

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 6th. Oct. 1866.

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Leader - The Masters and Miners at Staveley and Clay Cross.

The probabilities of a serious disagreement between the masters and colliers in this district are sufficiently great to excite anxiety throughout a district like this, where the collier population forms so large a percentage of the total number of inhabitants. The whole trade of Chesterfield and its neighbourhood depends to serious extent upon the staple occupation - mining, be it coal mining or ironstone getting, and the probability, however remote, of a cessation of work, is at once important and depressing. The numerous companies which are scattered over the rich mineral field of which Chesterfield forms a natural capital, employ a vast number of men, and as a consequence disseminate a large quantity of money during the year in the form of wages. This circulation of money benefits the local tradesman, who relies upon the collier as a customer for his ware, whilst he in turn is relied upon to a lesser degree by the wholesale dealer. The small shopkeepers especially depend upon the mining population for custom, and are always the first to feel the effects of any cessation of work from a strike or lockout. But taken as a whole, the town of Chesterfield, and the villages and towns in the district, are all much dependant upon the prosperity of the staple occupation, and it is to all of us a serious matter if through any disagreement between the masters and men, furnaces should be blown out, pickling cease to work, and the ironworks no longer resound with the busy labour so indicative of material prosperity.

Strikes are invariably disastrous things. Like the sterner battles between armies, that the is, as the Duke of Wellington observed, "nothing worse than a victory, except a defeat". Whichever side wins, both parties are losers. Not only are the combatants heavy losers by such a contest, but the effects of their struggles are to spread evils of many kinds on all around them. By every strike there is a permanent loss of money to the country. The master loses profits on his capital. The workman loses the profits on his labour, and submits to many privations. The shopkeeper loses his trade, and as a consequence his profits, and the country at large loses the advantages derived from the dissemination and circulation of the capitalists gold. We do not believe that the effects of strikes are ever good as a whole. Whatever good can be gained by a strike could be in most cases be obtained by moderation and negotiation. If the men labour under grievances, we do not believe that the masters will refuse to consider what they have to urge, if a deputation of respectable, steady men waited upon them. We do no intend to offer any opinion upon the present alleged grievances. They may be serious or they may be not, but we do wish to advise both masters and men to pause ere the enter upon the contest which is certain to bring great misery and privation upon a large and populous district. Let milder counsels prevail, and let it tried whether a dispassionate meeting between the employers and the employed will not suffice to heal the breach now so rapidly widening. Let the masters not forget that the collier has a right to put the full value upon his only capital - his labour - and on the other hand, let the collier remember that his employer has a right to receive a fair return for his enterprise in laying out his capital in works which give employment to thousands of men. Colliers of this district have been receiving good wages and full work, a fact which is due to a great extent to the length of time which has elapsed since this district suffered from strikes. The masters here have been enabled steadily to supply distant markets, whilst other firms have been prevented from doing so by internecine strife with their men. The consequences being that whilst the North Derbyshire colliers have been working full time, the colliers of other districts, though perhaps earning more money per day, have only been able to work parts of their weeks. Let this be remembered, and the colliers in this district never to arrange matters with their masters without resorting to strikes.

On the other hand we do trust the masters will avoid any steps which may tend to bring about an open rupture. The collier is no longer the ignorant, stupid fellow he once was, and in most cases is a sensible man, amenable to reason, and not to force.

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Derbyshire Iron Trade and Mining.

The iron trade of North Derbyshire was scarcely ever in a more prosperous state than at the present time; so large, indeed, has been the demand that the Staveley Company are about erect two new blast furnaces in connection with their present works. At the ironworks on the Lincolnshire side of the Trent business is very active, with several of the furnaces which have been out for some time are being actively repaired. The furnace of Messrs. Adamson, which exploded a few days since, and blew off a considerable portion of the top, and set fire to the offices in the neighbourhood, is now undergoing the necessary repairs, but some five or six weeks will elapse before it can be put into blast.

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Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire Miners Association.

The fortnightly district council meeting of the delegates of the above Association was held in the Market Hall, Chesterfield, on Monday, when about forty eight delegates, one representing each lodge, were present. The various reports showed that the Association was progressing as favourably as its most ardent admirers could desire, the income during the last month amounted to some £615. The number of members is now upwards of 7,000, which number includes upwards of 2,000 employees of Staveley - an addition to 450 from that district - during the last fortnight. The Council urgently advises all members of the Association to remain quiet; endeavour to gain their objects by law and persuasion; to be on the defensive, and not to incur or encourage in any strike, or any antagonism with the employers. They also state that should the employers place themselves in antagonism to the men, the influence of 45,000 miners will be brought to bear upon them; nor do they urge this defiantly, but wish for all matters of disagreement to be settled peaceably, and on their honest merits.

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The Colliery Dispute in Derbyshire.

The miners union is daily taking a firmer hold on the numerous collieries in the county, and several of the men of Staveley, who had hitherto held aloof, have at length under a little pressure been induced to join. This is a matter of regret, however as members thus gained can but be lukewarm supporters of it. It is strongly rumoured that an arrangement has been made by the proprietors of the different collieries, that in case of a strike occurring at any of the pits a simultaneous lockout is to follow. It is to be hoped that such may not be the case, as incalculable misery must be the result. A numerously attended social tea in support of the union was held on Tuesday night in the large room of the Travellers Rest, Barlow, when most of the men employed at the adjacent Monkwood Colliery, near Sheepbridge were present. After tea a number of speeches on unionism were delivered and the proceedings were marked by great unanimity.

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Fatal Fall of Bind.

On Monday last an Inquest was held at the home of Mr. Joseph Smith, Crown Inn, Staveley, before Mr. Coroner Busby, on the body of Thomas Baldwin, aged 28 years who died from injuries in a coalmine on the 27th. ult. Abraham Walters, deputy at New Hollingwood Pit, deposed- On Thursday morning I was ????? a little after six and started the boys to work and sent the timber to the men at work. Walking to the deceased in 82 "benk" in the driftway he said to me "Abraham, I shall want a shot firing in ten minutes time". I remarked "Very well, I shall be back in that time". I went to 85 and came back and asked deceased if he was ready. He replied "Yes" and got his pick to take a sprag out before firing the shot. I remarked, "Now Tom my lad, be cautious over that, for this clod is nearly over you." He answered "Abraham, it will not come until the coal comes". I observed, "I am aware of that, Tom, be cautious: Throw your pick down and fetch your straw touch". He said, "I've got a man in a gateway waiting for me , I've no stuff ready for him to begin filling, his wage is going on". He went to work to take the sprag out. When he had taken it out he stooped down to pick it out with his left hand. He lent against the pack and as he was turning round to fetch his straw touch paper, the coal and clod gave way, and came upon him. If he had gone to either the right or the left in stead of putting the sprag up, he would have been in time to get out. He was caught on his loins, and fourteen or fifteen hundred weights fell on him. I called assistance, so that the clod was put off him, and I and another brought him to the pit bottom. He sent up, and although not dead, died between twelve and one on Friday night. If deceased had been cautious, and not gone under the clod to get the sprag out, but gone on either side, or struck the sprag with his pick and so drawn it out, the accident would not have occurred. The clod has a feather edge, and gave way down to the coal. Jury returned a verdict of "Accidental Death".

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Another Colliery Accident.

