

The Derbyshire Times

Saturday March 2nd 1878.

Boythorpe Colliery

£1,000 was stolen in the extraordinary robbery of Mr. G.J. Wood, cashier of the Chesterfield and Boythorpe Colliery Company. On Friday a daring robbery was committed at the Midland Railway Station, Derby, in remarkable circumstances. For many months past an accountant in the service of the colliery company has gone to Derby to meet a gentleman from the Bank of Burton from which he received a sum of £1,000 for the purpose of paying wages at the colliery. On Friday shortly before noon the usual transfer of cash took place. The accountant then proceeded to the refreshment bar on the platform for a few minutes then returned to the Chesterfield train as was his custom and deposited the two bags containing the £1,000 in gold and silver on the seat of the carriage, on the seat was another bag belonging too Mr. Williams, of Birmingham, a Director of the colliery company. The accountant walked up and down the platform conversing with Mr. Williams. Upon casting a glance into the carriage their suspicion that anything was wrong was no way aroused as the two bags and that of Mr. Williams looked alright. There cannot, however, be the slightest doubt that during this conversation the two thieves had been closely familiar of the cashiers movements and entered the carriage from the offside and replaced the bags of gold and silver by two other bags similar in size and shape exactly corresponding with those of the colliery company. Two men were seen to enter the offside of the carriage at the supposed time of the robbery, when no notice was taken of them they withdrew. Just before the train started for Chesterfield, the cashier had occasion to lift the bags and was shocked on discovering the substitution. Information was passed to the railway authorities who lost no time in telegraphing Nottingham and elsewhere. During the day Mr. Williams returned to Burton and made arrangements for the withdrawal of more money in order to discharge the payments of wages to the colliery people.