

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 7th. February 1863.

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Horrible Accident.

A few days since a man named James Hardwick laid down near a cinder heap, and went to sleep. Horrible to say, he was awoke by a sensation of dreadful pain, and found himself covered with burning cinders. His clothes were also on fire. Assistance was rendered, and he was conveyed to the Chesterfield Hospital, where he now lies in a dreadful condition, his abdomen and legs being frightfully burnt. To make the matter worse, he states his positive belief that the cinders were purposely thrown on him by someone.

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Derbyshire Mining.

The trade of the week has undergone a slight change for the better, and a more confident tone pervades the mercantile community, so far as the iron trade is concerned. The demand for bars is active, whilst the makers of armour plates, completely full of orders required by the government. The plates made by the firm of Messrs. John Brown and Company, of Sheffield, have just undergone another satisfactory trial, thus proving the excellence of Derbyshire iron. We have an improved demand of rails and railway springs, which keeps that part of the trade in active operation. The great number of new lines projected, and the extension of those already in existence, must occasion an enormous demand for rails, if the promoters should be fortunate enough in getting Parliamentary sanction. The damages occasioned by the explosion at the Midland Iron Works are nearly repaired, and instead of the cost being about £5,000 as was reported, we learn that the whole damages will be covered for about £1,200 or £1,400. The coal trade is generally more active than it has been known at this season for several years past. There is a good demand for all kinds, except that used for manufacturing purposes. The southern markets are taking largely, and we lately have some large contracts for ??????. Mr. Barrow, the eminent coal-owner of Staveley, has received a Midland Railway contract to supply 800,000 tons of coal per year. This speaks much in favour of Derbyshire hard coal, and it is proved that Derbyshire coalmasters can compete successfully with their brethren in South Wales. The different collieries are well employed but the working colliers generally are suffering from the effects of the depression in the coal trade during the summer. There is talk amongst some of the men of asking for an advance in wages, but, as yet no definite course has been adopted. The Milldam Mining Company have brought a Cornish Pumping Engine for the purpose of pumping the water out of their mine at Great Hucklow. The engine now at the mine will be used for grinding and crushing. The North Derbyshire Mine still remains unworked, and we hear it is likely to do so for the present, and indeed till the shareholders find further capital. The Eyam Mine is improving, and the shares are firm in the market. The line of the new railway which will connect the length of rails between London and Manchester, via Derby, is rapidly progressing. Already indications have presented themselves of the introduction of capital for the development of the mineral resources of the Peak. Several new commercial undertakings are announced, and as there will be afforded railway transit for coals and an exit for Derbyshire minerals, we shall have a stimulus given to mining enterprise in the Peak generally.

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Highway Dispute.

Mr. John Lancaster and Mr. Matthew Knowles were summoned by Mr. John Bradbury for suffering water to run on the Sheffield and Duffield Turnpike Road. Mr. Bradbury said, The water which came from defendant's pits overflowed onto the road, and did great damage. Mr. Lancaster said it was caused by the neglect of the surveyor of Newbold, who refused to open a culvert under the road. After considerable discussion, the case was dismissed, and Mr. Bradbury was recommended to summon the surveyor of Newbold.

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Death from an Explosion of Gunpowder.

On Monday last, an inquest was held at the Bluebell Inn, Clay Cross, before C.S.B. Busby, Esq., coroner, on the body of Myra Ratcliffe, aged 16 years. The following evidence was given. James Ratcliffe, Clay Cross, coalminer and china and earthenware dealer, said: On Thursday evening, about six o'clock, I was in the kitchen, when my daughter went into the shop, with a lighted paper, to light the gas. After she had been in about a minute, I heard her cry out. I turned round and saw sparks and a blaze come from the shop into the kitchen. I could not get into the shop for some fire, sulphur, and smoke. I went out with my wife, Emily. Deceased was taken into the next house and in half an hour was brought home and put to bed. She was burnt on the body, legs, and face. Dr. Wilson attended her. Deceased was sensible nearly to the time of her death. She told me that she was lighting ?????? ?????? ?????? ?????? ?????? ?????? behind her, and the paper fell on a tub of gunpowder. She said to herself, "If this is gunpowder, it will go off", and while she was turning round to ?????? ?????? ?????? ?????? ?????? ??????. Deceased had the management of the shop, and was in it more than anyone else. She had kept soda in the barrel. The barrel was open at the top, and was not burst by the explosion. John Grainger, Clay Cross, coalminer, said: About a quarter to six o'clock, on Thursday evening, I was about 75 yards below Ratcliffe's house, when I heard a report, but not loud. I turned my head, and saw flames coming out of the shop-door, which was open. It came two yards out of the doorway. I went to the door and made two attempts to get in, but could not get in standing up. I did not know that anyone was inside. I went down on my hands and knees, as I was determined to bring out anyone who might be in the shop, if possible. I crawled to the side of the counter, and at the end of the counter I saw deceased laying flat down, with her face to the floor; her clothes were on fire but not blazing. I put my arm round her waist and brought her out of the door. We put the fire out from her clothes, and took her into Mr. Hodgkinson's next door. As soon as I got her to the door she recovered her breath, and said it was gunpowder. The jury returned a verdict of "Accidental Death by explosion of gunpowder". Much commiseration is felt for Mr. and Mrs. Ratcliffe in consequence of the above sad affair. The deceased was greatly respected by all who knew her.

