

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 5th. September 1863.

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No Headline.

Herbert Limb, (Stonegravels), Edward Cherry, William Barker, William Lane (all of Clay Cross) William Cresswell (Ashover) and William Clarke and William Bullock (Tupton), colliers, were brought up in custody on warrants, charged by Mr. John Brown, colliery agent, with absenting themselves from their employment as colliers, in the No. 4 Main Clay Cross Company. The whole of the parties agreed to return to work, and pay the expenses (£2) except Bullock who was committed for one month with hard labour.

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Firing of the Wellington Coal Pit, Whitehaven.

We have to record the firing of the Wellington Pit Colliery, by which seven hundred hands have been thrown out of employment until work can be found for them elsewhere, or the water which has been let into this pit can be pumped out and operations resumed. It seems that the pit was first discovered to be on fire a week ago, and the alarm having been instantly communicated to Mr. Bourne, the Earl of Lonsdale's representative at the colliery office, that gentleman forthwith repaired to the spot, and took prompt measures for staying the process of the disaster. This was a work of extreme difficulty and danger; but, through Mr. Bourne's constant personal supervision and direction by the assistance of his deputy, Mr. Mulcaster, and all the officers and men employed at the works, it was thought that on Thursday the fire had been subdued. In the afternoon of that day, however, a quantity of gas unfortunately escaped, and igniting some timber, gave a fresh impetus to the combustion of the coal, which afterwards so far increased as render it necessary to drown the pit. On Saturday it was found that all ordinary means were insufficient to get the fire under. The whole of the horses down the pit were therefore taken out, preparatory to closing the shaft. we understand a portion of the lower working in which fire is situated will be walled off from the workings and then inundated water by pumping it in and also probably by a syphon from the . The fire is said to have originated in a flue which leads from the stationary engine in the pit bottom, and in which coal had accumulated. The closing of this colliery is causing vessels in great numbers to leave this port for Workington and Maryport.

Cumberland Pacquet.

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Staveley - The Double Shaft System.

A few days ago communication was made between the Fare Well and Do Well coalpits, belonging to Richard Barrow, Esq., of Staveley. The distance between the two shafts is one and a half miles. Two headings have for a considerable time been driven day and night, passing through several faults; yet, on "holeing" through, the drifts were found to be exactly opposite each other. This is the third drift that Mr. F. Howard has completed for Mr. Barrow, by which, in the event of any accident occurring in the shaft - the miners possess separate and independent means of escape from danger.

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Disorderly Servants.

Henry Wright and Joseph Holmes, colliers, Apperknowle, were charged by Messrs. James and Jonathan Rhodes, Coal Aston, Colliery Owners, with neglect of work. The defendants had absented themselves from work one day, on the pretext that in the benks they were working there was an accumulation of blackdamp. It was proved in evidence, however, that such was not the case. The Bench thought the case made out, and believed the men had only made the statement of blackdamp being in the benks as a pretext to evade the consequences of their neglect of work. Ordered to pay costs amounting to 8-6d. each, and return to work.

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Stealing a Coat.

Henry Townsend, grinder, Dronfield Woodhouse, was brought up on bail, charged with stealing a coat from the engine-house attached to the colliery of Mr. Edward Knight, Dronfield Woodhouse, on Sunday the 30th. August, the coat being the property of William Jolley, collier. On Saturday, the 29th. of August, Jolley left his coat in the care of the engine tender, who hung it up in the engine-house. On the following day Mr. Knight had occasion to go into the engine-house, and whilst there Townsend came in and asked whose coats those were that were hung up. Knight replied that it was no business of his (prisoners), and he must not meddle with them. Shortly afterwards prisoner was seen going away with the coat in question on. He was arrested and taken to the lock-up. In consequence of there being only one magistrate present, the case was adjourned to next Eckington sessions, prisoner's father being bail for his appearance.

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Refusing to work.

Eli Fletcher charged George Ellis, Joseph Beaumont, and William Wilborn, colliers, with leaving his service. George Marsh said: The conductor broke, yesterday morning, and we mended it as soon as we could, and the three defendants would not work. Ordered to return to work and pay 7-0d. costs.

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Alarming Colliery Accident.