On Tuesday last an Inquest was held at the house of Mr. Henry Todd, Barrow Hill Hotel, before Mr. Coroner Busby, on the body of William Barrowcliffe, who met with his death under the following circumstances. John Barker, Barrow Hill, collier, deposed: I was taking timber out of No. 28 stall, Old Hollingwood Pit, deceased was about six or eight yards from me; we were talking together and I told him to cease his work; he was building a "pack" while he was taking the wood out to fill the coals. When I had partly loosened the "sprag" I was taking out the coals began to "weigh". They made a noise parting from the roof. Deceased said to me "They are weighting very nicely". I told him to stand aside. I wouldn't meddle with it any more. I picked up another sprag and threw it at it believing that it would send it down. It was dangerous to work in the coal with the pick. I told deceased to mind himself when I was about to throw the sprag; he said "Alright" but before I could throw it the end gave way. I had to make my escape into the "gob", I came back directly and called to deceased but he did not answer. I then went over the coal which had fallen and found him lying dead under the coals. I and a stallman, and deceased were working at so much a day for me and my butty (Samuel Barker). I expected the coal to fall just as it did fall. I can't tell how it was he did not get out of the way. He had a better chance than I had of making his escape. Eight or ten tons of coal fell - Jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death.

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Staveley - The Miners Union.

The correspondent informs us that the mother of a collier, William Barrowcliffe, received five pounds from the Miners Union on the death of her son, who was killed a few days back by a fall of bind, as reported elsewhere. He was one of the first members of the Union, and the members of it gave him a funeral in accordance with the rules of the Order. Eighty-six miners followed the corpse, each wearing white ties, gloves, rosettes, and every tribute of respect was paid to the unfortunate young man, who was only twenty six years of age.

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Great Meeting of Miners at Staveley.

An Account of a Public Meeting held as part of the ongoing campaign of strikes and lockouts over union recognition. (Precis).

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Letter - Dick Wass on the Staveley Miners.

Sir,

I should very much like to say a word or two through your paper, in reply to Dick Wass, which appeared in your last issue. Dick Wass, "All I wish is to give the Devil his due". Well, this fountain of corruption I will not rattle, less I shall be tainted with it. But I would just say that it is a great pity that Dick Wass has no more common prudence than to come before the public in such a spirit for by so doing he will be sure to get himself more enemies than friends. He is a collier chap has made any mistakes, he might just have pointed it out, without exhibiting himself to the world in such a vulgar way. But what can we expect.

Dick Wass say, "Now I consider Mr. Markham and Mr. Campbell spoke like gentlemen". I say, Dickie, is rather greasy; is it a Shylock's place you want, at the expense of the miners liberty and freedom? It won't do, Dick; the miners have suffered enough by such as you. You don't seem to like the men to come from East, West, North and South, to take the chief offices. O, Dickie, you shall be king, only show that you have some royal blood. You shall have some office, only show that you have a conscience; but without this men won't have you, and the masters dare not trust you.

Dick Wass wants to know why the Derbyshire men can't get a union of their own. Why, this is just what the Yorkshire men, and the Lancashire men, and the Northumberland men, and the Scotch men, and the Welsh men, wants to know long, and, they are coming from the east, west, north, and south to see how it is. Dick Wass, I tell you that Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire have been asleep long enough. Twelve hours a day, thirty hundredweight to the ton, eight pence and one shilling a week stoppages for the sick and accident fund, - all these things want putting to an end by somebody. But if Derbyshire men and Nottinghamshire men have lacked the moral courage to ??????????????????????, to bring about a better state of things, seeing that the above named counties so much rely on other mining districts, it is incumbent upon South Yorkshire, West Wigan, Farnsworth, Saint Helens, Northumberland, North and South Wales, Scotland to come to the aid of the Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire miners. And I want to know what has Dick Wass to do with it, for we are able to accomplish that for which we contend, viz. a reduction of the hours of labour, a just remuneration, better inspection of mines, and to be treated as human beings and not as serfs. Twelve hours a day in a coal pit. Well, Mr. Editor, the wonder is that intelligent, philanthropic, Christian England has allowed this inhuman practice to go on for so long. The wonder is, Sir, that some great, good man, like Wilberforce, has not risen to fight for the emancipation of the downtrodden miners of Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire.

Mr. Editor, let me appeal to the humanity of all who may read this letter, and ask - Is not twelve hours a day too long to be in a pit? Reader, whoever you are, whatever your profession, answer this question according to your own conscience, and then lend your influence for or against the miners of Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire. Mr. Editor, the twelve hours system has received its death blow, let the coal miners think what they will about it. And no only so, but the miners are determined to have a union, let the masters say or do what they will. The full intention of the miners is "Union and no Surrender".

Dick Wass wants to know who this Brown is that there is such a stir about. Well, I will tell Dick Wass that this Brown is a gentleman. Wherever he goes he can go again. Will Dick Wass

hides his blushing face in a crowd, Mr. Brown can stand on a platform. While the memory of all such as Dick Wass shall rot, the memory of such as Brown will be handed down from generation to generation, along with those whose hearts have bled to ameliorate the sufferings of humanity! Wilberforce was filled by the spirit of heaven to fight for the emancipation of the slave; Richard Ostler and the Rev. G. Ball were filled by the unquenchable fire to fight for the ten hours Factory Bill! Is it not time that an unquenchable fire of zeal should begin to burn in the breast of the miners and the community at large? - to sweep out of existence the present state of things as they exist in Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire? Still, since the sun began to shine, no slave ever endured worse hardships than he that works twelve hours a day in a coal pit. O! England, with all thy boasting, thou art a slave state yet! Britons, Britons are serfs yet! But Dick Wass wishes to know why Mr. Brown invites the women to these meetings. Do not women to some extent share every pang, every insult, every loss that their husbands meet with? Let an explosion of firedamp take place, and John be brought back home black as the coal he has just been working, and almost burnt to a cinder, a who then has to share in it? - Who then has to stand by his bedside at the silent hour of night? Poor Dick, I am surprised at thee; but it's true that thou aren't much of a scholar.

In conclusion, let me say, Mr. Editor, that in the face of all opposition on the part of the coalowners, the men are resolved to have a union, though they may have to suffer by it for a time; suffering will be certain, but it will be borne lightly; and if the miners are determined to have a union, I believe it will be done,

I am, Sir, Yours Respectfully,

A Miner of Twenty-Seven Years Standing.

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Staveley - Serious Assault in a Pit.

Thomas Melvin, collier, was charged with assaulting a lad named Thomas Baker, in the New Hollingwood Pit belonging to the Staveley Coal and Iron Company, on the 25th. of September. Mr. Busby was for complainant and Mr. Cutts defended. Baker had a severe wound over the left eye, and it was stated that he had been under the doctors hands since the occurrence. He deposed: I'm a pony driver and am fourteen years of age. It is no part of my duty to load corves. On Tuesday last I was in the New Hollingwood Pit, about 12 o'clock at noon. Defendant ordered me to load his corves, and I refused; he then struck me on the breast and knocked me down. ?????????????????????? throw something at him, and he struck me several times in the mouth and ear. I threw a handful of slack at him, and then ran down the gate, and jumped on one of the wagons. He followed, and tried to pull be off, and finding he could not he struck me with his lamp above the eye, and caused the wound I now have. I have been under the doctor ever since. Cross-examined by Mr. Cutts: There were two persons present, named Vardy and Wright. I have been in the habit of getting the slack out of the coal for defendant. There were some stones in the slack I threw. I did not say - "You lazy, Irish b-----, do it yourself". - Arthur Vardy, holer, in the pit, stated that he saw part of the transaction; saw complainant throwing slack at the defendant. Melvin ran down the gate and seized him. There was a scuffle and Melvin hit him over the eye with his lamp. Witness said that he could not say whether he did it on purpose or accidentally. James Bell, overman, was called to prove it was not part of the lads duty to fill the corves for the defendant. Mr. Cutts submitted for the defence that the blow with the lamp was accidental, and that the other blows were a well desired punishment for the lads insolence and foul language. - The Bench thought that the lad was to blame, but could not overlook the assault and fined defendant 5-0d. and costs £1-1-0d, or fourteen days hard labour.

