

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 2nd. May 1863.

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No Headline.

On Monday, an explosion of firedamp occurred at the Brookhouse Colliery, near Handley, killing one of the principals, Mr. Knox, and seriously injuring four of the workmen.

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Derbyshire Lead Mines.

The position of the Derbyshire lead mines is somewhat similar as when last noticed. The plant and materials of the North Derbyshire have been valued, and the committee are now looking out for a purchaser. There appears little doubt that the mine will go into new hands, and be further developed by fresh capital. The Eyam is looking pretty well, and hopes are confidently expressed that a improvement will be experienced very shortly. The shareholders of the Portaway Mine held a meeting at Sheffield on Tuesday, as to the condition and prospects of the mine, but it was determined to adjourn for a week. There is a lull in speculation in lead mines in Derbyshire at the present time, owing principally to the badness of trade, and also from the unsatisfactory termination of the affairs of the North Derbyshire Company. The Milldam is doing well, and the Company are busy putting down extra pumping machinery.

Mining Journal.

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Threatening to Shoot.

William Shaw, of Clay Cross, collier, was brought up on warrant charged by Mr. William Walters, of Clay Cross, colliery owner, with threatening to shoot him, on the 16th. inst., at Clay Cross. The defendant had, it appears, some dispute with Mr. Walters, when he pulled a pistol out of his pocket, presented it, and threatened to shoot him. The defendant expressed his sorrow for what he had done, and promised not to do the like again. Mr. Walters said he did not wish to press the case, and the defendant was therefore discharged on paying the costs.

Mr. Frederick George Denton, of Clay Cross, surgeon, was brought up on a warrant, charged by Mr. William Walters, of Clay Cross, ironstone contractor, with threatening to shoot him on the 15th. instant, at Clay Cross. The Bench, on hearing the evidence, said that it was their opinion that defendant did not intend carrying his threat into execution, and therefore dismissed the case. Mr. Denton applied to the Bench for costs, which they refused, telling him that he had brought it upon himself by his misconduct.

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Assault. (?)

Simeon and James Tunks, John Wright and William Hill, of Clay Cross, colliers, were brought up on warrants, charged by John Brown, colliery agent, with absenting themselves from the colliery works of William Jackson and others, at their colliery works, at Clay Cross. The prisoners were ordered to return to their work and pay the costs. Tunks and Wright, 19-6d., Hill, 17-6d.

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West Staveley Colliery.

Owing to the depressed state of the coal trade, the principal portion of the workmen employed at West Staveley were paid off on Monday last. Springwell Colliery, Staveley, is only working three days a week.

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Derbyshire Coal for the London Market.

An effort has now been made to introduce, upon a large scale, into the London market, the coal produced at the New Brampton Collieries, Chesterfield, and as the coal is but little inferior to high priced sea borne coal, there can be but little doubt that it will meet with a ready sale. The colliery is on the great Blackshale bed that runs from Clay Cross through Derbyshire and Sheffield. As it gets into Yorkshire it is known as the Silkstone bed. The New Brampton Colliery has been at work for a little over 12 months, and to facilitate its further development it is about to pass into the hands of a small company, by whom the adjoining coal will be worked with it. The quality of the bottom when thoroughly cleaned from the tops is said to be not surpassed by any sea-coal in London. It is hard, large, will not injure by exposure, burns totally free from any white ash, makes a capital cinder, cakes well, and gives a hot and cheerful fire, and makes as useful a house coal as any that can be had. The coal has been extensively used for domestic and general purposes, and one large hotel in London has used 300 tons of them during the past year. As a gas coal they occupy a very respectable position, and after a careful test of them at the Gloucester Gas Works, by Mr. Hugh McPherson, who certified that a ton will yield "9,600 cubic feet of gas and 43 bushels of coke, rather small". the illuminating power of the gas is equal to 13.9 candles, consuming 120 grains of sperm per hour.

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Staveley - Singular and Fatal Accident.

Whilst Thomas Cantrell, labourer, was leading his horse, on Monday morning last, on the railway near to the new works of Mr. Barrow, his left foot by some means got entangled with the points and before he could draw it out, the horse knocked him down, and one of the empty Midland waggons passed over it. The poor fellow attempted to free himself, but was drawn further under by another waggon passing over his leg, shattering the bones. When the man was picked up, only a small portion of skin connected the dissevered foot to the leg. He was conveyed to his home at Brimington, where Messrs. Hale of Barrow Hill, and Foulds, of Staveley, surgeons, promptly attended and amputated the leg below the knee. About three o'clock in the afternoon Cantrell died. He was 57 years of age, and had spent 27 years in the service of Mr. Barrow.

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Whittington - Explosions of Firedamp.

