

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 2nd. April 1864.

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Robbery at Grasscroft Common.

A year ago we chronicled a heartless robbery of brasses from an engine at Grasscroft Common, by which a large number of men and boys were thrown idle for some time. On Monday night the engine house and others beside were again visited and the brasses taken away. This is the third robbery of brasses at these engines which belong to Messrs. Appleby and Company, Renishaw.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 2nd. April 1864.

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Inauguration of the Staveley Dining Hall.

Dinner to Celebrate the Rescue of the Men from the Spitalwell Pit.

Easter Monday will be a red-letter day in the history of Staveley, the occasion being the opening of the new dining hall, which has been built entirely at the expense of Mr. Barrow, for providing the means of getting a dinner on the most moderate scale, after the system now so generally adopted in Scotland. The building, which is exceedingly neat and unostentatious, has cost Mr. Barrow a large sum of money, and it reflects the highest credit on that gentleman's liberality. The occasion was also intended to celebrate the rescue of the twelve men and boys from the Spitalwell Ironstone Mine. There were about 250 persons present. The dinner was served by the parties who are to have the management of the hall, in first-rate style, the dinner and wines giving the greatest possible satisfaction. There was the most profuse supply of everything that could be needed.

Amongst those present we noticed the following; - R. Barrow, Esq., W.H. Barrow, Esq., M.P., E.G. Maynard, Esq., R.G. Coke, Esq., W. Fowler, Esq., Bridgeman Barrow, Esq., the Rev. James Barrow, North Wingfield; the Rev. J. Boyer, C.S.B. Busby, Esq., H. Rangeley, Esq., the Rev. B. Mandale, the Rev. A.T. Blythe, J.F. Swallow, Esq., Richard Swallow, Esq., W. Smith, Esq., W. Hale, Esq., W. Bluett, Esq., surgeons; Mr. Arthers, Mr. W.B. Walker, J.B. White, Esq., John Cutts, Esq., (town clerk), Chesterfield; Captain Brown, Mr. Palmer, Derbyshire Times; Mr. Edmunds, Derbyshire Times, Mr. De Vine, Mr. Roberts, Mr. W. Wadsworth, Mr. Wyatt, Mr. Holford (Wallsend Colliery), Mr. Marriott, Mr. G. Marriott, Mr. Robinson, Mr. Gibson, Mr. Ireland, Mr. Farrett, Mr. Upton, Mr. R. Coke, Mr. Clare, Mr. Hibbert, Mr. Gillet, Mr. Gibson, Mr. Wrigglesworth, Mr. Howard, Mr. Richard Robinson, etc., etc.

The Chairman, commencing the toasts, said that the first toast that he had to propose is one which all Englishmen will drink with enthusiasm. It is the health of the Queen (Cheers), the next toast from the chairman was the Prince of Wales and the rest of the Royal Family.

The Chairman: I have the pleasing duty to propose "the Army, Navy, and also the Volunteers" (Applause). When I left London this morning I met a great number of volunteers wending their way to the station, to attend a review at Guildford. I have no doubt that the Londoners feel secure under the protection of such a body of men. I will couple with this toast the health of Captain Brown.

Captain Brown thanked them for the compliment they had paid, "the Army, the Navy, and more especially the Volunteers", and he had no doubt that however secure the people of London might imagine they were, he had no doubt of the protection which the Volunteers of Chesterfield might afford, the people of Chesterfield and Staveley would be equally safe. (Hear and Laughter). Whenever the Volunteers were called upon, he had no doubt they would do their duty well.

Mr. Coke proposed in complimentary terms, the health of the Bishop of the diocese, the clergy. The Rev. A.T. Blythe, rose to respond. He said that all those who were acquainted with the Bishop of the diocese, would bear witness to the admirable way he discharged the duties he had to discharge with regularity and punctuality. The Bishop himself was an early riser, and

numerous as the letters were that he might receive, he returned an answer by the next post. In his relations in life he treated everybody with the utmost urbanity and kindness, whether they be high or low degree. He was a thorough gentleman, a noble Christian, and a bright example to all in the station which he now held. In returning thanks for the toast on behalf of the clergy of this diocese, he quite sure, as a body, the clergy were most anxious to discharge the duties which lay before them, especially in such a district as this, where they endeavoured to bring the working classes to a better knowledge of their duties as Christians (Hear). There was one clergyman in this district, to whom he might be excused for making special mention. He referred to the Rev. Mr. Singleton, of Chesterfield. Those who were most anxiously concerned in the late occurrence at Spitalwell knew how anxious Mr. Singleton was for the recovery of the poor men. He waited hour after hour, and went to the houses to make known to the families of those immersed in the pit, and to inform them what state they were, and to convey the good news to the friends of all those who were saved. (Applause).

The Chairman said the next toast was the health of a nobleman who was well known to all of them - "the Lord Lieutenant of the County, the most Noble, his Grace the Duke of Devonshire". (Cheers). His Grace was not only an eminent agriculturist, but a great mineral owner, and his Grace knew the use of a pick as well as a plough. (The toast was drunk with three times three).