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Staveley - Malicious Trick in a Pit.

A lad named Robert Cross was charged with wilfully cutting a certain steel rope, in the Speedwell Pit, belonging to the Staveley Coal and Iron Company, on Friday last. Mr. Busby prosecuted. Francis Pigford, overman, was called, and described the scene of the offense. He stated that there is an incline in the pit up which trams and tubs are drawn by means of a steel rope which passes round a drum worked by a stationary engine at the top of the incline. In this incline there are wells or sumps into which the water which would otherwise run down the incline, drains, and the train in its ascent of the incline is stopped at each sump whilst the water tubs are filled with the water which has collected. There are two men in charge of the trams, whose duties it is to empty the sumps ?????????????????? at the bottom of the incline. The prisoner was stationed at No. 26 gate, which is a good way up the incline. He had no business on the incline unless called by the men in charge of the train. Prisoner is a driver of horses. The witness was also asked to describe a "dresser", which he stated was an instrument used in dressing coal, with a hammer head on one side, and a pick at the other. The steel rope by which the tram was dragged up was three-eighths of an inch thick. The next witness, Joseph Poxton, is a little boy employed as a trapper in the pit. He deposed on Friday, at about half past three o'clock, Cross came to him with a dresser. He told him to hold his light to the rope, and threatened to kill him if he did not. He did so, and Cross struck the rope with the dresser until it parted in two. The rope was still at the time, as the men were emptying the sumps. Cross then ran away to No. 26 gate, and told witness not to tell. He had seen him cut the ropes five times before. Prisoner here said that it was this witness who helped cut the rope in two. He did not threaten to kill him. Edward Smith, one of the men in charge of the train of trams, deposed that at about half past three on Friday he was at the middle sump filling the water tubs. Whilst so engaged he heard someone strike the rope, and directly afterwards the trams started and ran down the incline to the bottom. Witness went up to where the rope was cut, and prisoner came to him in about three minutes. Witness asked him what he had been doing and said "Nothing". Witness went about twenty yards away, and then heard prisoner say to the little boy, Poxton, "Say nothing about it". George Marriott, engine wright, certified that such an instrument as a dresser would be a likely one to sever the rope as it had been cut. Pigford, in answer to Mr. Fox, said that the wagons were smashed at the bottom of the incline. Mr. Busby pressed for a committal of the prisoner for trial, and the Bench committed him to take his trial at the ensuing Quarter Sessions. Bail was accepted in two sureties of £20 each. Outside the Court a "Scene" was caused by prisoners mother fainting on the steps of the magistrates office.

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No Headline.

Mr. John Clarkson Sutcliff, late manager of the North Gawber Pits, was brought up at Barnsley on Monday, and after the examination of three or four witnesses, remanded until Monday next, on bail of £10,000. His defalcations were stated at from £4,000 to £5,000.

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Kiveton Park - The Late Accident at Kiveton Park.

On Monday, an adjourned Inquest upon the body of John Eyre, miner to the Kiveton Coal Company, who was killed by the breaking of a flywheel, on the 28th. of September, was held in the Infirmary, before John Webster Esq., coroner. It appears that workmen were employed in making a shaft for a new pit, and for this purpose an engine had been put down. Sinking had only reached a depth of 31 yards when the accident occurred. C. Morton Esq., Government Inspector of Mines, was present, and explained that the engine was not a new one, but had been purchased from the Wingerworth Iron Company, in whose possession it had been for many years. Only one rope was attached to the engine for the purpose of raising material out of the shaft, and it was whilst the bucket was descending that the accident occurred. Various witnesses were called, including Mr. Howard, the manager of the Colliery, but the only evidence bearing upon the cause of the accident, was that of S. Copen(?), engine fitter, employed by Messrs. Oliver, Engineers, Chesterfield. His evidence was to show that he had been engaged repairing the engine a day or two before the accident, he was then so alarmed at the rapid rate at which the engine was revolving that he cautioned deceased that if he continued running at that speed he would be liable to some accident. He stated that there were two large cracks in the flywheel, which had been previously repaired, and did not think there was any danger, provided that the engine was driven at a proper rate. - By the Coroner: How many strokes per minute do you suppose the engine was making when you cautioned deceased? - About one hundred. Mr. Morton said that he believed that with due care the engine was fit to work, it was very clear that it had been over-driven. To that cause alone he attributed the accident. The deceased, so late as the 2nd. of June last, was fined, and lost his place of work, in consequence of having driven a former engine recklessly. The Jury returned a verdict of "Accidental Death".

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Staveley - Notice to Quit.

Our Correspondent writes: - With one exception the whole of the ironstone miners at Hopewell Pit received 28 days notice from the agents of the Staveley Iron and Coal Company on Saturday last.

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Staveley - Coming Events Cast their Shadows Before.

As the gathering clouds portends a storm, so the hubbub of a mixed multitude of women and children, all shouting at the top of their voices, mingled with the barking of dogs, and various other noises too numerous to mention - lead a casual observer to imagine that something is "in the wind". Such, indeed, was the case, our correspondent informs us, on Wednesday afternoon. A few new hands had arrived at Barrow Hill, and the mere fact of them being strangers was in itself sufficient to attract a crowd of the vulgus profonura: but what added greater zest to their persecution was the fact that they were supposed to be by the enlightened mob who thronged around them, to be anti-union men, and to have come to work in the place of those men whose notices to quit will shortly expire. Be this as it may, they were hooted at, and epitaphs not the most polite or delicate, were hurled at them from the clanging tongues of the viragoes who followed them about, so that the poor men were really of the opinion that they had come to a land of savages, as yet undiscovered in the county of ours. People may laugh at all this, but it shows full plainly the feeling that exists in the minds of the outgoers towards all fresh comers. As the whistling wind and the rumbling thunder (to prolong the metaphor) are the first unpleasant signs of the driving hail and blasted lightning that is to follow, so the abuse of these women is but a foretaste of the personal violence to be expected from the men. The storm is coming fast, and we venture to call the attention of the authorities to the insufficient police force at command in this unsettled and almost riotous neighbourhood; but we fear that it will not be until lives have been endangered and property sacrificed that measures will be taken to nip the coming riot in the bud.

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Staveley - Miners Union.

The breach between masters and men grows daily wider. Each party seems determined to pursue the course they have undertaken. Notices continue to be given to all the men who take a prominent part in the present movement to leave their work at the end of 28 days. A number of the notices to terminate this week, and much speculation is rife as to the course the masters will pursue with regard to the householders, who have also received notice to quit their dwelling. Meetings continue to be held at Staveley and the surrounding villages in connection with the movement. In all probability the matter will end in a strike or lock-out, a calamity in either case which will weigh heavily on the entire community.

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New Whittington - Steel and Iron Works.

We are glad to hear that the above works belonging to Messrs. T. Firth and Sons have succeeded in securing a large contract for iron telegraph posts for upwards of 5,000 miles of railway. No doubt it will be the means of employing a large number of workmen, and so be a benefit to the town and neighbourhood.

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Miners Meeting at Staveley.

At meeting of the Staveley collieries miners was held on Thursday night last, at the Nags Head Inn, Staveley. The large room, containing 600 men and women was crammed "to suffocation", and all possible postures and positions taken in order to obtain a hearing.

Mr. Joseph Lee, a miner in the Springwell Colliery was appointed, and he informed his fellow workmen that now he had received notice to quit his employment he was warming to the work and liked the union all the better. He was proud of being a miner and though it was considered to be one of the lowest grades of society, and though so degraded he considered that there were not many persons who would be willing to take their places. Courage would be needed to carry out the plans of the union, and he hoped that none would allow themselves to despond. (Hear, and a voice, Not a bit of it).