During the past few months the owners of Foxley Oaks Colliery, Whittington, have had a number of shafts sunk to the ironstone seams. These are so very shallow that it was not deemed desirable to use fans or any other special means for their ventilation. A few days ago, Levi Ashmore, with two boys, was busy clearing away some ironstone when he noticed that his candle burnt dimly. But not suspecting any danger from gas he held his candle up with a view to go to his own work, when the gas ignited, and the flames burnt his hands, arm and face, and neck, in a frightful manner. He was also scorched inwardly. One of the lads was burnt, but not severely, and he and his companion fell flat on the floor before the flames reached them. The pit is seventeen yards deep. On Monday another explosion took place in a pit situated in an adjoining field to the above mentioned pit, but no personal injury was done. On the same day Isaac Wagstaffe, with three others, went to work about half past six o'clock. On entering his working place with his candle the gas fired, and as a corve filled with dirt was opposite shutting him in, some moments elapsed before he could extricate himself from the flames. Both he and Uriah Ball (12 years of age) were severely burnt about the arms, face and ears, another boy being scorched as well. Safety lamps are now to be used in testing the pits.

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Fatal Accident at Staveley.

On Wednesday last, an inquest was held at the Red Lion Inn, Brimington, before C.S.B. Busby, Esq., coroner, on the body of Thomas Cantrell, of Brimington, labourer, aged 58 years. Ann Cantrell said: The deceased was my husband, and worked for Mr. Barrow, at Staveley. He went with a horse and waggons to and from the furnace yard to Mr. Barrow's railway, near to the station. He went to work about a quarter to five on Monday morning, and was brought home at ten the same morning, with his left leg nearly off below the knee. It was taken off about one p.m., by Mr. Hales, assisted by Mr. Faulds. He died about half past one. Alexander Baldie, clerk, Staveley, said: About nine a.m. on Monday, I was in my office adjoining Mr. Barrow's railway from the new furnace yard to the Midland Railway. My office is 300 or 400 yards from the general office. I knew deceased. He was a horse driver on the line about the works. About nine a.m. I saw deceased's horse going along the railway towards the Midland Railway drawing two waggons without a driver. I thought something was wrong, and on going up to see and looking over the railway bridge across the River Rother I saw deceased in a sitting position at the far end of the bridge, about 30 yards from where I was. I went to him and found his left foot fixed between the points. His ankle was broken right across and the bone standing out. There was only a piece of flesh attaching the foot to the leg. I had to send a young man for a crowbar before I could get deceased's foot released. I took him to my office and sent for Mr. Hales. His assistant came in a quarter of an hour. I stayed with deceased who was quite sensible. He told me he had got his foot in the points but he did not clearly explain how. He said that he had called to his horse to stop but the horse didn't stop. From my observation on the spot I am convinced that he must have put his foot on the rail and it had slipped between the points, and then the buffers of the waggons going over must have knocked him down almost immediately, the wheels would then have passed over his foot and caused the injury. He was sent home at about seven minutes after the doctor came. The doctor wanted deceased to go to the Chesterfield Hospital but he insisted on being sent home. The railway points were in good working order where the accident happened. Deceased was on the wrong side of his horse. Robert Frost, of Chesterfield, foreman of the foundry yard, said: I ordered the deceased to take some waggons out of the siding and put them under the crane to be loaded. He started with the horse and it's two waggons, and directly afterwards somebody ran to tell me that the deceased had got his foot taken off. He had just been taken into Mr. Baldie's office when I got there. I assisted to get deceased into a cart and I went home with him to Brimington. We got there at ten o'clock in the morning. I asked him on the road how he happened to his misfortune, when he made answer that he was walking on the rails and got his foot in the points, he shouted at the horse to stop but it kept going on, and all the four wheels then went over him. I stayed with him four hours and left him twenty minutes before he died. I was present when the leg was amputated. I have seen many legs amputated before but I never saw one better done. Deceased had worked under him 14 years at the work and understood it well. The horse was a very quiet one and he had worked with it eight years. The jury returned a verdict of "Accidental Death".

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Non-Payment of Wages.

Mr. Henry Rangeley, colliery proprietor, was summoned by William Jarvis, engine tender for £4-4-0d., wages for one month at the rate of 3-0d. per day. It appeared that Jarvis entered the service of Mr. Rangeley a few months ago as engine tender. He became ill, and his medical attendant ordered him to stop away from his work a day, which he did; but when he went to his work the next day, he found another man in his place, and was told that he was to leave. He waited upon Mr. Rangeley, and was told that he was discharged in consequence of neglect of work. He had attended at the works every day since taking his "shifts", and now summoned the defendant for his wages. Jarvis put in a copy of the rules respecting notice to be given in case of leaving Mr. Rangeley's employ, which was to the effect that a month's notice should be given and received. Mr. Rangeley alleged that the complainant had forfeited all claim to the required notice, in as much as he had neglected his duties on more than one occasion, and had been remonstrated with. Complainant had no right to be absent from his work at any time without giving him or his clerk notice of the same. The magistrates considered that Jarvis had not absented himself from his duties wilfully, nor with the intention of doing his master any injury. If a man acted under the advice of any medical man, that was sufficient to clear him of any charge of neglect. They ordered Mr. Rangeley to pay the amount claimed and 12-0d. costs.

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Advert - Tapton New Colliery, Newbold.

