

***AN OUTRAGE AT CAETLY BANK,  
IN HIGH DAVEN, EMMSELEE***

***FOUL TRAFFICK PERPETRATED BY  
MAGNATES OF DEESWICK***

***CRIMES ABETTED BY MEISSEMONT  
COURT AND DEACONRY***

A recent scandal has attended on the report of outrages perpetrated by the proprietors of Morcombe & Davey's Limechalk Concern, who have lately operated a considerable chalk scraping and lime burning works at CaetlyBank, near the town of Leeshigh.

– Given the difficult conditions which attend to the cutting of chalk, it is common for Emms folk to work at scraping for perhaps one or two seasons in their youth, abiding that their vigour should shrug off any harm, and that in pocketing the considerable wages allowed by most mine proprietors in recognition of the difficulty of the work, they may see themselves well set up to leave that strenuous occupation and enter to an apprenticeship or some other situation of advancement. As such, there is a considerable exchange of workers in the mines, wherein the movement of young people from each village to the various chalking concerns of the district is a topic of constant interest and conversation.

– That a large operation such as Morcombe & Davey's could be established in the region and yet seem to draw no Emms folk to work within it was considered a grand mystery and became eventually the topic of some light-spirited investigation by a group of Leeshigh youth, who set out to discover who as Messrs Morcombe and Davey "might think more fit to hard work than any Emms lasses".

– The horror felt by these young people when reaching the outskirts of the encampment and peering from the greenery to see that the mine was worked by enchained prisoners can hardly be described. The youths further reported witnessing several instances of immediate cruelty and bestial conduct on the part of the

overseers, which they were only checked from interrupting by the very real danger of their own consequent battering, should they have been discovered.

– On their repairing to the town and alarming to the beadlerie, the first inspector, one Barbro de Wincee, gathered a grand deputisation of the able bodied townsfolk who processed to the concern with the purpose of further investigation. Thence they confronted the overseers of the mine, who offered no explanation for their use of pressed labour save proffering pistols and impudently swearing as to the absolute legality of their business.

– It was only through force of numbers and the threat of superior musketry that the beadlerie and goodfolk of Leeshigh were able to prevail upon the overseers to release their prisoners, upon which the rogues fled with the greatest rapidity to their masters, who were situated in Deeswick. Upon bringing the prisoners to Leeshigh chancel, the goodfolk of the town set about freeing and almoning over the poor wretches, who related a harrowing tale of being held in the queens bench courts in Meissemonde for debt and other misdemeanory crimes, before being sold on to slaving agents and bought by Morcombe and Davey for the purposes of operating the new chalk scrape at Caetly Bank.

– It is to be remembered that debt bondage has been unlawful these last six years in Chanchette, and is as abominated by the free folk as brigadeerage and wrecking, whereas the perfidious practice festers yet in the poor territories of Westhithe and Meissemonde, for want of due consideration of their citizens as persons of equal grace and potence to our own selves.

– There was much talk of the company riding to Deeswick to visit a pirate's reward upon the two magnates for their invidious conduct, but this righteous impulse was checked by the receipt of a letter of commission delivered by a representative of her majesty's deaconry,

relating that the Meissemonthe division of the Queen's Bench was pleased to consider themselves division of the Queen's Bench was pleased to consider themselves competent to exempt the odious Messrs Morcombe and Davey from any legal sanction arising in the Chanchette courts for their transportation of their human property founded in law of Meissemont to any place beyond the jurisdiction in which they might properly be kept, this being a "say" or pardon in recognition of a considerable donation lately made by the two fiends towards the fund for sacramenting of a new counting house in the city.

– The disgust with which this news was received cannot be overstated and challenges in the higher courts of inquiry at Bay Bells or Lemons Hill has been reasonably suggested. – Immediately, a fund has been made for the habitation and occupation into useful trades of all the unfortunates enslaved by the devils of Caetly Bank, or their conveyance to a port of their choosing for reunion with their own people.

– Considerations for the support of these unfortunates may be made care of Mme. Barbro de Wincee, First Inspector of the Beadlerie, Sectional Court of Contest, Leeshigh, High Daven, Emmslee, Chanchette.