

THE NEW IRON COMPANY.
 WHITEHAVEN, SATURDAY, JUNE 17, 1865.

In our last we had the pleasure of stating that an additional number of iron furnaces were about to be erected in West Cumberland by two companies in course of organization, one in this neighbourhood, and another at Maryport. The train, however, form but one company, the state-ment of there being one at Maryport being an-ertroneous inference from our Maryport corres-pondent's report that the bent-hills near that town had been surveyed with a view to the erection of furnaces, unaccompanied, as it was, by the additional statement that the survey had been made by the Whitehaven firm. We stated at same time that in connection with the latter, Mr Horfall, M.P. for Liverpool, Colonel Clay, Mr W. Furness, Mr Robert Gibson, and Mr Thomas Massicks were named. Such was the case, but for once rumour was wrong, as far as Mr Gibson is concerned, his name having no real title to appear amongst them. We have since seen a reliable list of the partners, and, with the single exception specified, it includes the names above given, and also those of Mr Ewart, M.P. for Liverpool, Mr Turner, M.P., and Mr G. H. Horsfall, Mr Thomas Bouch, banker, Mr Campbell, Mr Bushell, Mr Moss, banker, all of Liverpool, and other equally wealthy and influential men. Mr Massicks, who, to be the better able to carry out his new duties, has this week resigned his appointment as Receiver of Whitehaven harbour dues, has been appointed managing director; and Mr Isaac Armstrong, so long the efficient manager of the Cleator Moor Iron Works, has accepted the office of manager of the works. A number of the partners have been for a length of time largely interested in the development of the mining resources of the district. The Company has been privately formed, under the provisions of the Limited Liability Act. They experience, we understand, some difficulty in obtaining a suitable site for their works in our im-mediate neighbourhood; a difficulty which, for sake of "the trade and commerce" of Whitehaven, will, we trust, prove not an insuperable one. A few more furnaces blazing in the locality, and owned by men of capital and enterprise, would be a sight to welcome and rejoice at, as they would do, like those already established, not only employ-ment to large numbers of labourers and artisans, but, as these would represent so much additional money in the shape of wages to be spent, additional trade also to our merchants and shopkeepers.



OPENING OF THE WEST CUMBERLAND ROLLING MILLS.

Thursday was a "red letter" day for Workington, which must and will be remembered by one and all with the deepest feelings of mingled pride and pleasure. Fifteen or twenty years ago the town was in the most miserable and poverty-stricken condition. The most notable thing in it was the announcement everywhere—"this house is let;" whereas now there is not a single dwelling in the whole place but is occupied, and why? Because of the great development of our iron trade. When our old men were young, and before our young men were born, the town and trade of Workington were alike small and crippled compared with what they are now, and why? Because of the great advancement of the iron trade. Some eight months since—not more—the above great works were commenced, their construction being entrusted to Mr Ledger, a gentleman of the highest standing in his profession, who has fully proved himself equal to his arduous task. One portion after another was put up in scarcely more time than would have taken to erect a model cottage; and Thursday was the day appointed to set the levathan machinery in motion, and begin converting the red hematite into massive bars and plates—monuments in themselves of the advancement of science and art; for "iron is not only the soul of every other manufacture, but the main-spring, perhaps, of civilized society;" and—far claimant be the day—"were the use of iron lost amongst us we should in a few ages be unavoidably reduced to the wants and ignorance of the ancient American savages; so that he who first knew the use of that god-temptible mineral may be truly styled the father of Art and the author of Liberty." Early in the morning flags fluttered abroad in the breeze, proclaiming far and near the opening day. About one o'clock, in the presence of a large assemblage, the engines were set in motion by J. Fletcher, Esq., of Tarn Bank, and one of the directors, and loud cheers. The first puddled ball was drawn and shipped by Mr. Ledger, the able and respected manager of the works, and was rolled by Capt. Bourne, the com-panion and efficient manager of the West Cumberland Ham-alle Iron Works. The spectators hailed with well-deserved cheers the red ball as it was drawn from its fiery bed, and wheeled away to the giant steam hammer, by it to be battered and beaten into a suitable shape for the rolls, which drew it serpent-like into their folds and ex-tended it out into proper lengths. After the work had been commenced several ladies and gentlemen adjourned to the manager's office where an excellent and sumptuous lunch awaited them. The rooms were tastefully furnished round with ferns and flowers, whilst in the centre of the mantle-piece there was a beautiful device of cut flowers, which lent a pretty relief to the whole. The generous liberality of the proprietors deserve a special word here, for each and all were made welcome and none "sent empty away," and Mr. Cheesman's courtesy in assisting the ladies and others to the various good things gained for him the grateful thanks of all present.