

CHILDREN'S EMPLOYMENT COMMISSION 1842.

**REPORT by J. M FELLOWS, Esq., on the
Employment of Children and Young
Persons in the Mines and Collieries of
Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire and on the
State, Condition and Treatment of such
Children and Young Persons.**

Edited by Ian Winstanley.

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COMMISSION

(UNDER THE GREAT SEAL)

FOR INQUIRING INTO THE EMPLOYMENT AND CONDITION OF CHILDREN IN MINES AND MANUFACTORIES.

VICTORIA, by the Grace of God, of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland Queen, Defender of the Faith: To Our trusty and well beloved Thomas Tooke, Esquire, Thomas Southwood Smith, Esquire, Doctor in Medicine, together with Leonard Horner and Robert John Saunders, Esquires, two of Our Inspectors of Factories, Greeting:- WHEREAS, an humble Address was presented unto to Us by Knights, Citizens and Burgesses and Commissioners of Shires and Burghs in Parliament assembled, humbly beseeching Us that We should be graciously pleased to direct an Inquiry to be made into the Employment of the Children of the Poorer Classes in Mines and Collieries and the various branches of Trade and Manufactures in which numbers of Children work together, not being included in the provisions of the Acts for regulating Employment of Children and Young Persons in Mills and Factories and to collect information as to the time allowed each day for meals and as to the actual state, condition and treatment of such Children and as to the effects of such Employment, both with regard to their morals and their bodily health; NOW KNOW YE, THAT WE, reposing great trust and confidence in your ability and discretion, have nominated, constituted and appointed and do by these presentiments nominate, constitute and appoint you the said, Thomas Tooke, Thomas Southwood Smith, together with, Leonard Horner and Robert John Saunders, to be Our Commissioners for the purposes aforesaid and We do hereby enjoin you to obey all directions touching the premises which shall from time to time be given you, and any two or more of you, by one of our principle Secretaries of State and for the better discovery of the truth in the premises, we do, by these presentiments, give and grant to you, or any two or more of you, full power and authority to call before you such persons as you will judge necessary, by whom you may be the better informed of the truth in the premises, and to inquire of the premises and every part thereof, by all other lawful way and means whatsoever and We do hereby also give and grant unto you, or any two or more of you, full power and authority when the same shall appear to be requisite, to administer an oath or oaths to any person or persons whatsoever, to be examined before you, or two or more of you, touching or concerning the premises and Our further will and pleasure is, that you Our said Commissioners, or any three of you, do, with as little delay as may be consistent with a due discharge of the duties hereby imposed upon you, Certify to Us, under your hands and seals, or under the hands and seals of any three of you, your several proceedings in the premises; And We further will and command, and by these presents ordained, that this Our Commission shall continue in full force and virtue, and that you, Our said Commissioners, or any two or more of you, shall and may from time to time proceed in the execution thereof, and of every matter and thing therein contained, although the same be not continued, from time to time by adjournment: AND WE HEREBY COMMAND all and singular Our Justices of the Peace, Sheriffs, Mayors, Bailiffs, Constables, Officers, Ministers, and all other of Our loving Subjects whatsoever, as will within Liberties as without, that they may be assistant to you and each of you in the execution of these presentiments. And for your assistance in the due execution of this Commission, We have made choice of Our trusty and well beloved Joseph Fletcher, Esquire, to be the Secretary of this Our Commission, whose services we require you to use from time to time, as occasion may require. In witness thereof, We have caused these Letters to be made Patent. Witness Ourselves at Westminster, the Twentieth day of October, in the Fourth Year of Our Reign.

By Writ of Privy Seal,

EDMUNDS.

**LETTER OF INSTRUCTIONS EXTENDING THE TERMS OF THE COMMISSION TO
“YOUNG PERSONS”**

Whitehall, February 11th, 1841.

GENTLEMEN,

THE QUEEN having been pleased to comply with the prayer of an humble Address presented to Her Majesty, in pursuance of a Resolution of the House of Commons, dated 4th. of February, 1841, ‘That Her Majesty will be graciously pleased to direct that the Commission appointees in answer to an Address of this House, on August 4, 1840, for the investigation of certain branches of Infant Labour, do include within its inquiry the Labour also of Young Persons designated as such by the provisions of the Factory Act’ I am delighted by the Marquis of Normanby to desire that you will include within your inquiry the Labour of Young Persons designated as such by the provisions of the Factory Act accordingly.

I am, Gentlemen,
Your Obedient Servant,
(Signed) F. MAULE.

*The Commissioners for inquiring into the Condition
of Children employed in Mines, &c.*

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CHILDREN'S EMPLOYMENT COMMISSION.

REPORT by JOHN MICHAEL FELLOWS, ESQ., on the Employment of Children and Young Persons in the Mines and Collieries of Derbyshire and on the State, Condition and Treatment of such Children and Young Persons.

TO HER MAJESTY'S COMMISSIONERS.

GENTLEMEN,

I HAVE the honour to report to you according to the instructions I have received, on the moral and physical condition of the young persons and children employed in the Derbyshire Coal and Iron Districts, also to transmit to you the evidence I have taken.

I have as much as possible confined my inquiry to the Collieries and Mines but connected with these I have found several Iron Works employing both young persons and children.

COLLIERIES.

The following is a List of Coal Fields I have visited, the Number of Working shafts, and, as near as I could ascertain, the Number of Young Persons and Children therein employed:-

Place	Owner	No. of shafts	Young Persons and Children			
			Males		Females	
			Under 18	Under 13	Under 18	Under 13
*Radford, Trowell and Wollaton	Lord Middleton	4	44	18	0	0
Ilkeston	Samuel and Thomas Potter	4	12	19	0	0
*Shipley	EM Munday	6	c. 120	c. 60	0	0
*Stanton by Dale	Marshall, Barber and Co	1	0	5	0	0
Dale Abbey	Robert Fletcher and Co	1	4	3	0	0
*Stoneyford	James C Royston	2	10	10	0	0
Hallam	Francis Newdigate	2	26	12	0	0
*Smalley	Evans, Allen and Thornley	2	3	4	0	0
Loscoe	Goodwin and Griffin	2	17	12	0	0
Bagthorpe	Kirkby Fenton	2	43	23	0	0
Eastwood, Beggarlee, Watnall, Underwood and Cossall	Barber and Walker	12	138	101	0	0
Brinsley, Newthorpe, Awsworth and Babbington	North, Wakefield and Co	8	58	53	0	0
Kirkby	Butterley Company	7	27	30	0	0
Heanor and Loscoe	Butterley Company	7 coal 10 iron	47	58	1	0
*Butterley Park	Butterley Company	8 coal 12 iron				
*Newlands	Butterley Company	1 coal 4 iron	144	125	1	0
*Summercotes	Butterley Company	2 iron				
*New Ripley and Hartshay	CV Hunter	3 coal	0	0	0	0
*Oakenthorpe	Benjamin Strelley	1	6	2	0	0

*For those marked with an asterisk I have no return.

Collieries (cont).

Place	Owner	No. of shafts	Young Persons and Children			
			Males		Females	
			Under 18	Under 13	Under 18	Under 13
*Kilburn	John Ray	2	0	0	0	0
*Morley Park and Ripley	John and Charles Mold	3	0	0	0	0
New Birchwood	Humphrey Goodwin	3	13	14	1	0
Marehay and Birchwood	Samuel Woolley	5	58	27	0	0
Pinxton Sleights and Carnfield	John Coke	6	57	55	0	0
*Denby	Robert Holden	7	c. 32	c. 22	0	0
Pentrich	Haslam and Brothers	1	16	7	0	0
*Swanwick and Summercotes	WP Morewood	3	Could not ascertain the number.			
*Riddings	James Oakes and Co	6 coal 13 iron	refused and could not ascertain the number			
Clay Cross	George Stevenson and Co	8	37	24	0	0
Tupton	Coke and Chambers	1	5	6	0	0
Brampton	JG Barnes	2	7	5	0	0
Ditto	Jonathan Bennett	4	16	7	0	0
Tapton	John Limb	2	1	0	0	0
Ditto	Appelby and Co	8 iron	4	0	0	0
*Staveley	GH Barrow	3 coal	I could not ascertain the numbers.			
*Netherthorpe	Ditto	1	3	8	0	0
*Coal Aston	Rhodes and Co	1	7 c.	3	0	0
*Duckmanton	Benjamin Smith and Co	4 coal	19	6	0	0
Renishaw	Appleby, Walker and Co	4 coal	19	6	0	0
Eckington	George Wells	2				
Mosborough	Ditto	2	15	6	0	0
Eckington	Richard Swallow	1	8	0	0	0
Unstone	William Newbold	1	11	10	0	0
Dronfield	William Booker and Co	4	1	5	0	0
Ditto	Gray Waterfall	2	3	2	0	0
Ditto	Samuel Lucas	2 coal	3	1	0	0
Heath	Henry Goodwin	2	1	2	0	0
Denby	Messrs. Pattison and Co.	1	3	0	0	0

Most of the shafts are worked by steam, some by gin horses and a few by two men at a waller.

The ages at which the children are employed are from six years old and upwards.

At six years of age they mostly open and shut windgates, to regulate the ventilation of the pit. This does not require much manual exertion, but they are often exposed to a draft of air which in some cases has endangered their lives. (See Evidence No. 167)

I have not been enabled to give a minutely accurate statement of the number of children employed, as in most cases the children are engaged by the butties which system of butties I consider one of the greatest evils throughout the whole district, for they are generally either owners of, or in some way or other connected with, the tommy-shops or beer-houses and a child whose parents do not expend the greater part of the wages earned in one or the other of these nuisances stands very little chance of permanent employment. Besides this, the master consider all their responsibility as to the child's welfare is thus removed from their shoulders to that of the butties, whose only object is gain.

I have not met with an instance of a pit-boy being an apprentice, and only two or three at most where they have been hired, but nearly all are required to give a fortnight's notice before leaving.

*For those marked with an asterisk I have no return.

I - HOURS OF WORK.

These vary a little, even in the same field. On the old plan, until I arrived at Chesterfield Union, from 13 to 15 hours were considered a day's work, from 11 to 12 hours three quarter days and 8 hours half a day.

Not the slightest control on the part of the coal owner is ever exercised towards butties, who may work when and how they please, provided there is a sale for the coal.

I would again call your attention to the evils attending the butty system on this head, nearly the whole work of the pit is taken by the ton (excepting the part done by the children). The consequence is, that if the bargain is not good they and the colliers are obliged to work a greater quantity per day to make up their wages. By this the children are sometimes kept 15 hours, deprived of any comfort during their meals, and are not even paid for overwork.

By the evidence I send, you will see to what an extent this is carried. I beg to refer you to that of Ephraim Riley of Ilkeston (No.27), a boy who at nine years of age had three miles to walk both winter and summer to his work, get his breakfast and be at the pit's mouth by six o'clock, did not get home until nine o'clock and during this period had only half an hour allowed for meals. His legs and thighs pained him so much that he was obliged to keep his bed on Sunday mornings. Also to that of John Chambers (No.28) who states that his legs, arms and back ached so bad that his brother has many a time had to help him home. At West Hallam (No. 50) Benjamin Fletcher, the agent says, when he was a boy he has left home at three o'clock in the morning and worked until ten o'clock at night, and has many and many a time fallen asleep as he was going to work, and fell into ditches, owing to the want of sleep. (See also Watnall, No. 104, Underwood, No. 112, Babbington, No. 149.)

I believe that the occasion for working the children so many hours out of the 24 might readily be avoided, for even when the coal trade is brisk it very rarely occurs that the pits are at work for the whole of the week. Indeed according to the calculation made by Mr. Bailey, jun., (see Kilburn, No. 251) "the average work done since their field was opened is only nine days a fortnight;" and I believe if a general average throughout the district could be obtained, it would amount to about the same.

Before I close this part of my report it is due to the coal owners in the Chesterfield Union to say, that they so far interfere with the butties or managers of the pits that they will not allow the colliers to work more than 12 hours, out of which they shall have a full hour for meals.

II - MEALS.

I am sorry to say in many of the returns the owners state that one or even two hours per day is allowed for meals. By this they prove that neither they or their agents have taken much interest, at all events on that head, as to the comforts of the children employed in their pits (See Eastwood return, also Kirkby and Denby.)

I have not met with a single instance where any time was allowed for that;. At Denby, parts of Eastwood, and other places, the engine is not allowed to stop on whole days, and at very few places (fields) when only three-quarters and halfdays are worked. (See Ilkeston, No. 23.)

At most of these fields the butties insist upon the pit being *in order* before they get their dinner. That is, that the corves are filled and brought into the waggon-road. Therefore, supposing these unfortunate boys to have disposed of the loaded corve when the engine stops, they have to go the whole length of the bank (often 200 or 300 yards) to load and bring it back to the waggon, by which period nearly the whole of the allowed time is expired. (See Pinxton, No. 304, Babbington No. 150.)

The dirty water in the pits is the only accommodation for washing.

Neither man or child is allowed to leave the pit, or ascend to the cabin at the mouth, for their meals, or on any other plea (save accidents or illness) until all leave at night

III - NATURE OF EMPLOYMENT.

The following are the employments to which the children are put, particulars in those pits worked according to the old plan and I did not meet with an instance of any other method until I reached Butterley. The youngest, as I stated before, are employed for the first 6 or 12 months in attending to the wind-doors. At seven years old they drive between, that is, the corve without wheels, with from eight hundredweight to nearly a ton, is drawn the length of the bank (mostly

about 200 yards) by the asses. 'The between driver' is placed behind the second ass, and had to attend to the two first, - the last is driven by the ass-lad who is often not more than 12 years of age. The elder boy wears a dog-belt, but not to draw with continuously, the descent frequently being sufficient, or even more than sufficient, for the corve to run without much drawing. The elder boy walks backwards, and has at the same time to urge the last ass on, and by his belt prevent the corve running against the side of the bank. When the corve reaches the waggon-road it is placed on wheels and left to the care of two other boys (one perhaps about 13, the other 8 or 9 years old), the elder one wears the dog-belt and occasionally draws by it, or in some pits when the descent is good he merely uses the 'crop-stick'. In returning the youngest boy goes before the waggon and the elder pushed behind; until a boy gets accustomed to the dog-belt it frequently produces soreness on the hips and otherwise injures him. (See Bagthorpe, Nos. 73 and 76, Denby, No. 315, Babbington No. 150, Watnall, No. 101.)

There are mostly one or two boys employed to follow the loader, that is to place small coal on the corves and keep the floor on the bank level, as well as one about 12 years old to assist in hanging the corve on the chain in order that it may be drawn up the shaft. There, with a boy to assist the banksman, are I believe the number mostly employed when there is only one bank. When there are two or more banks, as a matter of course, the numbers are increased in nearly the same proportion.

The whole of the children in the pit (with the exception of the hanger on) are working in a stooping posture, and in many pits have not an opportunity of straightening their backs during the day.

The inhalation of the bad air of the pit is also pernicious. If not to the health, giving, at all events, an appearance of premature old age to the colliers.

I have met also with pits where it rained so as to wet the children to the skin in a few minutes, and at the same time so hot that they could scarcely bear their clothes on to work in, and in this wet state they had to continue 14 hours, and perhaps had to walk a mile or two home at night without changing or drying their clothes. (See Stoneyford, Nos. 46, 47, 48, and 49 Kilburne, No. 254.)

From the confined employment, the crippled postures, the sudden transition from hot to cold, wet and dry, and the early age they generally commence labour, colliers I believe are often taken from their general appearance to be 60 years old or upwards, by the time they arrive at 40.

I wish to call attention of the Board to the pits about Brampton: the seams are so thin that several have only a two-feet headway to all the workings. The pits are altogether worked by boys. The elder ones lies on his side, and in that posture holes and gets the coal. It is then loaded in a barrow or tub and drawn along the bank to the pit-mouth without wheels, by boys from 8 to 12 years of age, on all fours, with a dog-belt and chain, the passages being very often an inch or two thick in black mud, and are neither ironed or wooded. In Mr. Barnes's pit these poor boys have to drag the barrows with 1 cwt. of coal or slack 60 times a day 60 yards, and the empty barrows back, without once straightening their backs, unless they choose to stand under the shaft and run the risk of having their heads broken by a coal falling.

I shall conclude this head by referring the Board to the evidence of John Wright (see Brampton, No. 403), wherein he, after stating that the youngest thus employed is only eight years old, says, "that if they did not begin by time they could not work these narrow seams, their limbs could not get used to it."

The same John Wright also says, "these pits would not pay, worked in any other way". I found this said coal was retailed both in Brampton and Chesterfield at 3s. per ton.

Out of five children I examined (who worked in the Brampton pits) three were not only bow-legged, but their arms were bowed in the same way, and their whole frame appeared far from being well developed.

IV - STATE OF THE PLACE OF WORK.

Taken as a whole, I should say the pits in this district are well ventilated; there are exceptions, and fatal explosions have occurred (see Shipley, No. 34, Loscoe, No. 70, as well as Kirkby). All these fields are provided with Davy lamps, but there is that daring and carelessness of life in a collier that very few weeks pass (after a fatal accident has occurred) before all precautions is forgotten. I found the plan of ventilation followed by George Stevenson, Esq., and Company at Clay Cross, fully answered that gentleman's expectations; it was by sinking two shafts within a few yards of each other, and placing a furnace at the bottom of one, which created a current of air through the whole works in a superior manner to any I have seen before.

Cleanliness in a coal-pit is out of the question, and I did not see any conveniences in any of the cabins, where either men or children could even wash their faces and hands. Indeed I was told by both medical men and old colliers that it would not be prudent so to do after having been in a perspiration for 12 or 14 hours.

V - ACCIDENTS.

There is no life more subject to accidents than that of a collier, and in the words of William Wardle (see Eastwood, No. 84), "he always reckons it a life of great danger both for man and child. They are subject to both broken limbs, wild-fire, and black-damp, and he may say a collier is never safe after he is swung off to be let down the shaft."

I made particular inquiries as to remedies to prevent accidents. Some, such as falling in of a bind, I am afraid cannot by any means of precaution be avoided: but those from wildfire I think in a great degree might, by the more frequent use of Davy lamps, and more rigid attention to the ventilation of the pits.

I found several accidents owing to the unguarded state of the pit mouth, and I am sorry to say in most of the fields I visited the pits were left exposed either for man or beast to fall into. (See Greasley, No. 154, New Birchwood, No. 273.)

I wish to call your attention to another source of fatal accidents (See Morley Park, Nos. 257 and 258, Summercotes, No. 327). It is the employment of children to have the sole care of the steam-engine.

I met with more than one instance of children only ten years old having the lives of the colliers left to their mercy (See Staveley, No. 434 and Coal Aston, No. 449), and have seen others so inattentive to their duty as to let the corve be drawn over the pulley, and half a ton of coals thrown a distance of a hundred yards or more down the shaft; but notwithstanding these accidents occurring in the immediate neighbourhood, the practice of appointing children to this responsible post still continues in the most respectable fields. (See Butterley, Nos. 187, 188, and 192; Newlands, No. 198, Swanwick, No. 327, Riddings, Nos. 345, 348.)

VI - HOLIDAYS.

I am not aware of any, further than Christmas Day, Good Friday, and a day or two at Whitsuntide.

VII - WAGES.

In this respect the evil of the butty system again appears. In most coal fields the butties are paid every other Saturday night, at others only once a month, and they are allowed to draw subsistence money weekly.

On the butty receiving the money he appoints the colliers and children to meet him, either at his own home or some beer-shop he has an interest in, and generally keeps them waiting until he considers it has answered his purpose well enough, when the landlord produces the charge to his bill. By this stratagem and system the colliers and children are not only compelled to wait, but consider themselves lucky if they get home before midnight; being moreover driven to the necessity of making all their markets on a Sunday morning.

At some fields the butties are only settled with once a month or six weeks, and no subsistence is allowed them, except for a tommy-shop belonging to the overlooker of the works. (See Riddings, No. 363, and many others.)

VIII - TREATMENT AND CARE.

This in some fields is left entirely to the butty, and in others to the overlooker of the pit, who is placed by the master with the same power as a butty. He bargains, dismisses, and uses the child just as he pleases but has not the same interest in overworking them which the butties have.

I am convinced, in most fields, from the evidence of the children themselves, there is not a great amount of ill usage, farther than over fatigue, which they are cruelly doomed to by working in a

stooping posture in an atmosphere not very conducive to respiration, for so many hours without either rest or recreation.

I have met with cases of the most brutal treatment (See Shipley, No. 40; Bagthorpe, Nos. 72, 73 and 76, Ilkeston, Nos. 20 and 30, Strelley, Nos. 115 and 116, Awwsworth, Nos. 168 and 169, Babbington, Nos. 145, 146 and 151), but these are to be taken rather as exceptions than as the general treatment throughout the district.

In many instances I have noticed after the children have been relating most heart-rending accounts of their treatment, and those accounts have been corroborated by others, the question being put to them, "had you rather go to school, drive the plough, to still continue in the pit," half of them will answer they prefer the latter.

IX - PHYSICAL CONDITION.

In external appearance I think the children in the south part of the district are healthy, and (with the exception of those who have worked at a very early age being bow-legged), not ill formed.

I have observed that their complexion, although not altogether to be called sickly, is of a sallow hue. This, I suppose, follows as a matter of course from their being nearly deprived of daylight.

Those children who are employed at the pit mouth, or in farmer's service are straighter in the legs and better looking than those working underground.

I have noticed the children who do not work or have not from early age worked in the pits, are well and better formed than those, if even of the same family, which have worked at an earlier age than 12 years.

I have not perceived that look of premature old age, so general amongst colliers, until they are 40 years of age, excepting in the loaders, who evidently appear so at 28 or 30 and this I think must arise from the hardness of their labour in having such great weights to lift, and breathing a worse atmosphere than in any other in the pit.

Their food, generally speaking, is full as ample and good as that of those who are labouring above ground; but having to get their meals, one at so early an hour in the morning, often without fire or light, the other in the cold bad air of the pit, after having been in a profuse perspiration, without, as they state, scarcely being able to wipe the mud from their hands, also being so long between their meals, must deprives them of all comfort, if it does not injure their powers of digestion.

Their clothing consists of a coarse flannel shirt or jacket, and trousers mostly of the same material.

The jacket is thrown off in most pits, and only used where they are allowed to sit down to their dinner, or on coming out of the pit.

As to cleanliness during work, it is impossible; but at the same time I was much pleased at the particularly neat and clean appearance of the collier children I met with at the various Sunday Schools.

Those cottages I visited belonging to the colliers varied very much in different parts of the district; at Ilkeston and its neighbourhood they were decidedly much more neat and comfortable than any of the neighbours who were engaged either in lace-making, stocking-making, or agriculture; but at South Normanton and Kirkby they were the picture of dirt and wretchedness.

I observed in all parts, if there was not furniture, every collier's cottage had a blazing fire; this they get free of any expense, and certainly it is a set-off against some of their deprivations.

In concluding this part of my Report, I am sorry to say evidence I obtained from the medical men in various places I visited is so very contradictory, even if attending adjoining coal-fields, that I am obliged in many respects to report from what I saw myself and could obtain from the colliers themselves.

I met with few colliers above 40 years of age who, if they had not a confirmed asthma, were not suffering from difficult breathing.

Rheumatism is also very general (See Eastwood, No. 84; Shipley, No. 40). I believe you will scarcely meet a collier, and ask him what he thinks of the weather, but he will in reply say, "Why, his back or shoulders have or have not pained him so much as usual."

I must refer you to the different medical evidence I received as to hernia and the other diseases which you in your instructions name: nor being a medical man or seeing these people above once or twice it is impossible for me to give a satisfactory report upon them (See Wollaton, Ilkeston, Eastwood, Ripley, Alfreton, Chesterfield, Staveley, Wirksworth and Dronfield.)

X - MORAL CONDITION.

On this head I am afraid my Report cannot be so satisfactory either to you or to myself as I could wish. In very few fields could I obtain any assistance from the clergy, who themselves rarely have an opportunity of even seeing, much more conversing with, either the colliers or their children (excepting now and then at a Sunday School), but I am happy to say the little I did obtain from this source was favourable rather than otherwise.

I attended the petit sessions at Nottingham, Mansfield, Smalley, Belper, Alfreton and Chesterfield, and could get no further information than that contained in Colonel Rolleston's Letter and Mr. Radford's Evidence (see Smalley, No. 61), wherein they agree that they seldom if ever have a complaint from the children or their parents against the masters or the butties, and that, take the colliers generally as a body, they are full as well behaved as their neighbours.