Mr. Bunting, the miners agent, of Ilkeston, said their object in uniting was to obtain their own freedom, the benefit of society, and the glory of God. On the previous day the speaker had applied for the use of a room in Ilkeston and being questioned about the matter as if something was wrong and they were going to revolutionise the place. In reply he said that they would sing, pray and speak, and the committee must judge. There were about a 1,000 persons present at that meeting, who were trying to mind their own business. Many appeared to think that they had picked up a new doctrine, but it was not so, for God had preached the doctrine on Mount Sinai when he gave the commandment "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and thy neighbour as thyself." The doctrine of the Lord Jesus was "A new commandment I give unto you that you love one another," and later still St. James preached the fulfilment of the "Royal Law of Love". Contrary to this doctrine, the coal and iron miners had long been looked upon as mere grubs, most especially by those possessing a little authority; this idea of being mere grubs they wished to get rid off, and to rise in the social, moral, and mental, and he hoped in the religious scale. Their masters were combining to prevent the men asking for more wages, although they had not asked for anything yet. Surely they ought to be allowed to combine as well as the employers. The union was in unison with the Scriptures, for they declared, "It was pleasant for brethren to dwell together in unity". Those who worked in the pit were brethren, or members of a church. In Scotland, at Milnewood Colliery, the men had made an agreement with their masters on Thursday last to work less hours per day. They would have less wages, so men lost money, but would be gainers by having less hours to work, and that would be a blessing for he (the speaker) had gone home scarcely able to walk, but quite ready to scold at home. It was desirable that men should work until they were respectably tired, so that they might enjoy the pleasures of home, the advantages of a Mechanics Institute, or the privileges of the Chapel. At Airdrie, the colliers have tried the "Friendly dodge", as he hoped the miners of Staveley would try an do. They tried all means in their power in order to avoid a strike, but they were vain efforts, and after a strike the masters yielded to the terms of the men. The other men earned 6-0d. per day. That was not too much for a collier, for, when the deductions were taken away, they would not be left with more than 3-6d. for the man. Surely that sum was not too much wages for men who risked their lives and worked so hard. The Haughhead colliers were getting 2-0d. per day more than the men in another colliery under the same masters, simply because they were in the union and the other men were not. These facts were enough to open the eyes of the men, and to show them the advantages of union. All had helped by overworking to bring themselves into their present condition, and now it was the duty of all to read, think, pray, unite, and help to remove

these evils, which could not be borne any longer. To accomplish this they needed much policy and watchfulness. By going and reasoning upon the matter with the masters probably there would not be a struggle which so may expected. The union had already done Derbyshire much good. For some times there had been mutterings in different places that there must be a reduction of wages; there was no doubt, that 3d. or 6d. per ton would have been taken off but for the union. There was not a miner, whether in the union or not, who was not getting a benefit from the union. He hoped all would join, especially the Christians. The duty was enjoined upon them by the high heavens. He concluded by quoting the following lines, composed by Pitman -

Though deep down in the dust we toil,
Is honour banished from us?
Though grimed with dust, sweat, we boil,
Is equality taken from us?
No - We are as honest as the best,
In heavens scale we are not least.

Give me the honest and true,
The manly face, though blackest hue,
Give me the rough and ready hand,
With love of and pride of land
Before the polished villains quail,
And fawning hypocrites bland smile,
The rascals hoarse canting tale,
Or badness that's begat with all.

Or courage in the miner's heart,
With ?????????? ever knew,
More worth in his old flannel blouse,
Than coats of scarlet hue;
More kindness in his feeling breast,
Though some will think it wrong;
Or sense in his scarred blue pate?
Than does to most belong.

(Prolonged Cheers).....

The chairman said that the palace of her Majesty would be dark and gloomy if it were not for the bright fire of coal. To get the coal the miner had to risk his life. The fop would not do so, and when many persons finished their days work they could walk home very nimbly. No so the miner; he returned with a hobbling gait and haggard look. They wanted a better state of things, and union would do it (Several voices; It will, it will).

Mr. Brown, of Hunslet, said that he was glad to meet them. It was their duty to get ready to do that which they did not wish to do - fight. They had been expecting a great fight, yet it was not his wish to have one. The battles in South Yorkshire might have been avoided had the masters done as the men wished who had written the article in the "Derbyshire Times" for it was excellent. It says, and so did Mr. Brown, that the masters had a right to a return on their capital; it was equally right that the men should have a fair days wage for a fair days work. The writer thought that a strike would cause suffering in Staveley, and so did the Battle of Inkerman, but did England ever go to war before she liked it or before she tried all means in her power to avoid one? No more would the miners of Staveley strike unless they failed in every peaceful means. They were low, and so must they try to raise themselves. (Hear, Hear). Labour was the creator of wealth. If the men wished to raise themselves they must join and stick to the union. If their weight was reduced to 21 cwt. per ton, if a checkweighman was placed on those banks where there were not any at present; it would be because they had a union. If they wanted the weighman to remain on the bank it must be done by the union. The writer speaks of the gold not

going into the towns as it has done for some years past. Well, that may be the case for a time. It was not a pleasant thing for a man to endure the toothache. He might require the aid and skill of a dentist, yea the helpful strength of two or three men to extract the tooth. Still, if it be necessary, it must be done. And so, in this matter, there were grievances under which they had groaned for many years, and now they must try to remove them. It was acknowledged that they worked every day, and yet they had not a pound in the drawer. His opinion was that they were in debt. There was something wrong when men cannot earn and save something for old age. However a remedy could be found for these things he hoped it would be tried. He (the speaker) would do all he could to avoid a strike or lock-out. He did not wish to be hostile to the masters, but he would say, - there were 45,000 men to back him, - that he did wish to see the eight hours system brought about, boys educated, and every man to be sober, and to be treated as a man. Their cannon was reason and their balls truth. Truth reached every miner that the union was necessary for him, yea, it had reached the heart of every employer. Did they think that such an article as that could have been on October the 6th. 1860? ("No, No"). The miners must pray for strength to go to their employers as men. For whatever was gained was given to them by high heaven. Some of you have got notice to leave both work and house, and some to go before the magistrates. Well, you won't go alone, we shall go with you, and no doubt you will have a fair hearing, for in this country there is one law for rich and poor, landlord and tenant, and he hoped that they would be able to shout "Victory, Victory". If the battle had to be fought, and God forbid that it should, then they would find that such an amount of aid would be given them that it would not matter but whether the fight lasted two or four months. (Great clapping of hands and cheers). He had no fear of wanting help. Strikes are not good in themselves, but sometimes they produce good. In the Barnsley district, men sent deputations to the masters, who refused to receive them or speak to them. They were thus compelled to strike; and now, instead of getting 5% advances and weekly pays, as they asked for, they have got 10% and weekly pays. The men were willing to meet the Staveley masters, and also to lay their grievances before them, and so come to an amicable arrangement without strikes; but under the circumstances, at no prices, will we allow our principles of union to be damaged - (Hear, Hear and prolonged cheers). To those who now get 2-6d. today, if 15% per day be offered, or if they (the masters) will feed a pig for them would the men accept if a question of union or no union is insisted upon? At the Leeds Reform meeting there were 5 or 6,000 miners, some of the principal speakers said though the men were as well dressed as other working men, still they could be recognised by their pale faces and mode of walking. It was right they should. That morning he had been to visit a pit where a young man had fallen 140 yards down, there were five yards of water in the bottom. That young man was the sole support of his mother. That morning a little boy was returning home when he was killed by a wagon running over him. He would not use harsh words, but he must say that the death of young Chambers was a great mistake, for if the machinery had been in a right state, Chambers would be living now. While the speaker was addressing a meeting in that room a fortnight ago, his own brother-in-law was lying a corpse, having fallen down a pit nine scores of yards deep. Their lives were always in jeopardy, and their risks were far greater than other men's. Ought they not to have better wages? Strikes were not wanted to get their wages raised. Truth and reason should be sufficient for that, and he hoped that by patiently waiting they should ultimately succeed. King Canute was once persuaded by his courtiers to try to stop the waves of the sea; but he found he was mistaken. And would the Staveley Company find their mistake if they allowed any deputy or steward to deceive them by persuading the company they could crush the men? For the waves of the National Association were rolling in Lancashire, Yorkshire, Scotland and Wales, and if they do not stand out of the way the waves will come here. (Loud Cheers). His (the speakers) heart was full. For four years he had been engaged in the work; he had not had one months fair wind. He was ready, if truth and right permitted, to hail the day of perfect love. He trusted that those who had not receive notice to leave would treat those kindly who had - and they would share their loaf etc. with them, and all unpleasantness would be swept away. They must make up their minds to suffer, and the agents would do all in their powers to help. He could tell them that they were not the only ones getting

