

PRESENTATION TO MR ISAAC ARMSTRONG, GREATOR MOOR.—A few days ago, the workmen and some of their friends met to present to Mr Armstrong, the late manager of the blast furnaces at Cleator Moor, a valuable gold watch, and elegant time-piece, the presentation was, at Mr Armstrong's request, a private one, although such a course was strongly against the feelings of the workmen, who were anxious to demonstrate the high respect they had for one who had for so many years occupied to them the position of master. Mr Matthews, manager of the Whitehaven Brick Works, acted as spokesman, and in very complimentary terms, assured Mr Armstrong how deeply the men regretted his closing a connexion with them of upwards of twenty years standing. As some evidence of the sincerity of this feeling, he (Mr Matthews) begged, on their behalf, to hand to him to Mr Armstrong the watch and time-piece, which they all hoped, might serve to remind him, as time rolled on, that he had left very many well-wishing friends behind. Mr Armstrong, in a brief, but feeling answer, accepted this, he said, unlooked-for gift. He had no claim whatever to it, but he was glad to find that while he in his position of trust had always felt it to be his duty to see that every man properly did the work expected of him, yet every good feeling prevailed. No man could help feeling some regret at the severing of old ties—at all events he did. Still, he hoped the change would be best for all. It was not going out of the county, and would therefore at times hear of their welfare. The articles presented were furnished by Mr Sutton, silver-smith, of Loyalist Street, Whitehaven, and, as usual, did him great credit. On the impromptu there was an engraved silver plate, with the following inscription:—“This time-piece, with a watch, was presented to Mr Isaac Armstrong, by the workmen of Cleator Moor Iron Works, and a few friends, on the occasion of his relinquishing the management of said works, with which he has been connected 22 years, and as an expression of their respect and esteem for himself and family. Whitehaven, July, 1865.” On the watch a similar inscription was engraved. Mr Armstrong, we may remark, has been appointed manager of the “Quiberland Iron Mining and Smelting Works” about to be erected on the banks of the Duddon Estuary.

CP 20 APRIL 1841

It gives us great pleasure to state that our clever and enterprising neighbour, W. N. Clay, Esq., of Flimby Cottage, has succeeded in introducing into the iron-works near Glasgow, his new mode of manufacturing the best bar iron. Several of the most extensive works in Scotland are at this time in full operation on Mr. Clay's patent process, and the iron thus manufactured is admitted by all to be of first-rate quality. In short the superiority of the iron made upon Mr. C's principle has been proved; it has been tested with the best English iron made on the old plan and pronounced by competent judges full ten shillings per cwt. better.—Mr. Clay's plan has also been adopted in Spain by some of the most extensive houses, and given perfect satisfaction; indeed so manifest is the advantage that a little time appears to be all that is necessary to dispel the prejudices that but too often clog the progress of new inventions, inasmuch as nothing can exceed the satisfaction which has been given in all quarters where Mr. C's patent process has been introduced and had a fair trial.



THE WORKINGTON HEMATITE IRON COMPANY LIMITED.

On Wednesday last was laid the foundation stone of the above Company's works, at Workington. The company, as our readers are already aware, was formed towards the close of last year, under the provisions of the Joint Stock Companies Act, 1856, embracing Limited Liability. The scheme was no sooner put before the public than respectable parties, chiefly Workington gentlemen, with more than the requisite amount of capital, were forthcoming. Ultimately the capital was fixed at £25,000, in shares of £500 each. A site on the north side of the harbour—one of the best, and perhaps the most improvable part, on the coast—was negotiated with Lord Lonsdale for a period of 99 years. The contracts were next let off—the erection of two furnaces and engine-house to Mr. Blane, of Whitehaven; the engine to Messrs. Aitkin and Co., of Glasgow; and the rails to houses in that line in the kingdom; and the rails to Mr. Fraser, of Hartington. Already the rails are laid down, connecting the works with the harbour, and the engine is about half made. The diameter of the blowing cylinder is, we understand, 106 inches, and that of the steam cylinder 48, with a piston stroke of 9 feet. Four furnaces are contemplated, but in the meantime two will be proceeded with. It is computed that each will turn out upwards of 150 tons of iron a week; and it is expected they will be in blast in the course of about ten months. The works have been placed under the management of Mr. Wm. Thorburn.

1857

As we have said, the foundation-stone was laid on Wednesday, at two o'clock p.m. The Chairman of the Company, Isaac Scott, Esq., J.P., performed the ceremony, in presence of a number of the shareholders and the general public, whom the drenching rain that fell about that time did not prevent mustering together. Mr. Scott having inserted in the stone a bottle containing a copy of the deed of copartnership, applied, in masonic fashion, the trowel, mallet, and square. He then jumped on the stone, and delivered the following address:—I have been called upon, by my co-directors, to perform the task of laying the foundation-stone of these works to-day—a duty which I could have wished to have fallen on other and better hands than mine. Having, however, undertaken this duty, I may be permitted to say a few words. I trust we may never have occasion to look back with regret on this day's work. On the contrary, I hope these works will prove a benefit to the town and harbour of Workington, and a source of profit to the shareholders. My brother-directors have given their best attention to the contracts for the furnaces and other works required for carrying on this important concern. We hope, in the course of eight or ten months from to-day, to see them in full operation; and under the able superintendence of our worthy manager, Mr. Thorburn, a gentleman of great practical experience and ability in the making of iron, we do hope to be able to give a good account of our stewardship to the shareholders when the proper time arrives. We hope that they will have no occasion to regret having embarked their money in the Workington Hematite Iron Co. Limited. There shall be no limit to our honesty, and we are determined always to pay neither more nor less than these principles cannot but be prosperous; and I am fully convinced that, owing entirely to the respectability of our shareholders, we could receive any amount of credit we might ask for from any bank in England. This, however, we shall not do, but shall be cautious at all times. We see the beginning of these works, but it is a difficult thing indeed to look forward to the future—to what may be in the course of years. In our day we have seen towns spring up where was nothing but waste and solitude around; and who knows but that on this barren piece of land we may live to see not only houses but a town rise up near where we stand? Mr. Scott then concluded by calling for three cheers for the Workington Hematite Iron Works, a call which was heartily responded to.

The following gentlemen then adjourned to the Railway Inn, and discussed a capital dinner prepared by Mrs. Thomson; Is. Scott, Esq., Chairman of the Co.; Messrs H. Grayson, W. B. Gordon, and R. Barker, Vice-chairmen; R. Raitson, Esq., J.P., (Maryport), Messrs Thos. Westray, Jos. Bush, W. Thorburn, —Mark, John Bell, W. Hoodless, Jos. Pape, Jos. Walker, C. W. Plevins, Peter Cameron, (Whitehaven), John Shillfield, W. Thompson, (Secretary to the Co.), H. Barker, and R. Barker, Jun. Under the presidency of Mr. Scott, assisted by Mr. Barker, as Vice-chairman, a very pleasant evening was spent. Most cordially do we wish the work all over.