I think the reason for so few complaints being brought before the magistrates may be accounted for by the fear the parents have both of the children and themselves being thrown out of work, if the affront any of the butties. (See Wm. Wright of Ilkeston, No.20, who says that, "he did not complain to the magistrates because he feared both he and his father would lose their work, and many a one, even scores, are beaten until they dare not tell". (See Babbington, Nos. 151 and 145, and Shipley, No. 39).

As far as my own observation allows me to judge, taking all the disadvantages the collier children labour under, I should not consider them more or perhaps scarcely so immoral as others employed above ground.

Neither do I think, take the colliers as a general body, are the low-lived, ignorant, irreligious set that colliers used to be. The Wesleyan's and other Methodists are entitled to much of the credit for this reformation.

Attendance at a place of worship I am afraid is confined nearly to those children who attend Sunday Schools, and as a matter of course go with the whole of the scholars to the church or chapel to which the school is attached.

I am happy to say that during my residence of nearly four months in this district I did not see one drunken child or young person, and very few old colliers, compared with others employed in the forges and other labour.

When the clergy and the magistrates had no complaints I did not think it my duty to enter more minutely into the immorality of the district than openly came before my observation, but as far as I did inquire, I must say I now entertain a much higher opinion of the colliers (both men and children) than I did from hearsay.

XI - EDUCATION.

I now come to report upon a part of my inquiry that calls as loud, if not louder, than any part for a legislative interference.

I lament these poor children have no means of education in this district than the Sunday Schools, there being no Lancasterian, but two or three National Schools, and only the following free schools. These are by their Rules (which I am far from finding fault with) shut against those colliers' children whose parents are obliged to sent them to the pits at so early an age as they now do.

At Trowell there is a free school that is open to 15 children of Wollaton, 10 of Trowell, and 5 of Cossall. They used not to allow the children who did not attend regularly to remain in the school, but within these few months the master has rather relaxed, and teaches Lord Middleton's collier children the days they are not employed in the pit, provided any vacancy is not filled up in the above numbers.

Smalley Free School is open for 14 boys from Smalley, 8 from Heanor and 6 from Horsely Woodhouse. These boys are dismissed if they do not attend the school regularly.

Greasley Free School is open for 22 boys of Greasley and Watnall but the children who occasionally work in coal pits are not even allowed to attend as pay pupils.

Denby Free School is open for 20 boys and 13 girls; but by their 3rd. Rule "any scholar not attending 140 days within a year, will be dismissed never to be admitted again."

Swanwick Free School is open for 25 boys and 15 girls; but the Rules of this school prevent any boy working in the pit to take advantage of the charity.

Whittington Free School is open for 20 boys and 10 girls, who are taught reading, writing and accounts, neither at this time, or any other within the master's knowledge, had any collier child attended the school.

Dronfield Free School is open for all the boys of Dronfield, who are taught the classics, reading, writing and accounts.

Pinxton Free School. In this school there are 56 boys and 20 girls, who are taught reading at 1d. per week, writing at 2d. per week and this is the only school in which pit children are allowed to take advantage of attending for a single day, in case of their pits not being at work. (See Pinxton, No. 304).

Besides this there are schools at Ironville and one or two other fields that the boys by paying a small sum may attend in an evening, but a boy seldom knows when he goes to the pit in a morning whether he is to work a whole, three quarters, or half a day therefore very few indeed take advantage of these schools.

Such are the paltry means of instruction these poor children have, and when it is considered how much, particularly where the coal trade is good, these children *are overworked* and the little they are patronised by the masters of the collieries, it is wonderful that they are not in a greater state of ignorance.

I have, as well as the schoolmasters, perceived a dullness about them, not in other boys. Still there is an anxiety and a desire shown by them to learn, and full as much or more gratitude to those who endeavour to instruct them, than from other poor children.

Knowing that the neighbourhood of the collieries had been attended to by other Sub-Commissioners and that the means of education both by Sunday and other schools had been fully reported upon, I think it is needless to say more on this head, excepting that there are Church, Wesleyan, Primitive Methodist, as well as Calvinist and Baptist Sunday-schools, near all these coal-fields; and I lament, considering it is the only opportunity these poor children have under the present system of even writing their own names or casting up their wages, that some of these schools will not relax a little in their religious scruples to devote a small portion of their time for the instruction of some of the elder ones in writing and accounts.

I will also point out what I consider is a fault in most of the Sunday-school teachers. That is, they let a child name the letters of a word they do not know, and then tell him what it is without making the child pronounce it. The consequence is, a boy, although he can read decently, cannot spell the commonest word (even of a single syllable). I have met with this in a great many instances.

I am aware that the office of teacher of a Sunday-school is tiresome enough (particularly in this district), but I think those teachers who wish benefit to attend their exertions would do well to instruct their pupils a little more into the meaning of what they learn to read. I found, both in the day and Sunday-schools which I visited, that this was altogether neglected. If I called a child to read a verse or two, and afterwards asking the meaning of any particular word therein, in almost ever case I have found them at a loss; for instance, I asked a very good reader what was the meaning of the word *weary*, he could not tell. I then appealed to the whole class. At last a boy said he knew. It was a lad who wore his clothes out.

XII - COMPARATIVE CONDITION.

I have little to add to what I have before stated under other heads of inquiry upon this subject, only, that children working underground and for weeks together, when trade is good, scarcely ever seeing daylight (excepting on a Sunday), cannot look so well as those who are working in the open air.

I am not aware that their morals are worse, but much depends upon the butties or overlookers of the mine, who are a great many of them class-teachers amongst the Methodists, and will not allow a bad word or example to be set the children, others are of a swearing, irreligious character, encouraging swearing and every other kind of vice, and children below ground as well as those above are as ready to follow an evil example as a good one.

I find that in after life children who are brought up in pits generally prefer a collier's life to any other, although they all say it is much more laborious.

I found a great desire, both in the parents and children, to have the number of working hours reduced and in the Chesterfield Union, where ten hours a-day of the custom, the children there look much happier, better contented, and without the dullness so apparent in other parts of the district, although they do not earn so much wages.

As to the age at which a child might be allowed to work in a pit, I am sorry to say very little wish was expressed by the parents (more particularly the mothers) for the Legislature to interfere on that head. Their sole anxiety and wish seemed to be, how to make all they could of their children, and that at as early an age as possible, nor considering about their future welfare.

I have not only heard, but have witnessed, the anxiety of both father and mother about the coming offspring, praying it may be a boy, and, should it happen to be a girl, both parties joining in lamenting their fate, as they consider girls a burden.

Before I close this part of my Report I wish to refer to the opinion of George Stevenson, Esq., (See Clay Cross), as to the employment of children under 12 years of age.

I am satisfied, both from the evidence I took, and the conversation I had with the first coal-masters, agents, and even some of the better sort of butties, that it would not only be desirable, on account of the child's present welfare, but for its future manhood, for the Legislature to interfere, in order to prevent them working under THAT age.

I have little doubt that, in a few years, the plan of working pits, pursued at Clay Cross, Butterley and Riddings, as well as at other places, and which I understand has for some years been practised in Yorkshire, will become general. In that case neither butties nor very young children will be required, nor can the hands work more than 12 hours.

LEAD MINES AND STONE QUARRIES.

I also visited the lead-mines, stone-quarries and smelting-mills at Crich, Wirksworth, Bonsall, Lea and Middleton, and found, except at Crich, very few children and young persons employed, not only owing to the mining business being so depressed, but mainly because of the veins of lead being nearly exhausted.

From what information I could obtain, I considered their situation beyond any remedy of the Legislature. My Report, therefore will be short as to this district.

There are no children, and but few young persons employed in the mines at Crich; several are employed in dressing the ore. That is, washing it after it has been ground, and passing it through riddles and sieves. They work 11 hours, but out of that time are allowed half an hour for breakfast and half an hour for dinner. They are paid weekly, in cash. They seldom work overtime. If they do they are paid for it according to their weekly wages.

The places of work are open sheds. but there are cabins with fires, which they can retire to during their meals, or, if they prefer it, they may go home.

I did not hear of a single accident nor do I conceive any could occur.

They have the same holidays as at the collieries, with the addition of the miners' festival on May-day.

They are neither bound apprentice or hired; their only contract is a month's notice required on leaving.

They are not punished, more than by words, or being turned away.

In external appearance these children are robust and well formed, and in every respect a much healthier and apparently happier body of children than those I had just left in the coal districts.

They are full as well clothed as the other labouring children.

Considering the nature of their employment, I must say they are cleanly.

I refer you to the evidence of the medical men, as to the amount of sickness (See Crich and Wirksworth.)

I am sorry to say there were some exceptions to what I should wish to state as to their moral condition, but these are exceptions that must in a great degree be attributed to their extreme poverty (See Bonsall, Nos. 519 and 520 and Meerbrook, No. 514); the remainder I consider a well-behaved and an intelligent set of boys.

As regards their habits, education, and religious instruction, I consider them very superior to the collier children I had hitherto examined.

The favourable account I am enabled to give of the small but in most parts distressed district, I in a great degree attribute to the interest felt in the welfare of the children by their employers and the various clergy of every denomination in the neighbourhood.

I have pleasure to inform the Board there are two Sunday-schools at Crich, four at Wirksworth, two at Middleton, two at Bonsall, one at Alderwasley, one at Holloway and two at Lea; besides the following free day-schools.

Before noticing the free schools, however, I cannot omit mentioning the Unitarian Sunday School at Lea, I only regret the minister and the principle members of the congregation, who have exerted themselves as successfully, had not a wider field for their usefulness than a Sunday School. The service being only once a day, the remainder of the Sunday is devoted to the instruction, not

only of their own congregation, but of other children in the neighbourhood who desire it. They are taught to read the Bible and Testament, write, and accounts; and for the last year they have introduced the first book used in the Pestalozzian Schools and I cannot but add my evidence to their success, by stating, that, on examining the children of the Crich mines, two or three of the boys answered the questions I have generally put to other children with such readiness, at the same time displaying great desire to be further interrogated, that it caused me to inquire of the Agent the reason, which I found to be, they were educated at this Sunday-school upon the new plan just introduced.

Wirksworth Free School. - This school is free at present for classics only. Therefore little advantage is taken of the charity by the children of the miners, (See Wirksworth.)

Bonsall Free School. - This school is open to all boys in the parish. They are taught reading, writing, and accounts. There are now 50 boys in the school. (See Bonsall, No. 518.)

Lea Day-School. - At this school all the children of the neighbourhood may be taught reading, writing and accounts, by paying 2d. each per week. There are now 56 boys, and 50 girls. 8 of the latter are taught free.

In this district I could not either make out from masters, parents, or children a desire for, or an objection to, a legislative interference. There are but few young children employed. In summer they are never worked more than 11 hours (including meals), and in winter not so much; the nature of their employment being such that would not allow them to work by candle light.

The young men employed in the mines only work six hours.

IRONWORKS.

The following is a list of the number of children and young persons employed in the iron-works:-

Place	Owner	No. of shafts	Young Persons and Children			
			Males		Females	
			Under 18	Under 13	Under 18	Under 13
Butterley	Butterley Co.		34	0	0	0
Condnor Park	Ditto		42	6	0	0
*Alfreton	James Oakes and Co.	about 10	about 8		0	0
*Morley Park	John Charles Mold		1	2	0	0
*Alderwasley	Ditto		1	2	0	0
*Belper	Messrs. G and J Strutt		0	0	0	0
*Staveley	GH Barrow		c.12	c.11	0	0
*Renishaw	Appleby and Co.		c. 19	c. 3	0	0
*Duckmanton	Benjamin Smith and Co.		6	1	1	0

*From those marked with an asterisk I have no return.

You will perceive by the list annexed, that very few children are employed either at the forge or foundries; the youngest I have met with, was at Alfreton. He was 10 years old, and was employed in carrying and preparing the sand for the moulders. The others are employed either in the same way, or in removing the moulds from the cannon-balls.

At Staveley five are employed 'in fettling', that is, rubbing the castings with a sandstone, and four at preparing the sand for the moulders; the youngest is 10 years old.

At Butterley, Condnor Park, and Renishaw, there are several apprentices who are bound to the firms, and receive wages per week, and board themselves. Their wages increase yearly. Besides this, they can earn something extra for overwork. I was told by Mr. Appleby, at Renishaw. their overwork frequently amounted to as much as their weekly allowance.

At Alfreton iron-works six of the apprentices are bound to the firm, and receive 6s. per week for the first year and are raised 2s. a week every following year during the apprenticeship. The remainder are bound to the journeyman, with whom they work and are taught. The Company consider they have no control over these. They are smiths, modellers and fitters, and at some of the foundry's moulders.

Most of them discharge their apprenticeship faithfully; and I am assured both at Butterley and Alfreton they always have plenty on their lists ready and anxious to be apprenticed. They are not bound until they are 14 years old, and I could not find an instance of one that did not serve his time, unless it were owing to accidents or ill health.

I - HOURS OF WORK.

Twelve hour is the usual time, allowing one hour and a half for meals; it is never exceed, and in some instance only ten hours is considered a day's work.

The cannon-ball boys at Alfreton work by heats, that is, have an hour to cool between each casting, so that out of 13 hours they have 5 hours for meals or rest.

II - NATURE OF EMPLOYMENT.

At the foundries the children and young persons are employed in wetting and mixing sand, carrying and cleansing the moulds, fettling and filing the castings, and gathering the scraps of iron.

At Alfreton the greater part are engaged in preparing the moulds for the balls; the boys' hands are guarded with leather, for they open the moulds while the red-hot ball is in, to let it cool, which causes the perspiration to run from them; they could not bear the heat if they had not proper time to cool, and plenty of water to drink, between the castings.

Upon strict inquiry, both from parent and child, I could not learn that their health suffered, or was their eyesight injured, which surprised me, for whenever I saw them perspiration was streaming from their faces.

At the iron-works or forges, no children are employed; the young men who are most of them bound apprentices, are employed as smiths, modellers and fitters, as well as some of them as puddlers and rod-drawers.

III - STATE OF THE PLACE OF WORK.

This is a matter of course must be well ventilated and open on all sides.

IV- ACCIDENTS.

There is little liability to accidents, excepting from burns; I did not hear of serious ones arising from this cause.

V- HOLIDAYS.

The same as the colliers and the miners.

VI - TREATMENT AND CARE.

Generally speaking, I should say these children are better treated than the colliers. They oftener come under the eye of the master, and do not work under butties; and should the puddler or journeyman they are assisting ill use of them, it would be noticed, for all is done by daylight and above ground before the whole of the workmen, and not in the recesses of a pit. The evidence of the children is divested of any complaint of ill treatment.

VII - PHYSICAL CONDITION.

In external appearance these children are quite as healthy and good looking as any children working in other trades, or agriculture, and much more so than the collier or mining boys.

Cleanliness cannot be expected, but on Sundays they are, generally speaking, both clean and well clothed.

I could not make out, that the amount of sickness was so great as in the neighbouring villages, principally inhabited by stocking makers. (See Medical Evidence, Butterley, Alferton and Pinxton, Chesterfield and Staveley.)

VIII - MORAL CONDITION.

The evidence I have taken, as well as what I observed, compels me to say that those employed in the iron-works are worse than colliers or any other labourers or mechanics in drunkenness. This I dare say is owing to the very great thirst caused by their occupations in a great degree, but the very great excess this is carried to, certainly might be avoided.

As regards habits, education, religious instruction, and attendance at places of worship, it may suffice to state that they attend the same schools, and are often of the same family, as the collier children.

Before I conclude this part of my Report I must observe that at Duckmanton I found the works carried on too much according to the butty system. The whole work was let by count or piece, and the men employed the children, frequently their own: they were worked more hours in the week-day than at other works and several on Sundays, so that a majority neither attended church, chapel, nor school. (See Duckmanton, No. 452.)

I was also astonished to see a young female (shovel in hand) working with her father and others in loading the cupola waggons. She also worked on the Sundays; and when I named this to Mr. Smith, his reply was, "They consider they have no control over the children. They do not recognise them, nor do they regulate the hours they work". (See Duckmanton, No. 452.)

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your most obedient servant,

J. M. FELLOWS.

EVIDENCE COLLECTED BY JOHN MICHAEL FELLOWS, ESQ.

COLLIERIES, LEAD-MINES, AND IRON WORKS IN DERBYSHIRE AND NOTTINGHAMSHIRE.

RADFORD, March 15 (Lord Middleton.)

No.1. John Bodill.

He has to do with pits 52 years. He is now a steaver to Lord Middleton's Radford coal field. The shaft is 63 yards, the seam 4ft. 6 in., headways about the same. The banks are together 250 yards to the waggon-way. The pit is ventilated from an old shaft half a mile off. He has never known wildfire, sometimes blackdamp and uses a bonnet but no Davy lamp. The pit is dry above and not over shoes under. They let down four men or six boys at a time. They employ 8 under 13, 22 under 18. The engine is nine-horse power. They work from 7 a.m. to half-past 8 p.m. The engine stands three-quarters of an hour for dinner. He thinks children should not be allowed to work in pit under 10 or 11, in that case he does not think the time of working too much. In this pit they never wear a belt until 18 years old.

No.2. Richard Husbands.

He has a son, Richard, who works at Radford Pit who is 11 years old and has worked more than a year and a half. He works from seven to half-past eight with three-quarters of an hour allowed for dinner always when at full work. His son comes home dirty and tired, and never able to play. He attends the Sunday School at Radford and can read a write in the Testament. Richard thinks 10 years old is quite young enough for a child to go into the pit, and 12 hours, including time for meals, quite enough to be on his legs under ground.

No.3. Joshua Middleton.

He is 67 years old and has worked in the pits since he was between 10 and 11, excepting six years he was a sailor. When he first went to work it was at Swannington where he drove a pony. Afterwards with the belt without an ass or pony and had only 6d. a-day. He had not more wages until he came to Lord Middleton where he then holed and had 2s. 8d. per day. Lord Middleton has only one out at Radford, about 62 yards deep. The seam is about five feet and the headways upon an average about four feet. It is quite dry over and not to be called wet under foot. It branches off in different ways 60 or 70 yards. It is ventilated from an old shaft a mile off but the wind-road is bad and the pit is therefore very hot. He has never known the wildfire so bad as to do any harm but the black damp is sometimes very bad and obliges them to leave off work. No very bad accident has happened within these two years but some few boys were hurt for a few days by the bind falling. There are about 10 under 13, and about 12 or 14 under 18. They work from half-past six to half-past eight. The engine stands for dinner three-quarters of an hour. The engines are neither of them fenced. A bonnet is used but not a Davy lamp. About five or six and boys are let down at once. They are let down by a flat rope. Those who wear the belt are 16 and 17 years old and there is about ten cwt. on each corve. Some of the youngest boys are under seven, but are seldom employed excepting to open and shut the door. There is no reason, excepting an increase of wages why children of 12 years should not do the work of those younger. It would allow them some schooling and would not injure their growth. He thinks 12 hours, including meals, quite long enough for a child to work. It is too long to be on foot. He has seen them covered with sludge and nastiness, lay themselves down as soon as they were brought up, because they could scarcely move. There was no cabin to wash or change their clothes. All work under butties as at the pits. The children are neither hired or apprenticed. One child is employed all night to assist a man in cleaning the banks. The man never works by day but goes in when the others come out. There are no rewards but the master will not allow the children to be ill-treated. He has known them pinched and now and then coals thrown at them. They are checked from using bad language by some, and encouraged by others. There is no sick-club, reading-room, &c., but if a collier meets with a

misfortune, Lord Middleton allows him 2s. 6d. per week. Some of them go to Sunday-schools. All can if their parents like. He thinks, as a body, colliers are better behaved than they used to be. He thinks the reason is, they do not get so much to spend on drink. He also sees and knows who have been brought up in Sunday-schools are better than those who have not.

his
(Signed) JOS.  MIDDLETON
mark.

Witness, Edward Rossell.

Radford church sunday-school.

No.4. Daniel Hook.

He has been a teacher 25 years. They have 120 boys and 110 girls on the lists. They are taught reading and writing and they use the Bible, Testament, Church Catechism, Easy Lessons, and Mrs. Trimmer's Second Book. They have now in the school only five children under 13 and two under 18 who work in the coal pits. He has often observed and mentioned it that the pit-boys are anxious and willing to be taught, but he scarcely ever knew one but what was duller than the other boys in the school and always appeared more tired and sleepy.

This opinion was agreed by the other teachers. Of these seven boys only one could read and write, and had been in a factory school, one other could read the Testament and the others, who had been for four or five years at this or the Methodist Sunday-schools, were in easy lessons. From these boys, who I could not see elsewhere, I learnt that at the Radford Pit they go down at half-past six to half past eight p.m. to six a.m. They have no meals in the pit. The engine stands 40 minutes for the day-boy's dinner. The pit is dry, excepting in places where it is over shoes. No wildfire nor much blackdamp, or have many serious accidents occurred. If any should, Dr. Blake attends them at Lord Middleton's expense. One of the boys is not eight years old, he opens and shuts the wind-door.

WOLLATON. (Lord Middleton.)

No.5. Charles Chouler, Agent to Lord Middleton.

They have one pit at Radford and three at Trowell, all worked by steam, all ventilated from old shafts. The ground-bailiff at each colliery is ordered to be particular in keeping the wind-gates in order. They have Davy lamps at each coal field which can be had by the men at any time but are seldom, if ever required. There has been only one instance of an accident by wildfire for 20 years. The pits are nearly free from water in the roof, and very little below. At Trowell they employ 32 young men from 13 to 18 years old, seven at 12, one at 13, four at 10. From Radford he has not received the return. They have had no accident at Radford but at Trowell two men, about a year ago, were killed by the roof falling. It was owing to the bind slipping which it occasionally does at most pits. As it comes without previous notice, he cannot think of any way to guard against it. The pit is already well supported by timber, and the men are ordered to be attentive to their own safety in this respect. Lord Middleton at each pit employs a steaver, who, with the butties, employ the men and children. They are aware that the children are not allowed to be punished by either corporal or butty and that any complaint on that head is met with immediate attention. The works could be carried on with children above 12, but with more expense. If children at that age were employed, he did not think the working hours too many. He has known colliers for upwards of 30 years and is convinced, as a body, that they are very much improved. They do not now attend either dog, cock or other fights, and he is sure they are not allowed in the pits. He thinks this and the various Sunday-schools have mainly contributed to this amendment. No night-work is required from the bays. He has given no particular orders as to improper language but it is generally understood to be contrary to what is permitted. There is no sick-fund, but in the case of a serious accident, Lord Middleton allows 2s. 6d. a week at least and funds medical aid. At Trowell there is a day-school to which Lord Middleton sends 30 children and contributes to the various Sunday-schools in the neighbourhood. He has not had any occasion to appeal to the magistrates either on account of man or boy for nearly 20 years

(Signed) C. CHOULER.

No.6. Rev. Francis Hewgill, Rector.

He has not many colliers in his Parish. Those who do reside there are employed by Lord Middleton. He considers them as quiet and orderly a set of people as can be, he considers them a sober set and that they attend the church or other places of worship full as well as the labourers in general. Their children attend the church Sunday-school where they are taught to read and spell, attended with religious instruction and the church catechism. They are admitted at six and may attend as long as they like. He has not remarked the collier children more tired but he certainly thinks, indeed has noticed, they are more dull than their school-fellows.

(Signed) F. HEWGILL.

TROWELL FREE SCHOOL.

No.7. John Hall, Master as well as Principle Master of the Wollaton Sunday-school.

This school is free for 15 Wollaton, 10 Trowell and five for Cossall. There never are any vacancies either for boys or girls. They are taught reading, writing, arithmetic, mensuration, English grammar and geography and the girls needlework. He has a few colliers' children and some few who work in a pit take occasion to come when the coal-trade is flat. At the Sunday-school at Wollaton, reading only is taught. He has not perceived any difference in those who daily work in the pits. They are equally as sharp and attend equally well, indeed, he has perceived no difference. He thinks that an hour or two a day devoted to education would be of use to them hereafter.

(Signed) JOHN HALL.

[I could not make out either from the Report of the Charity Commissioners, from the schoolmaster, or Lord Middleton's agent, how or by whom this school was founded.]

WOLLATON.

No.8. Henry Taylor, Agent to Lord Middleton's Pits here and at Trowell.

The pit at Wollaton is 100 yards deep and the seam about 3 feet 6 inches. The headways 3 feet 6 inches and the bank is 150 yards. It is worked by two stints, therefore one set of children have only 75 yards. Quite are dry both under and over and it is ventilated from an old shaft 400 yards off and it is well ventilated. It has not had any wildfire for many years or blackdamp to prevent them working.