notice. At Clay Cross notices had been given. The houses he had seen at Staveley were very clean and nice, the women were orderly. He should like them to stay in their homes whether or not. They must pull at the union rope in order to help themselves; and if the eight hours system was adopted, he had no doubt that in the years end the managers of the Staveley Company would be unwilling to give it up, such would be the improvement in health and morals of men and boys, and diminished risk and loss of lives.

It was stated that cheering reports had be received from Messrs. Herring and Ball, who had gone into Staffordshire, and the men were joining the union there as they were here, and, subsequently, there was no need to fear that many of them would come and take their works and homes. (Applause).

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 13th. Oct. 1866.

Page 3 Col. 5

Letter - Fat Delegates.

Sir,

Having read the letter of a "twenty-seven years miner" to my brother Dick, in your last Saturday's impression, I beg leave to say a few words on his behalf. In the first place "the miner" seems troubled about my brother mentioning Mr. Markham's and Mr. Campbell's names with the respect they richly deserve. He calls him "greasy". Now Dick never was a "greasy" fellow, - he has always worked for his living, and is doing so now, and keeps his wife and family by his own hard labour. He has not a chance to get "greasy", like a "twenty-seven years miner" and many more I could mention, who are going about the country and living on the subscriptions of working men, - the hard earnings of poor men which ought to go to help keep their own families; they are getting quite fat and greasy out of the poor men. But there is a difference between Dick and me. Dick is so simple as to subscribe to keep the fat and greasy; but I never will; they will have to work if I get my way. Then again, he calls Dick "???????", simply because he is no scholar. Now both Dick and I had to go to work when we were very young, and we used to mind play and nonsense more than we did learning, or perhaps we should be better scholars than we are; and I think Dick would be a better scholar if he was giving them nothing and let them work; they would not be so fat and greasy. There again, the "miner" says "Brown is a gentleman, wherever he goes he can go again". It is all very nice when a man can sound his own horn - Dick can do the same thing. He has always paid 20-0s. in the pound so far; but a working man, like Dick, does not care to give themselves such airs; and there are many that can give themselves the airs of gentlemen, and go where they have been before. I will take for instance Shaw, the ticket of leave man at Sheffield last week, and many more. And again he charges Dick with hiding his "blushing face" in the crowd, whilst Mr. Brown can stand on a platform. Now all this I admit; and he would blush a great deal more if he was standing on a platform and talking such fudge and stuff, complete humbug, as Brown does, taking the money out of men's pockets to keep him and a few more fat and greasy. And again, he says "We will have a union"; well, Dick never says that they shouldn't. What does he mean when he says we? I hope he does not include me amongst them. I think he means himself and a few more greasy fellows that are getting fat out of the union, with such as Dick keeping them in idleness. Apologising for troubling you, and hoping you will insert this.

I remain, Dear Sir, Yours Truly,

Nat Wass.

Seymour Terrace, Staveley. Oct. 10th, 1866.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 13th. Oct. 1866.

Page 3 Col. 5

Letter - The Colliers Union and it's Principles.

Dear Sir,

I may truly say that ever since the fall of man, this world of ours has been the scene of disunion and strife. The bond which God designed to exist between the members of the human family, namely, masters and men, the bond of love, has been ruthlessly broken, and instead of peace and goodwill dwelling therein, the worst and basest passions have been suffered to gain the ascendancy. Nations, inflated with pride and thirsting with power, have lifted up their swords against others, and laid them in ruins. Neighbourhoods have been disturbed by the outbursts of turbulent passions; whilst the family circle, of which peace and love should ever be the adornment and the joy, has frequently been invaded by the hand of strife. For instance, there are many families in Staveley and the surrounding neighbourhoods that have notice to leave their houses and work on October the 22nd., because they have joined the union. And now, Mr. Editor, I think we have arrived at a state of progress in our history which demands a serious attention of every thinking man. Fearful features at present are presented to our view by the existing state of things. Tyranny with an iron hand is bringing starvation into the ranks of classes usually supposed to be in comfortable circumstances; and now it is evident that the state of things cannot long continue; nor can it remain stationary; it must daily become worse until some suitable remedy to be put into operation.

Mr. Editor, much can be done when we read of the 45,000 members who are ready to help us, besides other trades unions who are ready help us then, Mr. Editor, this already shows that the people have in complete measure the remedy with them, and that already have freedom enough to stimulate them to demand and obtain more, if they be but true to themselves and to one another. One great writer says that there never was a people enslaved who deserved to be free; and another not less great says if men are to wait for liberty until they become a wise and good in slavery, they may wait for ever. There must be a certain amount of freedom obtained to stimulate to a proper prosecution of rights, before the first aphorism is practicable, and with that amount of freedom the miners may work out their own emancipation; if they do not, it is evident that they do not deserve it. Yet the miners but govern their own conduct with intelligence, prudence and virtue, the victory is their own. Mr. Editor, the remedy is - Standing man to man. "Union is Strength; United we Stand". We see that the above is true in the case of the Thorncliffe men in Yorkshire, and the joiners of Manchester, who resumed work at an advance in wages. And now, Mr. Editor, the principle of our Union is, a fair days wage for a fair days work. I think that we ought to have it when we read, "the labourer is worthy of his hire". For when the Yorkshire masters can afford to give it, and the Nottingham masters can afford to give it for eight hours, we think that the Staveley Company can afford it if they will. I think, Mr. Editor, that there is no sin that bears on it's front a deeper or blacker mark on heavens's honour than unjust wages; all history is full of its woes. The labourer is our brother, and the child of our common father; he has a body like our own, and notwithstanding his hands and face through the honourable effects of toil, yet his soul has as clear a stamp of the divine image upon it as that of a philosopher or monarch. Mr. Editor, we want neither charity bread, charity clothes, charity dwellings. charity education nor charity religion. Free trade, unfettered labour, and fair remuneration are all we desire.

Your Truly,

An Eyewitness.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 13th. Oct. 1866.

Page 3 Col. 6

Letter - A Challenge.

Sir,

I think it inconsistent with reason and fair play that my name should be held up with ridicule before the public without any just cause. Now that "a miner of twenty-seven years standing", has so ably and pointedly laid out my faults before the public, I am prepared to meet in public or private, to refute everything he has said about me, in a nice and friendly spirit; for I neither fear the ????? nor call the ??? of no man. My previous conduct will show that I am neither "greasy" nor yet seeking "a Shylock's place", not yet have I done wrong to man or boy, and can hold up my head without blushing to all men.

