

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 3rd. November 1866.

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Meeting of Miners at Chesterfield.

A meeting of miners was held in the Corn Exchange, Chesterfield, on Saturday afternoon last. The public being invited and many persons who had been brought to the town by business at the Market attended. The Exchange was crowded. The meeting was opened by singing a hymn. Mr. Lee, of Staveley, was called to the chair.

The chairman said that he hoped that all would make themselves as comfortable as possible. They had just been singing

"He made them all, then freedom gave;
He made the man, - Man made the slave."

Very well then, if God made everyone free, it was very wrong for anyone else to try to make slaves of them. Their masters had done so to the a very great extent, and for years they had been groaning and sighing and struggling and fighting for Liberty, but they had been struggling and fighting and groaning in an isolated position. - (Hear). Now as long as they continued to ride in that train - to sail in that ship - or, to walk on that road they would never be free. The way to be free was to knock off their manacles, to work together, combine, unite, then they might depend upon it that the day of Jubilee would not be far distant. - (Cheers). They had begun the plan by uniting together, by struggling for freedom and their rights, and because they had done so there was really such a "splutter" about in that we scarcely know what to think about it. (Cheers).

Mr. W. Brown, said: I have been rather mute today whilst looking over the different papers, about calling people fat. Well, I cannot help being fat, and I dare say some of you before me cannot help being lean. - (Hear). Some of you are lean through going down the pit at 5 o'clock in the morning and not returning till 7 o'clock in the evening. Some people will say "Don't exaggerate". No, I would not, but what I have stated I have seen. Myself and Mr. Lee went to hold a meeting at Bolsover last night, and we had fixed to hold it at 7 o'clock, but the people said that they could not get to it before 8, as they had not finished work soon enough to do so. A colliery proprietor at Clay Cross says that he does not know that colliers have had anything to complain about during the last twenty-five years. Well, I have seen little boys leaving those collieries, that have scarcely been able to get one leg before the other, and it could not have been far short of seven in the evening. These have been grievances to complain off, and they cannot complain. (Hear, hear). He further says they (the proprietors) have been trying to improve the working class for many years and they should like to see them raised to a higher level, and then in the next breath - I don't know whether he is a teetotaller or not - if the Mechanics Institute will not suit it will make the best beer-house in Clay Cross. Will any more beer-houses in Clay Cross tend to improve the working classes? (No, no). Would to God that every beer-house in Chesterfield was made into churches and chapels. (Hear, hear). If you will become sober and thinking men, and take care of your money, when you have it, all the oppressors in the world will not dare to put a rod on your backs - (Hear, hear). It is a grievance where boys get up at half past four in the morning, and don't return until seven, and when he tries to get something to eat, the basin falls out of his hands upon the floor. I say to the mothers, "Is that true?" - (Female voices: It is true). The gentleman further says "It is language such as was never used before is the language of the stranger". It is time it was used. I have plenty of schoolmasters here, and I will ask them if ever they learned at college that it took thirty

hundredweight to make a ton. These things exist in Derbyshire, and there they say there is no reason for complaining. I will tell you that go by what is called the "Irish trait", that will you get so much money as to be unable to get by the hotel at the bottom of the lane, I will not give a deal for you. I never earned more in my life than I was able to carry home; but we got paid once a week, and that is what all miners ought to have - (Hear, Hear). If the miner had his wages every week he would work more regularly, he would not keep Saint Monday so much. I understand that several of the masters have said that they will meet a deputation if you will send me home. Well, I am going home tonight, and if they will let you work eight hours a day, and get twenty hundredweights to the ton, then send me a letter, and I will stop at home. I have no ill-feeling, but I want those pale faces to be fresher, and their crooked backs I want to see straighter - (Hear, hear). How many times did they hear the preacher say in the Primitive Methodist Chapel, "Come John, waken up" but if he had been where John had been all the week, he would be asleep too - (Hear, hear). The speaker then concluded by exhorting the audience to be as quiet as possible for the next speaker.

John Holmes, Esq., on rising was very warmly cheered. He said: In coming here, I thought seriously of the responsibility. In the first place, I thought seriously of what I should say to you, because it is an important thing in the district where there has been peace and order, to bring disorder and contention. Our Great Master was a hater of wrong, and a proclaimer of right. I am here to make you discontented in order to bring about a great peace. For a few moments I wish to appeal to employers only. Since the downfall of the Roman Empire, the first efforts to gain order and wealth were through the medium of trades unions or trades guilds, and by this means they flourished up to about five hundred years ago, and when trades guilds broke down the every first trades union recorded was that of the coal masters, established in 1587; the coal masters of Newcastle entered into combination to raise the price of coals from five shillings to nine shillings per cauldron. The colliers had no union and they were great slaves, at least in Newcastle and Scotland until 1784. When men were slaves the masters paid them what they liked, but when liberty dawned then the collier could sell his labour. From 1764 to this day the coal and iron masters always had a union. It was not until 1824 that an Act was passed enabling working men to combine and have a union. A Parliamentary Committee set up on this very question and it was felt to be unfair that masters should have unions without the men had a union also - (Hear, hear). Down to 1834 laws of conspiracy were not done away with as 6 Dorsetshire labourers were transported because they had a union and were found guilty of conspiracy. Adam Smith, the great economist, said that "masters always raise the price of their own commodities, and try to keep down the price of the labour". It is a fact that the masters have a union? (Yes, yes) Well then, what is this union for? - For the purpose of trade regulation, as it is for the advantage of trade - If it was required to regulate capital, it might be equally desirable to regulate labour. Now, before the factories ten hours bill was passed, the hours of labour were fourteen to sixteen hours per day, and the result of this poor working was killing the people, and constantly producing gluts in the market ?????????? supplies the manufactured article, when any attempt was made to alter this state of things, the masters said we cannot help it; if one law reduces the hours of labour another won't, so that Parliament made certain regulations which reduced the times of working, then up rose the price of labour. That was occasioned by the rules of demand, if there is a demand the price of labour will advance, and if there be little demand, the labour market will fall. It has proved most beneficial. I will now speak to the workmen. There has been no regulation of the labour market - you have worked ten, twelve, or fourteen hours a day without benefiting yourselves. The lives of the miners are shorter than any other class in the community; so you see your overwork has damaged labour in the length of life, and the master will know, they are killing the "goose" (Labour) which lays the golden eggs, instead of keeping it alive. The objects of the miners union are reasonable. It is this - Eight hours labour, and if any surgeon of eminence will get up and say it is good for the miner to work longer, then I will consider the question in another light. It was the same with those who employ horses - they had found it cheaper to work them six than seven days, and I am certain

that it will be found cheaper to work the miner eight hours, instead of longer. You want for a fair days work; you want a fair measure. That is reasonable. The table says twenty hundredweights to the ton, but if the masters have made twenty-eight hundredweight it is an injustice. Some masters say, "I'll give twenty hundredweights if the others do". Well, it becomes an important thing for the miners to help it. ????? ask you to labour faithfully and fair for just and honest wages. When the men asked for a clause in the Combination Acts the masters all opposed it; but it was passed ultimately. By the checkweighmen the men got better wages, because they got better weight. You have a right to a just and honest weight and no more. I should think it unjust if you wanted your master to pay you for twentyeight hundredweights if you only got twenty hundredweights, and by the same reason it is unjust for the masters to only pay you for twenty hundredweight when you get twentyeight hundredweight. The masters say, and properly to, the produce of labour is the wages made, and is was important now to point out that there is an important relationship between the wages fund and the number to be paid. If you have only two hundred pounds, and only one hundred persons for wages, they may have two pounds each. From 1801 to 1861, the population of England has increased 121 percent, so that you see the income tax was 600 percent, so you see the wages fund has increased faster than the population. The income from coal and iron has increased from 1815 to 1860 by 800 percent, that only whilst the population increased 100 percent. These figures were from the last government returns, so you may see there is plenty of wage fund. Now masters, I have to ask, "Has labour got it?". If the wages fund has increased 500 percent above the population, have the wages been distributed in the same ratio? Has the £1 man got £4 or £5 now? No!. Now, masters, if the men come to us and say we want more wages, we cannot say we have not got it, for it is there. The wealth has not been divided; but it has gradually being going to fewer hands. We, who pay the Income Tax, found the ??????? has lengthened, but the weekly wage earners life is diminishing. The public say that they get so much wages that they drink them away; and although he did not want to say a word in favour of drinking, he would ask that the masters were not guilty of the same thing. I say to you men, as long as you choose to work long hours you will have low wages, and your lives will be diminished - (Hear). Masters need not be afraid if labour got a better share, for more trade will come to them, and they will get more wealth. I have proved to you that unions existed since civilisation began to work. Masters have always had unions. What the men want is reasonable - a fair days wages for a fair days work, and honest weight and measure. If you go one by one, will you get it? - (No, no). Justice would demand it, even one by one, but you would not get it. To go singly you would be like a stick that would be easily broken across a man's knee; but if you go united, you will be like a bundle of sticks not easily broken. - (Hear, hear). Now, go and speak civilly to your masters; demand what is only reasonable and right; don't back-bite or brow-beat, but conduct yourselves as working men ought to do towards the employers, and depend up it that public sympathy will be extended towards you. - (Hear). Mr. Lloyd, the minister, had said "Put all trade unions under the iron heel of the law, ??????????? the finest Rinderpest that ever infected society." Was that moral suasion?. No, he hoped Mr. Lloyd would live to repent of such an utterance, but only to repent of it by force of arguments, and not by the bullet with which he had been threatened. - (Hear). The speaker continued further to speak on the necessity of combining to gain that to which they were fairly entitled. He hoped in the end that they would; but they must not expect to gain it would suffering and struggling. Again, they must conduct themselves manfully, and be peaceable; and although it might be gloomy for them for a time, yet the sun would ultimately shine, and they would get their right. (Loud cheering by the remarks of the speaker).

Mr. Brown said they were trying to raise themselves socially and practically. a whole host of scribblers were writing to the paper trying to pour contempt upon his head, but they might as well pour water upon a duck's back. They said he was an agent of South Yorkshire, but if he was he should not deny it, but he was an agent for West Yorkshire and had been ever since he had commenced being a miner's agent. He then said that South Yorkshire and West Yorkshire would give them aid if they should require it, but he thought that when the report of those proceedings

went forth to the world the coalowners of Derbyshire would see a little of the roles they were suffering and endeavour to put them right. - (Hear). He wished to say to his friends in Chesterfield that William Brown wanted no strike. Mr. Holmes knew that he never advocated a strike, and respectable coal owners in Yorkshire did not think it was beneath them to send for the demagogue that now addressed them, he could also tell them that they had settled every grievance without a strike or lock-out - (Cheers). The coalmasters said they would not meet him - (Mr. Brown). He wished them to do their own work. He could trust his friend Lee to go as a deputation. He also wished the men of Chesterfield to raise their voices against tyranny, oppression, to band themselves together to unit, to work in unison, one with another, and if their cause was just they would get their rights. - (Cheers).

Votes of Thanks were accorded to the Chairman and the speakers, and after pronouncing the Benediction the meeting separated.

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Letter - The Miners Union at Staveley.

Sir,

I read your reports of meetings at Staveley and Whittington, also the numerous letters published in the "Derbyshire Times" bearing upon this subject, and shall feel obliged if you will grant space in your next edition for the remarks I shall make.

About a couple of months since, a man, - a perfect stranger in these parts - unacquainted with the different collieries and the customs and operations there, and whose very existence was unknown to nearly all the Derbyshire miners, was suddenly heralded amongst us amid a great flourish of trumpets, and introduced in large letters as a benefactor of masters and men. It has been asked, "Who is he?". His answer was, "I am William Brown, of Hunslet".

I will now endeavour, as briefly as possible, to lay before your readers a sketch of what is being attempted by the amiable individual who has so kindly volunteered his services to aid the masters in the management of their workmen. In the first place, he immediately assumes the reins of government, and loudly proclaims a general holiday for September the 3rd., at which he makes known to the men the terrible grievances by which he says they are oppressed. On Monday, October the 5th., he gives another holiday to the men of Clay Cross, and again, on the following Monday, the Staveley men are favoured in a like manner losing their days wages, defying the authority of their employers. I ask you - can this state of things be allowed to continue? Can the coalowners, who expended such a vast amount of capital to the development of their property, and who offer regular work and good wages to the men in their employ, be expected quietly to submit to it? Are they not justified in resisting the encroachment of this imposter, in making a determined stand for the maintenance of discipline amongst their workmen?

At the meeting which was held on October the 22nd. at Staveley, Mr. Brown, after giving vent to his displeasure at the conduct of the Staveley Company's manager, in refusing to meet a deputation of men who are under notice from the Company, and whose time had nearly expired, indulged in expressing his willingness to take fifteen men to meet the Company's agents, for the purpose of arranging matters between them; what a laudable character this Brown must be! Does it not seem a pity that the honour he intended to confer should be quietly rejected? What a ??????? it is for the Staveley Company to meet this counterfeit, who preaches that they are robbing their men of 13 cwt out of every 33 cwt! This, and the other alleged grievances, were never whispered until 7-6d. per day plus perquisites bribed this oracle and his poisonous tongue, to bully the men of Derbyshire.

The meeting which was held at the Baptist Chapel, at Whittington, on October the 24th., Mr. Alderman Wainwright, (who, in such a creditable manner, conducted the cases on behalf of the workmen in the County Court, on the following day), after explaining to his hearers that "Magnum est Veritas" means "Great in Truth", endeavoured to impress upon them the truth must prevail; and, of course, I thoroughly agree with him in that; with what conscience his clients follow this exhortation is best known to those who positively swore they had never signed cottage agreements; but, as Mr. Wainwright says, Truth prevailed.

The meeting was also addressed by Mr. Joseph Lee, who stated that the masters had given notice to the best men of Staveley. I would ask, - Is Mr. Lee one of Staveley's best men? This prophetic orator further reports "The Union is rolling on, and would pick up every man that is not in it". I agree that "The Union is rolling on", but as it rolls it carries misery and despair where happiness used to reign; it still rolls tumbling the people out of their comfortable houses, and will also continue to roll until the bandages are lifted from the eyes of the few, until they are free from the manacles of the stranger, and the imposter will be seen through the full colours of his deception and the delusion will pass.

I observed, in last paper, a letter from "Joseph Low" stating that, since the union started in South Yorkshire, wages have increased 20 percent or more. Now I think the letter of a "friend at the Staveley collier" sufficiently meets this case; but, as a further contradiction, I may add that John Normansell, in his evidence before the Select Committee on Miners, on the 23rd. April last, in answer to Mr. Wood's question, "Has there been any increase in the rate of wages in the South Yorkshire coalfield since 1858?" said, "I don't know that there has been any general advance. Latterly, within the last few months, we have had an advance of five percent throughout the district, or nearly so, but I don't know of any other general advance".

"A Make-Shift Miner" boasts that the union pays 8-6d. per week incase of accident, and the company's field club only allows 5-0d. per week. Now I am told that the subscription to the latter is 3d. per week and the former 6d. per week, setting aside the numerous levies, which Normansell says many times amount to 1-0d. per week. Referring to the rules of the Miners Association, I find by number 22 the accident relief is 8-0d. (Not 8-6d.) per week, and that only so long as the funds can allow it, when a levy may be made or the pay stopped. Again, rule 24 says the men must pay the regular levy out of that allowance. As "A Make-Shift Miner" suggests that "Old Standard" should get the names of some who earn 5-0d. to 10-0d per day, he surely cannot object to name some of them who are now working 13 or 14 hours per day and not getting 4-0d. per day.

I will now conclude my remarks, by asking William Brown, of Hunslet, a few plain questions; -

First - Are the colliery owners actually swindling their men by cheating them in their weight?

Second - At those pits where the checkweighmen are not stationed, have the Staveley Company refused to allow them?

Third - Did not Brown promise them wooden huts to live in when they were put out of their houses?

Fourth - Did he not say the Yorkshire union would support them if they were true to the cause?

Fifth - Has not Normansell since said that they must depend a great deal upon themselves, and then they will not be disappointed?

Sixth - Does Brown contribute to the union, and will he share his 7-6d. per day with them in their distress, and also the profits he derives from selling books at the various meetings, as he advised them to do with their loaves?

Seventh - Did he not first say they would have eight hours and no less, and now he advises ten hours?

Eighth - How is it that William Moss was promised support from the union, but after losing five weeks work could not obtain from them a penny?

I only desire from Mr. Brown a plain and simple answer to the above, without beating about the bush and avoiding an explanation; and the miners will do wisely to resist upon it, and consider well the results.

I am, Sir, Yours obediently,

"Monitor"

Staveley, Oct. 21st., 1866.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 3rd. November 1866.

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Letter - The Miners Union at Staveley.