Considerable anxiety was created in Newcastle on Monday night, by the intelligence of an accident having occurred at Burradon Colliery, and of the serious consequences that were at first dreaded by many not acquainted with the workings here, owing to the provision for the want of which a year or two ago so many lives were sacrificed, being avoided. About one o'clock in the afternoon the pit was working as usual, the engine was in motion, and was drawing to bank one iron cage containing four tubs of coal and lowering another empty one, when, owing to a balance weight giving way, the rope broke, and both tubs fell to the bottom of the shaft. The engine, on being released from its load, was set in motion with increased velocity, and one of the wire ropes was drawn upwards with such violence as to cause injuries to the machinery on the bank, which prevented immediate resumption of operations. Thus both tubs were lying at the shaft foot, and even the provisions of new ones could have done no good at the time in consequence of the injuries to the engine. At the workings at the time there were about 200 men and boys, who soon became acquainted with what had happened, and flocked to the bottom of the shaft by which they were not slow to perceive they could not for a considerable time hope to see the breach of the daylight. Under the guidance of Thomas Weatherley and others, who knew the working thoroughly, they sought a passage to the shaft of Seghill Colliery, which is about three miles distance; and, though constantly opposed to danger from disturbing stoppings, etc., they steadily made their way from where, if they had been obliged to stay longer, they must have run a much greater chance of losing their lives. The story of the escape is short; the men persevered in the midst of difficulties, and with good guidance had got through half of the distance between Burradon and their destination, when they were met by Mr. Rendall, the viewer of Seghill, with a party. Their way thence forward was rid of the most serious obstacles, and they reached Seghill about four o'clock, and were taken to bank without one of the number having sustained an injury. It is expected that three or four days will suffice to fix the machinery at Burradon in proper working order.

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Caution to Colliers.

George Yarnold and John Kiddy, colliers, of Alfreton, were brought up in custody on warrants, charged with neglecting their work at Oakerthorpe Colliery by Mr. Samuel Whitehead, the agent. Case was fully proved, and the defendants were ordered to pay the costs (14-0d. each), as well as return to their work and conduct themselves properly for the future. Samuel Radford, collier, of the same place, was similarly charged by the same complainant, and ordered to pay the same costs and return to his work.

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More Neglect of Work.

George Bradshaw, collier, of South Normanton, was brought up in custody on a warrant, charged with absenting himself from his work at Hill Top Colliery, on the 5th. inst. The case was proved by Mr. Hewitt, and the defendant was ordered to pay the costs (19-6d.), and to return to his work.

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Caution to Colliers.

Thomas Waterfield and Henry Hall, colliers, of Alfreton, were brought up in custody of Sergeant Fern, charged on warrants by Mr. Samuel Whitehead, with absconding from their services as colliers, in the employment of the Oakerthorpe Iron and Coal Company, on the 11th. inst. Ordered to return to their work, and pay costs - Hall, 12-6d., and Waterfield, 14-10d.

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Page 4 Col. 4-5.

The Corporation of Tideswell School v. John Walton.

This was an action to recover the sum of £12-14-0d., for sand taken off lands belonging to the plaintiffs. The corporation was represented by the Revd. T. Jones, who stated that the defendant had a mine on their property, that he had agreed to pay the corporation at the rate of 4d. per load for all sand sold by him, and that, so far as they had at present ascertained, by receipted bills and other matters, he had disposed of about 762 yards to the contractors of the Buxton and Rowsley railway. On a question from his Honour, as to whom the soil belonged, defendant said it belonged to the Queen and himself. He had had possession of the mine forty years, and he had a road to it, and he had a right to the sand. His Honour, however, explained that he could not be a partner with Her Majesty in any property. If the lead got from the mine was his the sand did not belong to him, being the property of the owner of the land, and it had in this case been sold to him, he must pay for it £1 per month. The defendant in the above case obtained a verdict against the contractors at the last court for they had brought, and paid for, sand from parties at this mine, and Mr. Cutts, instructed by Messrs. Rennie, Matthews, and Logan, applied for a new trial, this day, on the ground of this defendant having got judgements against them in the wrong suit. His Honour allowed the new trial on their agreeing to pay the Court the costs of the last trial.