The Trowell pit is 112 yards deep. 3 feet 6 inches headroom and the bank about the same length as the Wollaton. It is quite dry overhead and has lately been headed out. It is ventilated from an old shaft 300 yards off and never troubled with wildfire or even blackdamp so as to prevent them from working. The seam is 3 feet 6 inches.

They employ five at Wollaton under 13 and 12 under 18, the youngest 12, seven under 13 and 20 under 18 at Trowell. The youngest at Trowell is 10. At both pits they go down at seven to half-past eight. An hour is allowed for dinner when the engine stops. The engines are six and eight horse power. There is not overwork and they do not work by night, but one wears the belt under 16. He thinks the boys of 12 could not do the work necessary in these pits and that 12 hours is quite enough for either man or boy to be underground. He has worked for Lord Middleton only, and that for 35 years and his Lordship or his predecessors have never allowed very young boys or females to be employed. He therefore, has not seen the ill effects of children being employed too young and has been experienced at other coal-works. He think colliers of this day are more sober and intelligent, and much more conversable. He had heard as many oaths sworn in a week as now there are in a year. He attributes this to the various Sunday-schools both dissenters and church. He has not known a fight of any sort on the ground for 20 years. The children in general attend the various Sunday-schools, and most of them read and write a little, but very few have an opportunity of learning to write. Last August but one, two men were killed at the Wollaton Pit by the headway falling. It is of white stone and does not give the same notice as coal would. He knows no way it could have been prevented. The children are equally liable to these accidents as the men. They have had several slight accidents much from the same cause. If any boy is ill-behaved he is

suspended for a few days and if that will not do, he is dismissed. Davy lamps are at hand but never wanted.

(Signed) HENRY TAYLOR

No.9. William Mather.

He is 11 years old and rather more than nine when he first worked in a pit. He drives between and receives 1s. 2d. per day

(Signed) William Mather.

[Writes and reads.]

No.9a. Joseph Pedley.

He is 12 years old and has not worked above two months. He opens and shuts the door. He has 1s. per day.

[Reads well.]

No.9b. John Lavern.

He is 12 years old and has worked since he was nine. Drives between and has 1s. 2d. per day. They work from half-past six until about eight o'clock (all have about a mile to walk to the pit), three quarters of an hour for dinner when the engine stops. They have meat, bread and potatoes with water and they are very often hot but cold when they sit down to dinner. They are obliged occasionally to work at night of a week together but then do nothing by day. They take this by turns and it comes every five weeks. There is always a man with them. The engine is left during the night. They do not get beat much but are now and then lugged. In the pit he worked with two men who were killed as related in other evidence. He attends Sunday School.

William Mather learned to read and write and reads the Testament in a small hand. He was working the pit and before attended free school.

Joseph Pedley reads in the Testament but does not write. He has been to Sunday Schools since he was five years old.

Mather and Pedley do not go to play but are glad to get to bed. Lavern likes a bit of play and does know his letters.

No.10. Andrew Blake, Esq., M.D.

He has attended Lord Middleton's Nottinghamshire colliers for 10 years, principally as to accidents. During this period very few have occurred and only three lives have been lost, including the two at Trowell. The life of a collier is certainly a very hazardous one, but as it respects their health, he considers they are generally as healthy as the labourers above ground, which he attributes to their better diet. When they get into years they stoop very much and are a little awry, but he is not aware that it affects their general health. He has noticed that when a collier had worked from a child and becomes 40, he looks much older than those of the same age above ground. He had also observed many of them are not so tall as their neighbours in other employments. This, in a degree, he considers is owing to their being worked too young. It is his decided opinion that a child should not be allowed to work in a pit under 10 years of age, and not more than 13 hours a day and thinks that it would be more desirable to allow a child a day a week for the purpose of education, than reducing the number of hours in each day.

(Signed) ANDREW BLAKE, M.D.

TROWELL and COSSALL

No.11. The Rev. W.T. Hobson, Minister of Trowell and Cossall.

He has resided at Trowell above two years and has many colliers in both parishes. He was formerly curate at Rochdale and another parish in the coal part of Lancashire and considered the colliers in these villages are much superior in both intellect, morals, attendance at places of worship, and sobriety, to what they are in Lancashire. He also considers they are on an equality as to the above points with other labourers, as well as cleanliness in their houses and children. At Cossall he considers the stocking-makers are more sober, but it is on the account of their very greater poverty. He considers those children working at Trowell are more favoured than those at Cossall. The former are not admitted to work until 10 and have an opportunity of attending a daily

free school. Swearing is not allowed and very seldom practised. At Cossall the boys are thought better of the more they swear at the asses. At both places the children take advantage of the Sunday-schools where they are taught to read in Easy Lessons, Trimmer's Abridgement and the Bible as well as the Church Catechism. He thinks, with very few exceptions, all the children in the parishes attend the Sunday-schools. He superintends both himself prior to the service. At Trowell he has observed no difference in the collier and other children, but at Cossall he has observed they appear more tired, and do not attend so early and the parents when applied to, often say they come home so wearied they cannot get them to school on time. It is his opinion, and he has consulted with the parents, who with him consider 12 years old is as soon as children ought to work underground and he thinks 10 hours quite sufficient for them to work under 13 years of age.

(Signed) W.T. HOBSON,
Curate of Trowell and Cossall.

WOLLATON.

No.12. James Davis.

He is 26 years old and has worked in the pit since he was eight. He first worked under Barber and Walker at Beggarlee where he opened and shut a door for about a month at 1s. per day. He then drove between and in a short time was raised to 1s. 2d. He helped to waggon (the waggons are drawn by a man, and the boy pushed behind). The corve* is drawn by asses and the little boys on the road, as it is left after the coal is got. It generally consists of what they call 'clunde'. It is of a smaller nature than the bind above the coal. There is at the termination of the bank rails and small waggons with wheels about eight inches diameter on which the corve or sledge is lifted and then taken under the shaft. He was nearly 13 when he went with the ass and wore the belt and had 1s. 4d. He afterwards waggoned and had 1s. 6d. when he was 15. He then left Messrs. Barber and Walker and came to Lord Middleton's and had 2s. 6d. per day for the same employ but it was much harder. He then holed and had 3s. 9d. He does the same work now at 3s. 6d. He works at Wollaton Pit. The men go down between 12 and 1 a.m. into 10 or 11 a.m. The children come down at seven until half-past eight with three-quarters of an hour for dinner. The youngest in their pit is 10 or 11 and he has not known children younger than 10 work for Lord Middleton, or any females. There is not a good ventilation and they are very much put about by blackdamp which has prevented them from working for a day or two together. He has never seen wildfire since he worked there and has never used a Davy lamp. The pit is always tried by a man going down with a naked candle with a bonnet. They allow four men or six boys to go down at once. There is a cabin at this pit where the men may wash and change their clothes. The butties are on the look-out to see all is right. The headways are about 3 feet 6 inches and the seam about a yard. The pit is provided with a waggon-road and each arm of the bank is about 70 yards. He did not know how deep the pit was but thought is about 100 yards. It is not an unpleasant heat excepting when the blackdamp is coming. It is then very 'smothery'. Nearly two years since two men were killed by the bind falling. Both these men had been cautioned not many minutes before that they were getting too far before the woodman (that is, the man who places the prop) but they did not heed it and one was killed on the spot and the other died on the road to the hospital. He is not aware of any other accident within these two years. They are not allowed in Lord Middleton's pits to use the belt until 15 or 16. He has never known more than half a ton on a corve. The pits might be worked by children above 12 but parents are mostly glad to send them before. He thinks the time in the pits is too long for the children, 12 hours would be better. They should not be sent before 10 or 11 years old. His brother went before he was 7. It was his own doing. He does not know that it did him any harm. Some of the children in the pit do not know a letter, some can read a little. Some attend Sunday-schools but many do not but he thinks it is owing to the neglect of the parents. There is in general one boy works with the men at night, not always the same but they do not work in the day the week before they work at night. No punishment is allowed on Lord Middleton's coal-fields. They are much better treated here than on other fields, both men and boys.

(Signed) JAMES DAVIS.

* Corve is a sledge.

TROWELL.

No.13. Charles Beasley.

He is 11 years old and has worked about two years. He helps to waggon and has 1s. 2d per day.
(Signed) CHARLES BEASLEY..

[Reads and writes]

No.14. Joseph Chambers.

He is 11 years old and has worked for a year. He drives between and has 1s. per day

[Reads middling.]

No.15. Thomas Moulton.

He is nine years old and has worked nearly a year. He drives between for 1s. per day. He goes down at 7 until 8 p.m. with three-quarters of an hour allowed for dinner when the engine stops. He has meat, potatoes and sometimes pudding with water only to drink. They very seldom work at night and never work the day before or the day after if they do. The pit is hot but not very hot and never too cold. Beasley's brother was much hurt a few weeks since by the hook of his belt catching in the chain whereby he fell 10 yards. It was owing to his not taking his belt off which he ought to have done. He is now at work again. A piece of coal fell on his uncle and nearly cut off his ear. William Smith, 60 years old, was working at night and the roof fell and injured his spine but he is also at work again. They are all sure they want to play, but go home to bed as soon as they can. All go to Trowell Church Sunday-school. Beasley went to the free school, and can read a write a little. He now read the Testament. Chambers does not write but reads in the Testament. Witness reads in the Testament but does not write.

No.16. Joseph Chambers.

He is 56 years old. He has worked since he was 11 under the Lord Middletons. He was at first a bank lad and had 1s. per day. At 12 he went in the pit and 'drove between'. After that he wore the belt and had 1s. 6d per day. It galled him but not to do him any damage. It is nothing now to what it was before they used asses. He then waggoned and had 1s. 8d. per day. When he was 17 he was under-corporal when he had to look after the little boys. At 21 he took to holing and had 3s. 6d. per day and a quart of ale. He now works in the Trowell Pit. It is ventilated from an old pit and it is pretty well ventilated. They never have the wildfire but often are hindered by the blackdamp. The bonnet* is always used and the men are never let down by the chain but always by the flat rope. Never more than three men or six boys at a time. The Davy lamps are handed but never wanted. The shaft is 112 yards deep and the seam 1 yard 6 inches and about 4 feet headroom. The works are dry over and under now. The same accidents as before are related by the boys. They frequently sound and every precaution is used. He thinks no children ought to work in the pits before they are 12. He had sons and now has grandsons working in the pits. They not put to work more than 12 hours, including dinner.

his
(Signed) JOSH. >< CHAMBERS
mark.

ILKESTON (Messrs. Samuel and Thomas Potter.)

No.17. Mr. George Blount.

He is the agent to Messrs. Potters and has been in the position for three years. They have four pits at work in Ilkeston, the Workhouse, Bowswell, Piewit and Ilkeston Bath. They do not employ more that 40 under 18 years of age, but is not prepared to say exactly, as they are all employed and paid by the butties and Messrs. Potters have nothing to do with them, not only in these pits but in all the neighbourhood. From six to eight is considered a day's work. Sometimes they get the work done an hour or two before but at eight the banksman and has orders to warn all out, whether done or not. He does not consider either the boy's or men's health is worse than their neighbour's at other employment's. They are much better paid and they are certainly more liable to accidents.

*A bonnet is an iron shaped like an umbrella used to save the colliers both from loose stones or wet, in ascending or descending the shaft.

Since he has been with Messrs. Potters he thinks only one accident had occurred when a man who was going down to feed the asses on the Sunday was killed. It is supposed he neglected to hook himself on the chain and merely held on with his hands. Before he was drawn half way up he fell and never spoke again. He has never known a limb broken or any other accidents besides this. The children have no means of education excepting the Sunday-schools. He is not aware Messrs. Potter assist these schools, excepting by contributing to several of them at their annual sermons. He considers collier children are not so manageable at school as those at other employments but is not aware they are oftener taken before the magistrates. They are fully as well clothed and better fed than their neighbours. The Ilkeston Bath pit is ventilated by a chimney about 150 yards distance. He has known blackdamp but it has never done any damage. No precaution is taken either in ascending or descending excepting having stronger tackle for the purpose than what is used for drawing coal. The Workhouse and Bowswell are winded from each other by a windway and are well ventilated. The Piewit is vented by a communication from one or two old shafts. The same precautions are used in ascending and descending at all the pits as at the Bath. The children are neither hired or apprenticed. It is not the case that a child has to work by night so often as once a month and when he does he is neither employed the day before or after. They never work on Sunday. Workhouse Pit is 130 yards deep and is winded from a chimney 500 yards off. At this pit a flat rope is used instead of a chain to let the colliers up and down but there is no bonnet at any of the shafts. There are two banks, one 60 yards and the other 160 yards. The headway is 4 feet 1 inch. Ilkeston Bath is 60 yards deep with headways 3 feet 6 inches. Bowswell is 130 yards deep with headways 3 feet 6 inches. There are three banks, one 50 yards and the other two 100 yards each. No waggons are used but the corves brought without wheels to the pit mouth. The Piewit is troubled with wildfire and is worse vented than any of the others.

(Signed) GEORGE BLOUNT.

No.18. George Blake Norman, Esq., Surgeon.

He and his father have been the principle medical men in Ilkeston for upwards of 40 years and have frequently attended the colliers. He does not think they are more subject to asthma or rheumatism than other labourers and on the whole, thinks they very healthy set. He has known some when at work in a new pit find a difficulty in breathing, but not to amount to asthma. He is sure the accidents are not near so frequent as they used to be owing to more care being taken and the machinery being better in the coal-fields he and his father have attended. There are not so many occur by two-thirds as there used to be 20 years since. He is not aware of ever meeting with a case of a child having suffered by being worked too young in a pit.

(Signed) G.B. NORMAN.

No.19. Matthew Carrington.

He is nine years old and has worked in Messrs. Potter's Bowswell Pit half a year. He helps to waggon and has 1s. per day. He works from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m., with half an hour allowed for dinner. He is tired and very seldom goes out of doors. He gets punished with the ass stick by the corporal but would rather work in the pit than go to school.

No.20. William Wright.

He is 17 years old and has worked in the pits 10 years. The first half year he opened and shut the door and had 9d per day. He then drove between and had 1s. when he was about 9 years old. He then wore the dog-belt and had 1s. 6d. per day. He worked under Barber and Co., at the Robinettes. At 13 he went to Dr. Manson's at Newthorpe, then Awsworth where 'he fed the head', that is, cleaned the way for the headsmen and has 1s. 10d per day. Afterwards he worked at Piper Pit which is now worked out. He then twice went to Wedgebury where he waggoned and had 2s. per day. He now works for Messrs. Potter at the Ilkeston Bath Pit where he holes for piece-work. There were four under 13 years of age and three under 18. The youngest is nine that works in the pit. They work from six to eight, for three-quarters of a day, six to six. Nearly an hour is allowed for dinner. No one under 13 works at night. He last summer worked in Bath Pit with William and John Bostick. Their uncle John was and now is butty at the Bath Pit. He has taken William by the ears and struck his head against the wall. He also about five weeks since, struck him (William Wright) over the back several times with the maundrill and hurt him very bad. It was on Saturday, and he was obliged to keep to his bed all Sunday and this was for no other reason than his eyes were not good and he could not see to do his work so quickly as others. He complained to his father, who asked him if he had been saucy. He replied that he dared not. The man was called to account, altogether denied it but his father has been told by others it was so but thought that if he

complained to the magistrates he as well as his son would lose their place of work. 'There is many indeed, many a score beaten until they dare not tell.' He has been to a day school and learnt to read but his eyes are now so bad it is no use going. The cause of his sight being so bad, he was about four years ago working at Dr. Manson's coal-field, when, owing to the wildfire, he not only had his sight injured but one man and a boy were killed and several others burnt. After this his leg broke at the same pit by the coal falling off the wall by which accident he was kept from work three months. The colliers at the time raised him 5s. a week.

his
(Signed) WILLIAM \times WRIGHT
mark.

No.21. Thomas Straw.

He is seven years old and has worked about two months at Messrs Potter's Bowswell and Piewit Pits. He drives between and assists to drive the waggons and works from six to eight. He feels very tired when he comes out and gets his tea and goes to bed. They would not let him sleep in the pit or stand still. He feels tired and sleepy on Sunday morning and had rather be in bed than at school. His father works in the same pit and is a butty.

No.22. Wheatley Straw.

He is 59 years old and has worked in the pits since he was 9 years old and now works in Messrs. Potter's Workhouse Pit where he is a butty. When he first worked in a pit he opened and shut the wind-door to ventilate the pit. He worked from seven to eight and had 10d. per day. When he was about 10 years old he drew the empty corves back to the men when taken from the asses. He then had 1s. per day. When he was 11 years old he became ass-lad and received 1s. 6d. per day. He then shoved the waggons an and had 2s. per day. After that he assisted in soughing and hammering and got 3s. per day. He then became a loader at 3s. 6d a-day. The last 30 years he has been a butty. He takes the coals at so much per ton and relets the job to the loaders and men at per ton. The children and young men by the day, the 'tween' lads that is, the boys who drive between the last and first two asses and has 1s. per day. Those who drive and guide the belt 1s. 6d. They go down at six in the morning and come up at eight in the evening and one hour is allowed for dinner. They never work more than fourteen hours. The children are seldom employed at night-work. The men who work by night move the wood and occasionally hole. He has never known a collier go blind on Messrs. Potter's field as in some fields as they do. He considers, unless in appearance, colliers are healthy and if they are not fool-hardy in their youth, live as long as their neighbours. They have no chance of education excepting at Sunday-schools and few even attend them. He blames the parents more than the children for not making them. He is sure, as a body, the colliers are much more rational and improved as members of society to what they were 20 years since. He considers at these pits it would be a great loss to the parents if children under 13 years of age were not allowed to work.

his
(Signed) Wheatley \times Straw
mark.

No.23. William Straw.

He is 13 years and has worked for Messrs. Potter nearly five years. He now works in Bowswell Pit where he goes with the ass and has 1s. 6d. per day. He wears a belt which is made of leather and neither cuts him or makes him sore. He has worked in this manner for two years and is very tired when he comes home. He is sure that it would never do to go to school then. He goes down the pit at six to eight and is quite sure they do not allow above 20 minutes for dinner. When the 20 minutes expire the banksman knocks and they are obliged to go whether they have done their dinner or not. They never have any other time allowed for meals and has nothing to eat but his dinner when he gets home. It is sometimes meat and bread, sometimes no meat but pudding and bread and cheese. When he gets home he has bread and cheese and beer. He never feels more sick after eating in the pit than he does on a Sunday above ground. He gets beaten by the loaders and the corporals with a stick as thick as his thumb and they sometimes kick him. At other times they get their thumb on his windpipe until he chokes. He has been beaten until he was obliged to leave the pit. He has been thus punished because he let the corves knock against the wall and they are by that means thrown over. Many other boys have been served the same. There is now a boy named Thomas Straw working between the asses in Bowswell Pit only seven years old. He used to attend

the Church Sunday-school but has not for many Sundays because he has no clothes to go in. Although his father is a butty he had 'ta'en a bad job,' and cannot buy him any. He has learnt to read the Testament a bit and he means to go again when he can get some clothing. He would rather go to school or drive a plough since it is such hard work in the pit.

No.24. John Straw.

He is 12 years old and has worked in various pits belonging to Messrs. Potter for the last five years. When he first worked, he drove between and sometimes helped to waggon when he had 1s. 6d. per day. He now works at Bowswell and Piewit and goes down at 6 to 8 p.m., had one hour for dinner and is very tired when he gets home. He is always too tired to play and wants to go to bed. He attends the Church Sunday-school. His father does not go to church but now and then goes to the Ranter's chapel in an evening. He read in the East Lessons.

[Appears to have learnt nothing. Is not quite sharp.]

No.25. Luke Wright.

He is 25 years old and has worked in a coal-pit since he was eight years old. He now works in Messrs. Potter's Workhouse Pit. When he first went to work in a pit he drove the asses and worked from six until eight, and had half an hour for dinner when he did not come out of the pit but his parents brought it to the pit mouth and it as well as all their dinners were lowered to them. The dinners consisted of meat, potatoes or anything most convenient. He also had bread and cheese with him to eat as he could, a bite at a time. His victuals never disagreed with him more underground than above, or did he perceive they did any harm of the other children. There were more than 20 boys besides himself but he never knew of any girls employed in these pits or any in this part of the country. The children are treated the same now as when he was a child, and when they have full work they work the same hours but have not quite so much wages. He had 1s. 2d. per day, now the same work is down for 1s. In the pit they have a youth about 14 years old, who is called the 'ass-lad'. He overlooks the younger boys and is allowed to punish them with a stick as thick as a man's finger. Should he exceed his duty, the corporal of the pit would interfere. He has known both the corporal and the ass-lad taken before the magistrates and punished for cruelty. He has had to complain to the magistrates himself, but thinks they are not used so cruelly now. He has seen both fists and kicking practised. He has not known boys become crooked by working in a pit except from an accident. In Workhouse Pit the headways are all four feet, he of course knows many boys who work in the pits and thinks they are quite as healthy as those above ground. The pit is neither to be called wet or dry. It does not take you over the shoes. It is worse in winter than in summer. The roof does not rain to be of any annoyance. When he left off being ass-driver he became ass-lad, that is, was hooked to the corve by the dog-belt and had to look after the lad who drove between at the same time. He then had 2s a day. Some now have 2s. 10d. He used to consider this hard work as they not only had to guide the corve but when the asses tire they have to draw hard. The butty takes the coal at so much per ton. He then underlets it to the men and boys who are obliged to do a certain quantity on a day or work overtime until it is done. He often has blackdamp. It is known by the candles going out but when they burn dim it is time to be off. Should a collier escape accidents he considers they are full as healthy and live as long as their neighbours. They are very apt to strain themselves which brings on rheumatism and they do not find it easy to get rid of again, particularly if they are elderly men. He has never had it himself. The pit is not cold. It is rather more so in winter than in summer. Their pit might be worked without children under 13 years old but in some pits it would be double the expense. The collier children are much harder worked than the stocking-makers. They have no chance of education but at Sunday-schools. Some go but many cannot make. But take them altogether, he thinks they are better lads than those working above ground.

No.26. George Freeman.

He is nine years old and works in Messrs. Potter's Bath Pit. He has worked for nearly two years and he drives between the asses. He has 1s. per day but seldom makes whole days. He goes down at six and comes up between five and six in the evening and is paid for three-quarters of a day. Sometimes he is allowed half an hour for dinner but at other times not so much. He has pudding, and bread and cheese, never any meat and has nothing to drink. There is no water fit to drink in the pit. He sometimes has milk-porridge but often bread and cheese or bread and tea before he leaves home. He has not been ill since he worked at the pit. It is quite dry and they work too hard to be cold although they are stripped to their breeches. They often have blackdamp then they get out of the pit as soon as they can. He has never met with an accident but his father was killed at Shipley

by the bind falling. He does not like the employment and would much rather work above ground. He now attend the Ranter's Sunday School and has done for five weeks and he was about the same time at another Sunday School.

[Of course knows nothing.]

No.27. Ephraim Riley.

He is 15 years old and has worked for Messrs. Potter for eight years and has 4s. a day. He clears the road for the corves that is, follows the man who gets coal and clears the road with a shovel and pick. Before this he was ass-lad and had 1s. 8d. a day. He goes down the pit at six until eight at night and has 40 minutes allowed for dinner. He works in Piewit Pit. At some pits they have more time allowed for meals but at many, less. He has bread, potatoes and meat sent down at one o'clock. He has a small beer with his dinner but has no more either to eat or drink until he gets home at night. He never feels more sick at his meals underground than above. He sometimes feels his eyes ache at coming out of the pit but not for long. He has had equally good health in the pit as he had before. He has to stoop but there is better than three feet headroom. He is punished with a stick as described by the others but in no other way. He has known boys so abused. Henry, for instance, was kicked and knocked down and so used that he was obliged altogether to leave the pit. It was the corporal who punished him and he was never called to account for his brutal conduct. The work he now does is very hard work and he is so tired when he gets home, it would be of not use his going to school. He has been very little at school lately but took to going again last Sunday to the church Sunday School. He has not got far with the easy lessons. His father is a collier and in now getting 10s. per week. When in full work he earns 16s. He is asthmatical. For his part if he could get employment above ground he should prefer it. About four or five years ago he saw four asses brought out of Workhouse Pit, dead and two men nearly so owing to the firedamp.

No.28. John Chambers.

