EXTRACT FROM SHREWSBURY CHRONICAL: FEBRUARY 1ST, 1839

(Contributed by ALAN ASHWELL)

"Bog Mine: Coalbrookdale

On Friday last, Mr. Cross of Chester put in motion a splendid steam engine and 370 h.p. to conquer the deluge of water. The engine was manufactured by the Coalbrookdale Co.; its length of beam 35' 10"; length of stroke of the piston 10'; internal diameter of the cylinder 70"; bore of the pump pipes 18". The depth of the engine shaft was 315 yards, water being raised to a level 100 yards below the surface.

About 1 p.m. this grand piece of machinery began to have fresh fuel added to its boilers and for several moments the spectators were breathless with anxiety till the beam lifted its majestic head and S. Cross named her "The Queen Victoria" amidst the tremendous cheering of a vast multitude, the band playing "God Save The Queen".

"Press'd by the ponderous air the Piston falls
Resistless, sliding through its iron walls;
Quick moves the balanced beam of giant girth,
- Wields his huge limbs and nodding shakes the Earth.
The Giant Power, from Earth's remotest Caves
Lifts with strong arm her dark reluctant Waves.
Each caverned rock and hidden den explores,
Drags her dark coal and digs her shining Ores."

(Darwin)

The Company retired to a large Booth where several hogsheads of most excellent ale and large quantities of bread and cheese were distributed to the workmen and multitude, after which some hundreds footed it on the "light fantastic toe" to Cambria's favourite instrument, the Harp and two violins while numbers sat down to an excellent dinner in the offices of the company and adjoining rooms.

After dinner, the usual loyal toasts were given and drank with enthusiasm - "The Bog Mine Company and prosperity to their undertaking" was next proposed and responded to with reiterated cheers ....."

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