Mr. Coke said he was extremely sorry the Duke of Devonshire was not present to acknowledge the toast; but he felt sure that none would be more grateful than the noble Duke for the rescue of men from such a fearful doom. (Loud Cheers).

The Chairman read a letter of apology from Mr. Cottingham, in which he stated he was most obliged to Mr. Barrow for the invitation he had given him, and it would have given him great pleasure to have been present; but as the Duke of Devonshire was at Chatsworth, it was not convenient for him to leave home.

Mr. Fowler said that the toast he had to propose was the healths of a body of gentlemen who discharged a most important and valuable service to the community without any reward other than that which was accorded those who discharged services faithfully and honestly, and according to their own consciences. The toast was the health of the magistrates of the county, whose exertions, sound and impartial judgement have given weight to their decisions which they all appreciated. He coupled the toast with the health of Mr. Maynard. (Cheers).

Mr. Maynard said it so happened that he was the senior magistrate present, and therefore it became his duty to return thanks for the handsome manner in which the toast had been proposed and received. It was their great desire to do justice to everybody. They were only like other men - not infallible, and in doing so he might add that they frequently tempered that justice with mercy. (Cheers). There were many working men present whom they were very glad to meet, and some of whom might have come before them from some cause or other. They would, however, be permitted to make one observation, and that was, that the great source of their business arose from quarrels and misconduct in public houses (Hear). He hoped that they would receive the remarks in the same kind spirit in which he offered them, and he might add that those managers who had influence over the working men would persuade the men who were under them not to visit the public house so frequently, they would prevent a good deal of drunkenness and misconduct which happened in public houses. Were it not for these quarrels, they would have very little to do. He concluded by thanking them for the compliment they had paid to the county magistracy.

The Chairman then spoke as follows: -

We are assembled here today to congratulate and sympathise with the twelve miners on their safe escape out of the Spitalwell Pit. I can imagine the distress of mind they must have been in, when they found the water gradually rising in the pit, and I can also engender their feelings of joy when they noticed the gradual fall of water, inch by inch, so they could calculate pretty nearly the time when they would be liberated, as they would feel confident that everything would be done, that could be done for their release, (Applause). I am sure that not only the twelve men, but every person in this room will join me in sincerely thanking all parties, that directly or indirectly assisted in rescuing the men from their perilous position (Renewed Cheering). I hold in my hand a long list on names who lent their valuable aid on the bank or in the pit. I will mentioned a few of them, who distinguished themselves by most heroic and praiseworthy exertions. We have spoken of the Volunteers today in a war-like sense, and I will now give you the name of a volunteer in a cause of humanity, who dashed into the water at the bottom of the pit up to his chin, to save his fellow creatures, and that volunteer is Mr. Richard Coke, whose health I beg to propose with all the honours. (Loud Cheers). Mr. Coke was accompanied by a band of tall, bold men, whose resolve in bringing up the men all safe on their backs, these man are,

Mr. George Ord,
Mr. John Ord,

Mr. Thomas Marshall,
Mr. John Turton,
Mr. George Wright.

To all of whom I beg to express my sincere thanks. (Applause). I cannot omit to mention the names of Mr. Thomas Emmerson, and Mr. John Gillatt, who with the engineers and with everybody with the engines, and on the bank, never left their work night and day, indeed I may safely say, that not in the common acceptance of the term worked "like niggers", but they worked like all Englishmen can and do, work when like is in danger, (Cheers). I also beg to acknowledge the great service rendered by my surveyor Mr. Howard, from the intimate knowledge he possessed of every nook and corner in the workings. (Hear, and Cheers). I have enumerated a few special cases and now I must refer to the principle mover in the business, and I take this opportunity of publicly expressing my great obligations to my viewer Mr. Seymour, for the very satisfactory arrangements he made, to effect the object in view, in which he was so thoroughly successful. The great anxiety evinced by Mr. Seymour, and his never leaving the bank for two days and two nights, must show to the numerous pitmen at the collieries under his charge, that his great object is to ensure the safety of the men by having all the machinery in proper order, by having the pit well ventilated, in short the men can go to work in confidence that every possible means are taken to prevent accidents. I now conclude with proposing the health of Mr. Seymour, and thanks to him and all concerned with him upon that memorable occasion.

Mr. Coke was received with loud cheers. He said he could assure them that never in his life felt himself at such a loss as did at the present time, to convey to them his acknowledgement of honour they had done him. There were few present who would not have gone through the same as he had done. He disclaimed having all the honour himself, and as to acting as a volunteer, he was only to happy to give his assistance in getting those poor men and boys relieved from the dreadful sufferings they were labouring under. They were afraid their lives might be sacrificed by the eruption of gas or the fall of roof. There were many present at the time of the accident who gave valuable assistance and advice. Speaking of himself, the part he took was a most humble one to his mind, and no doubt others had done as much as he had done. The men at the engines worked admirably; indeed, he might say that all worked together, and he congratulated them all most sincerely. Truly conscious as he was of the efforts of

everybody engaged in the rescue of these men, he said to them, "Now, lads, tis providence that has saved you; let this be the turning point in your lives, be good boys, and in the words of my excellent friend, the Archdeacon, and remember you have to thank for your rescue the Giver of All Good". (Loud Cheers).