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Advert - Reduction in Coals.

Chesterfield and New Dunston Colliery Company (Limited).

Best House Coal	5-0d. per ton
Cobbles	4-6d. per ton
Slack	2-6d. per ton

For Cash

Orders received by George Bonsall, Station Lane, and at the Colliery, Hasland Lane.

Stephen Sayer, Manager.

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Advert - To Colliers.

Wanted, at the Whittington Foxley Oaks Colliery (Silkstone Bed of Coal), from Forty to Fifty efficient colliers, to work the above seam. Constant work guaranteed. - Apply at the Offices.

Whittington Collieries

February 25th. 1863

F. Bousfield, Agent.

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Advert - To Sinkers.

To Let, a Pit to sink to the Blackshale Coal, from 40 to 50 yards deep, eight feet in diameter, Tenders to be sent to Mr. Goodwin, Mineral Agent, Chesterfield, on or before Saturday March 7th.

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Summons for Wages.

Elijah Holmes summoned Martyn Seymour, resident viewer of Staveley Works, for non-payment of wages, amounting to 15-7½d. Complainant said: I was hired to serve Mr. Barrow on or about the 30th. January 1861. I was to have 2-6d. per day, and was engaged to work by the day. I neither to give or take notice: wages payable fortnightly. On the 26th. of January last, I had a better job offered me. I left work on the pay Saturday about that time. I got everything paid, except a back week kept in hand. I left their service and have not served them since. I have demanded the money from Mr. Seymour, and asked him to set me at liberty. He said he had no objection, if Mr. Watson had not. Cross-examined by Mr. Seymour: I received a notice that my wages were reduced. You said that if Watson could do without me, I might go. I did go, after I had asked Watson to set me at liberty. William Watson said: I am enginewright at Staveley Colliery. I set Holmes on. He came and asked me to set him at liberty. I referred him to Mr. Seymour. He came and worked for about an hour afterwards. When first he asked to go, I said with a few days notice. I might set him at liberty if I could find a substitute. The case was dismissed.

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Coal Stealing at Killamarsh.

Edwin Shimmells, aged 18, boatman, Killamarsh, was charged with stealing about four stone weight of coal on the 19th. inst., the property of Mr. Turner Ward, coal-owner, Killamarsh. It appeared from the evidence that at about nine o'clock at night, Constable Baker was on duty and met the prisoner coming from the coal-heap with the coal in his possession. Committed for one calendar month to hard labour.

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150 Miners imprisoned in a Mine at Flockton.

On Wednesday an accident occurred at Mr. Stansfeld's, the Lane End Colliery, Flockton, near Wakefield. There were about 150 men and boys at the pit-bottom, and the drum shaft of the engine breaking, they were imprisoned. Immediately a note was sent down the shaft telling them that immediate steps would be taken to restore communication, and ten sacks of beef and bread and a quantity of tea was sent down by Mr. Stensfeld, who was very active in devising methods for their release. The news of the accident caused considerable alarm amongst the relatives of the imprisoned miners, these feelings were appeased by the assurances that there was no danger. Ultimately a roller was fixed over the pit-mouth, and by means of a rope the men were all drawn out on Thursday morning. Great joy and gratitude was expressed at their release, but the men said they had not felt alarm, and the time they had been cut off from the upper world some had passed in religious exercises, and others in amusement.