Yours Truly,

Richard Wass.

Marsdon Moor, Staveley

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 13th. Oct. 1866.

Page 3 Col. 6

Letter - The Staveley Miners.

Sir,

The great philologist who had the impudence to send an anonymous letter to your valuable paper, and put another man's name to it, would find it much better for him, I think, to mind his own business, and let other people's alone. But it might be better for him if he would go to school again and learn his grammar, but perhaps he has a vocabulary of his own, so when he writes again he had better put his own name. But what can we expect? "where ignorance is bliss it is folly to be wise". "He that steals my purse steals trash, but he that steals my name takes that which enriches him not, and makes me poor indeed".

Yours Etc.,

The Veritable Dick Wass.

A Miner of More than Twenty-Seven Years Standing.

Marsdon Moor, Staveley.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 13th. Oct. 1866.

Page 3 Col. 6

Letter - The Staveley Miners.

Another Dialect letter from Dick Wass. Not yet done.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 13th. Oct. 1866.

Page 3 Col. 7

Letter - The Staveley Colliers - A Word in Season.

Sir,

As the present disturbance amongst the colliers seems likely to lead to rather unpleasant results perhaps you will allow an onlooker to offer a few remarks thereon. Firstly, I would advise all the colliers not to be led away by designing men, who care more for their money than bettering the prospects of the working man; but to use their own good sense, and endeavour to gain their ends by arbitration - not by force. In the next place I would beg of the coal masters to consider their employees as men, and not as brutes - to meet them openly and not to deter them from expressing their opinions fearlessly, and listen to these opinions carefully, letting their men see that they have their interests well in heart. Lastly, I call upon the public to second measures for arbitration, as in the event of an outbreak the purse of the public, and not the capital of coalmasters, or the labour of colliers will have to suffer.

I am, Sir, Your Obedient Servant,

Vox Populi

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 13th. Oct. 1866.

Page 4 Col. 2

Breaking a Hat.

Edward Murphy, alias County: Church Lane, Chesterfield, collier, was charged by John Houghton, collier, with having on the 25th. ult., wilfully damaged a hat, his property, to the amount of 3-0d. The complainant and defendant worked in a coal pit belonging to the Wingerworth Iron Company, at Spikehill, where the damage was committed. The charge was settled on payment of the damages and costs.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 13th. Oct. 1866.

Page 4 Col. 4

Alfreton - Caution to Colliers.

John Jepson, collier, Monkey Park, Clay Cross, was charged on a warrant by William Parker, agent for the Clay Cross Company, with absenting himself from his employment under the Clay Cross Company. Upon defendant promising to return to his work, he was charged upon paying expenses, 18-8d., the Magistrates informing him that if he came before them again on such a charge, he would be sent to Derby for 3 calendar months.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 13th. Oct. 1866.

Page 4 Col. 4

Colliers Row at Clay Cross.

Three youths named Thomas Wildman, John Sheldon and John Jepson, all of Clay Cross, were charged with assaulting a young man named Joseph Wood, of Clay Cross, on Saturday, the 22nd. of September. Complainant deposed that he called at the Clay Cross Company's offices for his money, and while on his way home he was attacked by the defendants. Wildman struck him, and with the other two got him down. and kicked him severely. With some difficulty he got away and ran up a bind heap. They overtook him again, and knocked him down, and repeated their violence. He again got away and they pelted large stones at him, and threatened to kill him before they had done with him. In cross-examination by Mr. Quarles, solicitor, complainant said that he was a corporal in No. 3 Pit. He had frequently to chastise them for their insubordinate conduct. This assault was their revenge. John Green and Thomas Banks gave corroborative evidence. Mr. George Dunn, an overman in the pit, was called to give evidence. He said when he asked defendants about the matter, they said they would do it again, and they were determined to assist each other to stop the thrashing of boys in the pit. The defendants were each fined 2-6d. and 16-6d. costs. The money was paid.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 20th. Oct. 1866.

Page 2 Col. 3-4

Leader - The Impending Strike - What the Masters intend to do.

We regret much to see that the breach between the masters and men employed at the great seats of Industry in North Derbyshire is rapidly widening, and judging by appearances it will not be long before an open struggle for the mastery will result. Emboldened by its successes in South Yorkshire, the miners union makes no secret of its intentions of enforcing the repugnant rules and conditions against which the employers of South Yorkshire struggled in vain, upon the masters of Derbyshire. Yorkshire fell when thus attacked by the power of the union, and the miners believe that the same result will follow the impending struggle in Derbyshire. Already the signs of the coming contest are clear and evident. At Staveley and Clay Cross prominent union men are under notice to quit their homes and work, and every day adds to the number of men locked out. Notwithstanding this, the mining population join the union in numbers every week, and its feeble ranks in Derbyshire are rapidly becoming strengthened. To this the masters are apparently awake, and aware that if they mean to resist the union with any chance of success, they must do so at once, they have determined to leave no stone unturned. The employers in Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire and, we believe, Warwickshire, also, have united and we have heard it stated, we believe with good foundation that the first sign of a strike will be the signal for a simultaneous lock-out at all the collieries throughout the three counties. If one master is assailed all will unite to aid him and as the Derbyshire union will be supported by the South Yorkshire and other kindred societies, the struggle is certainly to be protracted and disastrous. The masters feel that the establishment of the union in Derbyshire, accompanied by the speeches of the delegates who have been instrumental in starting it, is in some sort of threat. For years they have worked amicably with their men, but if they have had complaints and grievances they have been able to adjust them without difficulty. Now the union is established, it is openly stated that a reduction in hours of labour and amount of coal got are objects, though these objects have never yet been sort by the expedient of sending a deputation of miners to the masters to ask them to agree to the change. This fact the masters especially complain off, and upon this ground they place much of their conviction that what the miners want is not the remedy of grievances, but the establishment of power. Believing this to be a fact the masters have determined to fight the battle out to the bitter end, and we fear that it will so have to be fought.

The men, on the other hand, profess to have no intention to threaten the masters. They assert that the union is a defensive measure and not an aggressive one. Our readers will no doubt be familiar with the grievances of which they complain, and they need not here be repeated. What is more to the purpose is that whatever the result of the impending struggle, the public will be the chief sufferers. If the masters be compelled to yield, the public will be losers, since coal will undoubtedly rise in price. Whether they do or not the public will lose, because the effects of a strike will be certain to make itself felt upon the tradesmen in the district. We should be only too glad if we could point out any middle course, but we cannot see that the present difficulty will be susceptible of being settled by anything but an appeal to the endurance of both parties. If the masters will not give up their opposition to the union, and the men persist in joining it, sooner or later a struggle must result. Such is at present the position of affairs, we are only sorry that there is not one single point connected with it, upon which we can look with anything like pleasure, or, augur any good for the general public.

social and intellectual advancement they would enjoy a longer life, more happiness and plenty to spare at good old "Staley".

I am, Mr. Editor,

An old Standard at Staveley.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 20th. Oct. 1866.

Page 3 Col. 7

Letter - Another Wass on the Colliers Union.

An Dialect letter written in an e.e. cummings style.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 20th. Oct. 1866.

Page 3 Col. 7

Letter - Miners Union.

