

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 7th. March 1863.

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Advert - Reduction in Coals.

Chesterfield New Dunston Colliery Company (Limited).

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

Orders received by George Bonsill, 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 40 to 50 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, 8 feet in diameter, tenders to be sent to Mr. Goodwin, mineral agent, Chesterfield, on or before Saturday March 7th.

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Serious and Fatal Accident at Whittington Collieries.

On Monday afternoon an accident of a most distressing nature occurred at the above works. About four o'clock three men named Richard Shemwell and Henry and Richard Johnson, entered the cage to ascend the shaft, which is fitted up with Kaye Hampshire's safety cage, and when the cage had ascended some distance up the shaft, from some unexplained reason the cage became disconnected from the rope attached to it and fell to the bottom, tearing with it a portion of the conductors of the pit in its passage, which happily reduced its velocity and its otherwise destructive consequences. Richard Shemwell was killed and the two Johnson's severely injured, though no bones were broken in either case. The disconnecting of the rope from the cage is inexplicable. The ineffective of the cage, however, arose from the circumstances of the lower pair of conductors having been scorched and rendered tender from the heat of a large furnace at the bottom of the shaft, used for ventilating the works, so that when the grapplers of the cage came into action, the tender parts of the conductors came away, and for about 10 yards was torn to shreds in the passage of the grapplers thus fortunately impeding its otherwise destructive effects, and saving two lives out of three. The cause of the death of poor Shemwell must be left to the coroner and the jury to decide. Happily the two Johnsons are not dangerously hurt, as reported, and we are informed that both are recovering under the unremitting attention they receive at the Chesterfield Hospital. The inquest held on Wednesday stands adjourned for a week that the two Johnsons may attend. The cage itself was substantially uninjured, and was repaired and at work in a few hours after it was viewed by the Jury.

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Wages Case.

John Watkinson, collier, Pilsley, was summonsed by Samuel Fletcher, of the same place for non- payment of 10-6d. wages due. Neither party appeared, and the Bench therefore made an order on complainant for the costs.

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Presentation at Whittington.

At Monday evening last, a very interesting gathering took place at the Cock and Magpie, Old Whittington, the occasion being the presentation of a valuable gold watch and a chain to Mr. Birkbeck, engineer to the Dunston and Barlow Company at Sheepbridge. The proceedings were prefaced by an excellent supper provided by Mr. and Mrs. Bargh, and after the appetites of about a hundred persons had been satisfied, the cloth was removed and W. Fowler, Esq., of Whittington Hall, and the managing partner of the Sheepbridge Works, was called to the chair, and was supported by Mr. Wardle, of the firm of Waring, Wardle and Company, of Leeds; Mr. Body of Leeds, Mr. H. Rangeley, of the Unstone Ironworks, Mr. Edis, cashier at Sheepbridge, Mr. Oliver, of the firm of Oliver and Company, engineers, of Chesterfield, Mr. R. Pocklington, etc., etc.

The first toast from the chair was the Queen after which

The chairman said the next toast was one of peculiar significance at the present time. The Prince of Wales was shortly to become a family man, and that was the reason why they should wish him good health, long life, and happiness. He had been admirably brought up to conduct himself in a manner to gain himself the esteem of the nation, and now he was about to marry, his choice met the approbation of the whole country. He thought it was only fair to couple with the toast the health of the Princess of Denmark. (Cheers).

The next toast was the "Army and Navy and the Volunteers". Mr. Rangeley represented the Calvary, Mr. Body the Volunteers. The wooden walls of Old England, were, he was happy to say, giving way to walls composed of a far better material - iron. (Applause). Many were connected to the manufacture of plates of armour, as the best had been made from iron in that neighbourhood, they might consider Old England was safe.