Mr. Seymour, in acknowledging his health, was received with loud cheers. He said: Mr. Barrow and Gentlemen, - It is with great pleasure I rise to acknowledge the very kind compliment you have paid me in proposing my health and the health of those people who energetically joined me in relieving the men from what at one time appeared a certain death. I can truly say that it has always been my constant study to work the mines of the Staveley Works with the greatest possible amount of safety, and to so lay out the work that every workmen who may be employed at these works may earn good wages, and have continuous work when trade demands their labour. (Cheers). It is well known that when the coal is severed in the pits of Staveley, it is not long in finding its way into the railway trucks and conveyed to the various markets for consumption. This is a very important matter to the employed, thus tending to secure them constant work. (Hear). As soon as I arrived at the pit after the accident I saw the necessity of putting on the engine power as fully as would be consistent with safety, and I at once telegraphed to my friend, Mr. Ireland, to forward me the very best Staveley Hard Coal for the engines of Spitalwell, and I attribute the safety of these men to the excellence of that coal, which enabled us to work the engines with such an effect (Hear, and Cheers). After we got the steam coals, a gentleman on my left said to me "Mr. Seymour, is everything safe; these boilers are roaring of steam most awfully." I said, "Be assured, Mr. White, we are perfectly safe, and this is what we want to get these poor fellows out of the pit". The joy I felt on beholding these twelve men and boys brought out of the pit no man can contemplate, nor can any pen describe; but I know what my own feelings were. (Loud Cheers). My own convictions were that it was my duty to remain at my post, and to never cease my exertions to save the lives of my fellow men, and with the help of the Almighty and the assistance of my friend, Mr. Coke, and the overmen from Staveley, we succeeded (Cheers). In fact, every workman who came to me with any advice I paid him the most marked attention, and said that whatever could be done should be done to save those men. The anxiety of mind to all of us was something terrible, and I observed with my own eyes perhaps one of the most affecting sights that a man could see. It was when I marshalled the men to go in search of the remaining four in the pit. William Belfit's wife came to me trembling for the fate of her husband. I said to her, "Mrs. Belfit, go into yonder joiner's shop, and your husband will be restored to you alive in a few minutes". (Cheers). Thank God, he came out alive. (Renewed Cheers). It is useless building good machinery, without the same is kept in perfect order, and it was to me a great gratification to find the machinery was in perfect order, and the only thing required was the skill and judgement of men to work those engines. (Cheers). I have to return my thanks to the two enginemen, Thomas Burgin, and William Allen, and also to Tom Emmerson, which to his credit, be it spoken, never left these two men. I gave a strong caution to all, I said "Now, be careful, go to work with safety, these men's lives depend upon your exertions, and the zealous discharge of your duty, and if anything occurs now we are done for ever. Work with perfect safety, and you must succeed". (Cheers). To the overmen and underviewers I wish to give them a few words of council -. When you take charge of other mens lives, tell the truth and do your duty; there is great responsibility resting upon you. Depend upon it, the underviewers at these collieries have great responsibility resting upon them, and the way they discharged their duties has made them successful in Chesterfield upon this occasion, ought not to be forgotten by the colliers, nor should the successful termination of this affair, that it should teach them that when danger is at hand, they should try to avoid it. (Hear, Cheers). When a man has done his duty, what a balm it must be to his conscience. Thank God I have done my duty, and I trust every overman, every deputy, and every collier employed upon these works will see the necessity of acting with caution, with courage and with straight forwardness, and I am sure great good will result from united efforts to ward off danger. (Hear, and Cheers). I

thank you gentlemen for the compliment you have paid me. I shall never forget the occasion that has brought us here, and shall retain a lively remembrance of it. (Loud Cheers).

Mr. Maynard: I have been entrusted with a toast which I know will be received with the great gratification here. I am going to propose the health of our chairman, Mr. Barrow. (Loud Cheers). I myself feel much indebted to him for doing me the honour to invite me here today, and in seeing those men who have been so mercifully spared. I know Mr. Barrow's care for each workmen, and his anxiety to provide for their comfort, amusement and instruction. (Cheers). This building is an evidence that his intention is that all should have every comfort and convenience, and I am sure the toast I am proposing will come with all the honours, and as Mr. Barrow said drunk in a way in which Englishmen only can drink a toast (Loud Cheers).

The chairman who was again received with much cheering said:- I am sorry the Venerable Archdeacon Hill is not with us today, but I will read you a letter that I have received, and I beg to draw your particular attention to the latter part of it.

St. Leonards-on-Sea,
March 26th. 1864.