Sir,

I would now by your permission answer a few points referred to by a correspondent to your valuable paper of last Saturday, signing himself "A Make-Shift Miner", in reply to mine of the 20th. inst. There can be but one opinion about the man and his letter being a make-shift altogether. He accuses me of knowing everybodys business and gains, yet, at the close of his most wonderful letter he wanders all over the country, and is as wise as ever when he has done, but for myself, I am content with observations made in my own parish where all can testify to the truth of the remarks and be satisfied. I am not surprised that your correspondent should touch on this portion of my remarks, for if I mistake not, he has not fared so sumptuously as could wish, being only a "Make-Shift Man", and he is of that class referred to in my letter, (viz: of no ability) and verifies my remarks in that respect. He begs my pardon, I can easily imagine, that what little conscience he has accuses him of the injury he is doing to miners in general by even allowing his ???????? to appear in print. Referring to Brown and company, I do not consider them capable of defending their own cause, for if you trace their language from the commencement of the agitation, you will find different and contradictory statements, and at no meeting do they keep to truth. At Chesterfield, on Saturday last, Mr. Brown said "I was no collier", but I could convince him otherwise was he to work aside me for a day in the pit, but he knows better than that. He thinks that the collier cannot write a letter, in fact his whole speech is of such a character as though it were addressing a lot of donkeys rather than men, and as such it leads or drives them along, yet if the colliers would give proper attention to education, their intellect is as good as any class of society. What is the reason they cannot see the aim of this wily enthusiast? Surely he has other things in view than their advancement, it appears: his own.

Mr. Lee is also getting to that age when work may begin to tell on his constitution, and has done a very wise thing for himself in taking his present post, and I should think better of him as a brother collier if he would be more charitable in his language and adhere to the truth. Cause is nothing if truth will not prevail.

Again, "Make-Shift" appears to have tried on the dodge with Hephlethwaite and company, and, met with no success, and consequently denounced his brethren who have met with better luck - this is not honourable. Referring to a passage where I begrudge the tradesman of Staveley. Your correspondent in analyzing my letter has mistaken the drift altogether and has substituted his own ideas and feelings on this point of the subject. I am only too glad to see the flourishing condition of Staveley, but I am afraid that if every collier was the same stamp as Mr. Make-Shift, the tradesmen would have more bad debts than at present. It is not generally understood that the working men are to stand still and wait until better times come and rather than they should endeavour my all fair and honourable means to advance their own position in society, which no doubt unions on free and sound principles would accomplish, but how are they carried out? Right is of no part of their law. "Justice" between man and master is not considered at all, yet they are sanguine of success. Has there been a year since unions were formed in South Yorkshire without a strike? Then how long does it take a miner to get into the same position as he was before the strike? This requires consideration - An increase of subscription in the union is requisite after even a temporary stoppage - Delegates want paying whether they are at work or no. Your correspondent refers to the differences of pay between the union and the Staveley Works Club, but omits the differences in the subscriptions. No doubt he will not fail to

take advantage of the union in this respect and receive his own as well as his neighbours subscription, what is to be attributed to such men as him, that our own club is unable to pay no more to sick members than it now does. I will give the lie to the statement that "Make-Shift" has known men who have worked twelve or thirteen hours per day. All colliers know better, the pit only commences at six in the morning and leaves off at six in the evening which is only twelve hours, out of which must be take the time requisite for the man to get to and from his work, saying nothing of stoppages. Can this be correct? Your correspondent feels such may make long days, that is not to be wondered at when you know the standard of ability of the men.

Referring to the statement that he asked a man about the weight etc., it further proves that "Make-Shift" was enquiring into other mens business, and the answer was not so very favourable after all, and no comparison with the earning of a good collier who does not work even ten hours per day.

Mr "Make-Shift" has fallen into the same error as Mr. Lowe, (no doubt purposely) with regard to my assertion respecting combination, but I do not say, that this country may shut up her claim to be the land of freedom, if we are to be governed by laws made on the same basis as those of unions as they are now. If a Reform League agrees with you on this matter, and attempts to carry a Bill on the same principles - we shall never have any reform, or if we have, the incoming tenant will be worse than the outgoing.

Let us form a union of all the Staveley collieries, for our own protection, and not have for its main object antagonism to our own masters, and I am sure we must stand. What amount of our contributions go for the salaries, payment of band, which are of no use, but must be paid under any circumstances before we can have any benefit? Can any reasonable man imagine the masters siding with the tyranny which is such a great grievance. No!, for if I mistake not, nearly all our directors have been working men in their youngest days, therefore we should not countenance oppression. Let us think, and act for ourselves with promptness leaving only one stipulation, that we have no "Make-Shift Men" to steer our barque, which would under such circumstances be stranded by while we had nigh got on board. Wishing the prosperity and advancement of every miner here, and hoping this will secure a place in your edition of next Saturday.

I am, Sir,

An Old Standard of the Staveley.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 3rd. November 1866.

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Letter - The Staveley Company and their Workmen.

Sir,

Judging from the appearance of things, the Staveley Company would try to make people believe they took great interest in the working classes welfare: but, Sir, I don't believe it, nor shall I until I see them do something to confirm it. Sir, some months back a man named Brough got his leg or thigh broke, and he received 5 shillings per week for 13 weeks out of the Field Club; he was not as you may say half able to work when the thirteen weeks were up, but his pay ceased, and what do you think became of him, Mr. Editor? Why, Sir, he had to go to the workhouse or starve, and a man soon gets tired of that now. Sir, this state of things is a disgrace to the Company; this man was following his employment for his masters when this happened and if there is any profit to be gained out of a working man, this Company must have had it. This man has not been able to work since his accident, and it is said he never will any more; but, Sir, he has this week been forced to appeal to the scanty favours of the working classes. Yet if masters have any feeling for such cases they will not let a man go to the work-house. Now, Sir, many people wrongly understand what the union is for, it is to put a stop to such disgraceful things as these. Sir, if this man had been in our union we should have kept him out of the work-house. He wants to raise the needful to get a pony and cart to earn his livelihood. Had it been a union case we all of us union men paying 6d. each we could have raised him towards £30, and should not have felt it ourselves. This is one noble object of the union. Hoping you will find room in your valuable papers for these few remarks.

I Am,
Yours respectfully,
A Man at Seymour Terrace.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 3rd. November 1866.

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Letter - An Old Pitman's Letter.

Sir,

In looking over your valuable paper, my attention was arrested on seeing a letter from "An Old Pitman". He seems to me as if he has been taught in the school of selfishness. Now he has come to his should-be manhood, he seems to care for no-one but himself; for he says that "Eye-witness" makes a long song about eight hours. He forgets, with all his selfishness, that the rules specify that the men shall work from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m., and if so, we are sure that some must. He says if he can make his money in six hours, and it takes another man ten or twelve hours, what does it matter to him or any other pit-man. He says that they would have to work twelve hours if they were ploughing, and not get so much money. At the same time, being so full of his selfishness, he forgets that the man is exposed to dangers which he would not be if he was following the plough. And even were it so that the farmer paid his labourer a better, we should consequently expect to pay extra for farm produce. Then we have reason to believe that the "Old Pitman" would be the first to cry out that farmers were rogues. Let me take it for granted that he is not a farmer, or else that he has no lads in the pit; if he has he has certainly no love of them, as long as he gets hold of their brass, which I believe is another part of his selfishness.

Again, he says that trade unions are a curse upon the face of the earth; they suit nobody but a parcel of lazy delegates. Again, I say, if the "Old Pitman" will come out and show who he is, I have no doubt that the delegates will be able to prove to the public at large they are as fond of work as he is, without acting as greaser.

Yours, etc.,
A Reader.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 3rd. November 1866.

Page 3 Col. 5

Letter - The Miners' Union.

Sir,

Permit me to make a few remarks in your valuable paper, in answer Joseph Lowe, on "The Miners Union". The letter from beginning to end is a tissue of falsehoods which cannot be substantiated, and therefore your correspondent is the same by nature as name, and no- one, having a knowledge of both sides of the subject will believe his statements.

I was rather surprised to see two answers, (or rather two evasive answers) to my letter of the 20th. inst., both of which from that class, where, truth, justice, and equality cannot come, for the simple reason that they are not possessors, and have no respect at the present circumstances for any of these qualities.

I have no doubt that the union will work wonders for the elevation of the miner, and can readily understand why Mr. Brown encourages the men to abstain from intoxicating drinks, for should they spend their money in that, there will be less for the union and his support.

At Chesterfield, on Saturday last, Mr. Brown referring to the leanness of some of the men, said it might be caused by them having to work in the pit from half past five in the morning until half past seven at night. Did any collier in the room believe him? I say no, because they all knew better. Are these the principles of the union? If so, the public will know how to receive them. Does Mr. Lowe, (or it may be Lee, but he be weak in the head, wher'ere he be) want to make the miner believe he is going to receive more money out of the union than he pays in. I have no faith in such doctrines, and am convinced, that if the union is totally composed of such men as your correspondent, then its success will be a failure, and the less money paid in by the industrious and honourable, the better.

Referring to the hours of working and the manner of unjust weighing which is enlarged on at every delegate meeting, I would simply deny the assertions made, that is, as far as my own weight is concerned, I have no doubt that in all cases this subject has been commented on, a very great injustice to the masters for I do not think it is the wish of our present viewer to get any more coal than the agreement specifies. I do not see any injustice at all in getting 28 cwt. of coal for a certain amount of money, say 2-4d. for I presume that no man begins work without knowing the terms. What advantages shall we get if the agreement is altered to 21 cwt. and the rate 1-9d. for the weight? Why, surely none; therefor then if an advance is what the union or the miners are agitating for, why not say so, without making any alteration in the weight. I think enough has been said about the weighman, which is an injustice to them as men of character, but did I see any cause for complaint I should at once communicate with the proper authorities, and have no doubt I should get redress. The Staveley Company have never to my knowledge offered any opposition to having checkweighmen, until they began to transact business detrimental to their interests, thereby rendering themselves to a position where impartial judgement must be given. The present position of the pit-lads is totally a matter for which their parents are responsible. Do not the majority of their fathers take their lads to work before they well get out of their petticoats. - As they are trained up, so do they become men. A lad ought not to leave school under twelve years of age, and yet, go to any school in this district, and I do not think you will find five percent of the scholars at that age. Agricultural labourers with their 13 or 14 shillings per week do far more for their children's education than this. I do not consider your

correspondents ????????, when he says the lads fall asleep soon after tea, and did he reside at Staveley he would soon have reason to change his opinion, though I do not suppose that "reason" will be any guide for him. I deny advocating long hours, tyranny, etc., and no word in my letter of the 20th. inst., has any bearing at all, which would give rise to such an assertion. I hate both, and while I have health, will have neither, and I hope that Staveley will yet prosper, when, by the time I am unable to work I shall be independent of either the union, the master, or the parish. Contrary to advocating the non-progression of any class of men, I would have every man gain such a position of character in this country, that he might be safely trusted to go and represent his fellow townsmen in Parliament, and I am sure ??????? facilities for doing so to most men in the land. Referring to the rate of wages, I have heard some very disparaging statements made by men who have not only been too glad to return to Staveley from Yorkshire, for I could not get money there that I can earn at Staveley - and am fully ???????, by the letter in your edition of the 27th. inst., by Mr. Normansel's statement before a Select Committee in the House of Commons.

In conclusion, I think the men of Staveley are capable of forming a union of their own, on just principles, without the aid of Mr. Brown and other selfish friends who have more objects in view, beyond the establishing of a union for the benefit of the men in this district, stop the pay, and then see where we should be, we should have no more "Browns", and save ourselves from being done brown. Trade is bad in South Yorkshire in consequence of the recent strikes there, and should we stop our supply they will get it, and our present acts by driving supply elsewhere, may entail misery which will take years to overcome. Trusting we may see and do that which will secure our advancement, socially, morally, intellectually and physically.

I am, Sir,
An Old Standard at Staveley.

Dated Staveley October 31st, 1866.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 3rd. November 1866.

Page 3 Col. 5

Letter - Unionism and Education.

Sir,

As a constant reader of your valuable journal I have read these last few weeks with the deepest interest, I may say, the many instructive and conflicting statements that have arisen out of this great and important movement. And as I am a well-wisher to the union and its principles to any good which I hope will result therefrom. I should like to say a few words about the great good which I trust will ultimately arise out of its existence, if all the great mining companies in our kingdom will take into deep consideration the comforts and wellbeing of the thousands of their workmen and workboys who earn their bread in such a dangerous employment as the mines, and from whom the masters derive, shall I not say their affluence and wealth; but should not they shorten to some degree their hours of toil and labour, until every fellow creature both man and boy might have a chance and time for social and intellectual improvement both for the body and mind. I long, as a rational being, for that time to come when thoughtful fathers of families will have proper time to educate their working boys both at home and at school, and they who work down low in the bowels of the earth may rise in the scale of intelligence. We see daily for want of more education in the working classes, the vice and ignorance that abounds in our streets; it is a well known fact that the poorer classes may have to send their boys to work so young in the mines cannot give them the learning they reasonably ought to have; for instance, hundreds of boys are away from their homes 14 hours, and when they get home weary from their labour where can be their appetite for learning. There are the Sabbath Schools, those inestimable institutions, but generally want to spend that day in recreation and amusements. Then Sir, I see no reason why their employers should not grant them this boon of working shorter time in the day. We really hope that these things will be brought about by some peaceable and honourable means. We trust the long days of mining in the nineteenth century have received their death knell. We want our children to be wiser, and better, and happier, and more useful in everything that is good than their predecessors have been; it is an old proverb that all work and no play makes Jack a dull boy. We want to see life and energy and happiness in the rising population. There is one of your correspondents, I think he has styled himself a veritable Dick Wass who seems to wriggle about very uneasily on the seat of contention, and whose principles are perfectly antagonistic to unions. But, Sir, let me tell him through the medium of your columns, that it is rolling on like a mighty tornado gathering in supporters as it passes along. I think Dick said in your last impression, that he likes his drop of beer at the week end, and he afraid the union pay will not afford it. Well, if he has any money for beer, he had better turn it into a different channel, and educate his children with it, as I think his education has not been so liberal as it otherwise might have been, he will try to imitate the celebrated Bill Wheelswarf and Tom Toddlehoyle dialect, but I think he is no match for them, so I hope he will let us have the next in plain English grammar.

Yours Respectfully,
Not a Miner,

Brimington Common.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 3rd. November 1866.

Page 3 Col. 6

Letter - The Miners' Union and its Aspects at Clay Cross.

Sir,

I beg to be allowed, as a looker-on, to make a few remarks on the proceedings of the colliers in this district. They complain of being badly paid, yet many of them are now working only about two thirds of their time; and even when they profess to be at work the complaint is that they do not work with their ordinary diligence. Yet in spite of this they have money to spare to support their union, and the brewers seem as busy in the neighbourhood as ever. It is therefore quite plain that the lowness of wages is not the evil the colliers have to complain of. The present misunderstanding therefore must arise from some other cause. By some, it is said the coal-masters are receiving an inordinate amount of profit, granting this is the case, the men have the remedy in their own hands. Let them form a limited liability company, and let all the men who have money to spare for the union take shares, and open a colliery; they may then be their own masters. I have no doubt that the experience gained will be invaluable. and if they, like some colliery proprietors in this neighbourhood, have to work ten or twelve years before receiving any profit, they will perhaps expect an extra one in after years to make up for it; and they will consider themselves very hardly used, if, when they have succeeded in attaining it they were deprived of it. I should rejoice to see working men adopt this plan of raising themselves. And I do not see any insuperable difficulty in doing so, for the money wasted over one great strike would open a colliery. Or let the men avoid a strike, work diligently, exercise reasonable self-denial, and they will raise themselves morally and physically, obtain the necessary funds to open works of their own. It is only by these means that any real improvement can take place. Take Clay Cross as an example; let anyone go through the place, count the public-houses, and add to it the shops for the sales of sweetmeats and similar trash, to give the amount spent with the tally-men, and they will cease to wonder at colliers being in debt. It was by refraining from these and similar indulgences that many of the masters have raised themselves. If the men envy the masters, let them exercise the same self control, and they will cease to envy. The people of Clay Cross spend more money in useless and pernicious indulgences than the people in some parts of England have to spend on the necessities of life, and yet the latter live in comparative comfort. I have worked for much less than the average earnings of the men of Clay Cross, and have at the same time saved money.

But I contend that even if the men are afraid to risk their own savings in colliery works, the profits of the masters would be kept within bounds; there is plenty of money to be had at 4½ to 5 per cent. This shows that if profits are large and certain the possessors of such capital will be only too glad to enter into the trade, and thus there will soon be more masters in the field bidding for the men, and raising the market value of their labour. The fact is, capital is the working man's friend, without it he is almost as helpless as the untutored savage.

Others say "raise the price of coal". Now, this appears plausible, but suppose we all adopt the same means of increasing the value of our labour, who will be the better off? There is another view of the question. The South Wales coalmasters, are, through the extension of the railway system, entering effectively into the London coal trade, and if they, with their almost unlimited supply of coal ??????? putting it in the market, they will retain it. The same reasoning applies to the Yorkshire coalfield. An increase in price will also add still more to the difficulties that the English manufacture has to contend with in competing with other countries, Instead of England being the workshop of the world, it has to contend itself with being one of them. The

increase in the price of coal and raw material generally, together with the rise of wages, and the difficulties continually occurring with the workmen, is driving capital, and with it trade, to other countries. We are now importing machinery, and even carpenters and joiners work. There are plenty of miners in Europe who would be glad to earn half as much as the miners of Derbyshire. The capitalists of England, if driven to extremities, will be compelled to introduce machinery more extensively, to import foreign workers, or to transfer their capital to other countries.