Mr. Rangeley returned thanks on behalf of the Calvary, and Mr. Body acknowledged the toast on the part of the Volunteers. The chairman then proceeded to present the testimonial. He said that as a rule he was not in favour of testimonials, as they implied favours on the part of those receiving them, but in this instance he believed the testimonial was a genuine and unanimous expression of respect and esteem, more especially so when it came from those in daily communication with each other. When his friend Mr. Wardle recommended Mr. Birkbeck he said that he had worked his way from a low position to a high one, and that he had passed through every grade of the business. No only had Mr. Birkbeck shown zeal in all his undertakings, but he had exhibited industry, right mindedness, and all those qualities which sooner or later were acknowledged. He had great pleasure in stating that his character had been fully borne out. (Cheers). When the testimonial had been so commenced he felt he should not be doing justice to his own feelings as he asked to be permitted to join in it. His (the chairman's) brother also entertained a high opinion of Mr. Birkbeck and he also desired to aid it. He then read the following inscription on the inner case of the watch: - "Presented to Mr. J.A. Birkbeck, by his fellow agents and workmen under his charge, in the Sheepbridge Ironworks, as a testimonial of esteem." Addressing Mr. Birkbeck the chairman said: I now beg to hand this to you. You will prize it not for its value, not for its excellence, though its workmanship is the best of its kind: but those who come after you will look upon it as a testimony that you did your duty and that your

conduct met with approbation. The watch and chain were then presented to Mr. Birkbeck who received them amidst deafening cheers.

Song: Mr. Jopling, "Nora McShane".

Mr. Birkbeck in responding said that he could not find words adequate to express the gratitude he felt. To Mr. Fowler he was exceedingly glad for the handsome way in which he had introduced the testimonial. He never expected anything of the kind, he could assure them that it was exceedingly gratifying to him to find that he had done his duty. He had been a workman himself and he had never forgot the duty he owed to his employer. He never should never forget the kindness he owed to Mr. Wardle, through whose influence he had been taken from the workshop to the drawing office. He returned them his sincere thanks for the kind and handsome present which they had given him, he could assure them that he should look back upon it as a bright landmark in his career. He felt a great amount of gratitude for his fellow workmen, and he should ever prize the testimonial with feelings of the greatest respect and esteem. (Cheers).

Song: Mr. Stocks, "Umbrella Courtship"

A number of other toasts followed, including "Success to the Coal Trade", coupled to the name of Mr. Howe, of Clay Cross. Mr. Howe responded. Mr. Wardle gave "Success to the Iron Trade", coupled with the names of Mr. Fowler and Mr. Rangeley. Mr. Fowler responded in a appropriate speech advocating a feeling of reciprocity between employer and employed. Mr. Rangeley also acknowledged the compliment. Mr. Body proposed the health of Mr. Stocks and the testimonial committee. Mr. Stocks replied. Mr. Birkbeck gave the health of Mrs. Fowler which was drunk with all the honours. Mr. Fowler acknowledged the compliment. The chairman gave "The Press", coupled with the name of Mr. Palmer, who responded. He gave the health of "The Strangers". Mr. Wardle and Mr. Body returned the thanks. Mr. Palmer gave the health of Mr. Edis, who acknowledged the toast, after which the principal guests left the room, but the conviviality of the meeting was kept up for some time afterwards.

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Wages Case.

Benjamin Parkin was charged by Thomas Drud with non-payment of 13-0d. wages. Complainant said: I worked for defendant for one month at a stone pit on Glasshouse Common, at 2-8d. per day. He paid me 16-6d. last Saturday, and I wanted £1-9-6d. for 11 days. I now want 13-0d. Matthew Fieldson said: I saw complainant and defendant in Chesterfield last Saturday. Defendant paid complainant 16-6d., he gave it back to defendant and said he wanted 2-8d. per day. The amount, with 16-0d. costs, to be paid, and in default of distress 14 days imprisonment.

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Advert - Coke Ovens.

Tenders wanted for building coke ovens, plans and specifications of which may be seen at the offices of Messrs. Brown and Jeffcock, 18 Bank Street, Sheffield, and at the works of the Chesterfield and Midland Colliery Company (Limited), Sheepbridge, near Chesterfield.

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Fatal Colliery Accident.