Sir,

What is the reason Mr. Brown and other delegates attend on Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire for the purpose of forming a union? Is it not natural to suppose that their only object is to cause a strike. Well, the miners say, "Mr. Brown strongly advises us not to strike". Yes, so he does; but at the same time he knows very well you can scarcely help yourselves, if you are true to your colours. What is Mr. Brown to gain by a strike in this neighbourhood? Simply this, - More demand for the coal of South Yorkshire, which district he is alone working for. Have not the South Yorkshire miners been on strike more or less for the last three years, and is it not reasonable that they should want to get as much of the old trade back as possible; and therefore have determined on the present course to gain their object. Would not both masters and men pay Mr. Brown handsomely if he succeeded in all this. All these points ought to occupy the minds of every collier at Staveley and Clay Cross, - in fact, in both counties. What is more plain? Is not Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire nearer to the great seat of coal consumption than Yorkshire?, consequently the former counties have the advantages in the supply, which the Yorkshire masters would do well to seek to secure.

If the miners of Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire want a union, cannot they form one themselves on good sound principles, which would be an honour to them? Is it not plain that on the present system they cannot succeed? With what spirit are they carried on? Are there not threats, intimidations, and violence wherever they exist? Surely this is unjust and tyrannical. Are not such proceedings a disgrace to this land of freedom?

If the miners would ask themselves a few questions on this very important subject, I am convinced that they would act independently of Yorkshire or any other shire. Hoping these few remarks may receive a place in your next edition.

I a, Yours, etc.,

A Resident in Clay Cross.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 20th. Oct. 1866.

Page 4 Col. 2

Staveley - Narrow Escape of Colliers.

On Friday morning, just after the whole of the colliers employed at Speedwell Pit, Staveley, had commenced work, the rope by which they had been let down broke whilst hoisting coals, Fortunately no-one was hurt through the accident, but had the rope snapped a little earlier lives might have been lost. The affair was, in fact, a "hairs-breadth escape". Is there not an invention in use for the prevention of accidents arising through the breaking of ropes.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 20th. Oct. 1866.

Page 4 Col. 2

Staveley - Intimidation by Women.

Neither of the contending parties of this place have yet shown any disposition to yield. An offer made on Friday last by the men to send a deputation to the masters to discuss the matters in dispute met with no response, the masters considering it a ruse to gain time. Meanwhile, those of the men whose notices have expired have refused to leave the companies houses. They have since been informed that their rents are doubled, and instead on deducting as has been usual for the fortnightly pay they are being sued for the amount in the County Court. During the past week in Barrow Hill and neighbourhood, have been kept in a state of commotion by crowds of women and boys going about beating pans, tea-trays, etc., and shouting at the non-unionists. Stones have also been thrown. The window of a man named William Horne has been broken and two men employed in sinking a new shaft have been obliged to leave the place through being hooted at and stoned by the women. The men, much to their credit, have held aloof from such reprehensible practices. The passengers who have got out of the various slow trains here have also been subjected to a close scrutiny by the women, who crowd in the station-yard on the look-out for "black sheep". They have generally, however, dispersed on being appealed to by the local policemen, both there and at Barrow Hill. At a meeting held the other day at Whittington, Mr. Brown strongly censured those who have been guilty of such conduct, and he declared that if it was continued he would leave them to themselves.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 20th. Oct. 1866.

Page 4 Col. 2

Staveley - The Threatened Strike.

The storm that we alluded to in our last, looks as threatening as ever, and but beyond demonstrations of feeling there is nothing seriously amiss yet. The two men who were hooted at last week, we are likened to understand, to pass the night where they had taken lodgings, but were obliged to proceed to Chesterfield; - in fact, the warmth of their reception was so very great, that on the following day they were, solens volens, obliged to beat a hasty retreat from Barrow Hill, or what their fate might have been, the ??????? sayeth not. Their casualties, were both heightened, one being wounded with a stone behind the ear. This sort of thing is rather too bad, and in these days of freedom of opinion and thought; we are glad to see that the authorities have increased the police staff, in readiness to prevent any sudden outbreak; as, if the men see that by using force they will only be injuring themselves and not furthering their own ends one jot, they will endeavour to obtain what they want by arbitration. There has been a report about windows being broken, but the only case that has come under our notice we find, after the most minute investigation, not to be the work of rioters at all, but of some little boys in playing. There has been cases of threatening, but then, words break no bones, and we sincerely hope nothing harder will.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 20th. Oct. 1866.

Page 4 Col. 3

Meeting of Miners at New Whittington.

A meeting of the miners of the town and district took place at the Baptist Chapel, on Friday evening, kindly lent for the occasion. Mr. Joseph Lee, who presided, in his opening remarks said that he would try to serve the world and leave it better than he found it. He had seen many things in his time, and hoped to see a better state of things before the present generation was much older (Hear, hear). He said that he had witnessed many scenes in the pit, and the dangers miners were exposed to. He remarked that the beautiful gas which lighted up the Chapel could not be obtained without the miner, and urged the miners present to stick close to their heart and hands and then he was sure they would be able to get some of their grievances redressed (Cheers). He then called upon.

Mr. W. Brown, miners agent, of Hunslet, who was received with loud cheers, and in his opening remarks said that he was glad to meet so many at their meeting, as it gave him great pleasure to speak to them on the subject of the miners association. Mr. Bright told the people at Leeds that he had the same thing to tell them over and over again - He was somewhat in the same position. He said "United we stand, disunited we fall". The master and the people had their eyes upon them; and the things to be accomplished ought to be done with caution, and the men that were at the head of affairs would be sure to achieve the victory - (Cheers). The masters in South Yorkshire have reduced the hours to eight per day, and why not the masters in Derbyshire? He then called attention to a letter in the "Ilkeston Pioneer" signed "Coal", who had insinuated that the money was wrongly expended, and wanted to know who Mr. Brown was, and if it was true that he was building some houses. In answer to that letter he would tell them that he had not looked for a piece of land yet, and if he reckoned up he did not think he should have a shilling to call his own; though he was trying hard to get their hours of labour shortened, he was working hard seven days a week to get them what they ought to have, and he had a wife and seven children to keep. He wished he could build himself a house, he should be very glad to have no rent to pay. He had never received a penny of their money but what he had dearly earned. They had met to talk about the grievances at a pit not fifty miles from them - namely the weighing question. He understood that the checkweighman had received notice to leave the works, and that the men had resolved to stop work if the man was sent away. He said that it was an easy matter to give the men notice to leave, but he did not see what the masters had to do with the checkweighman. They were paid by the workmen, so he advised them to go to work as though nothing had happened, and the Miners National Association would take the matter up. He said that he had known Mr. Straw, one of the men, some time, and he believed that he was an honest man both to the masters and the men. He then called their attention to reports that he had received from Barrow Hill about the union men hooting and calling black-leg after non-union men. He should not advocate their cause if they indulged in such abusive language as that. He then said that the government statistics placed the miners at the bottom of the tree. The miners average age is 27, the agricultural labourer 42, and the aristocrat 52. Why was the miner at the bottom. Because he had to work at the bottom of a pit 12 hours a day and inhale nauseous gases; no wonder the miner nodded when he went to church or chapel on Sunday for he had been working in those poisonous gases all week. He then explained the objects of the association, and the benefits to be derived from it; one was to pay a member if he reached 72 years 12-0s per week to keep him from applying to the parish for help. Though he wanted their rights and that was 20 or 21 cwts. to the ton, to have it properly weighed by a man of their own choosing. He had been told that the men were not allowed to see the ironstone weighed when it

was removed. He told the shopkeepers that this was the reason sometimes that their shop was not paid off. He then made some humorous remarks about the little "foxes"; he meant a communicator who came to hear and then went and told it to the master; he said they told not only what they heard but gave the interest before it was due. They did not wish to have a strike, if it was anything it would be a lock- out. After some remarks about the miners overworking themselves he went on to say that England was richer every time the clock went round. He then advised their friends at Springwell if they, the masters, refused to let the checkweighman come on the ground, to still continue to work and give the masters no excuse to complain. He then moved a vote of thanks to the friends who had kindly lent the chapel to the chairman and to the reporters, which carried, the following resolution was passed nem-con, "that we the workmen, working at the Springwell Pit, pledge ourselves to leave the weighing question at the above pit in the hands of the council of the National Miners Association".