He is 13 years old and has worked at pits since he was seven. He first worked at Messrs. Potter's Piewit Pit when he helped to waggon for a fortnight. He then drove between them and had 10d. a day. He went to work at five in the morning and often stopped until nine at night. When he had worked with Messrs. Potter a year and half he went to Kilbourn and drove a pony for which he received 1s. 2d. an day and worked from six to nine or ten and they thought themselves lucky if they were home by nine. In about two years he returned to Messrs. Potter's and waggoned with an ass, he had 1s. 2d. per day. He now works for North and Company at Babbington. When he first worked in the pit he felt so tired and his legs, arms and back ached so much that his brother has had to help him home many times. He could not go to school on a Sunday morning, he has been so stiff. He felt these pains until about a year since. He now feels tired but his limbs do not ache as they did, he has met with many accidents owing to the bind falling and has been scorched with the wildfire. He had rather work at anything else, it is such hard work

No.29. Ephram Riley.

He is 11 years old and has worked at Messrs. Potter's pits a year and a half. He at first opened and shut the wind-gates and had 10d. a day. He then went to Babbington and had only 9d a day and had three miles to walk to the pit. He left home at five o'clock winter and summer and did not get home again until nine o'clock at night. He had no time allowed for meals excepting half an hour for dinner. His legs and thighs hurt him so with working so much that he remains in bed on Sunday mornings. He used to go to Sunday School before he worked in pits, and does now in the afternoon.

ILKESTON CHURCH-BOYS' SUNDAY SCHOOL.

No.30. Samuel Morris, Master.

He has taught 15 or 16 years and has 130 boys on the list who are taught reading in Mrs. Trimmer's Spelling Book, Part 1, Testament and Bible, also Watt's Hymns and Church Catechism. They are admitted at four years old and they stay as long as they please. They teach from nine to half-past ten. From half-past one until half-past two and three. They attend the services. They have many children that work the pits and he has noticed that they are much more tired than other boys and do not come before 10. They are also much more apt to sleep during the service than others. He thinks children should not go to the pit before nine years old or work more than 12 hours a day.

(Signed) SAMUEL MORRIS.

No.31. William Robinson.

He has taught the class where the principle part of the collier boys are and he finds them duller and more tired than the other boys. He has often seen even the bigger boys fall to sleep and is sure they are not so quick as the frame-work knitting boys. They have often told him, excepting on a Sunday, they are months without seeing daylight. Another reason is, that being so fatigued they do not attend school hours so well as the other boys. They often tell him they could not awake. He finds they are as willing, but far backward than the other boys who are not so old.

(Signed) WILLIAM ROBINSON.

INDEPENDENT OR CALVINIST SCHOOL.

No.32. William Hawley, master.

He has been here 26 years and has 105 girls and 106 boys on the list. They learn reading only and hat in the Bible, Burton's Spelling Book, Easy Lessons and Assembly's Catechism. He has several collier's children, some of them work in the pits. The children are admitted in this school at five years old. The hours are from nine a.m. to half past ten to four p.m. The children attend the services at the chapel. He has certainly perceived those children who work in the pits much more dull and stupid than the others, both at school and chapel. It is his opinion children are sent to work at the pits too young and it is decidedly too long for children to work from six to eight. He has often to complain of the collier's children's bad attendance on Sunday mornings and the reply is generally is, they were so tired they overslept themselves.

(Signed) WILLIAM HAWLEY.

SHIPLEY, IN THE PARISH OF HEANOR.

COAL-FIELD OF E.M. MUNDAY, ESQ.

No.33. Henry Thorp.

He has been in Mr Munday's office for 16 years, They now have six shafts at work. The Waterloo, Bright Soft, Second Bright Soft, Deep Hard, Bath Coppice and Thorp's Field. The Waterloo is ventilated from the engine shaft about 50 yards off, the Deep Hard from the same. Both the Softs are winded by soughs from the same level, Bath Coppice from a chimney 400 or 500 yards off, Thorp's Field from a furnace and chimney at 30 yards distance. He considers they are all well winded and have two or three men constantly employed at the soughs and superintending the ventilation of the pits. If the air is in any way found foul, Davy lamps are used. There are five or six on the premises which can be got by the workpeople. They do not use bonnets. The engines are all fenced. There are cabins at each pit where the colliers may wash and change their clothes. The pits are affected by the weather but are neither too hot nor too cold and he has never known workpeople distressed by either. He does not know that it would occasion any inconvenience if they are prohibited from using children under 12 years of age. The children and workpeople work from six to six and one hour is allowed for dinner when all the works are stopped but they are not allowed to come out of the pit. They have not within the year worked more than the above time and children have never been worked longer since he has been on the premises. For the last two months at the two Soft Coal Pits they have had a relay of hands, one set from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m., the other from 6 p.m. to 6 a.m. They find they do as much work by night as by day and they have not time to clear the banks. If the children were not allowed to work the full time they must be dispensed with, that is those under 13 years old. Some of the children who work by night are occasionally changed to day work. There are not more than a dozen under 13 years old employed and 15 under 18 as night hands. A prohibition of night work would not injure them. They never work on Sunday excepting the engines. They have no system of rewards or punishments. If they behave well they are promoted, if not they are dismissed. No means are taken to prevent bad language or conduct. He cannot from his own knowledge say whether those brought up in a pit make better colliers but thinks a labourer in a short time would become a good collier. They have a sick fund which Mr. Munday assists by occasionally adding to the funds. They have neither school or reading-room. The children are neither hired or apprenticed. They have, for the last five months

tried to dispense with butties. Their reason for so doing was to lessen the expenses but thinks the children are decidedly benefitted by it, they are better used and not overworked. They have within two years had an accident at the Bright Soft Pit by wildfire where by 8 men were killed and 12 others injured. An inquiry was made by the inquest as to the cause but nothing could be produced to throw any light on the subject. He is not aware of any other accident of serious consequence. He thinks the colliers and children are quite as healthy as those working above ground but at the same time he thinks children under twelve years of age ought not to work in a pit.

(Signed) HENRY THORP.

[Waterloo is 100 yards deep, headways, 4 feet, one bank 35 yards, the other 50, both quite dry.

Deep Hard is 250 yards, headway 42 inches.

Soft Coal No.1 is 237 yards, headways nearly 4 feet.

Ditto No. 2 is 240 yards deep, headway 3 feet 6 inches.

Bath Coppice 40 yards, headways nearly 5 feet and is very dry.

Thorp's Field is 33 yards deep. headways little more than 3 feet.

Most of the enginemmen agree in saying they only stop an hour at dinner and that ten hours would be quite enough to work and in that case, twelve years old would be quite soon enough to begin.]

No.34. Godfrey Hardy.

He is 12 years old and has worked in the pits nearly four years. He now works at the Soft Coal Pit. For the first years he opened and shut the wind-door and had 9d. per day. He then helped to waggon, that is drove the ass. After that he drove between and had 1s. per day. He used, before they worked the pit night and day, to go at 5 to 6 and was allowed half an hour dinner. He now goes at 6 p.m. to 6 in the morning and has half an hour for supper about one o'clock. He has bread, cheese and water. He gets beer sometimes and has tea and bread and cheese before he goes down and the same when he returns. He always has meat on Sundays. The seam of coal is more than a yard and the headways 4 feet. The bank is 100 yards and the pit is very dry. Very frequently they have wildfire and had to run from it last week. Nearly a year since he was in the pit with 20 others when it took fire and 10 or 11 were killed and the others sadly scorched. Besides this five or six asses were killed. He was saved by the ass he was driving falling upon him. He was much burnt about the head and arms and in this state was brought up hanging to the rope only by his hands. It was nearly a year before he worked and he was 'scared' at going down again. There are four or five under 13 years old and four under 18. They let down and up 12 or 13 at a time. He now attends the Calvinist Sunday School. He has been at the Church and Ranters but it is only in easy lessons. His father is a collier and sometimes goes to chapel. He is much tired working by night and does not like it. He seldom gets beat by the corporal but is ill used by the bigger boys.

No.35. Thomas Davis.

He is 13 years of age and has worked in a pit at Shipley since he was 11. He now works in the Soft Pit and drives between. He has 1s. 2d. per day. He works from six to seven and has half an hour for dinner. He has stopped in the pit until eight o'clock. The seam is 1 yard, headway nearly one and half yards and he brings the corves 150 yards. He is often punished but only sometimes with a stick but mostly by bare hand. He is often whealed. He has never told tales either to the master or his father, he should get no good by that. He is many times so tired that he seldom thinks of play, he aches too much. He attends the Calvinist Sunday School and has done so for four years. He is in the Second Part of the Easy Lessons. He cannot spell house, horse or church.

No.36. John Aldred.

He is 12 years old and works at Shipley with his father at night. He goes in at six o'clock to four. He never works in the days except Mondays and Saturdays when he does not work by night. He and his father are left in the pit by themselves all night. He would rather work by day. His father 'belts' him so by night.

No.37. Edward Tatham.

He is 11 years old and has worked one year. He drives between. He works from six to eight or half past with half an hour for dinner. He has never worked by night overhours. The seam of coal about a yard, the headways little more. He is the youngest but one in the pit. The other is not 10 years of age. There are about 18 under 18 but he cannot say how many under 13. No accident has happened since he was in the pit. No wildfire or blackdamp. He gets punished by the manager, or ass lad the but never very much. He would rather work in the pit than above ground and rather stop in the pit than be sent to school in the evening. He attends the Calvinist Sunday School and has been for a year and a half. He learns to read in easy lessons but cannot spell the smallest words.

No.38. Joseph Shelton.

He is 64 years of age and has been employed in the coal fields for upwards of forty years. He was formerly agent at Hallam but has been unfortunate. He is now a pitman at Thorpe's Field Pit. It is 33 yards deep, the seam three-quarters of a yard, the headways 3 feet or more, the bank 200 yards. The pit is ventilated by a chimney and furnace close by. He has never known wildfire but often blackdamp so as to prevent them working for days together. The roof is bad and often occasions slight accidents. The gin is worked by one horse, they let down three at a time men and boys, just as it happens. They have neither Davy lamps or bonnet and only one and a half inch rope. As the pit is shallow, they are not ordered to taken any precautions. They have five children and two young men in the pit. The youngest is 11 years old. They work from six to five but never allow any time for meals. They get what they have by mouthfuls as they can. He thinks doing away with the butties a good thing for the children. No child ought to be allowed to work in a pit before he is 11 years old and then not more than 10 hours a day. He is sure as a body the colliers are more respectable than when he first knew them. He thinks this is owing to Sunday Schools and the Methodists. The roof of this pit is bad, The rope very old and in bad condition and nearly cut through, indeed all caution appears neglected.

No.39. Robert Davis.

He is 19 years old and has worked in pits since he was eight. At that time he helped to drive and had 10d. a day. When he had been a year, he drove between and had 1s. per day. After that he wore the belt and had 1s. 6d. per day. He was then about 12 years old. His next situation was to follow the corve, that is, when the pitman had got the coal, he levelled the floor with pick and shovel to allow the corves to run smoothly. He had 2s. 6d a day and still receives the same wages. He works from six to seven or eight o' clock. He has only half an hour for dinner and is hurried over that. He works in the Deep Hard and it is 250 yards deep. The seam is little more than a yard but the headways are four feet. The bank is now about 90 yards. They have no bonnet but Davy lamps are always at hand but seldom used. 12 or 13 are let up and down at a time and he has known 19. The bricks in the shaft have been mortared but many of them are loose. There are six or seven children under 13 and 14 or 15 under 18 now working in the pit. They load the corves sometimes with 15 cwt. and sometimes as much as a ton. They have not been troubled either with wildfire or blackdamp these two years. It is now nearly two years since Charles Straw was killed. He was standing under the pit mouth and a brick fell upon him from the side of the shaft. Since that, another man had his collar bone broken by the roof giving way. He thinks it better for both boys and men when they worked under butties. They do not now so well attended to, or have they so much wage. They never had any time at night after they have done their day's work in assisting a man in clearing the corve roads. The pit in some places is very hot owing to the ventilation not being good and the pit is so deep. He never was at school above a year and never got further the Easy Lessons. He attends various chapels most Sundays. In his opinion, a boy ought to be 12 or 13 before he works in a pit, it is such very hard work for them and at that age 10 hours a day is quite enough for them to work. Mr. Munday never interferes himself or through his agents as to the rewards or punishments. The boys get sadly used by the men, who are never called to account. The blackdamp is often in the pit and prevents them working. He did not understand when asked the question before.

No.40. John Beasley.

He is 54 years old. He has worked since he was seven years old. He now works at Shipley and has done so for 20 years. When he first worked in a pit he 'drove between' and had 1s. per day. When he was 10 he was ass-lad, that is he was hooked to the corve by the belt and worked with his back as an ass. He had 1s. 6d per day. He never found any inconvenience from the belt but what soon went off. When he was 12 he drove the waggon from the bank to the pit mouth and had 2s. per day. He went to work at six and did not come out of the pit until eight every night. He had an hour allowed at noon when all stood and both men and children and asses got their dinner. He took his dinner with him in the morning mostly consisting of plain pudding and bread and cheese. At that time the master allowed one pint of ale to each boy and one quart to each of the men. He had milk porridge for breakfast and pudding or meat or bacon for supper. He was not allowed to leave the pit until night nor was there any convenience for cooking in the pit. When he was 16 years old he drove the horse and had 2s. 9d. per day, when 18, he was employed at holing and loading until he was a man when he worked by the piece or ton and has earned on an average about 3s. a day. He has sometimes found the pit 'as hot as a stove as the saying is'. They are seldom cold. He has occasionally worked nights but it was owing to accidents such as the dirt falling in or the water getting a head. When they get into a new cutting, the assistance of the boys is required to allow the

men to proceed with the work. There are no rewards but when he was a boy they were beaten most unmercifully by the corporals who were complete blackguards. They mostly used the ass-stick, about a thick as your thumb and they often kicked them. They sometimes used a fist and he has seen them throttle boys but never so bad as that they soon recovered. He has himself been so punished that he was obliged to leave the pit. He has now three children working at Shipley, one 16, one 14 and the other 12. The one 14 years old has 1s. 6d. a day and he 'follows the corves', that is, brings the empty one to the loader and assists him in loading. The one 12 years old drives between and earns 1s. 3d. a day. They are treated much the same as he was but not so well paid. The pit he and his sons work is ventilated from an old shaft about 200 yards off which produces good air. There is no accommodation either at the pit mouth or elsewhere for washing or changing your clothes. The pit is lighted by candles. He thinks the children are sent to the pit far too young. He has known instances where children have been so overcome with the work as to cause them to go off into decline and he has seen those who could not get home without their father's assistance and have fallen asleep before they could get to bed. He has known children of six years old sent to the pit but he thinks there are none at Shipley under seven or eight. In his opinion the boys are too weak to stand the hours even to drive between until he is eight or nine years old. He does not think the work could be carried on without the assistance of boys under 13. No girls are employed at any coal-fields in this neighbourhood. The boys go down at six in the morning and he has known them kept down until nine or ten until they are 'almost ready to exhaust'. There are no butties now at Shipley but the agent requires so much work to be done and the children and those employed by the day would not be paid until it was finished. The children and young persons work the same hours as the men. He never heard of a relay of children either at these or any other pits but he cannot conceive there would be any inconvenience or delay occasioned by it either to master or man. The children are obliged to work in the night if the waggon road is out of repair or the water coming on them. It happens sometimes two or three times in the week. They then go down at six p.m. to six a.m. and have from ten minutes to half an hour allowed for supper according to the work they have to do. They mostly ask the children who have been at work the previous day to go down with them but seldom have to oblige them. When he has a boy who has worked for 36 hours running many a time and many more besides himself have done so. He does not consider the night work so hard as what they do by day. Seldom above two or three are wanted at a time but the work set them takes up all the time to finish. The objection to a change of boys during the night would be the engine-man must sit up. As it is now, it is quite impossible for the night boys to give any alarm in case of wildfire, blackdamp or any other accident. Indeed nothing would be known of them until the holers came at their o'clock in the morning. He has known them to get hurt and receive no assistance until the engine-man came to his work in the morning. The night work requires both children and young people but they never work on Sundays. So far from being corrected for using bad language, the corporals frequently set them on. He has known many taken in a pit to work who were not to be brought up to it but not 1 in 10 made good colliers. There is neither school nor reading-room but they have a sick club. He considers the collier, but more particularly the collier-boy, the most 'slavish life under the sun'. His children attend the Ranter's Sunday School and they can read in the Testament. They, as well as the whole of the scholars, attend the Ranter's chapel. He has frequently experienced the effects of blackdamp and has known those who have been burnt to death by the wildfire. At Shipley they occasionally use a Davy lamp but not regularly. He has within these two years known the pit he works at fire so that they had to bring up all hands as well as the asses and close the pit for a week. No precautions are used at Shipley to prevent accidents either in ascending or descending. The children are neither hired or apprenticed. He cannot say a collier's life is so healthy as those working above ground. They often come up wet with perspiration, so much so that their breeches are wet through and they thereby frequently take cold. They are more subject to accidents than any class of men. He once had a wonderful escape. The rope broke as he was ascending the shaft and he has met with many minor accidents.

his
(Signed) JOHN  BEASLEY.
mark.

STANTON-BY-DALE (Messrs. Marshall, Barber and Wright.)

No.41. Isaac Winrow, Coal-agent and ground-bailiff.

Their coal pit has been worked two months and it is 20 yards deep, the seam 5 feet 7 inches, headroom 4 feet at present. No waggon road and the bank is only 5 yards. There is only one ass and one boy under 13 employed. The pit is ventilated from the water shaft close by. The coal shaft

is not laid in mortar. No bonnet or Davy lamp. A rope only is used and the engine is used both to pump and to draw.

[As this coal-field was so much in it infancy I asked no more question.]

Messrs. Marshall and Co's Iron Pits.

[There are only four boys under 13 years of age who all work above ground, three picking the ironstone from the bind and the fourth drives the gin-horse.]

No.42. John Frost.

He is 11 years old and he works from half past six to half-past five. He has an hour for dinner and half an hour for breakfast. He attends Ikleston Methodist Sunday School and learns to read in the Testament. He cannot write.

No.43. Thomas Fletcher.

He is 12 years old and works with and attends the same hours as Frost. They both have 8d. per day and are neither hired nor apprenticed. He goes to the Ikleston Methodist Sunday School and has been to a day school for two years. He can both read and write and has been as far as compound division in accounts.

No.44. James Pritchitt.

He is eight years old and drives the gin-horse. He comes at six but sometimes gives over at dinner, sometimes it is three o'clock. He has 6d. per day in either case. He goes to the Dale Church Sunday School and reads in the testament. He cannot spell the smallest word.

STONEYFORD COLLIERY, CODNOR. (Mr. James Christopher Royston.)

No. 45. Vincent Wild, Coal agent.

He has been in his present situation seven years. They have two pits working, hard and soft. The hard is 93 yards and the soft 75 yards deep. The seam in the hard is 29 inches with 4 feet headroom. The waggons are run by boys. In the soft the seam is 3 feet 8 inches about 3 feet 2 inches headway and both pits are ventilated from the engine shaft also from a pit not at work. There is a little wildfire in the hard pit and more in the soft. About half a year since William Hutchby, a holer, was burnt much about the body and was disabled upwards of two months. Also William Longden about a year ago, a holer and woodman was burnt very bad and unable to work for three months. No Davy lamp had been used neither have they a Davy lamp now. The blackdamp is seldom in either pit. Both are worked by a steam engine. The shafts are not laid out in lime. They have a bonnet now making but no rope. Sometimes seven or eight come up together seldom more than three go down. They have 110 under 13 and 10 under 18. The youngest is seven years old. The waggoner, who uses the belt is 13 or 14 and one behind, eight or nine. There is from 3 cwt. to 10 in each of the corves. The works are wet both under and over and it is not overshoes under but 'rains' much over head so much so that the boys have to wear flannel. It is not very hot, if they are still, it is cold. No one is particularly placed for the purpose of looking after the windways or machinery but mostly two or three are employed occasionally. About two months since one of the butties fell from the top and was smashed to pieces. It was owing to the ring that fastens the tackle to the chain getting wrong. Although it was direct before his eyes he never saw it. Directly the engine moved the whole gave way and he and the chains and a bag of corn dropped to the bottom. The banks in the hard are 20 and 90 yards in the soft about the same. No females are employed. The children are engaged by the butties and are not hired or apprenticed. They go down at six to eight, half an hour for dinner and no work on Sundays. The children seldom or ever work by night. He thinks they should go in about seven years old. The younger they are the more tractable and the works could scarcely do with children of 10 years old. He thinks 14 hours too long for such little infants to labour. He was put to it himself at seven and had two or three miles to walk to the pit. He sometimes had an ass to ride on. He thinks a relay of children at dinner would be a very great relief and not impede the works. He has seen the poor little things so tired that they

wanted to lay by the fire sooner than walk home. There is no club-school or reading room. He thinks the greater part attend the various Sunday Schools, chiefly the Dissenters in the neighbouring villages.

(Signed) Vincent Wild.

No.46. William Fletcher.

He is nine years old and has worked the pits for three years. He has worked here and at Mr. Fenton's. He has always drove between and now has 1s. 2d. a day. He works in the soft pit and it is very wet above, not over shoes below. It is so wet that he is wet quite through in an half hour and has his wet clothes to wear all day. He finds it hot but there is no wildfire. His father who is a butty, was prevented from working about a month or two owing to this cause. They do not have much blackdamp. He goes down at six to eight and has half an hour allowed for dinner. He never works by night or Sunday. He thinks the bank is about 200 yards. He is very little but has to bend in the headways, they cannot exceed 3 feet. There are no rewards but they are beaten by the corporal with the ass stick but to no great excess. When they work half days, six to four, three-quarters, six to seven they get half an hour for dinner. They all go home in their wet clothes and he frequently takes cold. He has had a fever and is too weakly to go to the pit. His father has sent him to a daily school. It is just as it happens how many come up and go down at once, four to nine with no rope, he has never seen a Davy lamp. When he worked he used to go to the Baptist Sunday School at Heanor. He reads in the Bible.

(Signed) WILLIAM FLETCHER.

No.47. Charles Hunt.

He is 11 years old and has worked in the pits for three years. He now works at Royston's Soft Pit where he helps to waggon. He does not wear the belt, the boy that does is 15. The waggon road is 32 yards. There is from 5 cwt. to 10 at once on the corve. The pit is wet under and over and they come out very dirty but he does not get as wet as the ass-drivers. The pit is hot, and now and then has blackdamp. The waggons are drawn by two boys. The headway is about 4 feet and they have to stoop. He has 1s. 8d. a day and goes down at half past six to half past eight or three-quarters, half past six to half past six or half days, half past six to half past three with half an hour allowed for dinner for days or three-quarters but none for half days. They are engaged by the butties neither apprenticed nor hired further than to give a months notice. He has worked at night but once. He used to be and is now very tired and always wants to get washed and go to bed. There are no rewards and they are seldom punished. They are checked for swearing. He is not at work today as his feet are sore with always being wet and sweating at the same time. He has to walk nearly a mile and a half. He goes to Heanor Baptist Sunday School and he reads in the Testament and writes. He has been at a school a year and a half.

(Signed) CHARLES HUNT.

No.48. Joseph Birkinshaw.

He is 8 years old and has worked in the pits for two years and a half. He goes down at a half past six to half past eight with half an hour for dinner. The headways are 3 feet and the bank is about 50 yards long. He drives between and is wet through directly he goes down. He does not like the pit and would rather do anything above ground.

No.49. Samuel Vernon.

He is nine years old and has worked only four days.

[These two boys were drawn up from the pit because I insisted upon seeing two of the youngest. After much trouble these two were drawn up for me and the water actually kept dropping from them and they looked as wretched as drowned rats. Birkinshaw had an hesitation in his speech, I could scarcely understand a word he said. Vernon had been a beggar and had only that week been admitted. There was no rope, and the chain kept them turning round all the way up the shaft.]

WEST HALLAM COAL WORKS (Francis Newdigate, Esq.)

No.50. Benjamin Fletcher, Coal-agent or ground bailiff.