The price of coal is reduced, as under: -

Best Coal (Blackshale) screened	6-6d. per ton delivered
Best Coal (Blackshale) unscreened	6-0d. per ton delivered
Best Coal (Blackshale) and nuts	5-9d. per ton delivered
Best Coal (Blackshale) and slack	5-3d. per ton delivered
Nuts (Blackshale)	5-0d. per ton delivered
Slack (Blackshale)	4-0d. per ton delivered

Orders received at the office, Cavendish Street, or at the Colliery.

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Portaway United Lead Company.

On Monday last, an influential meeting was held at Mr. Turner's, the Star Inn, Tideswell, Mr. James Bunting in the chair, to take into consideration the reorganising of the Portaway United Lead Company. After discussing many of the leading features for the future prosperity and advancement of the above mining company, they came to the following resolution: "This meeting views with every satisfaction a further development at the above Portaway Mine, and in carrying out this object it is expedient that they should sink another shaft in a more eligible position than the one previously opened." The resolution was unanimously agreed to. The meeting was generously attended, and many of the leading shareholders felt sanguine of success.

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The Limited Liability Act. - Who is the Secretary?

Edley Taylor v. Stephen Sayer and S.O. Rattenbury.

This was a claim for £4-3-6d. brought against the defendants, the latter of whom lives in Gray's Inn, London, as representatives of the Chesterfield and New Dunstan Colliery Company. It will be remembered that plaintiff originally sued Sayer, as secretary of the Company, but Sayer appeared to deny that he was then secretary, although he had filled that office previously. His Honour amended the plaint, and put in the name of Mr. S.O. Rattenbury, who was (Sayer said) the secretary of the Company. On the case being now called on, Mr. Cutts appeared for Rattenbury and said that he had received instructions to deny that he was secretary, and to plead the Limited Liability Act. The goods were not supplied for the defendants individually, but to the Chesterfield and New Dunstan Colliery Company, which was duly registered under the Limited Liability Act. After some conversation, His Honour gathered that the goods had been supplied, but that there was no intention to pay for them, and that Rattenbury and Sayer who had been managers, now repudiated the debt and pleaded the Act. His Honour said the case was one of the most disgraceful pieces of jugglery he ever remembered to have heard, being a complete shuffle from one to the other. Mr. Cutts said he had his own opinion about it, but he merely obeyed the instructions he received that morning on behalf of Rattenbury. His Honour: That gentleman is well off to be in London and not before the Court. Ultimately the judge again adjourned the case, without cost to the plaintiff, to give him an opportunity of amending the plaint by inserting the Company.

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Summons for Wages.

Patrick Murphy, a collier in this town, summoned Mr. John Ward of the Wingerworth Coal Company, for non-payment of wages. Mr. Cutts, solicitor, appeared for the defendant. Murphy had been in the service of the Company for several years, but received notice of discharge when he "trumped" up the present claim. Mr. Maynard said the magistrates were surprised he had made such a charge. Mr. Cutts applied for the costs for the defendant's witnesses. He did not care so much for the value of the allowance, but to deter others from vexatiously bringing their employers in a court of justice. The magistrates granted the application for costs, 11-6d.

(Is there a bit missing here???)

Mr. Maynard: Then you must go to prison.

The defendant begged to be allowed a fortnight to pay them.

Mr. Maynard: It is a most unreasonable charge.

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Derbyshire Mining.

There is a continued dullness in the iron trade in this county, and there is a great difficulty in obtaining orders, owing to the general slackness which pervades the greater departments of the trade. America still continues to buy largely of all kinds of munitions of war, particularly for the Federal states. There is a moderate enquiry for rails, both for home and exportation. The coal trade is very inactive, and it would seem to be generally admitted there is only a poor prospect for the summer months. The London market is reported to be overstocked, so that an improvement cannot well be expected for the metropolis for the present. The demand in the provinces is a shade better, but there is nothing like a state of briskness prevailing. We have an improving demand for coke, notwithstanding that the principal railways have ceased to use it for their locomotives. The new branch of the Midland from Rowsley to Buxton will be opened for traffic on June the 1st., when a large tract of country will be opened for those speculatively inclined, and no doubt a large increase in the consumption of minerals will be the result. The line on the opposite side of the town of Buxton, which is being made by the London and North Western Railway Company, will soon be completed, when the shortest railway route from Manchester to London will be opened. This is looked forward to with much interest by the Derbyshire coalmasters who are likely to increase their trade, as they can successfully compete with the Lancashire coalowners. It will be important, too, when the coal-trade revives, because the increased consumption will soon be felt. A very valuable coal property, plant, etc., in Derbyshire will probably soon be on the market. The plant is of a most substantial character, and the pits are in full operation and are doing a good trade. The tonnage from the South Yorkshire coalfield to London in the last month reached upwards of 26,000 tons for the principal collieries. Of this quantity the various Silkstone pits contributed 17,000 tons, Elsecar 2,682 tons, Lund Hill 1,213 tons, and Darfield Main 658 tons. The demand for the Southern and some of the Midland counties is equally depressed.