On Tuesday, the 17th. inst., Herbert Hall, aged 13, son of John Hall, of Lings, collier, was running at the side of some railway waggons laden with coal on the branch mineral line, which runs to Lings from the main line belonging to the Midland Railway Company, it supposed that he caught his foot against the waggons and fell under them. The waggons ran over him, and took both his legs off. The breaksman, who saw the accident, ran up to the deceased immediately; and deceased asked him "to pick up his legs and carry him home". He took the deceased home immediately, and he died about eleven o'clock the same night. The inquest was on Thursday afternoon, at the National Schoolroom, Lings, when the verdict of "Accidental Death" was returned.

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No Headline.

Police Constable Woodhouse charged Alfred Millington with being in a pit-cabin for an unlawful purpose. The constable said: Last night, about half past seven o'clock, I was on duty at Newbold Back Lane. I went into one of the cabins belonging to Mitchell's colliery, and there found the prisoner lying down. He does not work and has no business there. I had driven him from the place before. I then took him into custody. There have been many complaints made of things having been stolen from these cabins. The prisoner was sentenced to six weeks hard labour.

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Page 3 Col. 4-5.

Whittington - Accidental Death.

On Wednesday, the 4th. instant, an inquest was held at the Cock and Magpie Inn, Whittington, before C.S.B. Busby, Esq., coroner, on the body of Richard Shemwell, Whittington, coal miner, aged 19 years. George Shemwell, Foxley Oaks Colliery, Whittington, banksman, said that deceased was his son, who was killed on Monday, the 2nd. of March, by falling down the shaft of a coalpit belonging to the Revd. W.M. Pierce. The inquest was adjourned to Wednesday the 17th., inst., to allow time for the recovery of the two men that were injured at the same time. At the adjourned inquest the following evidence was given. Joseph Kaye Hampshire, Whittington, engineer, said: On Monday the 2nd. instant, there was an accident at the pit. I was absent in Yorkshire on that day. On the following day (Tuesday) I went down the shaft, after the cage had been brought up, to examine the conductors. I found that the first stay or punch from the archway was burnt one yard from the end of it. There were two bars of iron put across in the place where it was burnt. They were not put there by my directions, and I was not aware that they were there. I went 30 yards higher up, and found nothing amiss. The conductors were straight, except in a few places, where the fire had drawn them. The joints were good and the screws fast. The timber-work was very tender, as if scorched with the fire. The grapples of the safety cage ploughed into it about seven-eighths of an inch. The conductors appeared very tender for about 30 yards up from the bottom, but they were better upwards. I have not examined them higher. The cage of the winding shaft for men and materials is fitted with a detaching apparatus to prevent overwinding, also a safety apparatus in case of the rope breaking or the cage becoming detached. It is my patented invention. The cage has never dropped above two inches without the apparatus acting. I had both the cages off a fortnight before the accident. I put new springs in and had the cages and apparatus thoroughly repaired throughout. On Saturday (February 28th.) before I left Whittington, I was on the pit-bank and saw the cage and apparatus, and they appeared to be right. I examined the apparatus on the Tuesday morning, the 3rd. instant, and found the springs strained. They were so injured that they could not keep the detaching hook in position. I cannot see on the bars any trace of the cage having struck them. There is soot and wet on the bars. It is an upcast shaft with a furnace at the bottom. No materials or men come up this shaft. The heat of the furnace had charred the pitch-pine conductors and made them very tender. The shaft is 160 yards deep. George Marriott, Chesterfield Wharf, coalminer, said: I am hanger-on at the Foxley Oaks Pit. About a quarter to four o'clock on Monday afternoon, the 2nd. instant, I was at the pit bottom. The deceased, Richard Johnson and Henry Johnson were in the cage ready to start up the shaft. I rang three times to the top. Then they rang once, to start. The engine then started very steadily. I heard nothing catch as they were going up. When the cage was, as I thought, from 15 to 20 yards up the shaft, I heard the cage make a noise in the shaft, and it immediately dropped rapidly to the pit-bottom. I was standing against the bell-wire. I went to look in the sump and saw deceased lying dead on the chair-bottom. The back of his head had caught the cross-bar of the chair. I have rules but cannot read. I have had them read over to me by my brother, who is younger than me. Robert Moore, Whittington, engine tender, said: I was driving the engine at Foxley Oaks pit on Monday, the 2nd. inst., when the accident happened. I received signals from the bottom that men were coming out. After receiving the signal to go on, I did so, and perceived nothing wrong until I found my engine lose its weight and go on quicker. I think we had then got about half way up the shaft, but I cannot speak confidently, as I did not take particular notice. I stopped the engine as soon as I possibly could. I went to the engine house door to know what was the matter, but I could get no answer. I then drew the cage to the top. John Braddall and