There is no doubt the miner not only has a right, but he is bound in duty to himself, to obtain the highest price for his labour, providing that in doing so he does not tyrannize the others. But anything more absurd than to pay money to Brown and company, to be spent in bands and music for public house meetings is inconceivable. No doubt it answers the purposes of delegates to live in clover, to travel around the country at other peoples expense, to be listened to by gaping crowds. I have generally found that delegates were men who could not do a days work, or if they could they were too lazy. The colliers are highly to be commended for making an effort to better their condition. But paying what the union requires the exercise of the very self denial I advocate, and I, in common with all their well-wishers, can only hope that they will soon see that the plan that they seem bent on pursuing is not the right one. Mr. Brown is well aware that it is not, but he is trading on the credulity of better men than himself, for they work honestly for a living.

Instead of paying him to travel about and squeeze his wind-bags, they had better hire a band to drum him out of Derbyshire, to "Rogue's March".

I am, Sir,
Yours Obediently,
A Looker-On.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 3rd. November 1866.

Page 3 Col. 6

Letter - Mr. Brown and the Union.

Sir,

I hope you will excuse me troubling you again, but it is the only way we have to trounce these ????, Gentleman B. and his colleagues. As I intend to take a glance at a few past events, I'll be as brief as possible.

First, to a meeting held at the Crown Croft, Staveley. B. told a Staveley chap that he knew us by our hobbling gait. Now I thought he was gulling us at this same time, but as we were all standing around him their mouths wide open, down goes the bait, and he hooks us. But, I was not satisfied with my bite, which, bear in mind, was a real Yorkshire bite. I though I would disgorge my hook as quick as possible; so I wriggled and giggled, till at last out comes the hook, to my great delight; and then off I goes shaking my tail to see what I can find in these hobblers; but it was no go; I could not find one, with the exception of a few who stopped at the Crown Inn and got rather groggy, and they went hobbling home, but they were at right the next morning, after a good sleep and pleasant dreams about handfuls of gold, which is to come from Yorkshire.

I find that colliers are the same class of men they were forty years ago. They will believe any crack that is pleased to chatter to them.

Well, Mr. Editor, I see they have been performing "A Wonderful Woman" at the Chesterfield Theatre. People should come to Barrow Hill to see wonderful women; they would see such a company of the tender sex as would give them satisfaction for their money. There are all sorts of characters. There is the hyena, the great polar bear, the great baboon, and as many other wild animals too numerous to mention. They ought to be well patronised by a large body of policemen, all with cat-o'-nine-tails, who want to give them a good lashing whenever they catch them out of their dens.

I think "A Make-Shift Miner", in your last, has gained very little by bringing the late Mr. Barrow's name before the public, who well know him to be one of the best gentlemen in Derbyshire, - or, I might say, in England. He ought to let the dead rest in peace. As for the oppressors in Parliament he talks about, I hope and trust that the first thing that Parliament does will be to pass an Act to condemn all trades unions, both of masters and men.

Well, Mr. Editor, I fully endorse what the "Old Pit-Man" says, for I know the men, if they want their names, they shall have them and something else besides.

I think Brother Dick has lashed Gentleman Billy and Lord Normanton in your last weeks impression, I feel sorry for them and will intercede for them with Dick.

Nat Wass's Earnest Appeal
to his Brother Dick to spare Billy B.

O Dick, for the sake of me,
Have mercy on poor Billy B.,
Thou's lashed him unmercifully,
And all for nought

But setting traps for thee and me
But to be caught.
In mercy spare poor Billy Brown
That Yorkshireman of great renown;
O, do not strike him when he's down,
So fine a fellow;
Thou'll crush him like a rotten pear, -
He's fat and mellow.
Likewise my lord with golden card,
Thou'st laid both upon the sward;
O, do not hit them quite so hard, -
Thou'll stop their cant.
But money makes them ere to go,
And them to rant.

Now I think, for my kindness, if they do not give me a share of the spoil, they will accord me a vote of thanks at the next meeting.

I am, Dear Sir, Yours Truly,
Nat Wass.

Seymour Terrace, Staveley. October 31st., 1866.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 3rd. November 1866.

Page 3 Col. 7

Letter - An Old Pitman's Letter.

Sir,

Having read some of the letters which have appeared in your last week's impression, I was very much surprised by the statements made by an "Old Pit-Man". In the first place, he states that no man need work more than 8 hours, or 6 if he likes. If that were the case there need be no fear of either lock-outs or strikes. But it is not, so, I shall like to ask him who it is that keeps the pit turning from 6 o'clock in the morning till a quarter to six at night? It is the loaders and the lads. Many a time, when they have got all the coals out of their banks, they have to wait two or three hours at the pit-bottom before they can get up. It seems a hard case to me that the stallmen and the loaders who go to work at the same time for the stallman to be able to go up at 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ or 2 o'clock, whilst the loader who has the heaviest and most laborious job in the pit, must stop twelve hours. He did not tell you that the loaders and the holers who do the chief work, have to be satisfied with a bare subsistence. No, he forgets that.

He states that there are men who have earned for 10 shillings to 11 shillings a day although the fortnight. I will not contradict that, but I think that if he had stated 7 or 8 shillings he would have been nearer the mark: and those very men who have got that have had to be in the pit 14 and 16 hours for it. He says nothing about the men who are only earning about 2 shillings to 2/6d. a day. No, for he forgets that. And yet there are men that get no more. To tell you the truth the best stalls have the least labour, and the worst stall require the most labour, and get the least money. The loaders earning will not average four shillings a day throughout the pit, and yet it is they who have to earn the money for the stallmen, and all the lump and yardstick money which abounds in this pit (Seymour) so much.

He says that there all kinds of tradesmen in this pit, and he ???????? particulary ploughmen, stating that they would have to work fourteen hours at the plough. That is true; they would. But does he think they would have left the healthful employment of ploughing to work in the pit, if the wages had not been a temptation? How often does he see farming men advertised for to work in the pit?

It is easy to see the drift of his meaning when he mentions the skilled and unskilled workmen. By the latter he means ploughmen or loaders; by the former stallmen. But if he would ask the stallmen whether any of them were brought, up to the farming, about half of them will answer yes; whilst amongst the loaders there are men who have never done a days work out of the pit. It is very easy for him to think that by setting class against class he will triumph, for he knows as well as I do that the lads and the loaders are forced to work twelve hours, or else they have nothing to take home at the fortnight end. There is a system in this pit which ought to be abolished, every man ought to get and send his own coal out, then a man will get a fair days wage for a fair days work. Not one man going up six and four hours sooner than another with six shillings for his day, and the loader stopping twelve hours for four shillings, and the heaviest work.

Again, he says that trades unions are a curse upon the face of the earth. If unions are a curse upon the earth, what makes the masters unite? They unite not only to crush the men, they unite to raise the price of coal. Does he think that we are blind to the fact that whilst the coals have risen shilling after shilling per ton, the mens wages are just where they were?

Hoping that you will insert these few remarks in your next weeks issue.

I Remain, Yours Truly,
A Loader.

Seymour, October 31st., 1866.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 3rd. November 1866.

Page 4 Col. 2

Sheepbridge - Fatal Colliery Accident.

On Saturday, the 27th. ult., an inquest was held at the house of Mr. Samuel Bennet, the St. Helen's Inn, Stonegravels, before Mr. Coroner Busby, on the body of Thomas Mitchell, collier, Stonegravels, who died on the day previous from injuries received through a fall of bind in a coalmine belonging to the Sheepbridge Coal and Iron Company (Limited), at Sheepbridge, on the 26th. of October. The inquiry was only of a formal nature. Evidence merely as to the identity of the body being taken, in order to allow for interment, and was then adjourned to the 31st. of October, when it appeared that deceased was killed by an accidental fall of bind. The verdict; Accidental Death.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 3rd. November 1866.

Page 4 Col. 3

Collier's Wages.

Notice has been given at many of the collieries in the districts surrounding Manchester, Bolton and Bury, to the effect that a large advance will added to the present rate of pay, to commence on the 1st. of November next. This advance, along with one made on the 1st. of this month, will cause coalminers to be paid 20% more for their labour than has ever been attained at any former period.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 10th. November 1866.

Page 2 Col. 5

Leader - The Dispute in the Coal Trade.

We regret much to announce that the disputes between the masters and men of this district appears to widen daily, considering the vast interests that are at stake - first, the capital of the coal master, second, the labour of the working man, and indirectly the whole prosperity of the district, we shall be extremely glad if some mediatory measures could be adopted to avert the misery that seems to threaten this rising and prosperous locality. The subject is of such vast importance not only to coalmasters and the men, but also to the general public, that we had intended to go into the subject at some length. Pressure on our space this week prevents us from doing so, and we cannot but express a hope that both sides be extremely careful, as a false step may inflict great misery on this district for years to come. A prolonged strike at the present juncture will produce a great loss of capital to the masters, great misery and privation to the men, and almost incalculable loss to the district and the general public.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 10th. November 1866.

Page 2 Col. 5

The South Yorkshire Miners' Association and the Dispute in Derbyshire.

The council of the South Yorkshire Miners Association has appointed Mr. Philip Casey to go out to Derbyshire for a few weeks, and advise and assist the miners in their present struggle with a view to bringing the present dispute to a successful termination. Mr. Casey's wages and expenses are to be paid by the Association. It has also been agreed to recommend that the National Conference of Miners, which meets at Nottingham on the 13th. inst., to give the Derbyshire men all the support possible in their present struggle.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 10th. November 1866.

Page 2 Col. 5

Colliers and the Truck Act.

The case of Cutts v Wall is before the Court of Queen's Bench, London, on Friday. It was an action tried at the last Derby Assizes when a question was raised under the Truck Acts as to the right of employers to make deductions from the wages of labourers or artificers. The question arose thus: - The Truck Act, 1 and 2 William the Fourth, para 32, against the payment of wages by "Truck", provides that it shall not prevent employers from supplying any fuel, materials, tools, or implements, to be used in their trade, when it also provided that employers might make deductions for rent provided that the stoppage or deduction shall not exceed the real or true values, and shall not be made unless a contract, to allow it, shall be signed by the workman. The plaintiff in this case, a "butty" collier (i.e. a collier who contracts to do work in mines at so much a foot, and employs men under him), ought to receive a balance of wages due to him, against which his employers, the defendants claimed to "set-off" several sums for rent and other matters; they likewise insisted that they were only bound to pay him the difference between the total amount due for his work and the amount of wages due from him to the under workmen, which the employers claimed paid to them. The plaintiff had, in fact, ??? to this, but it was suggested that it was under pressure from his masters. The verdict at the trial, before Justice Mellor, went against him. Mr. Mellor now in ????? on his behalf to set aside the verdict but entered for him for a small amount, on the ground that the case came within the Truck Act. The Court ??? a rule.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 10th. November 1866.

Page 2 Col. 6-7

Chesterfield County Court

Decision of the Judge on the Staveley Ejectment Cases.

It will be remembered that at the last court held on the 25th. of October, before William Emsley, Esq, Q.C., the judge, several actions were brought by the Staveley Coal and Iron Company against some of their colliers in their employ to quit them from the cottages they occupy under the company, and to recover double rent at the expiration of the notices to quit served on them. Mr. Busby appeared for the plaintiffs, and Mr. Wainwright, of Staveley, on behalf of the trades union, for the defendants. The main question raised on the cases was whether the tenancy agreements signed by the defendants were valid and could be given in evidence in consequence of their not being stamped. Mr. Wainwright contending that the agreements were liable to a lease stamp and could not be given in evidence until the duty and £11 penalty in each case had been paid into the court, while Mr. Busby contended that they were not liable to any stamp providing Gladstone's Act of the last Session.

On this, and one or two minor points, the judge took time to consider his decision - we understand that the judge has now decided that the agreements were not liable to any stamp duty, and the verdicts stand for the plaintiffs on all the points, and possession of the cottages to be given up by the men on the 15th. inst., with the double rent and all expenses to be paid by instalments. In the present disturbed state of the colliers, it is of importance that this decision should be known, and that it shows that workmen cannot retain possession of their cottages with impunity, after they have been served with notice to quit, and they will have to pay double rent with expenses in consequence of holding over, and also to be ejected by the strong arm of the law. The company did not apply for any expenses, but simply the county court fees.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 10th. November 1866.

Page 2 Col. 7

Miners Meeting at Staveley.

On Monday evening a crowded meeting of miners was held at the Nag's Head Inn, Staveley. As usual a number of women attended. The chair was occupied by Joseph Lee, late of the Springwell Colliery. He said the correspondents of the "Derbyshire Times" reminded him of a man who once said of a love-feast, "The world is as round as a horse's head", when a brother arose and said "Thee sit down, for thou knowest nowt about it". Many had written nonsense about the miners and their union. Himself he could say that he had worked under the honourable Staveley Company, and had attended his work 27 days per month, and sometimes a whole month without taking a holiday. But that did not satisfy them. They were angry because he had joined the union, and had given him notice to leave. Now before he joined the Association he sat down, considered his relations and duties, and counted the cost. He knew he must suffer for doing his duty, if the Company could make him do so. Their word was as good as ever to live upon the bone and muscle, and to suck out the blood of working men. It had been stated that he was reaching an age at where it was usual to get 28 cwt. of coal to the ton. Now, he would just say that he had never sought a position of a miners' agent, directly or indirectly. He would be much rather working quietly in the pit, but as the Company had sought to grind him in the water of despotism, he would stick to the miners as close as the shirt to his back. He had been in public life for twenty years, and it was well known in the pulpit that he had denounced despotism, and would do so until he died. God's word denounced it. He could tell the Old Standard that at several large meetings he had been at in Nottinghamshire during the past week, the people had promised support to the workmen of Staveley. Monitor asked if J. Lee is one of the greatest workmen of Staveley? He would reply that he did not think he was one of the greatest fools. He did not like to follow any man with an oil-can. He did believe in being upright and downstraight. The union was well run, but not to the injury of any man or woman. (Hear, hear). It was the masters who had a law to themselves - who were combined together to do the diabolical acts of turning men out of their nice comfortable houses. A man was killed last Saturday at one of the pits at Golgotha, and the union had rolled a nice lump of gold into the widow's lap amounting to £5. He did not think that added any sorrow. Referring to the various benefits of the union, the speaker said their would be difficulties to encounter and storms to pass, but it would be better to suffer for a short time than forever, and asked if that was not right? (Yes, yes). He believed that there was a brighter future before them.

Mr. Brown said that he had been to the council at Leeds that day, which was a surprise to many, as it was currently reported that he had absconded with £80 of the miners money, and was caught and sent to prison. It was cruel to circulate such a report where his aged mother lived, more especially as he had never handled a farthing of the union money, nor could he give a vote for the spending of it. He did not care much for this if they did not. (Cries of "We do not care about it"). Calumny like this only acted as a rasp upon a knife, it made it cut the sharper. He had never advised the council to have a hand at their demonstration, or to have a play day. He was only a servant, but he did their work to the best of his abilities. He would answer the eight questions contained in the "Derbyshire Reptile" ("Times") put by "Monitor". 1st., He had never said the masters of the Staveley colliers was swindling. He only knew what the men told him. He never was down any of their coal-pits and he did not intend to try. But the men said they took 28 cwt., or 30 cwt., or as many as they liked: but he would, if he had the power, only allow the company to have 20 cwt. to the ton, whatever price was paid for the ton he did not care, for there would be at the making of the bargain, and when the bargain is made, you have the right

to have a check-weighman, and to be paid from his notes, and not from the masters'. If the two weighman's accounts do not agree, it is their duty to make things right. 2nd., He would ask his friends if they knew Springwell Colliery, and Stray and Catchpole, the check-weighman? ("We do") Why were they not there? Simply because you asked them to take a few rules and deliver them to the men as they come from the pits, for which they were taken by the scruff of the neck by the policeman, who forbade their going again on the pit-banks. The men had a right to employ whoever they think fit. He believed that he had said before they would be beaten they "would have wooden hats". Had they ever spelt amongst the potato tops? ("Not yet"). He had never shirked a cause yet, and would not shirk this. (Cheers). Had he been like Dick Wass, and sat down until he saw which way the wind blew, he would have been silent. Dick would not have said one word had the Staveley Company said the union might go on. - A female said that Dick Wass had not written the letter, for he could not write, and was trying to find the writer out. - Then he should forbid his name to be used. It was a shame for any man to forge another persons name. 4th., In reply to the fourth question, he would say that a council meeting had been held in which some 6,000 financial members were represented, and the following resolution had been adopted, - "That the delegates to the National Conference be instructed to give all the support possible to the Derbyshire miners, as the sympathy of the whole body of the miners in the South Yorkshire Association is with the Derbyshire men in their present struggle. That this council, having heard the statement of the Secretary and the opinion of several delegates on the position of the Derbyshire Miners, believes it to be highly essential that two practical and experienced persons should be sent at once and stationed to the head of the affairs in some quarter of Derbyshire to advise and give every information necessary to the carrying out of their Association, and to use his utmost endeavour with the leading officials of the district to bring their present dispute to a successful termination. Their cause was taken up in earnest, too. If all was true in their own camp, there was no fear of having help from a distance. No other miners in the world ever had such a chance of coming of victorious as the Staveley miners now had. 5th., If "Monitor" had read "Smiles's Self-Help" he would have found he started with "help yourself". They could not expect the miners of Lancashire, Yorkshire, Durham and the counties of England to lend them money if they did not contribute and try to help themselves. They would be no worse off for having a loaf of their own if their friends sent them another. (Laughter). 6th., He (the speaker) had been a paying member of the union since February 1858, and he could remember singing through a dozen streets in Hunslet, and then telling the tale of their grievances to the passers-by. Then the battle was fought manfully, and they came off victorious. The Staveley miners would have five times more support than ever the West or South Yorkshire men had. He (William Brown) never had 7-6d. per day. 7th., "Monitor" is a poor scholar, or he would know that the way to eight hours was through twelve and ten hours. We do not mean to have less. But your council thought it would be better to take what you could get. 8th., William Moss did not apply to his lodge. Now the rule says that in no case shall any member who uses abusive language to his employer or to his agents receive any benefit from the Association. If you cannot gain your object by fair arguments, you cannot by the use of foul words. He concluded by hoping that they could rest assured that there would be an abundance of help as soon as it was needed.