He has had his present job for 12 or 13 years. Mr. Newdigate has now only two pits to work, one hard and the other soft. The hard is 103 yards deep and the seam 1 yard. The headway of 1 yard 6 inches. The waggons are drawn by an ass. The pit is ventilated from two shafts about 300

yards off. Two men are employed in keeping the windways in order. There is not wildfire in the last four years and but little blackdamp. The windways are particularly good and the shafts are laid in line throughout. No bonnet or Davy lamp is used but they had had them for 20 years. A flat rope is used. There are no chains for either men or coal. The bank is quite dry over, very little wet under. The soft coal pit is 74 yards deep and the seam 9 feet with 5 feet headroom and the bank 180 yards. The waggons are drawn by ponies and the waggon-way is 350 yards. The pit is ventilated from an old shaft 400 yards off and there is not wildfire and not much blackdamp but they are troubled with 'gobbing-fire' (it is the slack at the bottom which ignites and causes them for a period to leave off working). The pit has never had any accident arise in it either to man or boy. The two men kept to look after the windways attend to this pit as well as the other. This pit is so dry that they are obliged to let water down for the ponies. There are not in both pits above seven or eight boys under 13 and eight under 18 years of age. The youngest in either pit is about 10. They are let down from six to eight with 40 minutes for dinner, half-days from six to one with no dinner. One boy is kept at night about 12 years old. He never works by day and there is no Sunday work and no females. No orders are given as to rewards and punishment. He considers the children are engaged by butties and he does not interfere further than when they have cause to complain to come to him. The pits are neither of them unpleasantly hot or cold. There are cabins at the head of each pit. They allow four to be let down at a time when he has seen more they have always been scolded. About a year since Samuel Tomlinson, a holer, was hurt by some coals falling from the roof by which his spine was so injured that he is never likely to work again. William Hart was hurt in a like manner and from the same cause, he is at work again but 'is not the man he was before, or ever will be'. He is not aware how these accidents could have been prevented but he is sure no pits use more caution than theirs. He thinks nine or ten years of age soon enough for a child to work in a pit. The children cannot go down unless they work all the hours of the corve-men, that is, loaders and hangers-on. A double set would not do. One reason is that the parents would not think it worth while for the children 'to daub' themselves for half wages as it has been of late they work only half days, therefore the second set would have nothing to do for three or four days in a week. Lads are not used as they were when he was lad. He has gone down at three o'clock in a morning and worked until 10. He has many and many a time fallen asleep as he was going to work in a morning and fell into ditches owing to want of sleep. He considers the life of a collier, both man and boy, is considerably mended since those days. He also thinks they are better and more sober than they were but is sorry to say it is more owing to poverty than anything else. There is no club, no school or reading-room. He thinks most of the children attend the Church and Calvinist Sunday Schools where they are taught reading only.

(Signed) BENJAMIN FLETCHER.

No.51. John Hart.

He is nine years old and works in the Soft Coal Pit and has worked there for about four months. He drives asses or between and goes down from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. and has half an hour for dinner. He never works overtime or by night. He worked full time he was very tired and should not have liked either to have gone to school or play. Both his leg and arms ached. He has half a mile to walk to the pit. He has sometimes meat and bread, sometimes potatoes, and has some beer at dinner. He has breakfast before he goes and has some bread and cheese but eats as he can for no time is allowed. He gets his supper when he gets home and has bread and tea. He went to day school a short time before he worked in the pit and now goes to Sunday School. He reads Easy Lessons but can scarcely spell the smallest words and is quite ignorant. He has 1s. 2d. per day.

No.52. William Hart.

He is 11 years old and works in the Soft Coal Pit and has worked there nearly four years. He drives the ponies and has 1s. 2d. per day. He leaves home at half-past five and goes down from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. and has 40 minutes for dinner. He never works overtime or by night. He has the same to eat as his brother. He has felt so tired that he was glad to get home and too tired to play. He felt very tired and stiff on Sunday. He went to day school for about half a year before he worked in the pits and since then has attended the Church Sunday School where he learns reading only and is now in the Testament. He had rather work in the pit than drive the plough. Reads tolerably.

No.53. Joseph Fletcher.

He is 11 years old and works in the Soft Coal Pit and has worked there for about two years. He drives a pony and has 1s. 2d. per day. He leaves home at half-past five and goes down six until eight. He never works overtime or by night. He is allowed 40 minutes for dinner while the engine stops. He is never allowed to go down with more than three others. In places* the pit is nearly up to the knees in mud and water and he has to stoop in many parts. There is 200 yards in one road and in the other about 120. He is naked when at work to his breeches. It is mostly colder than above ground. He was tired when he first went to work in a pit and never felt inclined to play. He would have been too sleepy to go to school and his arms and legs ached too much. He has never felt but that he could eat as well below ground as well as above. He has bread and cheese, potatoes and meat for dinner and sometimes pudding and saves some for 'clocking' but he is not allowed to stop for this. He went to the free school before he used to go to the pit and now goes to the Church Sunday School. He can read and write.

(Signed) JOSEPH FLETCHER.

No.54. Joseph Hobson.

He is 10 years old and works in the Hard Coal Pit where he has been for about a year. He goes with the asses and has 1s. 2d. per day. He goes down at 6 and comes out about 12 but if he made a whole day it would be 11 at night. He has never done so since he worked in the pit. He takes a clocking with him but is allowed no time to eat it. There are two or three boys under 13 and about four or five under 18 years of age. They all work longer than the men, now they are on short work and work only until 10. Before he went to the pit he used to go to free school and now goes to Sunday School. He reads in the Bible and can write.

(Signed) JOSEPH HOBSON.

No.55. William Eley.

He is 12 years old and works in the Soft Coal Pit and has worked four years at Hallam. For the first years he opened and shut the doors and had 1s. per day. He then drove between the ponies and has 1s. 2d. He is now on the waggons and has the same. He wears the belt but never feels any pain from it nor does it hurt his loins. He works from 6 to 8 and has 40 minutes for dinner and has the same to eat as the others. When he first began to drive he felt very tired at night and never could play. He never has been at school except a Sunday or two about a year since. He does not know the alphabet and goes to church about once a year.

No.56. John Dakin.

He is 55 years of age. He has worked in the pits since before he was nine and always at West Hallam excepting for about half a year. He now works at the Hard Coal Pit. It is 120 yards deep, worked by an engine, the headways 4 feet. There are two banks, one 50 yards and the other 70. The pit is, on the whole, dry. There are a few wet places but not to take you over the shoe and is quite dry overhead. It is well ventilated from two old shafts and if anything there is too much wind. He has never in this pit been troubled with either blackdamp or wildfire but has been with both at other pits. At the Soft Coal Pit a man broke his leg within these two years by coal falling from the roof but does not know the particulars. At the same pit a man hurt his back by a coal falling from the roof and he was disabled above half a year. It is the custom to support the roof near where the coal is getting by pieces of loose coal, until the wood supporters are placed. This man was removing the coal prior to placing the wood when the roof fell in. It is an accident which very seldom occurs. He is not aware of any way to prevent these accidents. There are cabins to all the pits for the men and boys to shelter and change their clothes. There is in this pit but one boy under 13 years of age. He is about 11. There are 10 under 18 and no girls are employed at any of the pits. They work in his pit from six to eight but they have not full work at his pit for four years. The children are never employed at night. A man is always employed to clean the roads. The work in his pit could be done by children above 12 but in some pits the banks are too low to admit of any but small children. The roads depend upon how the 'gey' lies (it is a strata of a very hard slaty substance and if it is broken it would let the roof in and very much impede, if not stop the works). He thinks it would do a child no harm to work at 9 years old but has never sent his own until 12 as he wanted them to go to school as long as they could. He has now five working in the pits. He thinks it would be a benefit to the children under 13 not to work more than 10 hours a day. No work is allowed on

*This is stated so by the others.

Sunday excepting the pumps. They have one hour for dinner which is had in the pit. Neither rewards nor punishments are allowed or ordered by the masters or had he heard of any being ill-used by the corporal or anyone else. They are neither hired or apprenticed but work by the day under a butty who pays them. There is not much fighting but they are very saucy and use much bad language. He is of the opinion a man taken from labour or any other trade would be nothing of a collier. There is a free-school at Hallam but nothing taught in the evening. There is an evening school where a few go but have to pay 1d. per night. Most of the children attend either the Church or Calvinist Sunday School and are taught to read only. He considers the colliers of the present day are 'a hundred times oer' a better set and more respectable than they were 20 years ago. When he was a boy or a young man they used to make a point of attending all fights, man, dog and cock and all such blackguard meetings but you never now hear of such things. He attributes this to the Sunday schools which have given the people more religious habits. The shafts are all laid in barrow lime but no bonnet is used at any of Mr. Newdigate's pits. The flat rope is used.

(Signed) JOHN DAKIN.

No.57. William Fletcher.

He is 33 years old and works at the West Hallam Soft Coal Pit where he has worked for about three years. He has worked in the pits since he was 8 or 9 years old. At 13 he went to a farmer's service for about two years but has worked in the pit for ever since. The pit is about 100 yards deep and the coal seam is three yards and the headway is nearly four feet. The banks are 200 yards before they go into the waggon-way. They have about 14 or 15 cwt. on each corve and they are drawn by two ponies and attended by two boys one about 10 and the other 13. The elder one wears the belt. There are about half a dozen children and about five more under 18. They work from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. and are allowed 40 minutes for dinner when the engine stops. They never work either by night or overhours. They have two nightmen to clear the roads &c. The pit is ventilated by an old shaft 200 yards off and is well ventilated and regulated by doors. The pit has never been affected by either by blackdamp or wildfire but is rather wet underfoot not out of the roof and it is never over shoes. They have no Davy lamp and have none belonging to the pit. Samuel Tomlinson was hurt by the coal falling on him and injured his spine and he is not likely to work again. The coal in this pit has two veins. After they get the lower one there is a small strata of 'bat' or 'dun' about three inches thick and then another vein of coal. This is kept up by a wall of coal until they get to the higher strata and then permanently supported by timber. He was moving the upper strata when it fell on him. He does not believe there is any way of avoiding these accidents, as it falls without giving notice. William Hart, a butty, about a year since was hurt so as never to be able to work again nearly in the same manner, he was taking away the lower stratum and the upper one fell on him. Joseph Rigley had his leg broken about the same time and in the same manner. The children are equally liable to these accidents. No bonnet is used but the shaft is mortared and every care taken to prevent these accidents. Never more than three men or four boys are allowed to go down at a time. A flat rope is used. No females are employed. The youngest he has known is John Hart. He began work between seven or eight years of age. No part of the works would require children less than 12 years old but he thinks if they were not taken until 12 they would be very masterful. He thinks that if they were not allowed to work until 10 or 11 it would be a good thing but poor people are glad to get them to work as soon as they can. He thinks that younger than 10 is rather too bad. The children are neither hired nor apprenticed in this field. Neither rewards nor even punishments are ordered by the master but the butties, if they hear them swear, or are bad lads, sometimes strike them with the open hand. The children have no opportunity of going to school except to the Sunday Schools where they are taught to read. He thinks the colliers are full as 'big blackguards' as he ever knew them but there is not so much dog or cock-fighting or badger-baiting as there used to be owing to the exertion of clergymen. He considers the collier's life a very hard one, both for man and boy. The latter full as hard as the former. He has one child who has worked in a pit more than a year. He can both read and write. He learnt at the free-school until he went into the pit and had attended the Sunday School since.

(Signed) WILLIAM FLETCHER.

DALE ABBEY COAL WORKS (Lord Stanhope.)

No.58. Thomas Hallam.

He is 31 years old and works at Dale Pits where there is only one shaft at work. It is now taken by five butties who work it on their own account. Robert Dakin, Robert Fletcher, Henry Hallam, William Hobson and Thomas Gregory have worked it for 16 years. It is about 50 yards deep and is

worked by an engine. The seam is nearly 5 feet and the bank is not above 20 yards long. Only two boys under 13 years of age and not one above 18 work there the pit nearly being worked out. They used to employ many more. He does not suppose it will last more than six weeks longer. It is very uncertain whether another shaft will be sunk. It is ventilated from a wind-shaft and an old coal shaft. [This being the case I went no further into the matter.] He began work in a pit at nine years of age at West Hallam when he drove between and had 2s. 2d. per day. At 14 he assisted to load and had 2s. 6d. a day when he worked from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. and had three-quarters of an hour. If it was in a person's power he ought not to send a child into the pit under 10. It would give them a better chance to be educated. One of the boys under 13 was his son and he is 9 years of age. He goes behind and wears a belt and has been in a year but has never made whole days since he had been at the pit. He has never worked so as to over-fatigue him. If they had worked full time he should not have put him to it so soon.

(Signed) THOMAS HALLAM.

WEST HALLAM FREE SCHOOL.

[This school was founded by John Scaegill, Clerk, 10th. January, 1662, who, by his will left £450 to purchase a farm at Eastwood for the founding and erecting a free-school and allow a schoolmaster £10 a year to teach his scholars to read and write and cast accounts as well as instruct them in the Church Catechism. And he further directed that there should be 12 pensioners in the school, 6 out of West Hallam, 2 out of Staveley, 2 out of Dale and 2 out of Mapperley, all of whom should be of the poorer sort and chosen by each township and should receive 9d. per week during the school weeks and that the might continue at school and receive the pension for six years.

The property of this charity now consists of a new school-room and house, a farm at Eastwood, consisting of house, shops, outbuildings and croft with a cottage and garden and 12 closes containing 48A. 3R. 5P., let for £80 per annum, a messuage and lands containing 26A 2R 39P., at Newthorpe, let for £44 per annum also a cottage and lands at Newthorpe consisting of 2A. 3R. 31P., let for £9 per annum, a field at Ilkeston containing 2 acres, let for £4 per annum.]

Besides this property the trustees have lent money on interest; I could not ascertain the exact amount further than they receive about £33 per annum interest, inclusive of sums in the hands of former trustees which I fear must be considered as bad debts. The schoolmaster's salary is now £60 per annum. Since 1820 the number of pensioners has been 58, 19 from West Hallam and 13 from each of the other places. Books are occasionally provided by the trustees for the use of the school.

No.59. Isaac Rowbottom.

He is the son of John Rowbottom, the master, who is now unwell. He has care of the school. There are now in the school 24 boys from Hallam and 8 each from each of the other townships. They are taught reading, writing and accounts and instructed in the Church Catechism. They are admitted by the trustees at seven years old and may stay six years. The pensioners receive 9d. each per week and the lists are always full. For the Hallam boys there is an apprentice fund, but they often have boys who go to work in the pits in preference to being apprenticed. The premium given is £10 and a trifle for clothes in the case of need.

The witness is also the master at the Church Sunday School. They had 42 boys on the list, 7 of whom work in coal-pits. Reading only is taught. He has observed boys who have been brought up in the free-school, and afterwards worked in a pit and attended the Sunday School, read much worse than they formerly did and appear duller and more tired than other boys, although equally as willing to learn.

(Signed) ISAAC ROWBOTTOM.

SMALLEY, March 29.

No.60. Thomas Booth.

He is the overlooker of Messrs. Evans, Allen and Thornley's Pits. At this time they have only one pit at work and are deepening the shaft of the other. The pit at work is 80 yards deep, the lower seam is 4 feet 6 inches then a strata of dun about 1 foot and then another seam of soft coal about 3 feet of which is workable. It is now ventilated from an old shaft 17 yards off but when the other shaft is deepened they will vent each other. About 30 yards of the bank is wet. The waggon-road is

40 yards and the waggons are drawn by two boys one 10 and the other belt-boy 12 years old. They have 5 to 10 cwt. on each corve. The pit is worked by an 18 horse power engine which both pumps and draws. They have a bonnet, but it is not used, a rope and no Davy lamp. Four men and six boys let down, the tackle will not hold more. There have been no accidents from wildfire or blackdamp or in any other cause excepting about three months ago a man was hurt owing to the dun falling and crushing his body. It was his own fault in neglecting to put up the necessary supports. There are four under 13 and three under 18 employed, the youngest is now nine. They go down from seven to eight with one hour for dinner. They have no butties. The boys are paid by the ton, that is, 36 tons is a day's work. If they get 40, the 4 tons go to the next day's work. The children never work past eight. Occasionally one of the bigger boys work for a few hours with the men at night to clean the road &c. but never all night with no Sunday work. No females are employed and no apprentices. There is no hiring excepting a week's notice is required. He worked the pits before he was six when he drove a horse-gin. When he was seven he drove between and has gone through all the employments of a collier. He is now 38. He thinks a child should not work in a pit until 10 or 11 years old and eight hours a day is enough. There is no school or club but five go to the Baptist Sunday School. They get more punished for swearing and bad language than any other cause.

his
THOMAS >< BOOTH
mark

No.61. John Radford, Esq.

He has acted as a magistrate in this district 13 years during which period he has not had many cases of boys appearing against the butties and all of these cass have been made up by the payment of a few shillings to the parents. The reason for this was, that he did not think them cases which required more serious treatment. As a body he has a better opinion of the colliers than of the frame-work knitters. For the last few years he has had frequent complaints against them, owing to their capping and striking and leaving their masters without giving the notice agreed upon. In a great proportion of these he has succeeded in getting them back to their work without commitment.

(Signed) JOHN RADFORD.

No.62. John Ratcliffe.

He is 69 years old and has worked since when he was 10 years old in pits. He helped to waggon and had 7d a day. He afterwards went through the various occupations of a collier and worked as a holer until last Christmas. The Smalley Pits are now worked by Messrs. Evans, Allen and Company. One is 180 yards deep. There are two seams of soft coal, divided by a vein of dun about 1 foot thick, which being got altogether makes the banks 6 feet high. It is wet a little over as well as under. The other pit was about 16 yards deep when they got to the top seam. They are now sinking the shaft to the same seam as the other pit. They are ventilated from each other. They are on the whole well winded. There is no wildfire and but little blackdamp. He is not now aware how many work in the pit either under 13 or 18. There had been no serious accident. A few have been bruised by the coal falling on them but it was through want of care on their own part. The roof, about five years since, fell and killed a boy and an ass. The waggons were drawn by boys. The road is near 50 yards. When he was 12 or 13 years old he wore the belt and drew the waggons. They had from six cwt. to half a ton each. He never was hurt by the belt, nor does he think the boys were overpressed with work. He never was a butty. He thinks a boy has no business to go into the pit before he is 12. He then should work 12 or 13 hours a day. They now go down at seven to eight. The colliers, he thinks are better behaved and do not run the country over after fights as they used to do but he thinks they are no better as to sobriety. One of the shafts is partly laid in lime, the other in stone. He considers them secure. It has a bonnet but it has not been used to either of the shafts. There are no Davy lamps. They are let down by rope, from three to six at once, both up and down. There is no school, club &c. He cannot say how the boys are treated now, but he never saw them ill-treated in any way. He has not seen them checked for swearing but does not think there is much of it.

his
JOHN >< RATCLIFFE
mark

No.63. Samuel Elliott.

He is 11 years old and has worked with Evans and Company nearly a year and a half. He drives an ass and wears the belt. The bank is 40 or 50 yards and he has to stoop at two places for 2 or 3 yards but at others he could not reach the top. It is very wet on his bank, it rains from the roof and he is obliged to wear flannel. It is hot sometimes and the sweat and water are constantly running down his face. He is wet through before dinner and he has to sit in his wet things to eat and never takes them off until he gets home. There is a cabin but they never change until they get home. They go down at seven until nine or ten and there is from half an hour to an hour allowed for dinner. He does not feel very tired and the belt never hurt him. He never gets rewarded but is sometimes beaten by the corporal and kicked. He was kicked last week and is quite black now. They get 36 tons which is called a day's work. If they do that they frequently have to work until nine or ten. He never works on a Sunday or all night. He went to a day school before he went in the pit. They teach both reading and writing. He lost the use of a joint in his finger by having it trapped between the coal and a corve and Oldknow has met with an accident. He had rather work in the pit than go to school. He seldom gets a cold and has as good health as he had before he worked in a pit.

[He can neither write or spell his name.]

No.64. Charles Booth.

He is nine year old and has worked a year. He wears the belt and drives the ass and has done so for a year. He has 1s. per day and works from half past six to nine or ten, half days six to one. They are let down by a flat rope and six go down and up at once. The tackle will only hold six. There is no wildfire but a little blackdamp. It is wet both under and over and it is warm and although they are naked they soon sweat. He has half an hour allowed for dinner. His dinner is sent, he has meat, potatoes and pudding, milk porridge and sometimes tea and at night, tea. At clocking he has bread and butter but may not stop and only water to drink. He does not go to play but lays him on the squab until he gets his supper. He does not feel tired where the belt has been but his legs and arms ache. He never works on Sundays. There are no rewards. His uncle, who is a butty, often beats him with the ass stick because he cannot go as fast as he wishes. He goes to the Methodist Sunday School and is in easy lessons. He should prefer driving the plough but had rather work in the pit than go to school. No accident of any consequence since he was in the pit. He has been hurt, but was at work again in a few days.

No.65. Christopher Oldknow.

He is 12 years old and has worked in Smalley Pits one year and a quarter. He waggons and wears the belt. 36 tons is the day's work for which he gets 2s. The boy behind who is 10, gets 1s. He goes down at seven until eight or nine with half an hour or sometimes an hour for dinner. There is no night work or work on Sundays. The waggon way is dry but very hot. He soon sweats so as to wet his cap through. There is no wildfire but the blackdamp often makes him badly and his head aches but not to make him leave the pit. He never feels any inconvenience from the belt and he likes to wear it. It does not signify how much coal they have on, they run down themselves and although he is hooked to them they do not pull him much. Before he began to waggon he drove an ass and the pony that was with the ass ran off and owing to his belt being hooked to the corve he was thrown down and the coal on the corve fell upon him by which his arm and his leg were much bruised but he was enabled to work again in a week. He was in farmer's service for half a year before he worked in a pit. He has his health now quite well as then and never has a cold. He prefers working in the pit. He used to go to Smalley Free School and does not go to Sunday School. He attends the Baptist chapel once a Sunday. There is only service once a day. He can read but never learned to write. The reason he does not go to the Sunday School is his clothes are not good. They are never rewarded and has only been punished once for a past year. Elliott is often beaten by the corporal because he cannot get the asses on fast enough. He never knew any body punished or scolded for swearing.

SMALLEY FREE SCHOOL.

[This school was founded by John and Samuel Richardson in 1712 for teaching 12 poor boys to read, write and cast accounts and in the rules of grammar and other school learning and that the boys should receive 8d. a week each and every week they should come to be taught, to buy themselves books and other necessaries, the same to be paid to them every 13 weeks. They ordered the residue of the rents to be divided between the master and the 12 pensioners. They also ordered that not exceeding seven of

these boys were to be of Smalley, the others of Horsley Woodhouse and Heanor and that no boy should continue more than seven years either as scholar or pensioner.

The property consists of a farm-house, garden and orchard and seven closes containing 28A. 3R. 1P., in Horsley Woodhouse let for £36 per annum, a house and two closes containing 14A. 30P., let for £25 per annum, two closes containing 14A. 3R. 9P., let for £20 per annum and a close containing 4A. 15P., let for £7 per annum

There is also a school and dwelling house under the same roof at Smalley. These with a garden adjoining are occupied by the schoolmaster. He is also paid £4 per annum for teaching and superintending the Church Sunday school. There are now 14 boys from Smalley, eight from Heanor and six from Horsley Woodhouse. These boys are chosen about seven years old and continue only five years.]

They receive their pensions quarterly and if they do not attend regularly they are dismissed.

LOSCOE (Messrs Goodwin and Griffin.)

No.66. Mr. Thomas Goodwin.

They have two pits, hard and soft. The hard is 126 yards deep and the seam now working is 3 feet 6 inches with headroom of 3 feet 6 inches. There are two banks about 40 yards each and the waggons are drawn by boys. The pits are ventilated from each other and from the engine shaft. They are well ventilated and are dry under and over. There is a flat rope but no bonnet. The pits are tried by a Davy lamp every morning. The soft pit is 106 yards deep, 3 feet 6 inches seam and headroom the same. They are dry under and over. The soft coal is frequently threatened with wildfire but it seldom blazes. The wind is so great in the pit that their candles cannot be carried without shading. There is no blackdamp. Eight boys or six men are let down or up at once. The shafts are laid in line and a person is appointed to see after the ropes, machinery and wind. There have been frequent explosions within two years but do not do much harm. About six weeks ago two men were slightly burnt so as to keep them a week or two from work. The Davy lamp had been used but the men placed their candles too high, although they had frequently been cautioned. No other accident from any cause had happened. There are 17 under 13 years old and 12 under 18 employed. They are neither bound nor apprenticed. The belts are used more to size than age and no females are employed. There is five to six cwt. on each corve. The youngest is seven years old and he opens and shuts the door. They have for nearly a month done away with the butties on account of saving wages. He does not think it will make any difference as to the welfare of the children. They work from half past six to eight with one hour for dinner when the engine stands. The children have none of them worked at night excepting about three nights in the year. He does not think that if they were prevented from using children under 10 years old it would be injurious to the work. If he was to judge for a child's welfare, he should say 10 years old was as young as a child ought to do the general work of a pit and for 13 hours a day. There are no rewards and to his knowledge no boy is punished. If they do not act right they are sent away and are scolded for using bad language. There is no school, club or reading room. He thinks about half take advantage of the various Sunday Schools.