My Dear Sir,

Your kind letter has followed me to this place, and I have just time before this mornings post goes out, to thank you for it. If I had been at home I should have had great pleasure in partaking of your hospitality on Monday next. I am sure the guest whom you have so kindly invited will acknowledge with unfeigned gratitude the great efforts you made in deliverance, and the successful application of skill and science on the part of those gentlemen who assisted in the undertaking. But I trust they will remember that their thanks and praises are, in the first place, due to Him, to whom they offer their earnest prayer in the hour of their danger, and without those blessings the most skilful and laborious efforts would have been in vain.

Believe me,
My dear Mr. Barrow, most sincerely yours,
T. Hill.

The Chairman in responding to Mr. Maynard's toast said: I feel extremely obliged to Mr. Maynard for the very handsome manner in which he has proposed my health, I am great highly gratified by the very kind feeling the toast has been responded to. One of the great pleasures that I have had in business all my life, is to see everyone about me contended and comfortable, and I trust I shall continue to do so long as I am connected with these works, for although I have made them into a Joint Stock Company, owing to my declining years, yet the Company has done me the honour of making me their chairman, and the works will be carried on in the same liberal spirit they have hitherto been. (Loud Cheers). The board of directors quite agree with me, that no expense is to be spared in having the best machinery, and that machinery to be kept in a perfect state of repair, so that the ventilation in those mines shall be equal to any in the kingdom. (Renewed Cheers). I may also add that the directors quite coincide with the system that I have invariably adopted, that "every man shall have a fair days wage for a fair days work", and metimes a little more, (Hear, Hear, and Loud Cheers). Therefore we want no unions here, except the union of good feelings between man and master. (Renewed Applause). My sentiments are well known on this head, indeed we have now worked twenty years in perfect unison, we will continue to do so in spite of the delegates that have lately been endeavouring to poison the minds of the Staveley colliers, but the old and respectable Staveley men have too much good sense than to be led away by their statements. (Applause). I will just refer to that which took place a year or two since. Trade was very bad, the men could not get three days work in the week, wages were reduced, and I say to the credit of the men, they submitted to reduced wages without a murmur, for they knew that not only myself but many neighbouring coal-owners were

sending coal to distant markets at a considerable loss, merely that we might find employment for the men, as half a loaf was better than no bread. (Hear, Hear). Had the union been in existence at that time, their funds must have been exhausted, and the men could not have earned sufficient to keep body and soul together. However, as soon as trade revived, the coal-owners in this neighbourhood, as well as myself, voluntarily gave the men an advance. (Cheers). If I should not be thought too tedious, or name a circumstance that occurred above twenty years ago. It was upon my first coming to Staveley. A body of unionists, thinking I was a green-horn in the management of collieries, not only struck for an advance of wages, but demanded other terms that it was impossible I could comply with. They did not know the man they had to deal with. I ordered the engine to be stopped and let the pit fill with water, they said "Never mind, he can soon pump the water out." I then ordered the engine to be taken down, and the pit to be closed, declaring that coal should never be drawn out of that pit again, it never has, and never shall draw coal again, but I tell you what it shall do, it shall be made an upcast shaft for producing still better ventilation at Seymour and Speedwell Pits; and the men working in those pits will be benefited accordingly. (Loud Cheers). I have trespassed too much upon your time but I wish my people to understand if they will stick by me I will stick by them, and that is the sort of union we will have at Staveley. The chairman resumed his seat amongst a perfect storm of applause.

Mr. Busby named the health of the Staveley Coal and Iron Company (Cheers). He compared the Staveley of former years with the Staveley of the present day. Through the enterprise of Mr. Barrow it had increased and expanded to a densely populated parish. The best evidence they could have of the conduct of the gentlemen, was that, although there were thousands employed upon the works, if it was nearly twenty years since there had been any discontent amongst the workmen, whether in good times or bad times. (Cheers). In every calamity which occurred in the works, on matters of expense, or labour, or time, had been utterly subsidiary, the saving of life and everything that could be done has been done for the protection of the lives of the men. Mr. Busby concluded an able speech by noticing the castings and the others works which had been done, and he hoped the company would continue their labours for the good of the commonwealth. (Cheers).

The chairman in acknowledging the compliments said that he was not aware that the toast was upon the list. However, when the board next met, he should have pleasure in communicating the toast to them. (Applause).

Mr. Barrow, of Rose Hill, gave success to the coal and iron trade. (Cheers). Mr. Barrow had developed one of the most successful and best conducted iron-works in the country. He hoped for the sake of the benefit he could confirm upon the district -that they would continue to prosper. (Applause).