(We don't understand why Mr. Brown should be so angry with this journal. The opinions expressed by "Monitor", are those of a casual correspondent, and if Mr. Brown had glanced at the head of the correspondence columns, he would have seen that we expressed a caution to the public against confusing the opinions of the correspondents with those of the editor. Our columns are open to all parties and we have published all letters we have received upon this subject, except one or two in which the sentiments of the writers were identical with others in the same week. In the very same edition in which appeared "Monitor's" letter, we published four letters in favour of the union. Our aim is to let all shades of opinion have full scope, and we believe in this course, we shall best serve the interest of truth, and therefore the best interests of the colliers of Derbyshire. Editor D.T.).

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Miners Meeting at Whittington.

(From our Correspondent).

On Wednesday last a meeting was held in the Baptist Chapel, New Whittington. Mr. Fisher, a miner, in the chair.

The chairman said he was never so flattered in all his life as he felt at being called upon to preside at the meeting; nevertheless, they must all do their best in trying to elevate each other in the social scale, both morally and religiously. The hymn they had just sung in commencing the meeting said they all were brethren. He liked that, and he advised them to keep their courage up, for he believed this trouble would not last long. He had been told about a man that worked at Ripley who had turned against the miner, but who the master had given 3d. per ton more, but he had to spend before long. He had great sympathy for the union, although he had been turned away and locked out through joining the Miners Association. He had had to sacrifice his work and be turned out of his house, but he hoped that they would all be true to their neighbours, and nothing could injure them or stop them in their progress - (Cheers). He then called upon Mr. J. Lee to address the meeting.

Mr. Lee said he remembered the time when fishing, they he sometimes fished a long time but caught nothing, but had seen an old hand catch them when he could not. He thought the masters were old hands; they had never to work the same as the collier; and had more time to think and learn how to live out of you. He advised them to stick to the Association. He said he had not been long a miner's agent but the people had begun to pick at him; they might have given him a little more time before they began to be so hard on him (Laughter). They had said he kicked rather strong, and called him an orator. He had been accused of saying that the union was rolling on, a "Monitor" said that it had rolled the men out of their houses, but it was the masters who had turned the men out of their houses, not the union. The masters said that the men ought not to have a union. The masters had one, and why not the men? There was union in creation, and in almost every animate and inanimate being on this earth, and he should never be satisfied till he and the miners generally worked less than 12 hours. He also wanted the lads to see a bit of daylight, and have a little time to go to school. Coal had risen 1-0d. per ton just lately, but the masters had not given them a farthing rise. Battle would be rather hot, but they would be sure to win, if they stuck close to themselves and to their post. No retreat. He would have them consider well what they were about, for they would be sure to come off victorious. He then went on to say that as the Association paid a man 7-6d. in accident and 9-0d. when they were out of employment they ought to stick to it, and he advised the men that were locked-out to behave themselves and go to school like good boys. (Laughter) - for the eyes of other trades unions were upon them; and they must act and fight like men - "Cheers".

The chairman then made a few appropriate remarks, and he then sung a hymn; after which he called upon Mr. Brown, of Hunslet, who was received with cheers.

Mr. Brown said he would set their attention to a statement made by a correspondent to the "Nottingham Express", which stated that at the present time the colliers were receiving from £2 to £6 per week. Now all that receive £1 a week hold up their hands - (Laughter). Well, perhaps that is too much. All hold up their hands who have £6 per week -(Renewed Laughter).

Now he was coming to the point. He thought the man that wrote that was very much mistaken. He meant £2 per fortnight, and not £2 per week. As to the £6 it was all untrue, - in fact, a tissue of lies from beginning to end. A man went on to say that the men of Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire were being by members of the South Yorkshire Association. Now he never was an agent for South Yorkshire; he belonged to West Yorkshire, and Derbyshire men had nothing to do with either, for they had a union of their own, and brought it about themselves. He (Mr. Brown) had only given one address about eight months since to the Derbyshire miners until just lately. The union had formed, and the men had joined by 1200 or 1500 at once. It was like the house that Jack built - (Laughter). The change had taken place as quick as ever it could. They had asked the National Association for an advocate, and they had sent him (Mr. B.) and others to advise the men the best way in which to proceed. He advised them that eight hours was quite plenty for a man to work in the pit, and the children wanted recreation and more schooling. He begged again to emphatically deny that the Derbyshire Union had anything to do with South Yorkshire. All they paid was 1d. per month to the Miners National Association, to employ agents to lecture, etc. The miner had a right to see his coal and ironstone weighted by a checkweighman of his own choosing. If they were not allowed this privileges, - it was not a privilege, it is a right; there is another thing they had a right to, and that is when a man lost his life through the negligence of the owner or his man. He knew a widow that received £300 for the loss of a husband, through neglect of the viewer. They had a right to see that the master had better machinery and better ventilation, and so on. A man got killed at Staveley on Saturday last, his wife had received £5, although he had only a few weeks to the union. He asked, where is there a lodge that gives a man that, and 8-6d. per week during accident? He (Mr. Brown) was not very rich, but he would give £1 to any charitable institute in Chesterfield, if they could prove that he advocated strife, for he detested strife and strikes too. They only wanted the power to defend themselves when the master wanted to oppress them. If a man went to work at a place, he had to sign a paper before he began, that he would give 28 days notice before he left. He was not allowed to see the place before he commenced work, consequently if it did not suit him he was obliged to stay until his notice expired. If he did leave, his master would send him prison for three months, so he hoped they would not call themselves free men - (Laughter). He could prove that what he had stated about miners being helped by the West and South Yorkshire Associations was true, and they would defend them. The masters would be forced to let the men have a union of their own. He thus proceeded to read the following extract from Mr. Justice Bylew (?) at the York Assizes in 186?, on the riot at Featherstone. "There had been damage and riot, and the question was who had incited to it? The latest Act is the subject stated that no person by reason of his endeavouring personally and in a reasonable manner, without threat or intimidation, direct or indirect, to persuade others to cease or abstain from, shall be deemed to be guilty of molestation or obstruction within the meaning of the law. Therefore, the law was that a man might endeavour peacefully in a reasonable manner, without threat or intimidation, to persuade others to cease or abstain from work. If Brown did nothing more than that he was not guilty, either upon the indictment or any other unless his conduct was so as to show that its natural intended consequence was to create a riot. The question, with respect to Brown, was not whether he incited by voice or manner, which was legal. The true question was, whether Brown intended to incite or did incite by voice and manner those men to break the law? He might have been guilty of a very great imprudence; but it was the question of intendment that had to be considered. His intention appeared to be prudent, although he had been guilty of imprudence; and that was no imprudence in the eye of the law". So they would see by that authority that they had the right to combine and protect themselves, but he did not agree with men using abusive language to anyone. There is no humanity about a man working 12 hours in a pit and he liked a man to do his work without a lot of Staffordshire Rules. He then went on to say that they had kept within legitimate means. The Association had bloomed rather late, but he believed it would bear a good crop after all. Mr. Binns said that they would not allow the miners agent to come and dictate to them as to the management of their property. He maintained that their property was tubs, engines, machinery, etc., but the master had no right to claim property in man -

(Applause). He had been told that the deputies knew what men to send to work at night and he maintained that a viewer that did not do the thing that was right was worse than a sheep-stealer. He should like the man of that sort to stop him tonight and try to take 5-0d. from him. Some of the deputies language was disgusting, and too low even for a brothel, he was not fit for anyone to hear, especially the boys. A viewer ought to ask himself if he was competent to take the office before he took upon himself the responsibility of mans life. They would have to support the men - the thousand locked out, but he hoped that not a farthing would be spent in drink or tobacco - (Hear, hear) - whatever they did after. He then went on to say that this diabolical union, as some called it, had paid to Widow Coffey the last fortnight 10-0d., Widow Oxley, 14-0d., Widow Gilley, £2-18- 0d. They had paid £8 to one poor widow who had lost her husband, so they would see that the union had kept the widows from applying to the Poor Law. There was no harm in that was there, - No, no - and the union would do the same with them - (Hear, hear). He would say again that he did not approve of strikes for when the masters wanted to put their foot on the union then they would have to defend themselves. All they wanted was their men reinstated, and to see Straw with his pen, and Catchpole in his place. A levy of 1-0d. per man would keep the men that were locked out; it all depended upon the men that had to fight if they were out two months, and they would look all the better for it. He advised them to keep quiet and go to school, and those that did not know how to write learn to do so. How much better it would be for them if they could write their own letters, and don't let a drunken man be seen in the town. War is proclaimed and there is no room for drunkenness, not for much smoking either. take care of their money, he wished he could persuade every man to give over drinking. If "Monitor" was there he would tell him that the miners had been able to help themselves, and as to the case of William Moss he did not comply with the 9th. rule of the Miners Association. He concluded by asking those that were determined to stand by the Association to hold up their hands when a forest of hands made their appearance. A vote of thanks was then given to the reporters and the chairman, and the meeting closed by singing the benediction. The chapel was crowded, there being upwards of 500 persons present.

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The Threatened Strike.

At Staveley we are sorry to say the breach between the masters and the men daily widens, and the struggle for mastery appears inevitable. The union continues to gather strength, whilst, on the other hand, the masters do not flinch from the position they have taken up. At the Springwell Colliery, the checkweighman, (Straw) was discharged by the Staveley Company, for joining the union, and as a consequence the whole of the men employed in the pit have sent in a month's notice. The Company replied to this move by giving them notice to quit their houses in seven days, and so the matter rests at present. At the Hopewell Pit many of the men are out of work and in consequence very little is doing. At Seymour half the men have been discharged, or are under notice, and the rest are at work at present. From all we can learn, we fear that another fortnight will see nearly two-thirds of the Staveley colliers out of work. The Company have taken possession of all the houses for which the men have been ejected and have boarded the windows up to avoid breakage. The ejected families have hitherto lodged with their friends, but the Company have in all cases where this has occurred, given notice to the tenants for harbouring them. So far the conduct of the men has been admirable in abstaining from any kind of outrages, and we trust that so long as this unhappy strife continues, it will be as free from violence as has hitherto been.

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Saturday 10th. November 1866.

Page 3 Col. 2-3

A Colliery Bailiff Convicted of Killing Game.

Thomas Radford, one of the Coats Park Colliery, was charged by Thomas Beasley, under-keeper to C.R.P. Morewood, Esq., Alfreton Park, with having on the 25th. ult., used a gun for the purpose of killing game. Joseph Rodgers said he was employed at the Coats Park Colliery, and that he saw defendant shoot at, and kill a hare in a field over which Mr. Morewood had the right of shooting; he also saw him pick up the hare and put it in his pocket. Cross-examined by Mr. Stone of Cromford, who appeared for the defendant; He was at his dinner at the pit-bank, and saw the defendant come from the machine house; He had been employed at the colliery for 3 years and the defendant was at it when he went. The defendant lived 200 yards from the pit-bank. Witness did not notice Samuel Smith, but knew that such a person worked at the colliery; He did not a rat either. It was three weeks since he first mentioned the matter to the under-keeper, he would not swear it was more than a week. (A Laugh). He was not under notice to quit the colliery at the time but so a fortnight past yesterday (Thursday). It was before he got notice that he informed the keeper, on a Sunday this year, this being the nearest he could tell him. (Mr. Stone); he would swear that it was not last Sunday, but not that it was last Sunday week, he would not swear anything about it, he had not been cautioned on account of his having enticed a workman to leave the colliery; he did not tell the keeper that he could not say that defendant had shot the hare. The hare when shot jumped up and then dropped down again. Samuel Smith never came. Thomas Beasley, the under-keeper, said that he had had occasion to caution the defendant before now, and that he was informed of the present offense a fortnight since last Sunday by Joseph Rodgers; a week after he received information he informed Mr. Morewood, and was told to take out a summons. More than one week elapsed between him telling Mr. Morewood and taking out the summons. Mr. Stone for the defence, called Samuel Smith, who said he worked at the Coats Park Colliery, and was there on the 5th. ult. The workmen take their dinner at half past twelve o'clock. He heard a report of a gun on the 5th. ult. and started out of the cabin immediately. Rodgers who was employed at the colliery was seen by him taking his dinner at the end of the bank, and he asked him who it was shooting. Rodgers replied that it was Tom; the length of the pit-bank was 130 or 140 yards, and Rodgers was that distance from defendant, sitting at the foot of the pit-bank. Between him hearing the report of the gun and seeing Radford, not more than 2 minutes elapsed, so that defendant would not have time to go from the machine house to the field where the hare was said to be shot by him. He had no doubt that he saw Rodgers on the 5th. inst. and Rodgers saw him. Defendant had a gun and bag, but nothing in the bag that he knew of. There were scores of rats on the bank; he had known the defendant shoot them. If Rodgers said that he did not see him on that day it was not true. Rodgers would have had to go to a great height to see defendant as the former was on one side of the hillock and the latter on the other part. Thomas Coe, collier, said that he worked at the Coats Park Colliery and did so on the 5th. ult. He said that he got his dinner on that day in the cabin. He heard the report of a gun, and Samuel Smith who was with him went to the cabin door, but he himself did not go out at all. He saw Rodgers at work that day but did not see him at dinner, nor did he see Smith speak to anybody. There were rats on the pit-bank; he pointed out ten to Rodgers himself; he had seen defendant shoot the rats, but never at the game. The Bench remarked that they had no doubt about the case, and convicted the defendant in a penalty of £1 and £1-3-2d. costs which were paid.

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Page 3 Col. 3

Caution to Colliers.

Charles Wright, collier, of Grassmoor, was charged on a warrant, by George Barker, agent to the Clay Cross Company, with leaving his employment without giving one months notice in writing of his intention to do so. The defendant on promising to return to his work was ordered to pay £1-7-5d expenses.

Samuel Sadler, a lad about 13 years old was brought up in custody, charged on a warrant by William Barker, agent to the Clay Cross Company, with absenting himself from his employment. The complainant said that the lad was employed as a pony driver in No. 3 Pit. He had been away from his work seven days. The father of the boy said that he had not been at home during that period but had slept out under haystacks during the seven nights and he wished for him to be punished. The lad on promising not to offend again was ordered to pay 17-8d. expenses to be deducted from his wages.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 10th. November 1866.

Page 3 Col. 4

Clay Cross - The Threatened Strike.

We are informed that on Thursday the 1st. of November, 34 of the workmen belonging to the Clay Cross Company, and whose notices, were up to leave their employment for joining the union, were paid off and received their discharge. Several of them who have notice to quit their houses have gone out without giving the Company any trouble. There are now about 900 persons in the union at Clay Cross and suburbs, and many of those who have their discharge from the Company's works have become chargeable to the fund belonging to the union.

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Page 3 Col. 4

Clay Cross - Miners Meeting.

Another large meeting of miners was held on Friday, November the 2nd., at the large room adjoining the Angel Inn. The meeting was opened by singing a hymn, after which the chair was taken by Mr. Springthorpe, a miner, who had been discharged from work for joining the union. After a few remarks from the chairman, he called upon Mr. Lee, of Staveley, who, on rising, said that he had seen in one of the papers a speech from the manager of the Clay Cross works, which he believed the workmen could contradict in reference to complaints being made, and having been settled with the good feeling that ought to be between masters and men. (Several men exclaimed "We can"). After speaking of the advantages arising from the union, he gave place to Mr. Brown who was loudly cheered. We said he did not care if they filled the paper about him, so long as he had the conviction that he was doing right to his fellow men. He had seen in papers that the coalmasters of Derbyshire were not going to place their properties under Mr. Brown's hammer. He did not wish them to do so. But they wanted to know what kind of a hammer it was. It was Truth, shafted with Justice, and wedged with Honesty. He appealed to his hearers if it was true that the women were getting drunk in their houses? One that was present said that it was false; it had been laid to her charge, but she could truthfully deny it. After alluding to several tidings of vast importance, the meeting was brought to a close by the benediction being produced. On Saturday, upwards of 40 came forwards and joined the Union, some of whom had been the greatest enemies of the Union.