(Signed) THOMAS GOODWIN.

No.67. Thomas Lewis.

He is nine years old and has worked at Brookbottom in Heanor and in this pit a year. He drives between and has 1s. per day. He works from half past six to eight, half days six to two, three-quarter days six to five with half an hour allowed for dinner on whole and three-quarter days. The pit is hot and he sweats all day. When he worked whole days he always was glad to get to bed. He lives about a mile from the pit. He likes working in the pit better than either going to the plough or school. He is the youngest excepting a boy at the door. He does not attend school or church but he sometimes goes to the Methodist chapel. His father is a framework-knitter. Neither he nor his mother go to church or chapel. He does not know the alphabet.

No.68. Joseph Limb.

He is 11 years old and has worked at here and at Shipley a year. He helps to hang on and has 1s. per day. He works from half past six to eight, half-days half past six to two or three, three-quarter days half past six to five or three with half an hour allowed for dinner on whole days and half an hour on three-quarter days. He walks two miles to the pit and gets up at five. He has porridge for

breakfast. He has worked half days since he has been at Loscoe. The pit is wet where he works and it is over the top of his shoes. He is standing there all day. He assists a man. He tackles and then pulls the empty corves out of the way. He never plays and when he has one three-quarter day's work he is so tired. He goes to the Calvinist Sunday School at Marpool and has been there a years.. He is in easy lessons.

No.69. Joseph Fletcher.

He is 13 years old and has worked in the pits since he was seven. He now works at Loscoe and has done so for a year. He waggons and wears the belt for which he was on 1s. 10d. per day. He works from half past six to eight, half days six to two, three-quarter days half past six to six with half an hour allowed for dinner and the same on three-quarter days. This morning 13 went down at once mostly six or seven o'clock. The rope is used. The seam is 3 feet 6 inches and the headroom more. The waggon road is 100 yards and there is about half a ton on each corve. It is dry both under and over. They often have wildfire and it makes them badly and their head ache. He has never seen blackdamp. About three weeks ago John Awsworth, a holer, was burnt on the arms and body. He came to work again in a week. John Mart was also burnt at the same time and in the same manner. It was owing to Awsworth (who he has heard warned about putting his candle up) so doing. The pit was out for 10 minutes. The pit is tried every morning by Davy lamps. There is no bonnet. When he first worked for the Butterley Company, he worked full days. He was so tired that his father was sometimes obliged to carry him home. He now has to walk two miles to the pit. He has milk porridge for breakfast and his mother brings his dinner but she often lets him go without. He has potatoes, meat and pudding, anything else he catches as he can. He never works Sundays or nights. There are no rewards or punishments from the overlooker, he only scolds. He has been to the Calvinist Sunday School at Marpool a year and reads in the Testament. Writing is taught on Monday nights at a farthing a night.

[Cannot read in the least.]

No.70. Joseph Bircumshaw.

He is 16 years old and now works at Shipley. Last September twelve-month his father who was heading at the bottom of the shaft at Loscoe, in order to get the hard coal, perceived men who were working in the soft bank about 30 yards above him had fired the pit and that the fire had run up the shaft. He, being a timid man, insisted upon being drawn up before the shaft had got clear of sulphur, the consequence was that he fell from the tub and died immediately he was got out of the pit. Had he remained where he was a short time, he would have taken no harm.

(Signed) JOSEPH BIRCUMSHAW.

BAGTHORPE. (Kirkby Fenton, Esq.)

No.71. Thomas Rawling, agent to Mr. Fenton's coal-field.

There are two shafts, Williamson's and Creswell's. Williamson's is 126 yards deep and the seam is 3 feet 2 inches on an average with headroom of 3 feet 4 inches. There are three banks, one 20, one 200 and the other 65 yards. There are two waggon roads of 250 yards each. The waggons are drawn by asses and boys about 14 and 16. The pits are ventilated from, or rather to, Creswell's and from an old shaft 600 yards off by the windways. Two men and a boy are employed in these windways and he considers them well winded. If the doors are neglected they had wildfire now and then. A man nearly two years since was burnt about the arms so that he could not work for six weeks. Other accidents of a slighter nature have occurred. They frequently have blackdamp but it has done no damage save stopping the works. The shaft is wet but he thinks dry both under and over and worked by a 15 horse power engine. The shaft is laid in lime. They have a Davy lamp which the men can get any time. There is no bonnet. A rope by which the people are let down when four men or eight boys go at a time. They have 19 boys under 18. He does not know how many there are under 13. The youngest in the pit is eight years old.

Creswell's Pit is 78 yards deep and the seam 3 feet 2 inches. The headways are about 3 feet 4 inches. There are three banks 40, 30 and 40 yards long, two waggon ways each about 100 yards and the waggons are worked by asses, men and boys. The pit is vented from Williamson's Pit. There is a little wildfire and blackdamp but are altogether dry so much so that they have to supply

the asses with water. The shaft is laid in lime and worked by a 10 horse power engine. They have no bonnet. There is a safety lamp and a rope. He cannot say how many boys under 13 or 18. The youngest is 8 years old. The children in both pit go down from six to eight with one hour for dinner, on three-quarter days from six to four, on half-days from six to two with no time for dinner on half and three-quarters days. They work under butties. When they let their pits it is not by competition, they let them to their old butties but they underlet them to hammerers, loaders and wooders, at so much per ton, to the holes by stint and the banksmen and children by the day. He considers they have nothing to do with the children. Within two years Thomas Hoton, a holer met with an accident by coal falling by which he was three months off work. This day Christopher Bower was nearly killed by a piece of bind falling. He does not know how it happened or how it could be prevented. It came from a pot-hole and it was easy to be seen. They could have the means of learning at holidays or by Sunday Schools but he is afraid their parents are to blame in not sending them. It would be a decided impediment to the works to be prevented employing children under 10. He thinks it would not do a child of eight years any harm. He does not think as they use the belt, it injures the boys. There is no club, school nor reading room. Mr. F pays the doctor in case of accident. He (Rawling) is teacher in the Methodist Sunday School at New Brinsley. They are taught both reading and writing. He has not perceived any difference between coal-pit boys and the others.

(Signed) THOMAS RAWLING.

No.72. John Houghton.

He is nine years old and has worked for two years for Mr. Fenton. He now works at Creswell where he drives between and has 10d. a day. He goes down the pit from six to eight but it has been ten. He has nearly an hour for dinner. On three-quarter days from six to half-past five and receives 8d. a day. He has for breakfast tea or milk and bread, for dinner, meat or bacon and potatoes. It is sent to the pit. When he gets home he has tea and bread and butter. He is very tired when at full work and glad to get to bed. He is punished by the bigger boys who kick him. If he did not the butty would 'lump' him. He has been very much kicked today because he could not get on. He goes to the Ranters' Sunday School at Selston and is in easy lessons. He does not know his letters.

[This boy had lost much blood owing to striking his head against the roof of the bank, that he appeared bewildered.]

No.73. William Varley.

He is nearly 12 years old and has worked in Mr. Fenton's pits since he was seven. He now works at Creswell's pit where he waggons with a belt.. On the bank he works the asses. It is 40 yards and about 5 cwt. are on each corve. Another boy aged 11 helps him but no man. He as 1s. per day ad goes down from six to eight. Half an hour is had for dinner and may a time they have to go to work before they have had half their dinners. Three-quarter days are from six to half past five. They always use a rope with eight or nine let down at once. He does not know how many boys under 13 or 18 but there are very many. The pit is dry and there is not much wildfire or blackdamp but three-quarters of a year since it blazed out of the headstocks and killed 13 asses but neither men nor children were hurt. He eats breakfast before he goes and has tea and dry bread. Dinner is sent, potatoes, meat or bacon and water to drink. He has tea and bread when he gets home. His belt makes him smart again and he is sore when he gets home particularly after a whole day. His uncle teaches him to read on a Sunday and he only began to write last Sunday. He cannot spell hat or coal. He is never rewarded but is punished by the butty with the ass-stick, and pulled and nipped by the ear.

No.74. William Rogers.

He is the engineman at Williamson's Pit where there is a 17 horse power engine. The pit is 124¹/₂ yards deep. A flat rope is always used for lowering men and boys four or five men and six or seven boys are let down at once. There is no bonnet and the shaft is laid with lime. One or two Davy lamps are at hand but they are seldom used. The children for a day, work from six to nine. An hour is allowed for dinner. Three-quarter days are from six to six and no dinner time. Half days from six to four. The engine is now stopped because of an accident this morning. The man's leg was broken in three places, all his fingers were crushed and a lump at the back of his head as big as a child's head.

No.75. Thomas Bunce.

He is the engineman at Creswell's Pit where it has a 12 horse power engine and the pit is 75 yards deep. The shaft is laid with lime and there is no bonnet. They use a flat rope and let five or six up and down at a time. They had a Davy lamp or two at hand but they seldom use them. The children for a day work from six till eight or after with three-quarters of an hour for dinner. Three-quarter days from six to five and no dinner time. Half days they have none. It is vented from Williamson's Pit and there have been no accidents for the last two years.

[The bricks at the top of the shaft have lost their mortar, if they ever had any.]

No.76. Joseph Wilson.

He is 12 years old and has worked in the pits for three years. He now goes with the ass and wears the belt. He has done so for about a year and the belt hurt him so that he has not known what to do with himself. For whole days he works from five to eight or nine, three-quarter days from five to six, half days from five to three. They have half an hour for dinner on whole days only. It is hot and they soon sweat. The corporal and loaders often beat him when he uses a stick as thick as his wrist. The loaders often pull a handful of hair from his head. They never check them for swearing 'they may do as much as they like of that.' He used to go to day school before he worked in the pit and paid 3d. per week and afterwards went to the Methodist Sunday School but has not been to any for a year, or church or chapel either. He has no clothes fit to go in. He had rather drive the plough, they beat him so in the pit. He is often so tired he can hardly get home. He never complained to the master or overlooker of their being ill-treated. He knew they would take no notice of what the lads said.

[He cannot spell dog, cat nor does he know what AB spells.]

No.77. Jacob Birkin.

He is eight years old and has worked half a year in the pit. He drives between and has 1s. per day. He goes and comes with his brother and is very tired when he does whole days. Neither he nor any of the boys work at night or on a Sunday. He has milk porridge or tea for breakfast, for dinner, they mostly have potatoes and bacon and milk porridge for supper. The corporal often beats him and Gibson has pinched his ears though as well as his brother's. He does not go to school. He used to go to day School at Brinsley and paid 3d. per week.

No.78. Thomas Birkin.

He is 10 years old and has worked three years. For the first two or three months he went with the waggon-ass and had 10d. per day. He now drives between and has 2s. He goes down from five to eight or after with half an hour for dinner, not more. Three-quarter days from five to six and no time for dinner. Half days for five to three. They get 60 waggons for a whole day, 50 for three-quarters and 40 for a half day's work. He has heard what Trance said about the pit and it is true. About half a year since, Thomas Gibson, the loader, nipped him with his nails until he cut quite through his ears. He has often nipped his ears both before and since. It was most because he could not get the asses sharp enough. He used to go the Methodist Sunday School at Brinsley but has not been for more than a year. He used to read in Testament.

[Cannot read without spelling every word. This boy's ears are marked and partly split.]

No.79. Thomas Houghton.

He is 49 to 50 years old and looks to be 60 or above. He thinks he was seven when first entered a pit when he drove between. He has passed through the different occupations of a collier and is now a holer at Creswell's Pit belonging to Mr. Fenton. It is 60 yards deep and the seam about 4 feet with headways the same. They have four waggon roads from 30 to 60 yards long and the waggons are drawn by asses, men and boys from 12 to 14. Some require a belt and some do not. There are several banks or corve-roads, the longest 60 and one or two not more than 30 yards long. The children are let down from between five and six to eight, three-quarter days from five to five or six, half days between five and six to three sometimes an hour less. They do not in this pit work by the set. They are let down up to six to seven at a time by a flat rope. The shaft is laid with lime.

There is no bonnet and they have no Davy lamp. It is ventilated from the other pit and they have a very good wind and could not wish for better. A man is constantly employed in the windways and there is very little wildfire or blackdamp. About a year ago he was holing and the coal came on him and crushed his loins so bad that he could not out of bed for three months and was five months out of work. Another was hurt in the same way on his legs about three months since but he was out of work for only five weeks. There is neither school nor club, but the men have agreed if another gets hurt to stop 3d. per week each for him until he get to work. The masters give nothing. The pit is cold and dry both under and over. He thinks 10 is quite soon enough for a child to work in the pit but poor people are obliged to send then before they are able to stand the work and thinks 10 or 11 hours a day would not overburden them. He cannot say how many boys under 13 but they have a vast number under 11 or 12, perhaps 30. They might have seven or eight not more than eleven years old. The youngest he thinks is seven.

his
(Signed) THOMAS \times HOUGHTON
mark.

No.80. William Trance.

He is 12 years old and had worked about four years for Messrs. Fenton. He first helped to waggon and had 1s. a day and one now drives between and has 2s 2d per day. He goes down at five to eight or sometimes after. He has three-quarters of a hour for his dinner. For three-quarter days from five to six. He has no dinner time and for half-days from five to three or four. For a whole day they get 60 waggons with about 2 tons of coal in each, for three-quarter days, 50 and for half days, 40. Williamson's Pit is 200 yards deep, the seam about a yard and a half with headroom about the same. The banks are one of 16 gobins, another 4 and another 12. The waggons are drawn by asses and boys with belts about 14 or 15 year old. He does not know how long the roads are. The shaft is laid in lime and they are let down three at a time by a flat rope. There is no bonnet and he has never seen a Davy lamp used. The pit is dry both under and over in the banks. There is no wildfire or blackdamp and no accident until this morning. Christopher Brown, a holer, was at work when an iron stone that three men could scarcely move fell on him from the roof and broke his leg and injured his back that his life is despaired of. He is neither hired or apprenticed and there are no rewards. They are punished by the corporal with a stick, a deal thicker than the ass stick and they are pulled up and down by the ears. He kicks them and knocks them down merely because they cannot get the asses on fast enough. He gets his breakfast of milk porridge before he goes. His dinner is sent, pudding, meat and potatoes, bread and cheese for clocking. He gets milk porridge for his supper. He is very tired and glad to get home. His arms, legs and back ache. He goes to the Baptist's Sunday School and has been there nearly half a year. He went to a day school before he worked in the pit and paid 3d. per week. He is in easy lessons. They teach both reading and writing at the Sunday School. But he cannot spell a word. There here about 13 boys under 13 and he thinks 4 under 18, the youngest is nearly eight.

No.81. Ann Birkin.

Is the mother of Thomas and Jacob who work in Mr. Fenton's pits. Thomas first went at eight years old, Jacob at seven when they first went to drive the ass in the waggon. She has had nor perceived any injury they have sustained. They have been so tired after a whole day's work that she has at times had to wash them and lift them to bed. Both of her sons have had their ears nipped by the loader because they could not get on with their work. She has often observed 'big wheals' on their backs and shoulders. She does not know what she should do if they were not allowed to work so young as she is a widow and could not maintain them. She had not been able to send them to school for a year as they have no things to go in, neither do they go to a place of worship.

her
ANN \times BIRKIN
mark.

EASTWOOD.

No.82. Mr. Robert Harrison, overlooker of Messrs. Barber, Walker and Co.'s Collieries.

The children attend the various Sunday Schools and many have been to day schools before they are employed in the pits. He considers they are as well educated as the labouring children above ground. They are taught reading only at the Church and Wesleyan schools but the Primitive Methodists teach writing as well. He considers the teachers at the Church School in Eastwood are well qualified for teaching, indeed the master and mistress of the National Schools are included and the whole superintended by the rector who takes an interest in them and he considers that, with the instruction they received prior to their commencing work in the pits, these Sunday Schools are sufficient to give them a good plain education. He is satisfied their pits are as well or better ventilated than any pits in the neighbourhood and that the health of the children is full as good as those above ground. They have had no accident from wildfire within the last three years nor from any other causes, excepting John Davis, who was killed by a brick dropping on his head as he was coming up the shaft. The wall was not laid in mortar and it might be owing to the brick being driven from its place by the coals touching as it passed. John Gregory was also killed above a year since by the roof falling owing to his own imprudence in removing props. The children are employed as young as eight but no girls. They, when in full work go at five a.m. and work not quite 12 hours. They never do overwork or by night and have no meal times allowed, excepting at some pits. No regular holiday are allowed, indeed the trade is often so flat as to occasion more than the workpeople want. The children are not hired or bound in any way, either by master or butty. The punishments are merely by the hand or small stick, to keep them at work and he considers that they are full as healthy and happy as their playfellows above ground. He does not think the employment deforms the children and if any one was to come into the neighbourhood, he thinks they would find colliers as stout a set of men as any that could be found. The firm support the Sunday Schools by subscribing at Eastwood and Beggarlee and by giving coal to the Watnall. So far from the pit employment being a detriment, several from these pits fill a higher state in society at this time. He has been near 40 years here, and he is not aware of any great improvement as to ventilating the pits nor does he know how there can be. He considers the men, taken as a whole, as moral and honest a set of men, or better, than any other in society and is sure for less are taken before a magistrate for theft or misdemeanour than any other class. The pits are generally let to a staver and two or three butties who have worked before for the company but some of them are let by ticket, reserving to the company the choice, not always to be let to the lowest bidder. The staver and butties then let them to the loaders and corvemen as well as the banksman and hammerers by drift or ton, that is, three drifts or forty-two waggon loads are considered a day's work. The children are employed by day work. Should the men have made a bad bargain the company have frequently added the sum bargained for, sooner than the children should be oppressed.

(Signed) ROBERT HARRISON.

At this time they are working at:-

Eastwood	2 shafts
Beggarlee	2 shaft
Watnall	3 shafts
Underwood	1 shaft
Cossall	1 shaft
Brinsley	2 shafts
Newthorplodge	1 shaft

In the general workings are:-

- 6¹/₄ feet - Clumh would run if the soft coal were taken away from under it.
- 11 inches - Soft coal left for a roof.
- 12 inches - Rafter coal. Coal not gotten out.
- 18 inches - Hard coal. Coal not gotten out.
- 14 inches - Soft coal. Coal not gotten out.

No.83. William Scott Smith, Esq., surgeon, Eastwood.

He has practiced in this neighbourhood 15 or 16 years, much amongst colliers. He is not aware that colliers are more subject to diseases of the lungs, through blackdamp or other causes, than those working above, neither are they subject to rheumatic complaints and as a body, he considers them more healthy than the lower classes in the neighbourhood. The cause of this he attributes to

their living better and he always finds a collier child will sooner get the better of an illness than a stocking maker, as he has more stamina. They decidedly are more subject to accidents. He thinks they are more healthy in their appearance and has not observed a premature old age either in looks or strength and he thinks they live full as long as others. He thinks most of the accidents arise from the folly of the men themselves. He has made a point of inquiring into the cause of most of the accidents he is called unto and finds almost all arise from want of precaution in the men themselves. Of late he considers them, more sober and cautious and is not often called in. He is of the opinion, a child considering his future welfare, should not work underground before 10 years of age. He knows children of 6 work without sustaining harm and he thinks from 8 to 10 or 12 hours a day sufficient for a boy to work. He considers the colliers are respectable and a safeguard to the neighbourhood. They are passing and repassing in all parts of the night and you seldom hear of a deprecation of being committed a collier.

(Signed) W. SCOTT SMITH, Surgeon.

No.84. William Wardle.

He is 40 years old and worked from 9 years old when he drove between the asses until he was 11. He then drew small waggons on a gangway to the pit mouth, between 8 and 9 cwt. It was very hard work and he has worked at it until he could scarcely stand. He used to work half days from seven until two, whole days from seven to eight p.m., often an hour longer. He had to get his meals as quick as he could, no particular time being allowed. He worked by candlelight. There were in the pit about 10 boys under 13 years of ages and 20 or more under 18. They now have asses and the work is not as hard but it is very slavish work for children as they are hurried on and some have to follow the men, that is, they have to fetch the empty corves. The work is very irksome before a damp but these pits have very good windways and are generally well ventilated. They are not allowed to come out for meals or for other purposes, indeed no time is allowed for meals but he found no difficulty in eating it when he could get it. When he first went into the pit he had 1s. a day. He has a boy in the pit now between 8 and 9 who has now only 8d. a day, some get 1d. or 2d. a day more. They are seldom beaten now, very seldom to what they used to be, indeed there is nothing to complain about on that account. When he as a boy he was beaten bad enough because he could not do more work than he was able. He was beaten until he was black and blue. He was beaten with the sick that the assess were beaten with or anything they first got hold of, indeed they used no ceremony on that head. He never saw anything if that thing now. There are no girls work in the pit, not did he ever know of any. He has seldom known much fighting or quarrelling, indeed they have no time there. He has not known any deformity produced by stooping or other causes, excepting accidents but when they become old they are often bent and cannot walk straight. They have little more than a yard high to work in, perhaps four or five inches above, never less than a yard. He reckons they are quite as healthy as those above ground. He has two children now who work in the pit, and neither they nor himself have suffered in their health more than those above ground. They often get bruised by rubbing against the coals and clogs which support the pit. The pit he works in is wet by places but seldom over the shoes. It is about same in summer as winter. He is seldom put about by wet from the roof unless after a very wet time indeed. These pits are considered very dry. The staver or butty pays the children as well as the men, buys the hay and corn, and is, indeed, the overlooker of the pit. They are now seldom troubled with the damp, that is the blackdamp but he has known it frequently since he has worked in the pits after very windy weather. It is known to be coming in by the candles burning bad and they out evry candle in the pit when they are all forced to go away as fast as they can but it does not so bad above once a year, yet they are often hindered by it but not so much in these pit as in others. He does not think colliers live as long as those others above ground nor do they look so well. Very few live to be 60. There are some as asthmatical and many go double and most are troubled with rheumatism. Very few reach 40 'without a touch of it', he thinks through the hardness of the labour. They are obliged, from over fatigued to sit down, and then they get chilled which brings it on. He does not think it owing to the wet, instead neither men nor boys get wet through. Sometimes it is very cold and on a dull day very 'muddling'. He thinks very few can either read or write. His children can read a little. There are Sunday Schools and in the general way most of children attend. They may learn to read a little but in most of the schools they are taught to write on a Sunday. The minister has an evening school where they learn to write by paying for it. He thinks very few are able to take advantage of this, indeed none. The work of the pits could not proceed without the help of children. The grown up people could not do the work they do, there would be no room. There is no doubt colliers are much harder worked than labourers, "indeed it is the hardest work under heaven". They are obliged to work naked, both boys and men, that is to the waist. When they were about 11, till they grow up,

they are employed by drawing with the belt and often complain of their hips hurting them as they are fastened to the tub with a hook and have to work bent double. Some children have to work on their hands and knees with the belt on. Some take tea, some beer down with them and some nothing. Some have meat but very few, some have bread and cheese but many only a little bread. He has never known their victuals disagree. If they could get them they would find no difficulty in eating them. There are no regular meals but take what they call clocking into the mines with them and take a bite where they can. He gets on average 14s. or 15s. a week but is sure that it is the outside, the highest is 20s. but he is not getting above 9s., the trade is so flat. His work is always sitting and so are all the men, excepting the loaders who are always working bent. When the trade is good the children work the whole week from five in the morning until five in the afternoon and are not allowed, unless an accident or serious illness arises, on any account to leave the pit. They are seldom worked at nights but sometimes he has known it to be the case that they go to work at 12 o'clock p.m. and work the time out from that hour. He always reckons a collier's life, both for man and child, a life of great danger. He is subject to both broken limbs, fire and damp and he may say, is not safe after he is swung off to be let down the pit. He has known people who have left other business and come to work in a pit but in few week were glad to get out again.

his
(Signed) WILLIAM \times WARDLE
mark.

Witness - ED. ROSSELL.

No.85. Josh. Gibson.