Mr. Fowler was called upon to respond. He referred to the advantages that had been derived by this country in the development of its coal and iron trades. Derbyshire was now making better iron than any other district. (Cheers). He hoped to see the day - and it would come at no distant period - when Derbyshire iron would be acknowledged as the best manufactured iron in the kingdom. (Cheers). Who had done so much single-handed as Mr. Barrow? (Renewed Cheers). With aid of science, wonderful powers of organisation, and untiring energy, Mr. Barrow had brought these works to a wonderful pitch of perfection. (Cheers). In doing so he had added to the wealth of the country, and had provided daily bread for thousands, and now he might look back with pride and pleasure upon what he had done. They all felt proud of him, and hoped that they might by united action, follow the example of Mr. Barrow, and enhance the value of the important trades he was called upon to respond.

Mr. Binns, of Clay Cross, was also called upon to respond. (Loud Cheers). He referred to the importance of the coal and iron trade, to the commerce of this country, and deprecated the

system of delegates going amongst the colliers to disturb that quiet calm and reposed happiness which now prevailed amongst the colliers of Derbyshire. There was no unpleasantness existing between master and man, but on the contrary, we saw at every means and every appliance brought forward to add to their comfort, recreation, and intellectual improvement which was going on throughout the whole of these districts, and he hoped it might continue. (Cheers). He sincerely and truly thought that throughout the whole of England there was less disagreement between masters and men than in Derbyshire, and looked with great satisfaction towards what Mr. Barrow had done. (Cheers). He regarded these public halls as medium whereby great happiness might be distributed to the working men> They had had a similar institution at Clay Cross for many years, and he could tell them that it had been the means of imparting more happiness, it had facilitated more pleasant and agreeable meetings, afforded more amusement and more pleasure than he had ever imagined would be afforded, and whenever they were erected he believed they would find similar results. They were not intended as Mechanics Institutes, but for the use of the literary and other entertainments for reasonable purpose, he was quite sure Mr. Barrow would give the use of the hall for such purposes. In Clay Cross, on Saturday evening, they had the hall filled with 400 or 500 people, to hear and entertainment taken from Mr. Dicken's "Pickwick Papers", the people were amusing themselves and enjoying themselves, and he did not see why they should not do so in Staveley. He had been invited to the opening of a similar hall at Eastwood that evening, built at the expense of Messrs. Barber, Walker and Co. In conclusion he believed that if such measures as those were employed to study the comfort of the working men, they need not care much for the delegates from Barnsley. (Loud Cheers).

The chairmen proposed the healths of the medical gentlemen, who were ready to render their assistance at Spitalwell, and thanked them for their kind offers. The health of Mr. Hale, was also coupled with the toast. (Cheers).

Mr. Hale responded, on behalf of the medical gentlemen. He never spent two nights and two days under greater anxiety, than he did at Spitalwell, and he acknowledged the kindness with which he had been received at Staveley, during his five years residence amongst them. He particularly wished to acknowledge the valuable assistance of Mr. Smith, and Mr. Bluett, surgeons, for the aid they were willing to extend to him at Spitalwell. (Cheers).

The Reverend B. Mandale, proposed in suitable terms, the healths of the managers, secretary, and agents of the Staveley Coal and Iron Company.

Mr. Gibson responded.

Song: "An Honest Working Man". Mr. Ward.

Mr. De Vine gave "the workmen of Staveley Works" dwelling with great force on the advantages which teetotalism would confer upon the working man.

Mr. Rangeley, proposed the vice-chairman, coupled with the health of Mr. Howard, who discharged the duties in his department not only with credit to himself, but with great advantages to his employers. (Cheers).

Mr. Howard in reply said: As one of your vice-chairman, for both my colleagues and myself, I thank you for the honour done us. For myself, I acknowledge with gratification the kind terms with which Mr. Barrow mentioned my services. I have served him to the extent of my ability for eight years, and have substantial reasons to know that my efforts have been approved of. At Staveley Works, during that time we have had, good the advantages of working a viable firm of business management - and despotism. With such encouragement and appreciation as we

agents have, to be less than good agents is inexcusable. Whatever good stuff a man has in him, Mr. Barrow's treatment must bring it out. (Cheers, and Laughter).

Mr. Gibson gave the health of the visitors coupled with the name of Mr. Smith.

Mr. Smith responded.

The next toast was "The Press" which were duly acknowledged.

Mr. Seymour said he had to propose the healths of the twelve men and boys who were confined in the Spitalwell Pit. (Cheers). He had doubt that the impressions which that dreary captivity had made, would be the turning point in their lives, and he had no doubt that every man and boy would feel that they were indebted with their lives to the exertions of Mr. Coke, himself, and all the men engaged in the rescue. He coupled with the toast the health of Mr. Belfit. (Loud Cheers). The twelve men and boys having been requested to stand, Mr. Belfit, who was overpowered with emotion, said that with the providence of God, and the great exertions of Mr. Coke, and Mr. Seymour, and others, their lives had been saved. On behalf of himself and those who suffered with him, he begged to thank them with all his heart. (Loud Cheering).

The last toast proposed by the chairman was "Our Sweethearts and Wives", which was responded to by Mr. J.B. White.