The Doxology having been sung the meeting was closed with prayer.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 20th. Oct. 1866.

Page 4 Col. 5-6

Great Meeting of Miners at Clay Cross.

Long Notice of Meeting. Not done.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 27th. Oct. 1866.

Page 2 Col. 6

Barrow Hill.

The coming thunder still keeps rumbling in the distance, perhaps the present lull which has succeeded the violent outburst of last week, is merely indicative of the results we can expect. Extra policemen patrol the neighbourhood, but we trust that they will not have cause to exercise authority.

Correspondent.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 27th. Oct. 1866.

Page 2 Col. 7

Claim for Wrongful Dismissal.

William Jackson, collier, sued Henry Rangeley, colliery owner, Unstone, for £8-16-9d., for wrongful dismissal. The defendant(?) was engaged as a collier. On the 16th. of June he felt ill and left the colliery, explaining why he did so. On the next day he returned to his work, and Mr. Yates, the manager, refused to allow him to go to his work, and although he tendered his services every day, he was not again set on, and he therefor sued for 28 days work, his average earnings being 8 to 9-0d. per day. He could not get his tools during that time. He suffered from pleurisy, for which Dr. France, surgeon, attended him. In defence it was contended that defendant blocked up a passage in the mine with some wagons and refused to move them. This rendered him under the rules liable to instant dismissal and he was also liable to dismissal for using abusive language. James Yates, underground steward for Mr. Rangeley, said that plaintiff who was known by the name of "Lank", stopped the road by his wagons and refused to move them. He also used very abusive language. By his Honour. - Defendant did not refuse me to remove them. Cross-examined; The dispute about the wagons was not between my son and the plaintiff. My son has not finished the work that Jackson has engaged him in. The verdict for plaintiff for £6-0-0d. Mr. Binney appeared for plaintiff and Mr. Gee for the defendant.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 27th. Oct. 1866.

Page 3 Col. 1-2

The Staveley Ejectment Cases.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 27th. Oct. 1866.

Page 3 Col. 2

Letter - Mr. Brown and the Clay Cross Hospital.

Sir,

As one of the members who attended the miner's meeting held in the field adjoining the Angel Inn, by the delegates from the Union on Monday, the 15th. inst. I was most surprised to hear Mr. William Brown of Hunslet, in his speech refer to the Colliery Hospital in the terms he did; "He was astonished to see a building called the Colliery Hospital in Clay Cross;" He contended that the best place for a man injured in the pit was at home with his wife for a nurse.

There are plenty of arguments that could be adduced on both sides on the question of the propriety of a man when hurt going to his own home or to the hospital, but a most powerful favour for the latter, are:-

That the Hospital is within an easy distance of the works, ?????????? in many instances a rough and jolting journey in a cart is considerably shortened.

That at the Hospital a man can obtain nursing of a better description than he can possibly have (no matter how willing the wife may be), in the small space and small conveniences that a cottage generally affords.

And, lastly, there is a resident doctor in the Hospital, and the chief surgeon to the Company lives in the next house, whereby, surgical aid is sooner procured in cases of accident.

If the man be single and in lodgings amongst strangers, then the advantages that the Hospital affords are more obvious.

I think that all dispassionate people will agree with me, that Mr. Brown might with a better grace have left the remarks about the colliery Hospital unsaid, as that topic at all events was quite irrelevant to the main subject of his discourse.

Yours Truly,

A Looker-On.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 27th. Oct. 1866.

Page 3 Col. 2

Letter - Another Union for Men and Masters.

Sir,

I see many letters from different people about the union of the Masters of Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire and Warwickshire. If the masters would join and let one penny per ton go towards a union for all the colliers and their wives and children in case of accidents and deaths. (It is known how many tons of coal each pit and company raises in a year, and it is known how old each child is by the registrars) and have a man appointed to pay all the districts in the three shires, such as our Relieving Overseers, at a yearly salary, and all miners to either join or pay their subs separately; and let a man be appointed to pay such districts, and pay 4 days each week and 2 days to make his books right for some of the colliery agents to look over whenever required. It would make the country more level as I see many disabled colliers go to meet our Relieving Overseer at Clay Cross on Wednesday morning, likewise, our widows and orphans craving the bread which our rates have to pay for. The people where the coal goes to will not grumble much if about one shilling a year more for a comfortable fire, ?????????????????? much more. I think a penny a ton will pay all I may state, that masters and men might make a trial one year and see how it would go. I would not have one unionist have any bent from the masters union, for leaving one colliery and going to another without his clearance, not to have any benefit from the masters union. Masters generally give coffins to all who happen to come to their deaths by accident. I suggest that £2-5-0d. given to enter the body, to be paid by the Union Overseer as they may call him; that he should pay a widow 2-6d. a week; a child 2-0d. a week till the age of 12 years for boys, and 13 for girls; disabled colliers not fit to follow employment 7-0d., and such as are fit to do a little employment 5-0d.; give all men hurt in accidents 8-0d. per week till able to return to their work and boys a like proportion of their wages. I think this might make masters and men more united when one may say to his fellow workmen, If anything should happen to me my wife and family are provided for in case of death, and if I should live to pass work I have a pension for life, to a man is not to go to our Parish Union. Please give these lines room in your next paper and oblige an Old Workman of the Clay Cross Company, but not,

A Collier.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 27th. Oct. 1866.

Page 3 Col. 2

Letter - The "Old Standard's" Letter.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 27th. Oct. 1866.

Page 3 Col. 3-5

Anniversary of the Clay Cross Institute and Public Hall.

Speeches of Mr. Binns on the Union.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 27th. Oct. 1866.

Page 3 Col. 6

Letter - The Other Side of the Question.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 27th. Oct. 1866.

Page 3 Col. 6

Letter - Mr. Brown and the Miners' Trucks.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 27th. Oct. 1866.

Page 3 Col. 6

Letter - The Doctors Question at Staveley.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 27th. Oct. 1866.

Page 3 Col. 6

Letter - The Miners Union.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 27th. Oct. 1866.

Page 3 Col. 7

Letter - The Earnings of the Colliers at Staveley and in South Yorkshire.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 27th. Oct. 1866.

Page 3 Col. 7

Letter - Dick Wass again.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 27th. Oct. 1866.

Page 4 Col. 2-3

Caution to Colliers.

Robert Sinkerson, alias "Domino Bob" and Samuel Jarvis, colliers, both natives of Staffordshire, were charged on warrant, with leaving their employment without giving one months notice to the Clay Cross Company. Peter Robinson, agent to the Company, said, that the two defendants had worked in No. 1 Pit, Clay Cross. They were both stallmen; after receiving their pay at the office they both absconded taking with them the mens money who had worked for them. Inspector Fearn informed the magistrates that the two men were apprehended at Newall, near Burton-on-Trent, that the men stood committed to jail in Staffordshire, but they absconded from that place. Mr. Turbutt informed them that he should commit them to Derby Gaol for six weeks each to hard labour, both of them to return and serve their notices at the expiration of their imprisonment.

George Taylor, collier, was also charged on a warrant by William Parker, agent to the Clay Cross Company, with leaving his work without giving one month's notice. Ordered to return to work and pay £1-8-8d. costs, to be deducted from his wages.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 27th. Oct. 1866.

Page 4 Col. 3-4

Great Miners Meeting at Staveley.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 27th. Oct. 1866.

Page 4 Col. 5

Great Miners Meeting at Whittington.