He is 52 years old and works with Messrs. Barber and Walker at their Willow Lane Pit. He began to work at the pit at Shipley when he was seven years old and he drove a pony until he was nine when he then went behind and was hooked to the waggon by the belt. He found it hurt him much but has not felt any inconvenience from it since he has become a man. When he first went into the pit he had 1s. a day and when he went behind he had 1s. 6d. per day. He considers the work is much harder for boys now than at that period as the younger ones are much more fatigued having to drive asses instead of ponies. Indeed he is sure it is harder work for all the boys, the asses are so much more stupid than the ponies. When he was about 12 years old he was crushed by the falling of the roof and since he has become a man he has had his leg broken in three places, and was shot by blasting coal, owing to the dampness of the pit not allowing the match to burn in a proper manner. He considers the life of a collier a very dangerous one but thinks the care taken to prevent accidents at this colliery is superior to any other he knows. He has always, barring accidents, enjoyed good health and if his life was to come over again he should be a collier. He is not aware how the condition of the children could be bettered, and he is quite sure they could not do without these children, as a grown person could not stoop, "it would fatigue him out of life."

his
JOSH. \times GIBSON
mark.

Witness - ED. ROSSELL.

No.86. James Knighton.

He is 70 years old and he first began to work when he was eight years old. They then worked with a gin, that is, with horses, not an engine and he drove the horses until he was 11. He then went into the pit to run a waggon, which he did from seven a.m. to eight p.m. He had an hour allowed for meals and the horses all stopped. He worked with a belt as described by Wardle and he was so tired that his mother, many times, had to wash and undress him. He had 1s. per day at that time. It was much harder work than now as the rails were wood not iron. He continued at this work until he was 14 or 15 when he went into what is called man's work, that is, holing or preparing the coal for hacking down, and had from 1s. 6d. to 2s. per day. He found it easier, according to his eye, than the work he had down before, he has, since that period, worked in the pit until this time, but is able to do very little now.

He has in his time, met with many accidents. He was severely burnt with the wildfire when about 40 and was so scorched all over his body as to keep him from work six or seven weeks and when he was nearly 50 he had his shoulder crushed by a puncheon that propped the pit, falling and was three years before he could work again. When he was upwards of 65 he had his collar bone

broken by coal falling which laid him up for 14 weeks and he has been laid up for 20 weeks by a pick striking his knee and has been hurt worse than all by coal falling across his loins and he is sure it is a most dangerous occupation for both children and men, indeed children are fully as liable to accidents as the men. He cannot think of any remedy, as every care is taken of them as possible. He does not think the children of colliers have so good a chance of education, and he thinks they are as full bad in morals as any boys above ground but when they become men he thinks they are no worse, some better, than their neighbours. He had heard what William Wardle has stated and believes he is quite correct.

his
(Signed) JAMES \times KNIGHTON
mark.
Witness - Ed. ROSSELL.

No.87. John Gibson.

He is 10 years old and has worked in Willow Lane Pit about a year where he drives two asses. He leaves his home at four a.m. and goes down the pit at five both winter and summer. He comes up between three and four and has 10d. a day. He never works overwork or in the night. He is fond of his work and says if offered other work he should prefer working in the pit. He has no time allowed for his meals but "eats as he can catch it". He never feels sick or unwell when under ground and his eyes are never affected so as to hurt him. He always takes bread and cheese and nothing to drink, there being good water in the pit. He gets his breakfast, consisting of tea or coffee and bread and cheese, before he leaves home and sups when he comes home on meat, potatoes and bread. No accidents have happened to him or any of the boys (between 10 or 12 in number) since he has been in the pit nor has he seen any punished or ill-used, except by scolding when they neglected their work. He always takes off his shirt and jacket directly he goes into the pit and puts on a singlet or frock. He went to the national school before he worked in a pit but merely learnt the very easiest lessons. He now goes to the Church Sunday School and learns there only easy lessons. His father and mother often talk to him being a good lad.

his
(Signed) JOHN \times GIBSON
mark.
Witness - E. ROSSELL.

[This boy, on trial, could scarcely read the easiest lesson.]

No.88. James Gibson.

He is nine years old and works in the same pit as his brother and has done so for 10 or 11 weeks. He has 6d. per day and he opens and shuts the door of the ventilator to let waggons pass. He goes returns to the pit with his brother and has the same meals and fares in every respect. He used to go to the National School before he worked in the pit. He now goes to Sunday School and learns easy lessons.

his
(Signed) JAMES \times GIBSON.
mark.

[This boy scarcely knows his letters.]

No.89. William Hawkins.

He is 13 years old and has worked in the pits nearly seven years. The first six weeks he opened and shut the doors. He then drove between for about four years and after that he drove the ass and wore a belt as he does so now. The belt never hurt him. They work from five or six to seven with no dinner allowed, for a half day from five to three. He came up at half past three today. The pit is wet under. He goes to Brinsley Church Sunday School and has been for a year and a half. Before that he was at Eastwood Church Sunday School for three years. He reads in the Testament. There are no rewards and very little punishment, he is hired for the year. His father earns 10s. a week.

No.90. Levi Henshaw.

He is 13 years old and has worked for five years. He drives the ponies and wears a belt but only uses it to put the waggon on the rails. He is not hired. He goes to Brinsley Church Sunday School and has been there for five years. He reads easy lesson but cannot spell dog, cat or cow.

No.91. Joseph Smalley.

He is 12 years old and has worked for more than five years. He drives the waggon and has 1s. 2d. per day. He has been to Brinsley Church Sunday School for three years and reads the Testament.

No.92. Samuel Smalley.

He is 10 years old and had worked for two years. He drives between and has 1s. per day. He goes to Brinsley Church Sunday School and is in easy lessons. Cannot spell in the least.

No 93. Elias Paxton.

He is 10 years old and has worked for three quarters of the year. He drives between and goes to Eastwood Church Sunday School. He had one years at the Ranters'. He reads extracts from the Testament.

[Cannot spell cow.]

No.94. Benjamin Brown.

He is 12 years old and has worked three quarters of a year. He helps to waggon and has 8d. per day. He went to school for about four years. He now goes to Eastwood Church Sunday School and reads the testament. He has never learnt to write but spells well.

No.95. Rev. H.W. Plumptre, Rector of Eastwood.

He considers the colliers, as a body, fully as respectable as the other labourers and as good attendants at various places of worship. He has a school attached to the church, which he visits every Sunday. Several children attend who work in the pits. He has not remarked that they are duller than other pupils but their complexions are more sallow which he considers is merely from being deprived of daylight but does not think it affects their health. He does not think they are more backward in their education than others. He attributes this to their attending the infant schools prior to their working in the pits. He thinks the great evil in these coal fields is the great irregularity of work. If it was regular, he does not think the hours they work, on the whole, would be too much, as it is, they for four or five days together are kept to full work and are then decidedly over fatigued. At other times there are days with little or no work which irregularity prevents a child taking advantage of using his leisure time as a means of education. He is decidedly of the opinion 10 years old would be soon enough for a child to work in the pit and 12 hours a day, including an hour for dinner, decidedly enough for children under 13. He has expressed his opinion as to the means of instruction in his educational return.

(Signed) H. WESTERN PLUMPTRE.

BEAVER or BEGGARLEE. (Barber and Co.)

No.96. John Springthorp, engineman.

The pit is 104 yards deep and the waggon road is 200 yards. The waggons are drawn by men and boys who are let down and up by a flat rope, three of four men or seven or eight boys at a time. For whole days they work from five to six, or later with 20 minutes allowed for dinner. The engine is 10 horse power and they have from 1 to 14 cwt. on each corve. The shaft is not laid in lime. There is no bonnet or Davy lamp. The pit is very dry and have neither wildfire nor blackdamp not have they had many accidents. The pit is well winded from two shafts, one new, the other old and two men are always employed in the wind and water-ways in this field. One bank is 100, the other 110 yards.

No.97. William Blount.

He is 12 years old and has worked in the pits for four years at Messrs. Barber and Co.'s. He clears the roads and has 1s. 2d. per day and works from half past four to six of half past, from half past four to two for half days with 20 minutes allowed for dinner. He gets his breakfast before he goes and has a mile and a half to walk. He has coffee and bread and butter and takes his dinner, consisting of bread and butter with him. He has potatoes and meat when he gets home. The waggon road is upwards of 100 yards and the waggons are drawn with asses and boys with belts. The lads draw as well as asses. There are three waggons and one ass and one boy to the three. There are six boys let up and down at a time, always with a rope. The seam is about four feet and they have to bend nearly double in parts of the bank. The pit is very hot but it is quite dry with no wildfire but often blackdamp so as to prevent them working. It swells them and makes their heads ache. About a year and half one Henry Meaken, a collier, had his leg broken by coal falling out of a corve as it was ascending the shaft. He was 15 or 16 weeks out of work. They have neither bonnet nor Davy lamp. The boy who draws by belt is 15. Those who use it in the bank are as young as 11. The roads are about 50 yards. There are about six or seven under 13 years of age but he does not know how many are under 18. The youngest is between eight and nine and he drives between. They work under butties, three sets a day that is, 42 gang waggons a day before they are allowed to give over. He does not know how many tons. None of them are hired or apprenticed. There is a boy aged 14 who works by night. He goes down at 11 and stops down until six or half past the following evening. He does this every day the pit works. There are no rewards and the corporal often thrashes them with the ass stick and sometimes lifts them up by the ears. They are very tired when they get home and are always ready to go to bed.

(Signed) WILLIAM BLOUNT.

No.98. George Hodgkinson.

He is 11 years old and has worked in Messrs. Barbers and Co.'s pits three years where he mends the roads and has 1s. 2d. per day. He goes down at half past six to half past six with 20 minutes allowed for dinner. Last year he used to drive between. He has a mile and a half to walk to the pit. He gets his breakfast of tea and bread and butter before he leaves home. He never works on Sundays or by night and is never rewarded but the corporal often lays him with the ass stick and drags him by the ears. He goes to the Methodist Sunday School at Hilltop and has been there for four years. He reads the Testament and can write a little.

(Signed) GEORGE HODGKINSON.

No.99. Robert Blount.

He is 10 years old and has worked nearly two years. He drives between and has 1s. He goes down at half past four to half past six with 20 minutes allowed for dinner. He has coffee and bread and butter for his breakfast and takes his dinner, bread and butter, with him. He has cabbage and potatoes and meat when he gets home. His father is a sawyer. He is always too tired to play and is glad to get to bed. His back and legs ache. He had rather drive a plough or go to school than work in a pit. He goes to the Ranter's school and has been there a year. He was for four years at the Church Sunday School at Eastwood. He reads in the Testament and he has also learned to write at a day school where he paid 3d. a week. He is often punished by the corporal with the ass stick and lifted from the ground by the ears because he cannot get the asses on quick enough. The pit is hot so that sweat runs off them. They have no wildfire but blackdamp "swells their bellies" and makes their heads ache.

(Signed) ROBERT BLOUNT.

WATNALL. (Messrs. Barber and Walker.)

No.100. Thomas Hirst, coal-agent.

Messrs. Barber and Walker have three pits at Watnall (Trough Lane, Middle and Wharf). They are ventilated from each other and an old shaft a quarter of a mile off. One man is constantly employed looking after the windroads. Trough Lane Pit is 142 yards deep and the seam 5 feet, headway 4 feet and it is dry and well ventilated. The shaft is mortared. A flat rope is used but neither bonnet nor Davy lamp. They let down or up 9 or 10 together and carry about 5 cwt. on each corve. There are 9 or 10 boys under 13. Middle Pit is not just now working. It is 134 yards deep, 5 feet seam with 4 feet headway. It is laid in lime and the same, and more, precautions used than at

the others. When working there are five boys under 13 and four under 18. At Wharf Pit which is 134 yards deep, the seam is 5 feet and the headway 4 feet. There are 12 or 14 boys under 13, seven under 18. The youngest in the coal field is seven years old. Neither he nor Messrs. Barber and Walker interfere between the butties and the children and have given no orders to their management. There is neither school nor club nor reading room belonging to this coal field. There would be no difficulty in carrying on the works with boys of 12 years old. He thinks that the boys ought to be eight or nine before they are allowed to work in a pit. He thinks that for the health or pleasure of the child, shortening the number of hours in each day would be best but for educational purposes he thinks one day in a week would be best. He thinks no serious accident has occurred for two years.

(Signed) THOMAS HIRST.

No.110. Aaron Chambers.

He is 11 years old and has worked at the Trough Lane Pit two and a half years. He first helped to waggon and had 10d. per day now he does the same and has 1s. A fortnight before Christmas he, for the first time, had the belt on and it being too large it slipped under his legs and threw him down and a waggon about 9 cwt, of coals ran against him with such force that the corve fell off and the coals fell on him by which his head was cut and the flesh torn off his shoulders. He was out of work ten and a half weeks. Mr. Draper and Mr. Smith attended him but he does not know who is to pay them. He thinks Barber and Walker mostly pay the doctors. He is now at work again. He goes down at six until eight, has three quarters of an hour for his dinner which is sent. His mother is dead and his father in the workhouse. His niece, about eight years old, brings his dinner. It consists of meat, potatoes, bread and beer. He eats his 'clocking', which is bread and butter by mouthfuls as they ass and when he gets home he has meat and potatoes again. The pit is very wet but no more than others and they sweat with all their clothes off. It is both dry under and over. He has never been in a pit when the wildfire was there but last summer William Sissons was very nearly killed by it. He has often had black damp which hinders them much and makes their head ache but they soon get well when they come out. There are about 12 boys under 13, six under 18 with the youngest at seven. They all work under the butties. He never works at night or Sundays. He is never rewarded and only punished with the open hand. When he first went to work in a pit he drove between, loader thrashed him very hard with a stick. He has also thrown cold water down his back when 'he was all over sweat'. This was before he was 10 years old. They beat him so he dare not go into the pit. He has told his father but he was unable to get out, he having lost the use of his side but he used to force him to work. He never plays from one week to the next, he is too tired without play. He goes to the Ranter's Sunday School at Kimberley and has been there about a year and was at the Methodist a year before. Before he went to the pit he was at the free school about half a year. He cannot write and is one easy lessons. He would rather do work above ground, they so often bump their heads and it is such hard work. He has never seen any boy punished for swearing.

his

(Signed) AARON  CHAMBERS.
mark.

No.102. William Watson.

He is 12 years old and has worked at the Trough Lane Pit nearly three years. He drove between when he first went and had 10d. per day. He now helps to waggon and has 1s. per day. He goes down from six to eight with one hour allowed for dinner but the corporal never lets the boys have time to eat theirs. He sets them to get the corves ready and other jobs while the men finish theirs. He has about a mile to walk to the pit and his breakfast to get before he leaves home. He has known 15 to go down at once but mostly 10. The pit is so hot that the sweat runs down them although they are naked to the breeches. When the blackdamp is about 'it makes your head ache'. They do not let them out while the lights will burn. The ass has broken his nose and was very near killing him as the ass always kicks when he is starved. There was a boy aged 11, Aaron Chambers, about half a year since, who had not been used to the belt, had it on for the first time, when the coal fell off the corve and cut his neck and shoulders so as to keep him out of work for four months. He never works at night. His mother brings his dinner, mostly potatoes and meat, sometimes pudding. He has bread and milk for breakfast, the same when he comes home but sometimes potatoes and meat. He is always too tired to play and glad to get to bed. There are no rewards and he often gets

'welted' by the waggoner who draws before but hit only with the open hand. The master will not allow them to be welted unless they use bad language. He goes to Bog End Church Sunday School and reads in testament, He has been four years at school. He was a short time at a day school before he worked in the pit and can write his name.

(Signed) WILLIAM WATSON.

No.103. James Gilbert.

He is 65 years old and has worked in the pits since he was 12 years old. He went with a pony and had 1s. a day and afterwards 1s. 6d. He has passed through all the stages of a collier and now works for Messrs. Barber and Company and for the last five years he has worked at nights in order to keep the roads clear. He has a boy with him 12 years old and he could not do without him because they did so for four or five years, they then could order any of the day boys to assist them. They took them after they had done their day's work. It made what they call a 'double shift' and they gave them some pocket money. They had a holiday the next day. Some were nine years old, some were 10. They had to go with an ass from eight o'clock to six. They sometimes had an hour for meals always above half an hour. They were very sleepy and had enough of it by morning. His wife has two children who are now working in the pit, one aged 14 the other 15. His wife can tell more of them than he can. He now works at Trough Lane Pit which is 142 yards deep, the seam about 4 feet 3 inches and the headroom 3 feet 6 inches. The pit is dry both under and over and the shaft is laid with mortar. A flat rope is used, there is no bonnet and no Davy lamps. He has seen 12 or 13 men or boys to go down and up at the same time. They have had wildfire two or three times but not to do much hurt. In a westerly wind they are frequently stopped by the blackdamp. The pit is ventilated from an old shaft 300 yards off and it is well ventilated. There are no orders from the master about rewards and punishments. There is no club, school nor reading room. There is a cabin at the pit mouth. No accident has occurred within two years to prevent a man or boy working, 'past a crush', that might keep him away a day or two. A boy should not work in a pit before he is 10. He would himself more harm than twice the work afterwards. The pits could be worked easily as well. "but there's many a poor man wants to get 'shut' of his children before that age". He has not heard of any of them finding fault with working 14 hours a day. When the boys make half a day they work from six or seven until two.

his
(Signed) JAMES ~~X~~ GILBERT.
mark.

No.104. Ellen Wagstaff.

She has five children, three at Trough Lane and two at Willow Lane, Greasley. The one at Trough Lane is 18, one 14 and one 13 years of age and those at Willow Lane are 16 and 19. They are variously employed. The youngest one was not seven years old when he first went into the pits. The whole have worked since they were seven or seven and a half when they worked from six to eight, from six to two on half days with no mealtime at half days. She has known them at full work so tired that you could not hear them speak and they fell asleep before they could eat their suppers, "it has grieved her to the heart to see them". She thinks, notwithstanding this, they are now as full and healthy as their neighbours above ground. The youngest has had his thumb trapped off with the coal falling from the corve. None of them can write but all can read in a middling way. They all go to Church Sunday School. She think 10 years old would be soon enough for a child to work in a pit but she, being a widow, was obliged to send hers sooner. They ought not to work above 12 hours. It is enough for them to be in a pit.

her
(Signed) ELLEN ~~X~~ WAGSTAFF
mark.

No.105. Phoebe Gilbert

She has two children by a former husband, who now work in the pits, one in Trough Lane, aged 15, the other for North and Company at Greasley, aged 17. The youngest was 10 and the other 11 when they first worked underground. The one at Watnall waggons and has had 1s. 8d. per day but expects more. The other hangs on and has 3s. per week. They both work from six to eight. When North and Company work half days it is from six to three, three quarter days from six to six. They

in both fields, work under butties and they have never complained from them as to the cruelty of the butties. Sometimes they have complained about being ill used by the bigger boys. She had another son who worked in a pit and when he was 19 met with an accident from the bind falling. He afterwards, for a short time, went to work but continued going off and within six months he died. She also had a son who was amongst those who were burnt to death at Shipley. He was 23. She, of course, regards a collier's life as very hazardous both for boy and for man. She thinks they are much subject to asthma. Her first husband, who died aged 57, was unable to work on that account for seven years. They at some of the works look much older than others. The loaders are, as the saying is, "old men before they are young ones". She thinks 10 years old is full soon enough for children to go into the pit and they ought not to work or be in a pit above 12 hours. Her children have been, and the youngest now goes to the Church Sunday School. They can read but not write. They both read in the Testament. She believes they as seldom swear, get drunk or misbehave as any of those above ground.

her
(Signed) PHOEBE >< GILBERT
mark.

UNDERWOOD (Messrs. Barber and Walker.)

No.106. Thomas Brown, staver.

The pit is 140 yards deep and the waggon road is 500 yards. The waggons are drawn by ponies and the banks are 100 yards and 30 yards. The colliers are let down and up by a flat rope, four at once. They have a bonnet but no Davy lamp and but very little wildfire. There is no blackdamp. The pit is ventilated from a windshaft about 700 yards off. It is very dry over and very little wet under. There have been no accidents in the pit for more than two years. There is no Sunday work or night work. They work from five to six or after and no dinner time is allowed. The youngest in the pit is nine years old.

No.107. Thomas Brown, engine man.

The engine is 18 horse power and the pit is 140 yards deep. The waggon ways are 500 yards and the waggons are drawn by ponies. One bank is 100 yards and the other 30 yards. The pit is ventilated from an old shaft 700 yards off and it is well winded and not very dry under. There is very little wildfire and no blackdamp. They have a bonnet but use it only when the shaft rains. They have a flat rope and never let men or boys down by chains and only four at once. No children work on Sunday or by night. They have had no accident from any cause in the last two years. When they work whole days they go down at five to six or after and no dinner time. He does not know how many under 13 or 18 are employed but the youngest is nine.

[The pit is not guarded. There is a cabin and a smith's shop. The shaft is not laid in lime.]

No.108. John Hawkins.

He is 10 years old and has worked in the pits for nearly three years. He drives between and has 1s. a day. When he works whole days he goes down at five to eight. He now receives 8d. a day and goes down at five to four with no time allowed for dinner. His father is a frame-work knitter. He has bread and milk for breakfast before he leaves home. He takes bread and cheese, sometimes tea or beer in a bottle. He catches hold of it when he can. When he gets home he has bread and cheese, sometimes a little meat. The pit is dry over in the bank but very wet and muddy under. It is hot and it makes them sweat. When an accident happens so as to stop the road, they are cold enough. He has to stoop nearly double in some places. George Bostock, the loader, who ill-used the others, has beaten him. When he told his father he had to threaten him with a summons. He is very tired and always glad to get to bed. He had much rather work above ground. They dare not let them work so hard. He goes to the Baptist Sunday School. It is only as far as AB.

No.110. Richard Clarke.

He is 12 years old and had worked in the pit for five years. He drives the ass and wears the belt. He has 1s. 4d. per day. He goes down at five to eight for a whole day. They not work two third or

three quarter days and receives 1s. a day. He works from five to four. The engine does not stop, nor have they any dinner time allowed. He breakfasts before he goes and has tea and bread and sometimes a little bacon. He takes his dinner, bread and cheese with him and eats it as he can but he has not time to wipe his hands on his trousers. When he gets home he has tea and bread and when he can get it, he has bread and cheese and a little beer. He seldom or never tastes meat. He has pretty good health and he does not go to play. He is always ready for bed. He never works on Sunday or by night. He never receives rewards and is punished by sticks or anything the loader or corporal lays on his hands but does not hurt them much. His mother last week got a summons for the loader who had beaten him with a piece of wood like a trap-bat until his back and head were all bruises. He goes to the Baptist Sunday School at Bagthorpe and he reads the Testament and writes. He has been there for four or five years. The belt chafes him until he is very sore. He had rather drive the plough or go to school a deal than work as he does. About three months since he had a splinter-bone broke, but not in the pit, by the coals falling off the side and he was a month off work. About three months before he had his leg bruised from the same cause which kept him five weeks at home. A year ago his eye was cut by a man throwing a garland at him.

No.111. Matthew Wilson.

He is 11 years old and has worked in the Hard Pit nearly four years. He drives between and has 1s. a day. He goes down from five to seven or eight and never stops for dinner. They are now paid two thirds for a day and receive 8d. He goes down from five to four. Six are let down at once by a rope. The bank is dry above but they are wet-shod with mud and water. The pit is above 100 yards deep. There is no wildfire but they are often damped out. It is hot, "so that the sweat drops off his nose". A bonnet is never used unless it rains hard in the shaft, which is after a storm. He is often foot sore and very tired. There is about 3 feet 6 inches of headroom. She thinks there are six boys under 13 and he does not know how many under 18. The youngest in the pit is 10. There are no rewards and they are punished with the ass stick and slapped on the side of the head with the open hand. He never works on a Sunday night. He goes to the Baptist Sunday School at Bagthorpe and has been there for four or five years. He is in easy lesson and neither knows how to spell horse or cow.

No.112. Ann Wilson.

She is the mother to Richard Clarke and mother-in-law to Matthew Wilson. She has heard what they said and believes it to be true. She has known when they work whole days that have come home so tired and dirty that they could scarcely be prevented lying down on the ashes by the fireside and could not take their clothes off. She has had to do it for them and taken them to the brook to wash them and she has sat up most of the night to get their clothes dry. The next morning they have gone to the pit like bears at the stake. Last Tuesday night Richard Clarke came home all over bruises. She went to the butty who wished her to inform the magistrates and they granted a summons, but at the request of the butty and the promise of the loader not to ill use her boys again, they settled the matter amongst themselves. The cause of his being so ill used was that the load fell off the corve owing to its not being well loaded by which the works were hindered until it was reloaded. The boy took a good character from the butty to the magistrates. The same loader has dragged him by the hair, so that he has run away without victuals sooner than face the pit.

her
(Signed) ANN  WILSON
mark.