The chairman and the principal guests then left the hall accompanied by a volley of cheering. The general company soon after followed, and those friends who had come from Chesterfield were, through the kindness of Mr. Barrow, conveyed by special train, under the charge of Mr. Rice, the station-master at Chesterfield, who admirable arrangements were greatly appreciated by the guest. The company was safely landed at Chesterfield within twenty minutes of the last toast being given in the dining hall.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 2nd. April 1864.

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The Edmond's Main Explosion, and the Compensation to the Victims of the Sufferers.

By the explosion, which took place at the Edmond's Main Colliery, at Worsboro' Dale, near Barnsley, in December 1863, thirty four females were made widows. It was believed by the executive of the working miners association, that the sacrifice of life on that occasion resulted from causes in which, under the provision of Lord Campbell's Act, compensation might be obtained for the widows of the deceased. Accordingly, actions were entered with that intent, and they were to have come off at the York Assizes, intimation, however, has been given, on the part of the colliery proprietors, by Messrs. Baxter and Company, of London, solicitors, that the former are willing to settle the matter on a payment of £1,550. It was thought wise by the association to accept this sum, the committee, as they declared through their secretary in a private communication, having no desire to introduce anything vindictive into the proceedings; their object was simply to see that the principle of compensation admitted, and in this respect that object has not been accomplished. This is the first case, south of the Tweed, in which compensation has been obtained from colliery proprietors.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 16th. April 1864.

Page 2 Col. 2

Advert.

Wanted, a Competent Person to superintend the getting of Blackshale Coal and Ironstone. Apply to Mr. Rangeley, Unstone Ironworks.

April 12th. 1864.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 16th. April 1864.

Page 2 Col. 5

Accident at Hasland Colliery.

Yesterday (Friday) morning, the piston-rod of the engine at Hasland Colliery, which is used for drawing coals and pumping water broke, whilst the men were in the pit. They were drawn out by means of a windle, which was attached to the chair. The lives of the men were not at all jeopardised as there was very little water in the pit.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 16th. April 1864.

Page 2 Col. 5

The new Government Inspector.

We understand that Thomas Evans, Esq., of Cardiff, at present Inspector of Mines for the South Wales district, has been appointed successor to John Hedley, Esq., who has recently resigned the Inspectorship for this district.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 16th. April 1864.

Page 2 Col. 7 to Page 3 Col. 1

Burglary at Hasland.

William Bunting and John Flint, were each charged with breaking into a counting house at Hasland, on the 7th. instant, and stealing money, stamps, and other articles the property of Alfred Barnes, Esq. and another.

Henry Sterland said: I am Clerk to Mr. Barnes. I locked up the office about 6 o'clock and left in the place 10 shillings in penny pieces, 2 shillings in half-pences and 18 shillings in threepenny and fourpenny pieces. On Friday morning I went to the office about 8 o'clock, and found the money was gone.

William Farnsworth, engine tender, said: I went to work on Friday morning, and saw a man standing in the office door. I went forward to the engine-house and told another man named Johnson that I had seen a man standing in the office door. He accompanied me to the door, which we found closed, but not locked. I waited there whilst Johnson went and fetched a man named Trueman. He then went into the counting house, and could see no-one. The draws had been ransacked and the papers and things were on the floor. We then looked about the locomotive engine, and found no-one. Johnson and myself then went into a lower room, where we heard someone inside. We then went round the corner of the building, and saw a man on the outside steps leading to the upper chamber. The man we saw said something to those inside, a two men came out and the three ran away. We followed them, and after a tussle, we succeeded in capturing the prisoner Bunting.

Remanded to Wednesday.

The Burglary Charge.

William Bunting and John Flint, remanded from Monday, were again brought up, when the following additional evidence was given: -

Aaron Trueman: I am a carpenter in the employ of Messrs. Barnes. On Friday morning, the 8th. inst., about a quarter to one o'clock, a man named Johnson came to me and said Farnsworth wanted me at the counting house, as someone had broken in. I went down to the counting house, and afterwards with Farnsworth to the joiners shop. I saw three men run down the steps, and run across the fields. Farnsworth and I followed them across the fields. I got near to the prisoner Bunting, and I saw him throw away a piece of flannel (Produced) as he was running. He then turned round and threw a lump at me, and hit me on the breast. I struck him with a piece of iron, and we had a scuffle, and he slipped away from me. He ultimately secured by Farnsworth, and, with the assistance of myself and a man named Evans, he was conveyed to the lock-up at Chesterfield.

Superintendent Wheeldon, of the county police, deposed to searching the prisoner Bunting, and finding various monies and stamps upon him; and near Mr. Bromley's house, at Grassmoor, where the prisoner passed, he found two skeleton keys, which would open the door.

Bunting declined to say anything, and was committed for trial at the Sessions. The other prisoner was further remanded.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 16th. April 1864.

Page 3 Col. 4

The Miners Union.

Criminal Information against the Secretary.

