

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 6th. Jan. 1866.

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Workmen's Dinner.

On Monday last the Engine Drivers, Firemen, Guards and Pointsmen etc. belonging to the Staveley Coal and Iron Co. partook of their annual dinner at Mr. Todd's, the Barrow Hill Hotel. The catering was of first class quality. The chair was taken by Mr. Jarrett. Some excellent songs, recitations etc. were given by Messrs. Jarrett, Leek and Brailsford. The company separated at an early hour and so by affording an reasonable time for repose enabled all to be in their posts the following morning.

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Staveley - Assault in a Pit.

Michael Wilson summoned Thomas Hughes for an assault at Staveley on the 21st. of December. Defendant did not appear. Wilson stated that he was at work in the Old Hollingwood Pit last Thursday but one and asked defendant to give him his, Wilson's, shovel. Defendant refused to give it up and knocked him down and beat him whilst on the ground. He repeated the assault shortly afterwards saying that he might as well be hung for a sheep as a lamb. Fined 5/0d and costs £1-0-6d. or 21 day hard labour.

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Explosion of Firedamp - Fearful Loss of Life.

At eight o'clock on Wednesday morning an explosion of firedamp took place at Upper Gethin Colliery near Merthyr Tydfil. Thirty dead bodies were brought out of the pit. Two have died since and twenty five have sustained serious injuries. The cause of the explosion is unknown. The proprietor of the pit is Mr. Crawshaw(y) and the manager is Mr. Moody. Great excitement prevails in the district.

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Whittington - Stealing Coal.

William Hague, a respectable looking collier who is said to be possessed of some property, was charged with stealing two stones of coal, value 2d., the property of the Sheepbridge Coal and Iron Co. at Whittington on the 29th. of December. Defendant said that he had certainly picked up a piece of coal as he was going home but he had no intention of stealing. John Wilcox, gamekeeper to Mr. Fowler, said that Mr. Fowler had good information that coal was taken to a great extent from the pit-bank at Glasshouse Common. Witness was ordered to watch the spot. On the 29th. of December at about 5 a.m. in company with another man he concealed himself on the premises. At about 20 minutes past six he saw the defendant, who works for the West Staveley Company, come off the high road and come up the gangway to the pit-bank. He picked up a piece of coal and was leaving the place by another gate when witness stopped him. Defendant said that he had no coal at home and he had taken that lump and begged witness that he would not report him. In defense Hague said he was going home his nearest way when he hit his foot against a lump of coal. Without thinking he picked it up and put it under his arm. Wilcox then came out. He did not say he had no coal as he had plenty of coal allowed by the Company and had no occasion to steal any. He appealed to his earlier character and urged upon the Bench that he had no intention of stealing. Wilcox said that defendant came 50 yards out of his way home and called a man named Harrison who corroborated his statement's of defendant's proceedings and said that defendant went 58 yards out of his way to fetch the coal. Defendant said that he was not likely to go there to steal as 200 people passed by every morning. Mr. Maynard said that the Bench could not believe him. Prisoner elected to be summarily dealt with and was committed to Derby for fourteen days hard labour. The sentence seemed to overwhelm prisoner and his friends.

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Breach of Colliery Rules.

George Rodgers, collier, of Staveley, was brought up on a warrant charged by Richard Hepplethwaite, agent to the Staveley Coal and Iron Co., with absenting himself from his work without permission. Prisoner denied the charge. Mr. Busby appeared on behalf of the company. The complainant said that he was the underviewer of Seymour Pit and prisoner was a collier employed there who had absented himself for a fortnight without giving any reason for doing so. On Saturday last he had declared that he would not return to his work. Prisoner, in defense, said that he had been ill and having had great pain in his side has two blisters applied to that part, marks from which were still to be seen. He did not go the "field" doctor. Mr. Maynard (to complainant) - "I suppose you will have him back again if he returns to his work and pays expenses". Mr. Busby: "This is a case in which I am instructed to press for a committal". Committed to 14 days hard labour.

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Advertisement - Sales by Auction by Mr. Siddall.

Valuable Freehold Land and Minerals in Unstone, Parish of Dronfield.

To be sold by Auction by Mr. George Siddall at the Swan Inn, in Dronfield, in the County of Derby.

On Wednesday the 7th. day of February, 1866, at 3 o'clock in the afternoon, in the following or such other lot or lots as may be agreed upon at the time of sale, subject to conditions to be then produced.

Lot 1.

All that dwelling house with the farm buildings, garden, stackyard and appurtenances, thereto adjoining situated at or near Hundow, in the township of Unstone and the parish of Dronfield, in the county of Derby, containing including the site of the buildings 1 rood or thereabouts now in the occupation of William Wright.

Also those several closes, pieces or parcels of land adjoining or lying near to the said dwelling house and building occupied therewith, called by several names and containing the quantities following, that is to say;

	A	R	P
The Upper Unda Close otherwise Croft	2	2	38
The Upper Unda Close otherwise Pump Field	2	3	31
The Middle Unda Close otherwise Middle Field	2	1	26
The Middle Unda Close otherwise Wall Field	2	1	24
The Nether Unda Close	3	3	3
In Total	15	1	9

This lot contains the valuable beds of coal and ironstone and situated in the immediate vicinity of the proposed Chesterfield and Sheffield Railway. The property is also Tithe free.

Lot 2.

All that piece of land as now staked out, situated in Hundow aforesaid containing 2813 square yards or thereabouts.

Lot 3.

All that other piece of land adjoining Lot 2 and containing 1331 square yards or thereabouts.

Lot 4.

The annual rent charge in lieu of Tithes amounting to the sum of £1-12-0d. issuing and payable out of or in respect of lands and hereditaments situated at Apperknowle in the township of Unstone aforesaid, now in the occupation of Samuel Swift and belonging to Mr. Robert Sykes Ward.

The tenant, Mr. William Wright, will show the property, and for further particulars and to see a plan of the Lots, apply to the auctioneer at Dronfield or to Mr. Whall, solicitor, at Chesterfield.

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Dinner to Workmen.

On Saturday the 6th. instant, the workmen of Messrs. W. Booker and Company, Green-Lane Colliery, Dronfield, partook of an excellent supper provided at the house of Mr. John Ekin, the Bridge Inn, Dronfield. After the cloth had been drawn Mr. T. Hall was called to the chair and Wm. Booker (one of the workmen) to the vice-chair. The chairman said that he had great pleasure in meeting with them that evening and looking back on the past year he felt that they each and all great cause for thankfulness for during the past year they had not had one accident of a serious nature, not so much as a broken bone. To God be all the praise who had so mercifully preserved them and enabled them to meet again at the commencement of another new year. After these remarks the health of the present representative of the firm was proposed and very cheerfully responded to. Also the health of Mr. James Manager, the manager of the Green-Lane and Woodhouse collieries was given and very warmly responded to. Several other toasts were drunk and the meeting broke up.

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Clay Cross Pit Accident.

Yesterday (Friday) an inquest was held at the George and Dragon Inn, Clay Cross, on the body of William Cooper, a miner, aged 47, who was killed in the No. 2 Pit on Wednesday last. Deceased, though warned of his danger, persisted in working at some loose bind which came down and crushed him under it's weight. A verdict of "Accidental Death" was returned.