage was a temporary roof or "bonnet", formed of plate iron, and used as a protection to the men, when they go down or up the pit, from any accident through the falling upon them of anything from above. This shaft was about 80 yards deep, and the men had reached to about the centre, when there came upon them with a fearful force a massive "skip", constructed principally of iron to convey the minerals to the surface. The "skip", had suddenly fallen from the brink of the shaft, and had acquired an immense momentum from the distance it had fallen. It would seem to have continued its course against the side of the shaft, insomuch that it did not alight upon the roof of the "tackle". The men, however, who were beneath the roof were not removed from danger, for the "skip" came upon them, and what too, with such terrible violence, that four of the five were mutilated corpses instantly, ?????????? the concussion and the sides of the shaft were disfigured with sickening evidence of the terrible reality. The fifth man (Evans), who was on the opposite side of the cage to that occupied by his companions, happily escaped with only a slight graze on the temple; but he had to cling to a portion of the machinery by the "tackle" to save himself from being precipitated with his even then lifeless companions to the bottom of the shaft. Men descended to the bottom as speedily as possible, and performed the distressing duty of collecting together the scattered and quivering remains of their deceased comrades, and sending them to the surface in as decent a manner as the circumstance would permit of. By this accident three women have been made widows and ten children orphans. The colliery is usually a well regulated one, no expense being spared to work it without accidents happening. On the surface the skips and other similar machinery are under the care of the banksman.

In this case the banksman says that by the wind, which was blowing a stiff breeze at the time, the skip was impelled over the mouth of the shaft. On Saturday an inquest was formally opened before Mr. T.M. Phillips, the coroner for Wolverhampton. When sufficient evidence had been given to justify the internment of the corpses the inquiry was adjourned till Thursday next.

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Leaving Service.

Henry Walters charged James Hatfield, William Musson, and William Randall, with leaving his service. Complainant said: I am manager of Messrs. Nicholls and Fletcher. I engaged the defendants, and produce the rules signed by these men to give or take 14 days notice before leaving. They did not come to work on Thursday and gave no notice, and had no leave from their master. Hatfield was committed to one month's hard labour. Musson and Randall were to return to their work, and pay 15-0d. each, for costs.

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Bakewell - Serious Accident.

An accident occurred on Monday morning, in Mr. Wilson's chert quarry at Holme, near Bakewell. The quarry, in which a number of men are employed, is wholly underground. A man named Knowles was engaged in setting a shot, when by some means a spark, caused by Knowles' work ignited the shot, which exploded instantly; breaking both the poor fellows legs, and otherwise injuring him severely. He was conveyed the same evening, by train, to Derby Infirmary.