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Page 3 Col. 4

Letter - Mr. Brown's Reply to "Monitor".

Sir,

The person who gives himself the name of "Monitor", wishes me to answer 8 questions. I will do my best to answer him. 1st. - Are the colliery owners actually swindling their men by cheating them out of their weight? - Did ever William Brown of Hunslet ever say that the masters were cheating the men out of their weight.

2nd. - At those pits where checkweighmen are not stationed have the Staveley Company refused to allow them? Are the checkweighmen upon the pit-bank any use to the poor men who go down the pit to send out coal, under the present mode of weighing.

3rd. - Did Brown not promise them wooden huts to live in when they were turned out of their houses? Have the committee not hit upon a better plan.

4th. - Did he not say that the Yorkshire Union would support them if they were true to their cause? Have not the Derbyshire miners been able to help themselves up to now.

5th. - Has not Normansell not since said they must depend a great deal upon themselves and then they will not be disappointed? Does not Smiles say "Heaven helps them that helps themselves".

6th. - Does Brown contribute to the Union? And will he share his 7-6d. per day with them in their distress, and also the profit he derives from selling books at the various meetings, as he advised them to do with their loaves? Does not Brown contribute to the Union, and has Brown ever received 7-6d. per day.

7th. - Did he not first say they would have 8 hours and no less, and now he advises 10 hours? Is not from 12 to 10 the way to 8 hours.

8th. - How is it that William Moss was promised support from the Union, but after losing five weeks work could not obtain from them one penny? Did William Moss act in accordance with the 27th. rule of the Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire Miners Association which reads as follows, "No member shall receive any relief as a victim until he has been returned at a legal meeting at his own lodge, and in no case shall any member who uses any abusive or improper language to his employers' agents or officials receive any benefits as victim from the above funds". I ask again did Moss comply with this rule?

Mr. Editor, I think I have done "Monitor" that justice which he deserves, and now, Sir, I must just say a word or two to the miners of Derbyshire, Stand True to your Cause, all the respectable coal-owners are with you, and are all well satisfied with the course you have taken. It is only those who would keep you down and treat you worse than their own dogs.

May I be allowed to ask "Monitor" a question or two. Which side would "Monitor" have been on if the masters had agreed with the Union? Sir, I don't believe in talking to a man in a mask, and I beg to say that if "Monitor" wishes to have any more questions answered, I will meet him anywhere either in private or in public.

Yours,
W. Brown,
Miner's Agent.

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Letter - The Miners Union.

Sir,

I think I removed the "Old Standard" off his perch a little, by pointing out to him the advantages of the Miners Union. You see, Mr. Editor, the truth always has its effect. The "Old Standard" says that my letter is a tissue of falsehoods; I deny it, and can vouch for the truth of what I say. The "Old Standard" says that the Union will work wonders. I know it will; it has done so already. It has paid to the widow's of deceased members a little money, so that they can bury their husbands respectfully, and now it is paying to victimised members something to live on while the struggle is ended. I have a knowledge of both sides of the subject, and the "Old Standard" cannot deny it if he lives at Staveley. He's trying to pick something out of Mr. Brown's speech. He has just told the public what I told them in my brief remarks last week. We do want more for the Union and less for the publican. The miners of this district sent for Mr. Brown to advocate their rights, and it rather annoys suchlike men as the "Old Standard" because the miners are in a fair way gaining the victory by combination. The "Old Standard" asked a question referring to Mr. Brown's speech in the Corn Exchange as reported in your paper last week. I ask, are they not the slaves alluded to by Mr. Brown when the fact is known that the men do not get home from Staveley to Chesterfield before half past six o'clock at night, and they start at half past five in the morning. They arrive home at Staveley at about half past six o'clock at night, and the "Old Standard" asks if these men believe what Mr. Brown says, when they are the very slaves he alludes to. I refer to the unjust weighing of the miners material, and I was writing what I stated, when the miners get two and thirty hundredweight to the ton. This is what they call a ton at Staveley, Mr. Editor, but when they get if up to London they call it a ton and a half. The "Old Standard" wants to be paid at 1- 9d. for a ton; I say, Mr. Editor, let him be paid at that, but the miner at Staveley will prefer 2-6d. for 21 hundredweight. Referring to the boys at Staveley the "Old Standard" wants to deny this. What I said came under my own notice. When the boy arrives from his labour at night, he is that tired he can scarce hold himself up while he gets something to eat. He says that their fathers are responsible for that; I say not. The masters are responsible; if the men are obliged to send their children to work they do not send them to slave. The men do not get as much money as the "Old Standard" gets, Mr. Editor. He told us in his letter than he would soon be rich. Now he appears to be doing a great deal better than some of the miners, and he does not forget to tell people about it. You see his disposition; he says he is getting rich, but he says to his neighbours, "Be thou still, I'm doing well, and I don't want thee to do as well as me". I presume, Mr. Editor, that the "Old Standard" is one of them yardstick men. I think he is wearing the companies flannel, and he knows well that if the miners succeeds, which I am certain he will, a few such like as him will have to seek their fortunes somewhere else. They will not be allowed to become rich at Staveley. I wish to acknowledge your kindness in inserting my last, please insert this with kind regards,

Yours Truly,
Joseph Low.

Chesterfield, November 6th., 1866.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 10th. November 1866.

Page 3 Col. 5

Letter - The Colliers Union and the Checkweighman

Sir,

Will you permit me a short space in your valuable paper, on the above subject, because yours seems a liberal one. It seems to me the men are in favour of a union, which is a good thing in its place but not to go to extremes. In the present way they are going, I think it is intimidation to the masters. At the present time they are working about nine hours per day, and some only average eight hours per day, which are reasonable hours. The wages average from £6 to £7 per month, and yet the cry is, we want raising, and our children want some education. Certainly so, "it is the mind that makes the man". Now these colliers receive the sum of £6 per month, and yet cannot afford to send their children to school, and there they are fishing for a strike for education and more money. I think that education is cheap enough at the present time. Another grievance is that they want a checkweighman, why they have one! and they may have as many as they like, for that Brown, Yes it is a "right name", he is "browning" the poor colliers who never complained before he came - He receives his 7-6d. per day, and says that he has five children and a wife to keep out of it, and how can he build houses out of that. Well allow me to say, that if he has not built them, he has got plans and specifications drawn out for them - and men at Hucknall have struck, but "Brown" has not been near them for the last fortnight with the money, and they are going on the way to starvation. If Brown and his colleagues kept it to South Yorkshire they would have done more good.

I Remains, Yours, Faithfully,
A Looker-On.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 10th. November 1866.

Page 3 Col. 5

Letter - A Defence of Mr. Brown and the Union.

Sir,

As your journal appears to be the most popular medium for public opinion, and as there are so very many conflicting statements with respect to the miners union, and the miners wages in Derbyshire, I am sure that you will find room for a humble man from the West to throw in his opinion amongst the rest. There are so very many of your correspondents, who are either real or "self-styled" colliers, with so many real or "professed" views with respect to trades unions, that it would trouble the brain of a Plato, to find out what their principles are, or indeed whether or not they have any at all, except to principle of self. Now there is a great deal of difference betwixt struggling for principles and attacking a man's character. If these doubtful colliers who profess not to believe in the trades unions would only say so and give the reason why, and let William Brown's personal character alone, we should be able to have a little friendly argument with them, but it is not so! Week after week they are bulling at one man's character, but never a single sentence of real argument against trades unions does there appear for the benefit of your numerous readers. The simple reason is that trades unions are built almost upon the rock of ages, and working men have had such a practical knowledge of this benefits, that your correspondents know full well, as it would just be as possible for the French armies to batter down the different fortresses around our coast with paper balls, as for them with their puny scribbling to damage the principles of union in the hearts of thinking workmen. Hence they give way to their natural instinct and because they cannot improve the principle, they try to damage the man who has introduced it amongst them. There is one in particular who signs himself "Dick Wass" whose cognomen I have no doubt will be more suitable to his connections, if he was to leave out the W in his latter name, which would give to your readers abetter understanding as to what family he belongs to. He says he likes a pint of beer on a Saturday, and I believe him, for I dare say he would not care if the remainder of his life could be spent near a beer-barrel. If I had ever seen any arguments in Dick Wass's letters I would have tried to reply, but there is neither principle nor policy, and to try to reason with such a man, would be like playing jigs to a mail-post for he would never dance. May I tell him that William Brown was known in Yorkshire before Derbyshire, and is a well known man amongst the Yorkshire miners, who would have been able to speak for his character if your correspondents had only taken the trouble to enquire. I can, however, tell your correspondent that he is neither a rogue nor an imposter, nor is he a selfish man, but a man who has spent eight of the best years of his life on the cause of miners union, and miners liberty, and is today respected and honoured by not less that 10,000 miners in West Yorkshire, and also by thousands more in South Yorkshire. Can a Looker-on, an Old Standard, a Monitor, Dick Wass, or any of your numerous correspondents say so much for their own character. The miners union in Yorkshire has been able through the instrumentality of Brown and others to make the miners of those districts more sober, more industrious, more honest, more happy, and in every way better than they were eight years ago. The miners union has been able to secure to the workmen thousands of pounds in a year, from having their coals properly weighed at the pit-bank. The miners union has been able to pay thousands of pounds to their sick and deceased brethren. The miners union in Yorkshire has been able to secure to the miners 6-Od. per man more wages every week, that is something towards helping the family a little better than of old. The miners union has secured hundreds of pounds as compensation for accidents which have occurred to the members. It is very strange one never hears tell of the colliers in Derbyshire having trials for compensation for damages received whilst in the pit. The reason perhaps is that the master's hospitals are so very grim, that the men think it would hardly

be fair to be doctored for nothing, and ask for damages as well. If Nancy and four children at home want anything to eat the master will get a trifle from the parish, and perhaps he will send a sup of broth down from home for them and I sure that if he does they will like it because it will be something fresh to them. I ask a Looker-on is this the reason we never see a trial for compensation in any of the Derbyshire law courts. One of your correspondents said the men came back when they visited Yorkshire, I wish they would, whenever our masters want them they can always get them by truckloads at once. I tell that correspondent that there is a whole pit-stead of Derbyshire men not ten miles from West Ardsley; he can have them all back if they will come, steward as well. In conclusion I say all hail to William Brown in his efforts in Derbyshire and may God prosper them.

Yours Obediently,
A Yorkshire Unionist.

Leeds, Nov. 7th., 1866.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 10th. November 1866.

Page 3 Col. 5-6

Letter - Dick Wass and the Staveley Colliers.

Sir,

I hope you will excuse me and give me a small space in your next to reply to Dick and Nat Wass. Sir, he says I send you another tickler for them the cap fits, Dick

Another e.e. cummings type letter in dialect.

Abandoned.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 10th. November 1866.

Page 3 Col. 6

Letter - The Old Standard and the Union.

Sir,

In looking over many of the letters and opinions in your valuable I see the Old Standard of Staveley is still in the field of public opinion. He seems to chew over the few remarks made by a Make-Shift Miner about the standard and ability of the men. Sir, I call myself a make-shift man because I have had to make-shift as a miner as well as many more. If he has not had to make shifts he would a lucky man if he never has to do so. I can get a respectable livelihood in many more ways, without making shifts as a miner. The Old Standard says that if there are many of Make-Shifts companions, tradesman would have more bad debts than they have. If all the working classes had as good a principle to pay as Make- Shift there would be a great deal less for the County Court to do, but the people say self- praise is no recommendation. Sir, the Old Standard says that he will give the lie to Make- Shift for he cannot make out how men can work thirteen and fourteen hours per day when the pit only turns out twelve hours a day. Now Sir, I can prove that men I know well myself go down at four in the morning and stop till six at night and then have not exceeded five shillings per day, and persevering men ???????? ???????? from going in to coming out. The Old Standard is one of those men that make a great noise about things and do not know what about, or he never worked in a pit or he would not talk such stuff as he does. He says that the Field Club ?????? ?????? no more pay that it does. Well Sir, what becomes of the money, someone must get a good deal better pay for their work than the miner. I say that a proper account of all money paid in a Club ought to be given to some of the workmen every fortnight and we should soon see who gets such a great bone for their work. It is no use people saying that they can get 6-0d. per day; So much money one day and then stopping away two days to get right again; men want to work every day. The working men have no other means of making progress but by union. They must pull one way and with one mind and then I think they will accomplish their design.

I am, Sir, Yours Respectfully,
Speedwell.

Staveley, Nov. 5th., 1866.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 10th. November 1866.

Page 3 Col. 6

Letter - A Reply to "Monitor".

Dear Sir,

In looking over the columns of your valuable paper of the 3rd. inst., I was surprised to find a man styling himself "Monitor" condescending to ask William Brown a few question regarding things that transpired at Staveley. But, Mr. Editor, as Monitor is endeavouring to make division amongst us, by asking such questions, it is quite evident that by so doing he wishes to bias the minds of the public at large, whose sympathy is undoubtedly with us. It would very nicely suit Monitor and his colleagues were there a division in the camp. All miners seem to understand what union means, and there is no doubt that they appreciate the union cause. It is evident that we do appreciate it (speaking for the generality of us) or we should not submit to be turned out as we are doing. We can stand our homes annihilating, portions of our families to be removed from us, and all that despotic power can heap upon us, for we know that a man is very poor spirited indeed that hangs on a masters favours.

Reason tells us our cause is right, and as a matter of course, right must conquer might.

Mr. Editor, I think Monitor must have had a copy of our rules, I can't think he has perused them through or he would have found William Moss was entitled to any fund of our Association. For instance, by referring to Rule 22, we find the accident fund shall be under the control of the council, who shall make rules for the guardianship of the same, and shall pay to each financial member, in case of injury received whilst following their employment, the sum of 8-0d. per week. Thus you see he was not entitled to any relief from the funds of our Association. But at the same we are empowered to subscribe amongst ourselves to help a man who stands in need of the same.

Mr. Editor, before the formation of the union, we made a collection at the pit on the pay-day, for anyone who stood in need, either through accident or sickness, at which time we could not tell who contributed and who did not. We have made an improvement in that respect, for we passed a resolution at our first full Lodge meeting, which was held on the 11th. of September, to this effect:- That there be no collection made at the pit, but, in case any brother stands in need, he shall make the same known to the committee, who shall have the power to bring the case before a general meeting, to raise a subscription for him. For instance, a brother named William Fisher, who had the misfortune to get shot whilst following his employment, came to our committee meeting and made his case known (according to rule), and we made a subscription for his amounting to £2-2-7d. But, Sir, Moss's name was not amongst the list. Then again, two other brothers, by name Samuel Turner and John Henshaw, who were victimised for refusing to take other men's places of work; subscriptions were made on their behalf, to the amount of £1-12- 0d, Turner receiving 19-0d., and Henshaw 13-0d. Moss's name was absent in that case also. We had also two other brothers who met with accidents while following their employment, named Martin Burke and William Beach, to whom we subscribed 17-6d., 9-0d. to Burke and 8-6d. to Beach. Mr. Editor, I am very sorry to inform Monitor, through you, that Moss's name was not on the list again. We had two other brothers, one who was victimised through joining the union, and other, Moss's mate, J. Knighton, who left with Moss on his own accord. Subscriptions were made to the amount of £1-0-4d., 10-2d. for William Lacey Howell, and 10-2d. for J. Knighton. But, Monitor, Moss's name was not on the list again. Mr. Editor, although Moss's name has

always been absent from the subscription lists, we had the brotherly love to subscribe £1-8- 2d. for him (Moss); but, as we rather doubted Moss's principles, in regard to him not subscribing to the above causes, we thought we would delay payment for a short time, as rumour told strange tales concerning him, as regards our union principles. And, Mr. Editor, by so doing we were quite right, for on the following Monday, as we received the money on the Saturday previous, Moss went to the place of a person who was victimised at Old Hollingwood Colliery, which our Association strictly prohibits. We should be very simple indeed now to pay him. What think you, Mr. Monitor? He is highly honoured now, and there are two policemen to conduct him to and from work. I believe he has no occasion to have such protectors as them, for if there is no fear in his conscience, he has no occasion to fear the inhabitants of Barrow Hill and vicinity.

Yours Truly,
A Victim.

P.S.- Dear fellow workmen, let us stick to each other as men, and take no heed of such calumniators as "Monitor".

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 17th. November 1866.

Page 2 Col. 1

Advert - Wanted.

Experienced Sinkers - at Kiveton Park Colliery, near Worksop. Apply to Mr. Thomas Emerson.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 17th. November 1866.

Page 2 Col. 4-5

Leader - Masters and Men.

"The Labourer is worthy of his hire". The only possible difficulty or question - and that generally rights itself - is to ascertain the exact amount of "hire" which labour is worth. The chances of commerce, fluctuations of population, wars, pestilence, political agitations, and even the weather itself are so many disturbing causes which now and then upset the equilibrium of interest between master and man, and throw society into confusion until the balance be restored. It is scarcely in the nature of things that the conflict should be long, or the result doubtful; for labour will never be permanently contented with less than it's worth, and capital can never permanently afford to pay labour more than labour's due. As protective corn duties starved the people - so protective labour prices would first ruin the employers; and, through them, ultimately the employed.