Joseph Marriott both went down. When they got to the bottom, they rang for me to go on again. I tried to draw their cage up, but it stuck fast in the bottom and I could not stir it. Someone then went to the pumping shaft, and I let two men down that shaft. In ten minutes I drew them up again and they told me what had happened. The deceased and the two Johnsons were drawn up the engine pit. John Braddall, Whittington, deputy, said: I went down Tuesday morning, with Matthew Hopkinson, John Redjocks(?), and Thomas Egglestone to get the cage out. The bottom of the cage was out of the slides and the cage lay on one side. The cage was a little strained, but not broken. The knock or catch was shut and attached to the cage. I think the machinery must have caught the cross-bar. The cross-bar is a piece of iron one inch thick and five inches deep, fastened to the front and back of a wooden stay. We were obliged to shift the fire back two yards some times ago, or we should have had all the conductors on fire. The jury considered the introduction of apparatus into pit-shafts for the purpose of detaching the cages from the ropes in the case of over-winding, and for arresting the descent of the cage when detached, were liable to give rise to many unforeseen calamities, unless the apparatus be of the most perfect description of principle and material unless it be continually watched and tested, so as to keep it in good working order. The jury were off the opinion, in the present case, that the detaching apparatus and the arresting apparatus were not in such good working order as to render them efficient. Mr. Hedley, the Government Inspector, who was present at the inquest, stated that he fully concurred in the remarks of the jury.

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Fatal Pit Accident.

On Thursday afternoon Mr. Busby, coroner, held an inquest at the house of Mr. Clough, the Furnace Inn, Derby Lane, touching the death of Jonathan Davison, miner, aged 35 years. Deceased was employed at an ironstone pit at the Hungerhill works. On Wednesday evening, about five o'clock, all the parties had left work except the deceased and George Lambert, who remained behind to stack up some material. The deceased said that a piece of iron had fallen down the pit a short time before into the sump and he thought that he could find it. He got his lamp, found the iron, and was getting into the cage again, when it moved and he was caught between the cage and a stage at the bottom of the shaft, and his neck was dislocated and his head very much crushed. He died immediately. The jury returned a verdict of "Accidental Death".

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Stealing Coal at Calow.

Job Hardy, labourer, was charged with stealing half a hundredweight of coal from the Calow Colliery, the property of Mr. Joseph Lambert. The prosecutor said that there was a good deal of coal lying on the bank. Police Constable Moore said that on the morning of the 22nd. instant, about one o'clock, he saw the prisoner go to coal-pit bank and take two large lumps of coal and put them on his shoulder, when he followed him and took him into custody. The prisoner was remanded until this day Saturday.

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Stealing Coal.

James Wetton, of Clay Cross, collier, on remand, was brought up in custody of P.C. Lees, charged with stealing, on the 3rd. instant, 28 lbs. weight of coal, the property of Mr. Edward Phillips, of Clay Cross, colliery owner. The prisoner was caught in the act of removing the coal by the above officer. Mr. Phillips said that he did not wish to press the case against the prisoner. The Bench, taking into consideration Mr. Philip's recommendation, and the fact of his being nine days in custody, sentenced him to three days imprisonment in the lock-up at Alfreton.

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Killamarsh - Colliery Accident.

On Saturday afternoon, an accident occurred at the colliery of Mr. Thomas Williams of Killamarsh by which the lives of two men were endangered. It appears that the underground steward, named Charles Ellis, and another man named Widdowson, were descending the shaft, and when about half way down, two cogs from off the wheel whereon the rope ran broke, thereby loosening the rope. They then descended the remainder of the distance, about 25 yards, with fearful velocity. The steward, who was seriously hurt, and it is rumoured that he is not expected to survive. The man Widdowson was not much injured.