At the Central Criminal Court, Monday, Richard Mitchell surrendered and pleaded guilty to an indictment charging him with publishing a false and malicious libel, concerning John Booth Platts. Mr. Giffard and Mr. Poland appeared for the prosecutor; Mr. Sleigh and Mr. F.H. Lewis were counsel for the defendant. Mr. Giffard said that the prosecutor in this case was employed in a responsible capacity at the Wharncliffe Colliery, at Barnsley, and the offense imputed to the defendant, who was secretary to the Miner's Union, was that he caused to be inserted in a newspaper in London, called the Miner and Workmen's Advocate, a letter containing charges of a most serious character against the prosecutor. In that letter he had not only charged the prosecutor with various acts of misconduct in reference to the miners who were under his charge, but he had actually by cruelty caused the death of one of the boys employed in the mine. The newspaper in question had a very considerable circulation in the mining districts, and the consequence of the letter in question appearing in it was, that a very strong feeling was raised among the miners, and the prosecutor was hooted and insulted whenever he made an appearance, and was placed in considerable danger. The defendant had, however, fully retracted the statement he had made, and admitted that, having made enquiry, he was fully satisfied that there was not the slightest foundation for the charges he had brought against the prosecutor. Under these circumstances he trusted that the court would sanction the course that was proposed to be adopted by him, of not asking for any punishment, but that the prisoner should be merely called upon to enter into sureties to appear and receive the judgement of the court if he should be called upon to do so. Mr. Sleigh, on the part of the defendant, expressed his regret in having written the letter in question, and said that he (the defendant) was originally a miner, to whom deep interest in the welfare of the persons employed in that capacity, and he had been lead away by his enthusiasm, under the belief that wrong had been done, to make the statements that were now complained of. He was now, however, quite satisfied that there was not the slightest foundation for the charges that he had made against the prosecutor, and he expressed his sorrow for having published them, and threw himself entirely upon the mercy of the Court. The Recorder said that he entertained some doubt as to whether he ought to accede to the course proposed by Mr. Giffard, the Court felt that the offense of publishing serious charges of this description, for which there was no foundation, for which the party accused was entirely innocent, were a very grave one. The consequences that might have resulted from the publication of such charges among a large mining population might have been of a very serious character, and possibly have lead to public disturbances. He had, however, apologised in a manner that was satisfactory to the prosecutor for the act he had committed, and as there did not appear to be any ground for supposing that he was aware that the charges were false at the time he made them, the Court would consent to his being discharged upon his entry into a recognisance to appear and receive judgement if he should be called upon to do so; but he must understand that if he misconducted himself he would certainly be called upon to receive sentence.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 23rd. April 1864.

Page 2 Col. 6

Accident at Eckington.

On Monday morning, an accident which it is feared will terminate fatally, occurred at the gin-pit belonging to Joseph Wells, Esq., at Eckington, to a young man named George Fidler, aged 18, moulder. He appears to have gone to the pit with the intention of going down, when the banksman, was engaged with a corve of coal just landed, he sprang on the rope and descended, and when about the middle of the shaft, which is about forty yards in depth, he appears to have slipped and become unable to stop himself. He descended with great violence upon the iron bows to which the corves are attached at the bottom of the shaft. He was taken up and conveyed home, where he now lies in a most precarious condition, his medical attendant giving no hopes for his recovery.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 23rd. April 1864.

Page 2 Col. 7

A Returned Convict.

John Flint, who was last week charged with being concerned in the burglary at Hasland, was again brought up. No additional evidence being forthcoming, he was discharged.

Prisoner: I have not committed myself, or there would have been evidence.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 23rd. April 1864.

Page 3 Col. 6

Sudden Death at Coal Aston.

An awfully sudden death took place on Wednesday, as Messrs. Addy and Ward's colliery. A youth 17 years of age, named Thomas Vickers, son of John Vickers, coke-burner, living at Coal Aston, left home in his usual health to go to his work at the above colliery, on Wednesday morning. At about 11 o'clock in the fore-noon, deceased, who assisted on the pit-bank, whilst speaking to one of the workmen about a wagon being damaged, fell to the ground, and expired instantly. Disease of the heart is supposed to be the cause of death.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 30th. April 1864.

Page 2 Col. 4

Advert - The Devonshire Silkstone Coal Company Limited.

Capital £30,000 in 3,000 shares of £10 each.

Incorporated under the Companies Act 1862.

£1 per share to be paid on application, and £1 on allotment.

Directors.

George Ashworth, Esq., Heywood, Cotton Spinner.

Joseph Chattwood, Esq., Bury, Engineer.

John Dickson, Esq., Bradford, Engineer.

William Holland, Esq, Heywood Hall, Heywood, Gentleman.

Richard Lord, Esq., Union Square, Bury, Draper.

James Park, Esq., Bury, Ironfounder.

Mark Whitehead, Esq., Heywood, Gentleman.

Bankers: -

The Manchester and County Banking Company, Limited, York Street, Manchester; and at Bacup, Bolton, Blackburn, and Preston.

Solicitors: -

Messrs. T.A. and J. Grundy and Co., 104, King Street, Manchester.