Labour has a keen instinct for ascertaining the places and pursuits for which it is best rewarded. Wherever we find populations clustering and multiplying, we may be sure that the masses have been tempted there by comparatively high rates of wages. The more sudden the demand for labour, the greater it's price, and the more rapid the influx of men. Our coal and iron fields have congregated great multitudes about them; and our agriculture districts are more thinly inhabited than ever. The mining population of Scarsdale increased nearly 60% between 1801 and 1861, although the increase on the gross population of the hundred was only about 30% of it in the same period. And almost parish by parish, and hamlet by hamlet, as there happened to be mines or not, the population largely increased or slightly diminished. What drew men from the more rural districts to the crowds of Clay Cross, Staveley, Whittington, Eckington, or Dronfield? The high wages of colliery labour. The same attractions exert a magnetic influence over wider ranges, and there is a drain of people from the rural districts, with their 9-0d. or 12-0d. per week, to the more productive districts where the wages in great numbers of instances are nearer to 40-0d.

Now it is quite clear that the wages of North Derbyshire have hitherto not only satisfied the resident population, but have attracted thousands of labourers from a distance - and, "if the labourer is worthy of his hire", surely these men have proved by coming and remaining amongst that they have attained their own estimate of their own worth. Why do they come, if they were not satisfied with what they sought? Why do they remain if they can better themselves elsewhere? Nor is this all. The liberality of colliery wages, has not only drawn men from a distance, but has a tendency on the spot to withdraw men from other branches of industry, ?????? ?????? ?????? classes of artisan and servants in this neighbourhood are very scanty in number. Men and boys go into the pits rather than into trades and service, because the independence is greater, and the pay better.

What then has happened all at once to disgust our labouring miner with the prosperity of his chosen calling? Has there been any increase in the hours of labour? No. Any decrease in the rate of wages? No. Any general want of consideration on the masters part? No, there are schools and hospitals, and rules for the safety of the mines, are the same as before. Are rents raised? No. Then what is it? Stripped of all claptrap? It is simply this: men want less work and equal or higher wages.

We say advisedly "stripped of all claptrap", for the provisions of the Truck Act, useful as they are for the cases they are intended to meet, are applied, for the sake of ???????, in cases they were never intended to meet: indeed, to cases specially exempt from their operation. When we hear of the tyranny of rents, "stores" or "doctor's fund" being stopped from a miners wages; we know that the men contented with a moderation of rents, because they prefer to live in the houses for which the rents become due. The "stores" for which they pay, we presume are not unreasonably priced, because we hear little complaint on that head. The "doctor's fund" is simply an insurance against an accident or illness, the prudence and economy of which is almost self evident.

Then it is said, "Oh, we are made to get 28 cwt., or whatever it may be, to the ton!" Well! either the contract was to get the 28 cwt., or it was not. If it was, where is the grievance? If it was not, the miner has an easy remedy. If the contract was to get only 20 cwt. for a given sum, and the man is made to get 28 cwt. for the same sum, no doubt this is a fraud which the magistrates at the county court will soon set right. But the fact is notorious that the larger sum is paid for the larger weight, and grievance at this point is precisely nothing.

These "long weights" arose from the desire to equalise the apparent yield in coal at the mine with the actual yield when it reaches the consumer. If it travelled by barge or boat, the coal was longer on the way and the waste greater. By rail the waste is less. The older the colliery, the larger the weight generally claimed and the higher the price, the old firms date from the days of canals, and the new firms from the days of railways.

We still come to the only real points at issue; - the hours of labour and the rates of wages. When coal getting is paid by weight, the hours of labour, however necessary they may be for the conduct of the mine, do not at all affect the wages of the men. The more hours they work the more tons they get, and the more tonnage they earn. Reduce the hours, the less coal the men get, and the less money they receive. The men paid by day wages form a small part only of those employed by the masters, so small indeed as to not materially to encumber the question. The hours of labour, therefore, we conceive is one of the questions which the masters can have little interest in hesitating to adjust.

But who is to decide the rates of wages? It was only the other day we heard a stallman, in supporting a claim for wrongful dismissal, give evidence that he earned 8-0d. per day above all outgoings, and the judge allowed him 4 weeks at 6-0d. per day. Other cases are fresh within our recollection, where the collier being interested in proving his earnings to be high, gives a very different scale of profits from other colliers who are interested in proving their earnings to be low. But take the average. There can be little doubt that the coal miner is more liberally paid for his work, than any artisan of corresponding skill. The risk, of confinement, the personal discomfiture of the miner should be, and is, taken into the calculation. Can the miner show that in any other occupation could he employ his skill and labour more profitable than in his present occupation?

These are questions to be discussed quietly, and masters and men have in the long run an equal interest in settling them justly. Strikes and efforts at starving out, and battling out on either side, do not advance the solution. Men may plunge themselves and their wives and children into the miseries of hunger, cold and wretchedness during the bitter winter months. They may even strive to crush the industry which feeds them, but if, by a miracle, they were accidentally to succeed, the consequence must fall with tenfold retribution on themselves.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 17th. November 1866.

Page 2 Col. 7 - Page 3 Col. 1

Letter - A Defence of Mr. Brown.

Sir,

Having been away from Derbyshire for the last five weeks, without seeing a copy of your journal during that period, I am to a great extent ignorant of the correspondence which has appeared in it concerning the miners union, either from Dick Wass or any other Wass of the masters. It so happens that a copy of the "Derbyshire Times" has fallen into my hands this week, and I see that the tyrants have let loose all the mad dogs, and Shylock is upon my friend Mr. Brown, of Hunslet. Well knowing him to be a good man, and knowing also that he is not well, either in mind or body, I cannot stand by and see him ill-used. It would ill- become me to do so. Work away! Thou Monitor from the regions of darkness, by Truth will prevail. Thou might have an interest in the Staveley Company, but I fear thou has none in the good prospects for eternity. What about your eight silly questions? First, are the colliery owners swindling men out of their weight? Ask the men themselves. Will Monitor undertake to say that 112 pounds is counted as a hundredweight, and 20 cwt. count a ton at Staveley? Mr. Editor, I ask Monitor his second question, and in asking it I answer his first question. At those pits where which checkweighmen are not stationed, have the Staveley masters refused to allow them? I would also answer this question, Mr. Monitor, by asking you another: If the Staveley Company had wished to convince the public that they delighted in a just balance, would they not have published to the world that they wanted the men to have the checkweighmen, and that they delighted in 112 lbs. to the hundredweight, and 20 cwt. to the ton. Question third: did not Brown promise them wooden huts to live in when they were put out of their houses? Monitor, have they not found a better shelter? Yes. And, let me tell thee, there's to be a national conference of miners, at Nottingham, to commence on the 13th. November 1866; wait the result of that, and see if nothing be done for the outcasts of Staveley. Fourth?: Did Mr. Brown not say that the Yorkshire union would support them if they were true to the cause? Monitor, on what day of the month, and on what time of the day have the Yorkshire unionists been appealed to by the Derbyshire men for support, and been denied any assistance? Monitor, answer that. Fifth?: Has not Normansell since said that they must depend a great deal upon themselves, and then they would not be disappointed? To this question I answer Yes. And I ask Monitor, Are those who will not try to help themselves, worthy to be helped by others? A piece of better advice was never given to a body of men than that which Normansell gave on that occasion. Sixth Question? Does Brown contribute to the union? I reply in the affirmative, and if it were not that I would be casting pearls before swine, I would send the balance sheet from Yorkshire to Monitor, and let him see Brown's contributions in an item to itself, just as it appears every month. But Monitor asks again, will Brown share his 7-6d. per day with the men in their distress, and also the profits he derives by selling books, as he advises the men to share their loaves? I beg to inform Monitor that William Brown has shared not only his loaf, but has given his liberty, and almost his life for the poor miners of England which is a great shame that he should be slandered by such unprincipled characters as Monitor. I also beg to tell Monitor that William Brown will share anything he has with those who may be the victims of the Staveley masters. William Brown is a man that could not eat his bread and see his brother in want. He has had to want himself, for when those for whom he has fought have had bread enough to spare; not only so, but that bread has come through William Brown's instrumentality. But yet he is to be slandered and denounced as an imposter. Mr. Editor, I think it is too bad. What does the "Looker-On" say? Does he not call upon the men of Derbyshire to drum him out of the county to the "Rogue's March". Mr. Editor, Derbyshire miners have no need to do that, for

William Brown is a missed man in Yorkshire, and when the Derbyshire colliers find that he does them no good, he will be welcome to come back to Yorkshire.

I think, Mr. Editor, if a "Looker-On" looked more and enquired more into William Brown's character, before advising the men to drum him out of Derbyshire to the "Rogue's March", he would have been wiser by so doing. But in spite of all, the union will go on, and "Looker On" may look on till his eyes ache, but he will not see William Brown turned out of Derbyshire. Least the Staveley scribblers should not feel that I mean them when I say "rotten stumps", I may say that I allude to the replies to the "Old Standard", which I read in your last issue. Yes, I mean those who have lived so long in the tyrannical atmosphere of Staveley that their very breath becomes poisonous to the liberties of Englishmen. Away with such a class of Shylocks! Away with them back to the days of their contemporaries, when the blessed Saviour said to them "Oh, generations of vipers, who has warned you to flee from the wrath to come?".

I might have gone further into argument if it had been necessary, but the fact is that there is no argument to some of your correspondents letters (Those I refer to) and I believe them to be written by men with nobodies interest at heart but their own.

In conclusion, let me ask those babblers to told their tongues, if the Yorkshire men and the National Miners Union will find money to support the victims of Staveley and Clay Cross. No, it will not stop their tongues or their pens from abusing the union which they are engaged to work against. It will be a fruitless task, for the union will roll on, and roll over all such characters.

Hoping you will find a corner for this in your next impression.

I am Sir,
A Miner of Twenty-seven Years Standing.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 17th. November 1866.

Page 3 Col. 1

Miners Meeting at Clay Cross.

A crowded meeting was held in the large room at the Angel Inn, on Monday evening. The proceedings were commenced by the singing of a hymn, after which Mr. Springthorpe was called to the chair, and in a few remarks introduced the business of the meeting.

Mr. Ackroyd, miner's agent, West Yorkshire, gave a very able address which we are compelled to omit for want of space.

Mr. Dixon, the Secretary to the Miner's Union of West Yorkshire, said it afforded him great pleasure in having the opportunity of addressing so large a meeting bent on obtaining that liberty which was the birthright of every man. He hoped they would be true to their principle, and argue that it was the right of all to sell what they produced in the best market. The miners had the right to sell their labour for as much as they could get. As the masters take all the advantages they can of the men, it was their duty to combine and get all they can for their labour. They wanted to raise themselves on the social scale and to be treated as human beings. He had worked in or about a coal-pit for twenty-seven years, and was now employed as a weighman. He complained of paragraph that had appeared in the "Leeds Mercury", giving an incorrect statement of the number of collieries in Yorkshire six years ago, and the number at present, and in that article endeavouring to show that little progress had been made in that time, which the writer attributed to the miner's union; but (said the speaker) he says nothing about the number of pits which in that time have been worked out, or the depression of trade. To show the men that it was not owing to the miner's union that this was the state of things he stated that in six years there had only been one strike, and he was glad to inform them that in that strike the men were supported by the union. Though Mr. Brown had been maligned, he (the speaker) could bear testimony to the fact that he had shared his loaf with the rest of his brethren, and had actually sold a valuable pony to support them. What would have been the consequence if there had been no union? Why, the men would have had to submit, but instead of that coal had gone up in value, and the men had got an increase of wages to the value of 4-6d. per week. The "Leeds Mercury" had said that the miners of Barnsley were not educated, but gives all praise to the Clay Cross Company for having spent £6,000 in schools. He understood that the men paid 1-0d. per fortnight into the Field Club, and he had been told that they had in their employ at least 2,000 men and boys. Well, he thought what was contributed ought to meet all expenses for the schools, the doctor and physic, and leave a considerable sum, which would not only pay the interest, but wipe off the debt in a few years. In this matter they had no occasion for boasting, seeing that those things have been, are being done with the money of the miners. He was sorry to say that the "Leeds Mercury", which professed to be a liberal journal, was more opposed to the miners union than any paper in Yorkshire. One of the proprietors, however, was a partner in a colliery. Nothing would raise the colliers but combination by uniting them to improve their conditions in every way. If they have a union they can with confidence wait upon the masters and show him that he is as much dependant upon their labour and they are upon his capital; and can show him that their interests are identical. The masters have a union, but they object to the men having one also to protect the labour. It had been said that the trades union encourages strikes. Not at all - they wanted a better class of stewards, men of intelligence and education, and who knew something of the principles of the working of collieries. An Inspector had said in his hearing it was not necessary that the steward should be able to read or write. If a steward

cannot read he is not likely to go and ask the men to read the rules for him; stewards generally have too big stomachs for that, he advised the men to follow the example of West Yorkshire. They taunted him by saying they would get the coal by machinery. For his part he did not care if they did - the sooner the better. His advice was to think more about yourselves and then the public will treat you as men. (Cheers).

Mr. W. Brown, miner's agent, said he had read with pleasure a paragraph in the "Sheffield Telegraph" last Friday, informing the public that a deputation had waited upon Mr. Binns, that interview had been of an agreeable nature. He would urge upon them that the next interview that they had with Mr. Binns they would show that gentleman that they can better serve the Company by being members of the union. He hoped, therefore, that no bait held out would be taken by them, or any declaration signed that they would give up the union. In his opinion, the union would prove a benefit to the Clay Cross Company. He had no doubt, if that which they had asked for was granted the men would work more Mondays and Tuesdays; fewer men would be taken before the magistrates, and the men would become more respectable and improve in their morals. He referred to a newspaper which he said contained a tissue of lies in reference to the late county court case which had been tried by the Staveley Company, contradictory statements had been made. He did not object to the Clay Cross providing schools or a hospital; but he would guarantee that every stone, every piece of timber, and every nail in those institutes had come from the earnings of the miner. He did not object to a hospital, for men that had no home, but were constantly running about the country and of little service to anyone; yet he thought that the most proper place for a man who happened an accident was his own home, if he had a wife worth calling a wife. No-one could attend to him as well as she. Second-hand places would do very well for runagates. The demands of the men were reasonable, yet some people said they were not. Was there anything unreasonable in the men wanting a checkweighman, to see that justice was done them? Was it unreasonable in them wanting to get 21 cwt. in the ton? Was it unreasonable for the men wanting to work eight hours in the pit? He would advise the men to take ten hours at present if the other grievances were redressed. An extensive coal proprietor in West Yorkshire had told him that the miner's union was a good thing both for masters and men. He should like to see the day when the checkweighmen shall be at his post, and the men at the end of the week go to him and ask him what he had received, so that he may know whether he is correct. He assured them that the miners of England were with them, so that they might depend upon help. They might have a struggle; he hoped not. If true to their principles, they were sure to come off victorious. He was sorry to hear that the shopkeepers in the neighbourhood say that the miners were improvident and dissipated. He would advise them to subscribe amongst themselves, and be their own masters in this respect. If the lock-out should take place, he had no fear of the flourpoker(?) coming home empty from the shop. If there was a steward in the meeting, he hoped that if he had anything to convey to the masters they would speak the truth. He knew what right was, and as soon as he saw the men overstep the bounds of right he would cease to be their agent. He wanted them to keep from error. He did not want the money to go to the lawyers or for drunkenness. He gave the Derbyshire miners credit for being willing to take advice, and concluded by urging upon them to be true to their principles and their union, and asked them who would be prepared to do so to show their hands.

A forest of hands was held up immediately. A goodly number of females were present, and appeared much interested in all the proceedings.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 17th. November 1866.

Page 4 Col. 1

Important Miners Case.