Auditors: -

Messrs. FitzGerald and Taylor, 63, King Street, Manchester.

Manager: -

Mr. Richard Pease, Darfield, near Barnsley.

Secretary: -

Mr. J. Blomeley, 45, Exchange Arcade, Manchester.

Prospectus.

This Company is formed for the purpose of winning and working an extensive field of Blackshale or Silkstone seam coal upwards of 800 acres in extent, situated about three miles north of Chesterfield, in the County of Derby, and leased from the Dunston and Barlow Iron Company, for a term of 34 years from the 1st. of January, 1864, at £200 per acre, surface measure.

The existence of the coal and the cheap rate at which it can be raised, as proved by the workings of the upper mines on the estate, entirely remove this undertaking from any risk of speculation, and thus affords a favourable opportunity for moderate capitalists to invest in one of the most profitable and safe mines in the kingdom.

The Midland Railway Company's new branch line from Sheffield will pass through the estate, besides which a branch line already runs to the Midland Railway; and it is proposed to sink the shafts so near to the railways as will conveniently afford sidings to the same.

Prospectus, containing full reports on the undertaking affords full application for shares may be had from the Bankers, Auditors or Secretary.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 30th. April 1864.

Page 3 Col. 1

Derbyshire Mining.

There is no probability of any reduction being felt in the demand for all descriptions of manufactured iron. From a tour through the principal iron districts we are enabled to state that a most satisfactory trade will no doubt be done. Demand for iron all over the counties of Yorkshire and Lancashire is exceedingly good and most of the larger houses have more contracts in hand than they can conveniently execute within the given space of time. There is also greater activity prevailing in the enquiry for railway ironwork. Demand for rails for the existing lines is very considerable, and during the week several orders of considerable amount have been given out for the continent. There have been daily speculative purchases made, and the ??????? bids fair to be active for some time. The coal trade in Derbyshire and Lancashire is exceedingly brisk, but the lock-out of South Yorkshire colliers, which is still existing has almost completely paralysed the trade, and the London merchants have now to substitute coals from other districts for those from South Yorkshire. The greatest inconvenience is being felt in London, and parties that have been accustomed to burn part of that particular description of Yorkshire coal, Silkstone, for instance, are now ?????????????????????? owing to the lock-out there is no further supply.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 30th. April 1864.

Page 3 Col. 2

Inquests.

Fatal Accident at Staveley.

An inquest was held at Staveley on Monday, on the body of a young man named William Hawkins, who was killed by a fall of roof in the Fairwell Pit, on Saturday last. The following evidence was given: - Jas. Hawkins of Wharnccliffe Silkstone, near Barnsley, coal miner, said: The body viewed by the jury is my late brother, William Hawkins, of Speedwell Terrace, No. 2, Staveley, coal-miner, who died on the 23rd. inst. aged 19 years. William Bamford, of Low-Gate, coal-miner, deposed: On Saturday morning, I was in the New Hollingwood, or Fairwell Pit, stall no. 30. Deceased and I only were working together. I was stallman. At half past six, I was about three yards from deceased. He was filling a tub, and I was getting stuff for him. A clod, weighing 14 or 15 hundredweight, fell onto deceased, and killed him on the spot. It dropped about half a yard from the face of the coal. It was not propped; I thought it safe without. I sounded the roof several times that morning, and it appeared solid. It is a coal roof. The clod lies between the coal we get and the roof. William Heppplewhite is night deputy at the pit. He had been in the stall on Friday night. He always puts his name on the shovel in the stall to let us know he has been there, and that all is safe. I don't think there was any danger. It was deceased's first morning. He got to me first about half past six. I believe he had been used to working in coal-pits. I don't know that anyone was to blame. The clod did not give notice before it came down. Deceased had not been working in the pit above seven minutes before it fell. It was about seventeen inches thick. William Heppplewhite, of Speedwell Terrace, Staveley: I am night overman at the New Hollingwood Pit. I went through the stall at midnight. I sounded the roof, and found it all right. I made a mark on the shovel, just within the stall, to let the men know that all was right. There was no occasion for the roof to be propped. It seemed sound and good. I went through the stall again on Sunday night, and found from half a yard to two feet of earth, had fallen, weighing perhaps half a ton. It had broken off from the coal. The Jury returned a verdict of "Accidental Death".

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 30th. April 1864.

Page 3 Col. 5

Concealed on Premises.

A man named William Pearson, charged by Stephen Sayer with being concealed on premises at Bridge Inn Colliery was committed as a rogue and vagabond for 21 days.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 30th. April 1864.

Page 3 Col. 6

No Headline.

The extensive ironworks of Messrs. Samuel Beale and Company, known as the Parkgate Ironworks, Rotherham, have just been sold, through Messrs. Chadwick, Adamson and Company, of London and Manchester, to a joint stock company, having a capital of £300,000. Through the same firm the Patent Nut and Bolt Company has been formed, with a capital of £200,000, for the purchase of the well known works of Messrs. Watkins and Keen, Birmingham.