Benjamin Bamford and Mark Renshaw, were charged with violating the special rules of the Grassmoor Colliery, on the 30th. inst., by ascending a shaft at their colliery (the property of Messrs. Barnes). Mr. Cutts defended, and to save time admitted the rules. The prosecution then called John Booker who said: I am a hanger-on at Messrs. Barnes colliery, Grassmoor. My duties are to superintend the "ascendings" of the pit. Between seven and eight o'clock on the morning in question, the defendant and another man came to me and attempted to ascend the shaft. They both got onto the chair and I asked them to come off when they replied that they should go out when the chair went. Cross-examined by Mr. Cutts: Renshaw's duties are as a holer. Mr. Barnes: No, he is a stallman. Mr. Cutts: I object to this interruption, it is very unfair. Cross-examination resumed; I am at the bottom of the pit, and see the men come in and out. I don't know the occupation of the men in the pit. I don't know what time it was when the defendant came in that morning. I don't know that there was no work for him until twelve o'clock. he never represented to me that it was an unreasonable time to wait, and that he wanted to go up the pit. He did not say anything about it that morning. He did not give any reason for wanting to go up. It is usual to give signals before ascending. There was no danger in their going up. The underviewer gave orders that day no one was to ascend the pit, without first seeing him (the underviewer). This being the whole of the evidence for the prosecution. Mr. Cutts said the information was laid under the 5th. and 20th. special rules of the colliery. The 5th. stated that "all persons engaged in and about the mine shall obey the "lawful" commands of those set in authority over them"; and the 20th. says that "during the time of the mine drawing, every man ascending shall be under the direction of the banksman, and those ascending under those of the hanger-on". The first question was whether that given by the underviewer was a lawful command, and upon a fair construction of the rules, that would depend upon the propriety or impropriety of defendants conduct at the time. From the evidence tendered, it seemed that the defendant had gone into the pit about the proper time - six o'clock - and although it was not admitted whether there was work or not, his case would show that there was no work to do. His client was told that he could not work until 12 o'clock, that as he had entered the pit at six o'clock, it was too long - in short, it was unreasonable that he should be expected to remain in the pit six hours doing nothing. No man working by contract should be hindered from working; yet this man was to have no pay, and to be compelled to stop in the pit. He (Mr. Cutts) would prove that there was no work from 6 o'clock till 12, and in these circumstances he thought that the defendant had a perfect right to demand to come up the pit, especially when there was no danger to any man's life, or any damage to the property of the master. was it reasonable for the hanger-on to give such a command?, for if he could do so for one hour, he could do it for twelve. Samuel Goodlad was then called, and said: I went down the pit with defendant on the morning in question, about ten minutes past six. When we got down George Bamford, the contractor, wanted us to load on in No. 6 stall. Defendant said he would if he (Bamford) would give him a days wages. The wage was much less for loading than for holing. Bamford said that if he would not load there was nothing else to do, and we might go out. We went to the bottom, and there was no-one there. We were very near starved to death. Between ten minutes past six and eight o'clock we had nothing to do. By the Bench: We are engaged to do anything. I told Mr. ???????? I would do anything if I got a days wage. Mr. Cutts: there is not a word of evidence to show there was work offered to do to the defendant. It has been held in the County Court that a stallman is not obliged to take any work by which he can only get inferior pay. Mr. Heathcote: We are not a County Court here. Mr. Cutts: We are dealt with by the same law; if not, I have something to

learn. Mr. Heathcote: We don't have law, we have justice here. (laughter). Mr. Cutts: We shall see by and by. Mr. Lucas expressed his opinion that the orders of the underviewer had been disobeyed. Mr. Cutts: It is not as yet given in evidence that there was the least danger. Mr. Lucas: No, but it might be done sometimes when there was. The Bench then conferred together, and ultimately decided to fine the defendant £1-0-0d and cost, 15-0d., in default one months imprisonment. There was a similar charge against Goodlad, and the Bench decided that his case should abide the results of the other.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 17th. November 1866.

Page 4 Col. 2

Staveley - Serious Row.

The man and lads who work at the Springwell Pits are usually conveyed to the colliery in the empty coal-trucks which arrive here during the night, and drawn by a locomotive engine belonging to the Midland Railway; and this, on Saturday, breaking down on coming out of the shed, the men were kept waiting whilst another was got ready. This necessarily took about half an hour. Two or three of the men, whose work required them to be there a little sooner, started to walk the distance, which was about a mile. This proceeding did not suit the rest, and men were surrounded by a crowd of lads armed with whips. One of the men was thrown down and pitched over a garden wall, and another was held by a man who encouraged the lads to lash him in the face with their whips. At this moment a cry of "Police" was raised, and a general scatter ensued as one of the police employed by the company made his appearance. The engine arriving at the same time, the whole were conveyed to the pit. The man who was thrown over the wall has not been able to work since.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 17th. November 1866.

Page 4 Col. 2

Staveley - Suspected Trade Outrage.

On Monday morning, as John Hazlehurst, of Norbriggs, was proceeding to his work in Speedwell Pit, he was met at the pit-bottom by Thomas Heywood, Senior, and Thomas Heywood, Jnr., (one overman and the other deputy overman of the pit). After calling him "knobstick", "blackleg", etc., and using the most abusive language to him, they spat in his face, and then knocking him down, dragged him about the pit by the hair of the head, they kicked him in the most brutal manner. The poor man was brought to the pits-mouth in a most pitiable state. He made a complaint to the viewer, Mr. Campbell, who, with Mr. Markham, is now investigating the cause of this outrage. It is supposed that the bitter feeling between the unionists and non-unionists is at the root of it. It is to be regretted that the men who ought to set an example of good feeling and forbearance should be the first to aggress. This is the first case of the kind that has occurred since the union commenced.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 17th. November 1866.

Page 4 Col. 2-4

Letter - The Miners Union at Staveley.

Sir,

I observe in the "Derbyshire Times" of the 10th. inst. a communication from Mr. Brown, with his answers (?) to the eight questions contained in my letter of October the 31st.; but in no case has he given that clear and distinct reply which the public has a right to expect.

In answer to No. 1, he says, "Did ever William Brown, of Hunslet, say that the masters were cheating the men out of their wages?". It is a well-known fact that the substance of one of his greatest texts has always been "That the Company were professing to pay their men at so much a ton at 20 cwts., whilst in reality they were only paying them that price for 28 cwts., or as much more as they like to take", thus clearly implying that a systematic robbery was being committed upon the men. I need not argue this point further, it is sufficient that Mr. Brown has, in this instance at least, acknowledged his defeat in an endeavour to obtain public sympathy at the expense of truth and justice. He knows very well, but so do the colliers that the payment upon 28 cwts. is an old established custom, that there is not the slightest intent to defraud.

In reply to No. 2, he says, "Are the checkweighmen upon the pit bank any use to the poor men who go down the pit and send out the coal, under the present mode of weighing?". As Mr. Brown has already acknowledged that there is no robbery on the part of the Company, I am at a loss to understand what he means by referring so darkly to "The present mode of weighing". The coals are weighed on a just balance, and the two machine clerks (One for the Company, the other for the men) sit side by side to record the weight of each tub as it has passed over the machine, so that I cannot see how the system can be improved, even if the colliers desired it. These two answers are in direct contradiction one to the other, yet Mr. Brown says they are the best he can give.

The reply to No. 3 is, "Have not the committee hit upon a better plan?". If they have, it is unknown to anyone here: the only plan they have acted upon has been that of retaining possession of the houses to the last moment, thus increasing their liability; whilst some of them have taken temporary lodgings amongst their neighbours, only to create more misery by causing them to be turned out as well.

In reply to No. 4, he says, "Have not the Derbyshire miners been able to help themselves up to now?". This is no answer at all. In some exceptional cases the men out may have received pay to a small extent, but there are others who have had nothing. There are now about 500 men on strike at Hucknall Torkard, who have not worked for above 2 months; and I am told they have not been paid 8 shillings or 9 shillings each during that time: they have had a little, but how much? And yet they are members of this "Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire Miners Association".

In answer to No. 5, he says, "Does not Smiles say "Heaven helps them that helps themselves"?. I don't know what Smiles says, but I am well aware that my slippery friend Mr. Brown, has not only said, "We'll help you", but, "We'll keep you", stating at the same time that his assertions were backed by 45,000 men with many thousands of pounds at their disposal, anxiously waiting to pour the glittering grain into their empty coffers. None of this money has come yet, but it has been suggested, as an excuse, that the building of the coffers is not quite finished.

In reply to No. 6, he says, "Does not Brown contribute to the union, and has Brown ever received 7-6d. per day?". The first part of this is a portion of my question to Mr. Brown. I don't think he does contribute to the Derbyshire union, and if he does, where does he pay? Then, as to the latter part, I only know what appeared in two local newspapers, in which a report of one of Mr. Brown's speeches was given, wherein he stated that his pay was 7-6d. per day; and no doubt he did so.

In answer to No. 7, he wished to know if from 12 to 10 is not the way to 8 hours. I was under the impression that Mr. Brown wished to come to an honourable settlement between masters and men, which will be final and conclusive, and will be a perpetual bar to any future misunderstanding between them. I now see the absurdity of such an idea, for by so doing Mr. Brown would rob him of his position, and he could no longer have any excuse for feasting upon the folly of his dupes.

As to No. 8 I have a good deal to say. My question ran thus: How is it that William Moss was promised support from the union, but, after losing five weeks work, could not obtain from them a penny? In his reply, Mr. Brown insinuates that Moss was discharged for using abusive or improper language to the Company's agent. This is a most wilful and malicious misstatement. William Moss and his butty were, according to the union rules, as clearly victimised as ever men were in this world. The unionists have passed a resolution not to open out fresh stalls, unless they were paid something extra, beyond the special allowance which is always paid in such cases. These two men were working in one of the new stalls, and because their request for extra pay was not granted, they refused to continue there, and were thus thrown out of work (or victimised). It appears that Moss's butty received something from the union, whilst Moss (who was suddenly seized with rheumatism), upon applying for his money, received notice that he must first obtain a doctor's certificate, take it to Luke Vardy, (the secretary) who would not pay him. Moss was unable to walk, but his mother got the certificate and sent it to Vardy, but there was no money to be had. Subsequently he was served with another notice, to the effect that he must go to Staveley for the money, but Moss could not walk so far (from Barrow Hill), and being disgusted with the treatment he had received from the union, he resolved to give it up altogether. Having more sense than some, he immediately renounced all union principles, and was eventually allowed to resume work in a stall from which a prominent unionist had been discharged. So exasperated were the proponents of the union, that they resolved to leave no stone unturned in their endeavours to persuade him to abandon the work, and again join the union; so they got up a subscription, two days after he resumed work, Charles Purdy (a well-known character amongst them, holding office as a local secretary), called upon Moss, and asked him to go to his (Purdy's) house as there was some money for him. But this attempted at bribery utterly failed; and despite the envy, hatred, and malice of all the lot of them, Moss has continued to work ever since, with the pluck of an Englishman, and is very glad to be able to do so. I may say that William Moss is not in the habit of using such abusive language as has been imputed to him; and if the party who made the assertion had a purpose only half as honest, he would then be deserving a more lasting respect than in the present circumstances he can ever hope to gain.

If this is an illustration of the honourable and impartial manner which the union's rule (prohibiting the maintenance of member's who lose their employment through the use of abusive language) is carried out, I will mention the case of Ezekial Clarke, the first man discharged since the union commenced. This man (I believe he was a preacher) called his overman a liar, and used such extremely abusive language, that his presence in the pit could no longer be tolerated; yet he was received with open arms by the unionists, and voted to high honours amongst them.

Mr. Brown is a sort of agricultural collier, fond of spouting and shouting above ground, but whose practical knowledge of the lower regions is very slight. Shallow brooks are always

noisy, and so is Mr. Brown; it is necessary that he should be so, as numbers of his flock are already on the counter march, tired of his empty boastings, and sick of waiting for the fulfilment of some of the great promises he has so lavishly wasted upon them. Still he is a "great gun" amongst the favoured few whose interest it is to uphold him, who dip their fingers in the same dainty dish, and who vie with him in eloquence. But after all, he is only a "muzzle loader", who requires something more effective than that nowadays. Hunger is a stern teacher, and all the promises in the world cannot allay its cravings; therefore it behoves the colliers of this district to consider well the position they have been goaded to by the reckless taunts of this person, upon whom their hopes are fixed, and who fattens upon their folly, utterly indifferent to the terrible desolation which threatens the mining population of this county. It has been stated more than once, upon the very highest authority, that the coal-masters will not be badgered into any compromise, so long as they are menaced by the union, which is being prompted by this unprincipled moneysucker. The poor fellows, who ???????? his counsels have been thrown out of employment, must now subsist upon their savings, upon credit, upon the miserable pittance which in some few cases may be wrenched from their union. In either case their position is truly pitiable; is hard for families to part with the savings of years, it is likewise so for those who run into debt, being impoverished in after life for the sake of a delusion; whilst the man who is styled the "miner's friend", will tour the country in cabs and carriages, feasting as he goes, at a cost of famishing hundreds. In his speech at Staveley, on November the 5th., Mr. Brown thought to gain a point by referring to the discharge by the Company of two checkweighmen from the Springwell Colliery. I need only say that such discharge was legal, as I am informed that the parties in question had made themselves obnoxious to the Company, on the transaction of such businesses on the Company's premises as rendered the men totally unfit for an impartial discharge of the duties entrusted to them. They considered themselves fixtures, and thought they could do as they liked. The Company had no objection whatever to the employment of checkweighman, and even if they had the inclination, they lacked the power to refuse such a demand on the part of the men. It is specially provided in the "Miner's Inspection Act", and no mine on earth can hasten(?) such an appointment.

The questions contained in my previous letter embraced the all important subjects upon which Mr. Brown delights to dwell; and if he had given a clear and a truthful answer to each, he would have saved a great deal of trouble. But such a course would not have suited him, as by so doing he would have opened the eyes of many who have been hitherto deceived by his glib tongue.

"A Victim" says the miners can stand their home annihilating, the ruin of their families, etc. If I mistake not, this "A Victim" (being only a lodger and a single man) is not in a position to make such an assertion. It is all very well for a young man holding the office of local treasurer (and consequently being possessed of some portion of the union funds) to make this statement, but it can be a matter of very little importance which way the tide goes. He might abscond at any time, and who would not have any claim upon him? This union is not a registered friendly society. You will see, by this victim's letter the selfish character of the union. If a poor man (a non-unionist) gets lame, they would not contribute one penny to his assistance; but if he were a member of the union they would be filled with compassion, and a collection would be made for his benefit. In his postscript, A Victim, fearing dissension amongst the unionists, warns them to take no heed of such calumniators as Monitor. I say to the miners, beware such canting hypocrites as this money-grubbing Victim and his associates, who are reaping such a golden harvest amongst you. Remember you are paying levies already; but where is all the money you previously subscribed? Secession is rife amongst you; the pipe of discord had already sounded in your midst! Guard yourselves against the taunts of the hideous monster who goads you on, and in your calmest moments consider well between your old masters and stranger to whom many of you have succumbed. The hour of trial is fast approaching; think what interest these strangers can have in your welfare, and do not suffer yourselves to be recklessly misled by those whose

only interest in your cause is to obtain a comfortable living in the easiest possible way. Mr. Brown boasts that where he has been he can always go again, but I can tell him that he is not always welcome by his former adherents. I have a letter from a miner at Methley (once the seat of Mr. Brown's actions) and from that letter, I could give you Mr. Brown's character, but my remarks have extended too far already. Mr. Brown says, "All respectable coal-owners are with you", whereas everyone knows they are all against you in this union business, but in other respects, I admit, they are your greatest friends. Mr. Brown wishes to know "Which side would Monitor have been on if the masters agreed with the union?". The question is simply absurd and childish, for if the masters so agreed there would have been no argument at all and Monitor would have rested quietly at home and reserved his pen and ink for some other end. A few more words and I have done, instead of Yorkshire helping Derbyshire the boot is on the other leg, and I give it as a positive fact that Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire Miners Association is (or has been) actually been paying wages to two men (I think I am right in stating two) who were sent from here to Staffordshire for the purpose of preventing colliers going from that county into Yorkshire. Mr. Brown in his letter says that he does not believe in talking to a man in a mask, but will meet Monitor either in public or private to answer further questions. Mr. Brown should remember that in refusing to carry on a discussion in a public journal, he shows the white feather amazingly. I am not afraid of Mr. Brown, but I tell you plainly that he is afraid of being beaten. My desire is to put this matter in its true light before the public at large, in so doing it matters not what name I assume, but in any case the responsibility of allowing my assertions to remain are contradicted less with the promoter of the ???????? calamity. I defy Mr. Brown to rebut any of these statements, but should he favour me with a reply, I beg he will give answers to questions and don't again double upon me by avoiding a reply and asking questions instead.

I am, Sir,
Yours Obediently,
Monitor.

[We do not identify ourselves with Monitor's opinions or guesses, but his guess as to the identity of "A Victim" must be taken for what it is worth. Editor, Derbyshire Times].

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 17th. November 1866.

Page 4 Col. 4

Letter - Dick Wass to Mr. Brown.

A dialect letter which it is impossible to copy by the means at present in use.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 17th. November 1866.

Page 4 Col. 4

Letter - What the Union did for us Years ago.

Sir,

I worked at Staveley nearly all my life and was forced to join the union that was formed 23 years ago. We were led away by the grand promises of the delegates at that time which only ended in extreme privation and misery to us all, our furniture found its way into the pawnbrokers shops, and it was years before we got out of debt again. Since that great strike we have had peace at Staveley and for many years past we have had constant employment both in winter and summer. The delegates told us at one of the Staveley meetings that the Yorkshire masters would support us. I want to know how it is that the old Staveley hands cannot see through the scheme that the Yorkshire miners want to take our trade and work away. Depend upon it, we shall find sooner or later that the Yorkshire people pay the delegates to create disturbance at Staveley for their own benefit. Most of our fellow workmen who have gone into Yorkshire would be glad to return if the Staveley dispute was settled. I am not a union man as I will be free and have my liberty and do the best I can for myself and family. Many of the union men will find before long that the good understanding that has for years existed at Staveley between the masters and men is the best for all.

Yours Obediently,
An Old Hand.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 24th. November 1866.

Page 2 Col. 2

Advert - Sale by Mr. Lancaster.

The Edgemount Estate, near Bradfield, Yorkshire.

To be sold by auction, by Mr. Lancaster, the Royal Hotel, Sheffield, on Tuesday the 11th. day of December, 1866, at 4 o'clock in the afternoon, by order of the devisees in trust of the will of the late Henry Hinde, Esq., and subject to conditions of sales to be then read.

All that valuable freehold estate, called "Edgemount", situated in the Chapelry of Bradfield, in the parish of Ecclesfield, in the county of York, consisting of the comfortable, convenient residence or shooting box, with a garden, pleasure grounds, coach-house, stabling, and suitable out-offices attached; also the farm house, out-buildings, and 122 acres, 2 roods, 29 perches of arable, pasture, and woodland, divided as follow:-

In hand,

Site of House, Out-offices, Garden, Pleasure Ground, Fishpond, and Plantations,	totalling	49a	3r	27p
Near Park,	totalling	8a	2r	1p

In the occupation of Thomas Scott

Farm House, Out-Buildings, and ten several closes of lands	totalling	56a	2r	31p
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In the occupation of Messrs. Dyson and Milner

Fire-Brick Works, Yard, and close of land	totalling	7a	2r	1p
Whole	totalling	122a	2r	20p

The whole of the property lies in a ring-fence, and is situate in the immediate neighbourhood of the "Bradfield Moors" the preserves of J.W. Rimington Wilson, Esq., and others, within 1 mile of this is Bradfield, 7 miles from Sheffield, and 2½ miles of Oughtibridge Station on the Sheffield and Manchester Railway.

The farmhouse and out-buildings are of recent erection, and are very substantial and commodious, and, the whole of the fences have been built regardless of cost, and are in good repair.

The plantations afford excellent cover for game. They are all in thriving condition, and a considerable ????? ?????? ????? may immediately be taken into them.

A valuable bed of Fire and Pot Clay underlies the estate, a small portion of which is now being profitably worked under lease at £200 per acre.

To a sportsman wishing for a commodious and accessible shooting box, or a gentleman requiring a summer residence for his family, the property is commended as possessing peculiar advantages.

Part of the purchase money may, if required, may be made, etc., security of the property.

Further particulars may be had on application to the auctioneer, in Barnsley; to Mr. John Brown, Land Agent, Chesterfield; or at the offices of

Messrs. Smith and Hinde,
Solicitors, Bank Street, Sheffield.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 24th. November 1866.

Page 2 Col. 4-5

Leader - Why should Masters and Men Disagree?

Our readers are well aware that as one of the organs of a large and populous district, we can only echo the sentiments of every branch of the community, and at the same time best fulfil our duties to the public, when we strive to promote the prosperity of the masses. It is very easy, and at the same time very unjust, to take up some popular grievance and declaim on some stirring matter which affects the interests and excites the passions of one branch only of the multitude; whilst the residue of society, which after all may form the great majority, prejudiced by the particular regard, and no ??????? argument which concentrates itself on the special requirements of a section.

What would be easier for us, if we were mere party of speculative writers, than to rush wildly into the contest between masters and men, which is raging in our neighbourhood, and to ring the chimes on all these rounded statements by which an excitable and uneducated population are recently impressed!! What is more easy than to paint all the tyranny on one side, and all the suffering integrity on the other? To pose the question after the Irish model, in which Moore's hero instantly assumes,

"On our side is - virtue and Erin,
On theirs is the Saxon and guilt!"

and if we did so, what would be the consequence? On the threshold of December, at the commencement of a winter predicted to be one of the severest in the experience of the present age, we might assist in encouraging a multitude of men, not naturally discontented, but suddenly grown very dissatisfied with their lot, we might insist in encouraging them, we say, into a refusal of work, and consequent upon that refusal into a loss of all those means of sustenance by which under the providence of God, they "live and move, and have their being". We might assist in bringing the wives and children of able, muscular men to depend upon the scanty pittances of the casual charities of the miner's union fund, or the union workhouse. We might assist in demoralising the men themselves by accustoming them to self-imposed idleness, urging them to endure present want and degradation in hope of some future of vague and distant "good" - letting them, with the dog in the fable, drop their bones in the unreturning waters, in order to grasp the shadow of a doubled possession. What would follow? Not only misery to the miners on strike and the miners families, but to the small shopkeepers and traders, and all who subsist upon the prosperity of an industrious community. The consumption of bread and groceries, and meat and calicos, and boots and shoes, and all other necessaries, is reduced at once. The miners not only pinch and starve themselves, but by their lessened means of consumption, on the payment that regulates consumption, they pinch and starve the class that live by feeding and clothing them. And the evil does not end here. The adversity of the retailer affects the interest of the wholesale trader, affects the merchant or producer, and so on through the various grades of society. So much producing power is lost in the community, and the country is so much poorer by the loss.

And even this does not exhaust the question. If the masters have been deprived of the means of completing contracts in which they have already entered, and are entering with prudence into contracts for the future, the market for the commodity produced, and for the labour which produces it, may possibly permanently fail. It is notorious that the strikes in the iron

districts of England have proved very advantageous to the ironmasters of France and Belgium, and very disastrous to the iron producers of our own country. They have caused the introduction of foreign locomotives, and other products of iron and steel, and have enabled the continental manufacturer to come into our markets and undersell us. We receive imports from countries to which we formerly exported; and under the inevitable influence of free trade, we may lose our commerce, unless we brace the sinews of our industry, and keep our people laborious and contented. We cannot have cheap bread and cheap cottons in the country, and at the same time coal or iron dearer than the coal or iron of neighbouring states.

What has already happened in the iron trade, so depressed that iron-miners lately upon strike now gladly accept wages which months ago were offered and refused, what has happened there may also happen to the coal-trade of South Derbyshire. South Yorkshire has had its strikes and lockouts and the results are that the coalmining in South Yorkshire has ceased to progress, and the rates of wages there have been far below the wages of North Derbyshire. Instead of aiding and helping its resources, such a coalfield might reasonably be expected to have done, the conflict in South Yorkshire came, and the consumers of coal sent their orders to Durham or Derbyshire, to Staffordshire or North Wales. Diminish supplies in Derbyshire, and the consumers will again go elsewhere. These districts which have lately been busy with labours and prosperous thousands, are reaching not only their class, but those who supply their wants, these districts will cease to increase and multiply their populations, the demand for labour will collapse, and wages will go down with the decreased demand.

Is there any sufficient reason for urging on so great a calamity? We have good markets for our mineral products. Let us keep them. We have great demands for labour, consequently high wages. Let us preserve them. We have every prospect of a long prosperity if we can only go onwards congenially, contentedly in the active progress of our industries. Why should we imperil the future, lest some new and unbearable evil has arisen which even present misfortunes will better! The evil has not arisen, the relationship between masters and men - in this neighbourhood have been harmonious until recently. Where the men have grievances, how much better for them and their masters to meet, and settle the terms of their contracts for the future. The capitalist wants labourers, labourers want employment. The capitalist cannot, in the long run, afford to pay labour either more or less than it is worth. If "more", he cripples the market for his own productions. If "less", he loses his labourers. If the labourers succeed in raising wages above their natural level, they drain the resources from which the demand for their labour springs. They act like the simple rustic who killed the goose which laid the golden eggs for the sake of the store he hoped to find within.

There is something, too, in the relationship of master and man, higher and better than the mere hard bargaining and sale of capital and labour. Around all our large works there are communities which have grown up and localised themselves with the interests and institutions of the places. There has been, if not the simplicity of patriarchal life, at least a bond of common purpose and mutual goodwill between employer and employed, some sense of obligation and duty on the part of both, and much kindness amongst all. It were a pity to crush this. It were a sin to raise instead poverty and distrust, and hatred.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 24th. November 1866.

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The Strike or Lockout at Staveley.

Public Meeting in Chesterfield.

We regret to state that we see no immediate prospect of a reconciliation at Staveley. The decision of the Miner's National Association to support the men by levies throughout the country has given them fresh courage and determination, as there is no indecision on the part of the masters, we fear a few weeks will see most of the Staveley pits standing idle. The Miner's Association are procuring land on which to erect wooden huts to house the ejected men who have already exhausted the supply of cottage accommodation. On Thursday night last a meeting of miners was held at the Corn Exchange, Chesterfield. The report of it was prepared but crowded out at the last moment. We shall give it next week.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 24th. November 1866.

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Staveley - Intimidation at Staveley Works.

On Wednesday morning, the 21st. instant, a case of this description occurred at the Old Hollingwood Colliery, under the following circumstances. A man, named William Crookes, was conducting a loader, named Robert Jackson, to work in a place lately occupied by a unionist, when, on nearing their destination, a stone (supposed to be intended for Jackson) was flung with great force by some person, which hit Crookes violently on the elbow, so as to disable him from following his employment. Such is the feeling which pervades the minds of the unionists in this neighbourhood, who will neither work themselves nor yet let anyone else. We need scarcely say that the sooner such a state of things is put to an end the better, we are glad to learn that the Staveley Company have offered a reward of £5 for the conviction of the offender.

Signed. Correspondent.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 24th. November 1866.

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Miner's Meeting.

On Wednesday evening, a meeting of miners was held in the large room of the Angel Hotel, Clay Cross. Mr. T. Price, a lock-out, was called on to take the chair, when, after a few remarks, he introduced Mr. E. Slater, another lock-out, who addressed the meeting at considerable length, on the rights of the union. Mr. F. Gray and Mr. J. Keeton then severally addressed the meeting for some length of time, urging the men to stick to the union, as it was the only means by which they could obtain their rights, as well as more money and less work. The names of the different tradesmen and others were given who are in favour of the union. The men were strongly urged to behave themselves as men, in all their dealings. A school had been started amongst the lock-outs, where they were taught to read, and write; some of the better vox scholars had volunteered to teach the rest, also to read a daily paper to them. The use of the Reformed Chapel has been kindly lent them for the purpose stated.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 24th. November 1866.

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Letter - Gentleman Billey and Pope and Pearson's Pits.

Sir,

The next time Gentleman Billey makes his appearance in public, I wish he would answer the following questions:-

- First - Was he the delegate that got up the strike at Pope and Pearson's in Yorkshire?
- Second - If so, how is it he did not succeed to establishing a union there?
- Third - Is it a fact that there are no union men in Pope and Pearson's pits?
- Fourth - Is it not true that Pope and Pearson's non-union men are better paid, and better off than any men in Gentleman Billey's pet pit?
- Lastly - Did not all Gentleman Billey's promises end in men being out three months with empty bellies, which brought misery and starvation upon their families, and first made them acquainted with the pawnbroker's shop?

A Butterley Collier.

Nov. 21st. 1866.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 24th. November 1866.

Page 4 Col. 5

Letter - The Miners and their Union.

Sir,

Having seen a great deal of correspondence and letters in your paper respecting the miners and their union, I beg leave to make a few remarks on the subject through your paper, as there appears every likelihood that the struggle at present, but I think there are some that write for nothing else but to create agitation and strife amongst us, for there has been some of the letters with neither sense or reason in them. For there is a passage in Proverbs in the scripture where it says, "It is an honour for a man to cease from strife, but fools will be meddling", so I think they had better cease and let those that have the business to contend with, work it out themselves, for there are some reasonable thinking men amongst us that can do without their humbug. For what is required at Staveley, I believe at Springwell in particular, is neither a strike nor a lock-out. They want the tonnage altering from 28 cwt. to 20 cwt. to the ton, and the permission(?) in the prices accordingly, so that a reasonable average workman could get a fair days wage for a fair days work, and the pit to only turn 10 hours instead of 12; to begin at seven in the morning and cease at five at night, and the men that are victimised to return to their places. If the masters would agree to meet a deputation of reasonable, thinking workmen from the pit, and try to arrange matters, and come to some terms with them, it would be a great deal better than a strike or lockout. But, there are no doubt, some unreasonable and unprincipled men amongst us, who go about saying they mean to have this and the other, in spite of the masters, which is impossible to be done. And there are men of that class in all trades, we cannot help that, especially amongst miners, for we are mixed up with all classes and denominations whatever from all counties and shires. Is it therefore impossible to govern them all, for amongst our army and navy, though strictest discipline is kept, there are some that become disorderly, for where there are many men there are many minds to contend with. But I do not see why the masters should have so much prejudice against the miners for forming themselves into a union to protect their labour, for their labour is their capital, for union likewise makes provision for them in case of accident and death, for no doubt, there are many that have not made a provision before hand, and should a man happen an accident soon after he comes to Staveley, and he has a family of small children, the benefits of the Field Club are very small to keep them all, it being only 5-0d. one week and 4-6d. another, and should they happen to live in one of the Company's houses it will take 5-0d. per fortnight to pay his rent, so it would leave very little to keep the family on, and in case of sickness a man would have to be on the ground three months before he had any benefit of the Field Club, so that a union would be a benefit to all working men where properly carried out, and every pit company to manage their own affairs, so that might work together for our good. I contend that we ought to be allowed to keep our union together as well as other trades and profession, for they have unions to a certain extent; even doctors, lawyers, clergymen, and capitalists, and they would not allow a man to practise or preach, without going through his degrees, and paying so much money. They do not consider the poor collier, who ought to protect himself. Some people say we have no right to persuade each other to join the union. I contend we have, for should there be ten men working together at any trade, and nine of them are united, I say they have a right to coerce or persuade the other to join them, providing they use no violence towards him. Hoping these few remarks will meet the approbation of all whom it may concern, and that the masters will agree to meet a deputation before the twenty-eight days notice is up, by inserting this you will greatly oblige.

Yours, etc.,

A Workman at Springwell Colliery.

Nov. 15th., 1866.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 24th. November 1866.

Page 4 Col. 5

Letter - An Old Pitman's Letter.

Sir,

I was very much startled by the attempted reply of an Old Pitman (I say attempted, for I never read such a puny, evasive effort in my life) to the two letters that gave him such a severe lashing, in your edition of November the 3rd. To the reader he owns that he is everything that is bad, to the Loader he tries to pass a few more of the lies upon him. What possesses him to say that he is selfish, or else he would not be an Englishman, is past my comprehension. Englishmen, generally, are frank, free, open-hearted; generous to a fault, ready to do the part of the Good Samaritan where it is needful. The Englishman if Englishman had always been in that class of which the Old Pitman considers himself a true representative, the people of Lancashire would not have the tale to tell which they can tell to the present day. I less surprised when he says that he is conceited, for whoever knew a person full of conceit that any good principles about him? He next states that he is self-sufficient. You never knew a swaggerer that was of any good, for self-praise is no recommendation. He says that he can paddle his own canoe, if he can it is with an oilcan in own hand and a feather in the other, and that by putting his foot on other men's backs he thinks he shall be lifting himself up. He says that neither his lads, nor other men or lads work in the pit twelve hours. I say that you are base, a false man, a calumniator, one who is trying to imitate his Satanic Majesty in all that is bad, a man who is insensible to all that is good or beautiful. There is one thing, Sir, which I will just call to your attention, that we never knew of any good being introduced but that it always met with a great deal of opposition, the opposition has always done good in the end, for it brings out both sides of the question, except in the present instance which leaves the public to judge which side of the question is right. I ask the public through your valuable paper, whether it is right for any man or lad to work twelve hours in the pit? For I maintain, in spite of these scurrilous scribblers, that they do work twelve hours in the pit, except a few holers and stallmen. I ask again if there is any harm in men uniting, when the example has been set them by the masters? Is there any more harm in the men uniting to protect their labour, than in the masters uniting to protect their capital, and to grind the men still lower in the dust, if they could? It has been said that the men do not know that they have had any grievances until Mr. Brown came. I can answer them by saying that they did, and had held no less than eight private meetings before Mr. Brown was invited to speak at Chesterfield. I understand the Loader to say that the highest wages got at Seymour were 7-0d. or 8-0d. per day, not 10-0d. or 11-0d. per day, as the Old Pitman insinuates. And I myself have known men to be in the pit 2 o'clock in the morning, and be there while 6 o'clock at night. (There has been a little alteration in Seymour lately in consequence of a deal of water running down the shaft and the ginneys; so that they do not get the water down until four o'clock instead of two as formerly), so that the men can only work fourteen hours now. I don't say that any of the men work that time regularly, it happens by chance, but the masters do not forget to hold that day's work up to the view of the public and say "Look yourselves what our men get, when at the same time there are tickets I believe in existence now at Seymour, with only about 2-0d. or 2-6d. per day for twelve hours. Hoping that the masters will not cajole any longer on those place-hunters, for look at it in it's true light and judge for themselves is the sincere prayer of,

Veritas.

Seymour, Nov. 14th.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 24th. November 1866.

Page 3 Col. 7

Clay Cross.

On Wednesday morning, between six and seven o'clock, a boy, named Levi Richardson, employed on the No. 3 Tupton Pit bank, of the Clay Cross Company, fell from a stage, and broke his thigh. He was conveyed to the Company's hospital as soon as possible, where Doctors Wilson and Grellitt were in attendance, and soon set the fractured member. We are happy to state that the sufferer is progressing very favourably.