COSSALL (Messrs. Barber and Walker.)

No.113. Henry Bostock.

He is 42 years old and has worked in pits since he was seven years of age. He then worked under Potters at Ilkeston. For the first few months he carried the picks or maundrells to the smiths and he then went into the pit and 'drove between.' She had 1s. per day when he wore the belt and went through the different employments of a collier until he became a butty. The pit is 64 yards deep with a 1 yard 2 inches seam with the headroom the same. The bank is not above 20 yards. It is a new pit and it is ventilated from another shaft 200 yards off. It is dry under and over at present.

There is no wildfire but a little blackdamp. The windways are good and there is no bonnet and no Davy lamp. A rope is used to raise and lower the people three at a time and never more than four men are let down at a time, children one or two more. There are not more than five boys under 13 years of age and about seven under 18. He goes own between six and seven until eight and whole days have never been worked since the pit was sunk, therefore they do not stop for dinner. It has been sunk a year and there have been no accidents. The youngest in the pit is nine years old. He has worked for Barber and Co. several years at several pits, Beggarlee, Brinsley and here. He thinks it would do a child no harm to work in the pit at seven years old. He thinks 14 hours a day plenty for a child of seven years old to work. Some will play for hours if there is daylight after they have done a full day's work. Some will not bear it so well.

(Signed) HENRY BOSTOCK.

[This man appears 60. Very unwilling.]

STRELLEY. (Messrs. Barber and Walker.)

No.114. William Sissons.

He is nine years of age and has worked for about half a year and works at the Robinette and drives the ass and has 1s. a day. He has above three miles to walk to the pit and goes down at six to eight and gets up at five. He has tea for breakfast and bread and cheese and the same again for his dinner. When he gets home he has sometimes potatoes and meat. He feels very tired in his back, the road being one yard high. He is very often beaten by the bigger boys as he cannot get ready so soon as the boys who have been in the pit longer. His father is a butty and when he has complained to him he has beaten them and they are better now. He does not like working in the pit and is used so ill. He attends the Methodist Sunday School at Cotmanhay. He reads the Bible pretty well. He has been there for four years and was at day school about half a year but did not learn to write.

No.115. Patrick Pollard.

He is 11 years old and has worked in the pits two years but only at Barber and Co's two months. He has to walk two miles or more and be in the pit from six to eight. The engine stands for about 20 minutes for dinner but now they work from six to five and have no dinner time allowed. They call it three-quarters of a day. They, with the exception of the night boys, never work at night. This is a new pit and does not require it. There are five or six boys under 13, two under 18, the youngest is nine years of age. The pit is not too hot and there is plenty of wind. It is dry both above and below where they have to go. There is no wildfire and no blackdamp since he has worked in the pit. He goes with the asses and has 1s. per day. There are no rewards but they get pretty well beaten by one of the loaders, who, if the asses are not made to go, lays on them with his lick handle so as to mark their backs. He and his brother are very savage. They throw coal at them. He (the loader) made a hole in his head by a 'cobble' (a small coal) and often makes the children cry. He has often told the butty who has threatened "to fetch the law for him," but he never has. He goes on just the same. He goes to Ilkeston Church Sunday School and reads the Bible. He has been there for two years. Before, he went into the school at which he paid 6d. per week and learnt to write. His father is a shoemaker.

(Signed) PATRICK POLLARD.

No.116. George Pollard.

He is nine years old and has worked in the pits for four months. He drives the ass and has 1s. per day. He has the same distance to walk and works the same hours as his brother. He went to day school before he worked in the pit. The pit is the hardest work and he feels very tired. His back and shoulders ache and he is always too tired to play. He was very tired when he worked a whole day but is not so much now. He is punished every day by Aaron Leadbetter, the man his brother spoke of. He beat him today with the ass-stick. His back (which he showed) was marked. He goes to Church Sunday School and reads the Testament but cannot write.

GREASLEY OR MOOR GREEN - WILLOW LANE PIT. (Barber and Co.)

No.117. John Hays, engine-man.

His engine is 20 horse power and the pit is 190 yards deep and is worked by flat ropes. The shaft is laid with lime and 14 yards is lined with metal. He does not know the length of the waggonway. The waggons are drawn by ponies. He never lets down more than six boys or three men at once. They work from five to six, whole days, five to two, half days with no dinner or meal time. They have neither bonnet nor Davy lamp. There is six to eight cwt. on each corve. Nearly two years since several men were much hurt by the wildfire but none killed but four men and two children were burnt. They have no blackdamp. About a year and half since, John Gregory was killed on the spot by the roof falling and another man very much hurt at the same time.

[The men at the pit mouth would not answer a question. This is the only pit I have seen well guarded.]

BRINSLEY (Barber and Co.)

No.118. James Sisson, engineman.

The engine is 14 horse power and the shaft is 158¹/₂ yards deep and he uses a rope. He never lets the men or boys up or down by chains. He has a bonnet but does not always use it. The children go down at five to six or seven and half days from five to two with no dinner allowed. The engine does not stand for meals from morning to night but they cease it after. There is very little wildfire and no blackdamp. A man was killed by a loose brick as described by Mr. Harrison.

No.119. Thomas Sisson, staver.

He works at Barber and Co's No.2 Hard Coal Pit. The waggon way is 250 yards and the waggons are drawn by horses. There are three banks, 110 yards each. The pit is dry above but wet under. They have a little wildfire but no blackdamp of any consequence. It is ventilated from an old shaft 200 yards off and it is well winded. He does not know how many under 13 or 18 are employed. The youngest is not eight and drives between. They work from five to six when they do a whole day's work. They now work five days for four and go down at five and it may be six before they come up. One or two are occasionally employed at night. He has known them work both the day before as well as the day after. They have from 5 to 15 cwt. on each corve.

No.120. Samuel Davis.

He is six years old and has worked for half a year and drives between and has 9d per day. He lives a mile and a half from the pit and has to leave home at four o'clock and gets home about nine. Last week they worked three-quarter days and he left home at four and it was after five by the time he got back. He breakfasts before he goes and has dry bread and tea but he never gets any dinner. He has bread and tea when he gets home and never has meat excepting a little on a Sunday, either bacon or meat. He is quite knocked up when he gets home. He has two brothers and three sisters. His brothers are older than he and one is grown up, but they will not work. His mother seams. His father was the man killed by a falling brick last year. He goes to the Brinsley Church Sunday School and he has been there for three years. He learns how to spell, "God". He cannot say his A,B,C.

No.121. John Limb.

He is 12 years old and he has worked four and a half years in the pits belonging to Barber and Co. He now 'follows', that is, assists the loader and has 1s. 4d. per day. He works from five to nine or half past with no dinner allowed. He has to work three sets, that is, three 14 loads of upwards of two ton each. When they work three-quarter days they go down at five to five. He has to walk a mile or more to the pit and gets his breakfast before he goes and it is either tea and dry bread or milk porridge. He takes his dinner, a bit of dry bread and sometimes 'nought' with him and snatches it as he can. He is sure the engine never stops for dinner. He has only potatoes when he gets home, never meat. He has meat mostly on Sundays but it is many weeks since he has tasted

it on a weekday. The pit is about 150 yards deep and one waggon road is upwards of 600 yards and the other three nearly as long, excepting one which is 300. The waggons are drawn by ponies and asses and the boys who drive wear belts but do not use them unless the waggons get off the road. The banks are some 100 and one 400 yards long and the seam of coal is 4 feet thick with about the same headroom. It is all dry above but three out of the six banks are wet below but not over the shoes. There is no wildfire but some blackdamp which makes their "bellies ache" and puts out the candles. The pit is so hot that the "sweat drops off their chins". They are let down by a flat rope, two at once and they always use a bonnet but they have no Davy lamp. The shaft is very bad and the bricks very loose. Many fell yesterday but the bonnet saved them from getting hurt. There are 10 under 13 and many under 18 but he does not know how many. The youngest is under seven and drives between. There is 6 cwt. on each corve. About a year since, John Davis was killed as described by Mr. Harrison. He goes to the Brinsley Methodist Sunday School and has been there six years. He reads the Testament but he has never learnt to write.

No.122. Rowland Henshaw.

He is 10 years of age and has worked in the pit for two years. He drives between and has 1s. per day. He lives a mile from the pit and goes down at five o'clock. He has to get up at four in summer and winter and comes out, when they do a whole days work or three sets, between 9 and 10 with no time allowed for dinner. He sometimes gets bread and tea and at others bread and cheese. He has potatoes and meat sent to him and he gets it as he can. When he gets home he had bread and cheese and tea and sometimes meat. He is too tired to play and always gets to bed as soon as he can. He comes home wet and dirty and has gone to sleep on the pit bank he is so tired. He had rather work at a trade than work in a pit but gives no reason for it. He goes to Brinsley Church Sunday School and has been there nearly four years. He went to a day school before he worked and reads in easy lessons but cannot write. He can spell neither dog, cow, nor cat.

BRINSLEY - HOPKIN'S PIT. (Barber and Co.)

No.123. William Wardle.

He is nearly 11 years of age and has worked nearly a year and drives between for 8d. per day. He goes down from five to six and has no dinner. He lives two miles from the pit and starts at four. He breakfasts before he goes and has water porridge and some times dry bread. He takes his dinner with him, bread and cheese, or butter and gets it when he can. When he comes home he has potatoes and sometimes broth and now and then a little meat. He has meat on a Sunday. He feels tired but he can play a bit. He never works at night or on Sundays. The pit is dry above but wet below, over the shoes. His feet are always wet and he has a bad cold now. There is no wildfire, but there is blackdamp. The bank is about 30 yards. There are no rewards, but he gets beaten by the ass lad with the ass stick. He goes to the Church Sunday School at Eastwood and has been half a year. Before that he went to the Methodist one at Hilltop. He learns east lessons but cannot spell either dog or cow. His father is a hammerer in the same pit. The pit is hot and the sweat runs off him. He has now an inflamed eye owing to this cause.

No. 124. Thomas Platts.

He is 12 years old and has worked in the pit for three years and half. He gangs, that is, goes with the waggon and wears a belt which he draws by and drives the ass before him. He now works in Hopkin's Hard Pit and had 10d. a day for a whole day. He lives a mile and a half from the pit and goes down from seven to five with no dinner hour. Two-third days from five to four or five and he then receives 7¹/₂d. He gets his breakfast before he goes and has either milk porridge or tea and dry bread. He takes his dinner with him which is only dry bread and drinks water with it. When he gets home he has dry bread. He never gets any meat. It is half a year since he tasted meat, even on a Sunday. His father is a labourer and he has one sister and three brothers. His brothers work in the stocking frame. The pit is dry over and under and six go down at once by a rope. There is no bonnet. He has never seen a Davy lamp. There is no wildfire but there is a little blackdamp. About six months since they were obliged to leave the pit on account of the water stopping the windways. The damp was so bad that it put the lights out and made them badly. There are seven younger than him and there is one who has worked only a week in the pit who is six years old. He opens and shuts the door but he does not know his name. There are no rewards nor is he punished. He had

rather work in the pit that go to the frame. He goes to the Methodist Sunday School at Hilltop and has been there for a year. He is in easy lessons. He can spell neither cat nor dog. There are two corves on the waggon. The belt and chain chafes his hips. He feels very sore when he gets home and very tired.

NEWTHORPE (Barber and Walker.)

No.125. Job Whysall.

He is the coal agent for this field and Lord Melbourne's in the same hamlet. They have two pits of Dr. Manson's, Nos.2 and 3 and one of Lord Melbourne's. No.2 is 91 yards deep and the seam 3 feet 6 inches with headroom of nearly four feet. There are three roads about 150 yards each and the waggons are drawn by ponies. It is ventilated from an old shaft 400 yards off and the pump shaft about eight yards further on. He considers it well ventilated and one man and two boys are employed in keeping the windways in order. It would be subject to wildfire if it was not so well ventilated. There is no blackdamp and it is dry both under and over in the banks. The shafts are laid in lime but there are no bonnets. They have a Davy lamp ready trimmed so that any of the men can get but it is seldom wanted. The men and boys are not allowed to go up or down except by a flat rope, five or six at a time. The chains are not hooked, but they have a noose which he considers much safer. He does not know how many under 13 or 18 or how old the youngest is. They are left to the butties. They work from half past six to eight, three-quarter days from half past six to five and half days from half past six to two. There is an hour at dinner when the engine stops. There is no work on Sundays and the boys are seldom, if ever, required to work at night. The belt is used only to guide the corve and not to draw by. There is about 6 or 7 cwt. in each corve. There are no females employed. Nearly two years ago a boy of eight years old was killed by falling from the chain attached to the rope. He, in play, caught at the chain that was lowering when it pulled him and he fell about 35 yards. His brother was with him, who said it was owing to his own folly. He thinks it would be inconvenient to part of their works to be prevented from employing boys under 10. He thinks they are much distressed after a day's work. He began himself at seven years old and had a long way to go after he left the pit. They mostly begin to sing and play when they come up at night. They, the children, are not hired or apprenticed and therefore there are no rewards and if children are ill-treated, the case is referred to him and he sees they are righted but is seldom referred to. Nothing further is ordered by the proprietors as either rewards or punishments. The butties and corporals are aware that neither swearing or bad language is allowed from them or the boys. There is no school, reading room or club. No.3 is 100 yards deep with the seam about 3 feet 6 inches and headroom about the same. The road is 110 yards long each way. It branches off to the right and left and is ventilated from the engine pit only. It is equally subject to wildfire as the other but there is no blackdamp. It is dry under and over and no accident has occurred to his knowledge. Lord Melbourne's pit is 23 yards deep, the seam 3 feet and headway 3 feet 8 inches. The bank is 12 yards and there is no waggon road. The corves are brought under the mouth by the asses. It is also dry and no accident has occurred.

[As to his remarks on No.2, they equally apply to No.3 and Lord Melbourne's.]

(Signed) JOB WHYSALL.

No.126. James Williamson.

He is the engine man at No.3 Pit which is 106 yards deep. The seam is 2 feet 10 inches with the headroom the same or it may be 3 feet. The bank is 250 yards long or more. They have no wildfire and but little blackdamp. It is ventilated from the pump shaft a quarter of a mile off. They work from six to eight on whole days with not quite half an hour for dinner. He has no watch. The three quarter days are from six to five, half days from six to two. The waggons are drawn by horses. He does not know how many boys under 13 or 18 work in the pit. They are let down six or seven at a time by a rope. They have no Davy lamp. One or two accidents have occurred. A boy, a few weeks since, was hurt on his head and body by the waggon running over him and a man was hurt by the bind falling. They are both at work again. He knows no way of preventing these accidents. He has not been much underground.

No.127. Joseph King.

He is butty at No.2 Pit which is 94 yards deep the seam 1 yards 5 inches and the headway in the bank is 3 feet 6 inches. The pit is dry and very little annoyed by either wildfire or blackdamp. A boy, about three weeks since, put his ankle out by falling bind. He has not been able to work since. They employ in the pit, five boys under 13 and he does not know how many under 18. They go down from six to eight on whole days, from six to five three-quarter days and six to two half days. He does not know exactly what time is allowed at dinner. He began work himself when he was little more than six, not six and a half years old, and doesn't think they are any the worse for it. He thinks it not a bit too young and 14 hours about right.

No.128. Thomas Carrington, engineer.

The pit is called Melbourne and belongs to his Lordship but worked by Barber and Walker. It is 23 yards deep and the seam 1 yard 3 inches with headroom the same. It is dry under and over. They have no bonnet nor rope and four go up and down at a time. They are not troubled with either wildfire, blackdamp or accident of any sort. He lets the children down from six to eight with half an hour for dinner for a whole day. For three-quarter days from six to six, with half an hour for dinner. Half-days are from six to two with no dinner. He is sure he never stops more than half an hour for dinner.

No.129. John Farnsworth, engineman.

The pit is 94 yards deep. He does not know much below, either about the seam, roads or anything else. The children go down a little before six to eight. He stops the engine half an hour for dinner. Three-quarters of a day they go down at six and come up at six. He is sure he is correct. Half-days from six to two or half past with no dinner or meal time allowed. Four go down and up at a time, seldom more.

No.130. Mark Beardsley.

He is 14 years old and has worked in the pits the past six years. For the first year or so he was employed in landing water and other jobs and has 1s. per day and he then drove between for the same wages. He now goes with the ass and wears the belt and has 1s. 6d. per day. He has one and half miles to walk to work and leaves home before five and goes down from six to eight with half an hour for dinner. Three quarter days are from six to six and sometimes seven. He never works at night at this pit or on Sunday. It is ventilated from a shaft about 150 yards off. The pit is now dry both under and over and there is no wildfire but they are occasionally stopped by blackdamp for about a week. They were but a short time since. It is very hot and they work naked but they sweat. There is a rope but no chain and no bonnet. The shaft is laid with lime and there is no Davy lamp. The waggon way is now broken up and the corves are drawn to the pit mouth. No accident had occurred in the last two years. The bank is not now more than fifteen yards. There are about 6 or 7 or even 10 cwt. on each corve. There are four boys under 13 and only himself under 18. The youngest is ten years old. They work under butties but they are neither hired nor apprenticed. They have no rewards and there is only one min in our pit so they are not punished. When they work whole days they are glad to get to bed. When he is not at work he goes to day school and pays 1d. per day where he is taught to read, write and accounts. He reads the Bible and he is in long division. He also goes to Ranters' Sunday School. He is in equally good health now as he had before he worked in a pit. He had rather work in the pit than in the frame or go to the plough.

(Signed) MARK BEARDSLEY..

No.131. James Beardsley.

He is 12 years old and has worked in the pits for about four years. He now goes with the ass and wears the belt and has 1s. 2d. per day. The belt often galls him. He goes down from six to eight, three-quarter days from six to six and half days from six to one or two. He has to walk above one and a half miles to the pit and in winter he is obliged often to go three miles because of the river overflowing. Half an hour is allowed for dinner. He has heard what his brother said and it is quite correct. He goes to school the same as his brother and has learned to read and is just beginning to write but cannot write his name.

No.132. Christopher Bailey.

He is 10 years old and has worked a year. He now drives between and has 1s. per day. He has one and a half miles to walk when the meadows are dry, otherwise three miles. He goes down from six to eight and half days from six to eight and three-quarter days from six to six. He goes to the Church Sunday School and is in easy lessons. He has been there about a year and before that he was at the Baptist's for half a year. When he does half day's work he goes to play but never wants to do so after a whole day. He is always very tired. He has to get his breakfast and is obliged to leave home winter and summer before five. His mother gets him coffee and bread, butter and cheese. When they work whole days his dinner is sent. It is meat, potatoes and bread and he has bread, cheese and beer for his supper. He never gets punished. He had rather go to work in the pit than drive the plough. He is quite as healthy as he was before he worked in the pit.

No.133. James Webster.

He is just 13 years old and has worked in Newthorpe pits for four years. He now drives between and has 1s. 2d. per day. He worked from six to eight with one hour allowed for dinner, six to five for three-quarter days with three-quarters of an hour for dinner and six to two on half days with no dinner time. He never works on Sundays. He lives a mile from the pit and gets his breakfast., either porridge of tea or bread and cheese. His dinner is sent, bacon potatoes and pudding with bread and cheese for clocking. He catches it as he can by the mouthful. He is often ill-used by the corporals and bigger boys, both with fists, sticks and kicks. Nearly two years ago he was stopping in the bank, when the ass went on, the hook caught him in the eye and cheek and nearly tore it out. His face is much seamed. He was out of work for 12 weeks. Mr. Norman was his surgeon, his father paid him and they had not a penny from Barber and Co. The pit is wet and they have to walk in it all day. He is quite tired when he had done a whole day's work. He is tired enough with half days. His health is quite as good as before he became a collier. He had rather work above ground if he got less, it is such hard work. He went to day school a year before he went into the pit. He goes to the Methodist Sunday School at Cotmanhay. He is now in easy lessons.

[Cannot spell cat, dog or cow.]

No.134. Stephen Morley.

He is 12 years old and has worked in the pits at Newthorpe for three years. He now works in No.1 under Barber and Co. He drives between and has 1s. 1d. per day and works from six to eight with one hour allowed for dinner, half days from six to two with no dinner time. He lives a mile from the pit and gets his breakfast of milk porridge and leaves home soon after five. His dinner is sent, potatoes and bacon, sometimes pudding. They have bread and cheese when they work whole days but they are obliged to catch a bit as they can and hold it in their dirty hands. The pit is very hot and it makes them sweat directly. He has not seen wildfire but a little damp. Two years since he was in the waggon gate with another boy when, without notice, a ton of bind fell and buried them. It injured his head and broke his jaw-bone and he was not able to work for six weeks. Mr. Norman was his doctor and he was sure his father paid for him but he had 3s. per week from the field-club, that is, benefit for the wounded person. He goes to the Cotmanhay Methodist Sunday School and has been there for four years. He reads in Testament but is only in easy lessons. He had rather go to school than the pit but should prefer the pit to driving the plough. His health is as good as it was before he worked under ground.

No. 135. John Henshaw.

He is 11 years old and has worked in the Newthorpe pits for three years. He first opened and shut the door. In about a year he helped to waggon at 1s. a day. He now drives between and has 2s. 2d. He lives a mile from the pit. He goes down at six to eight and has one hour for dinner. On three quarter days he goes down from six to five with half an hour for dinner, half days from six to two or half past. The pit is about 120 yards deep. The waggons are drawn by horses. One bank is 100 and the other 40 yards, the seam one yard headroom, in some places not a yard, The pit is hot, it makes them sweat directly they begin to work. It is dry above but over the shoe tops under foot. There is no wildfire to do any harm and no blackdamp. About a quarter of a year since some bind fell on him and prevented his working for a week. There is neither cabin nor bonnet. Ten or eleven go down at once. None work at night nor on a Sunday. The butties engage them but they are none

of them hired or apprenticed. There are no rewards. They are ill used by the bigger boys both with sticks, fists, kicks and coal thrown at them. It is because they cannot get on fast enough. They seldom work whole days now and have never done more than three or four days in the week. When they work whole days he and all of the young ones are very tired. Their backs, legs and thighs ache and they are glad to get home and cleaned. They are sometimes so dirty with sweat and dirt that it is 10 or 11 o'clock before they get to bed. He went for a year to day school and now goes to the Methodist Sunday School at Cotmanhay. He is in easy lessons and had rather go to school than into the pit but should prefer the pit to driving the plough. His health is as good as it was before he worked under ground.

BABBINGTON STRELLEY, AWSWORTH or NUTTALL, GREASLEY and NEWTHORPE, NORTH WAKEFIELD and MORLEY.

No.136. Stephen Barton.

He is coal agent to the company or underground-bailiff. The pits in Babbington are the Roughs, Williamson's soft coal, Henry Hunt's hard coal and Williamson's hard coal, are all ventilated from each other. He has a foreman whose business it is to look after the wind gates. They are all worked by engines and there are very few symptoms of wildfire but blackdamp is frequent. The engineers are ordered to look at all the machinery and he frequently visits the pits himself. No orders are given as to ascending and descending. There are no bonnets and no Davy lamps. The Roughs is between 50 and 60 yards and the seam is 3 feet 3 inches or 3 feet 4 inches with the headroom rather more. Williamson's soft is 70 yards, the seam 3 feet 3 inches with the bank the same. Henry Hunt's is 101 yards deep and the seam 2 feet 6 inches to 2 feet 8 inches. The roof coal is 1 foot with 4 feet headroom. Williamson's hard is the same in every respect excepting being 158 yards deep. Williamson's soft is the same as the Roughs excepting the depth is 70 yards. In all these pits the work is weighed and put in the hands of butties who hire the children, pay them, and the company do not feel themselves answerable in anything further than paying the butties and finding the engine and machinery of the pit. The pits are at a moderate heat as fully as healthy to work as in most pits. In Williamson's soft a boy had broken both his legs at various times, both times by the bind falling and in the hard pit a man injured his back from the same cause and is now out of work. There is a shaft lately sunk belonging to the firm but not begun to work at which a boy lost his life through the blackdamp. He did not belong to North and Co. but was indeed induced to go down for a hammer. Also a man had his leg broken. He was taken with a lightness of his head as he has been told and fell out but he was not able to state the facts of the case himself. When the men are sinking a shaft they are supplied with wooden pipes and a fan to cause a ventilation as they proceed. Cabins are provided at each pit for the men to wash and change their clothes. The children and young persons work from six to eight with one hour allowed for dinner. The engine then stands. No orders are given as to dinner times but it has always been the custom. There is no Sunday work but about three boys in each field work by night in the windways and water ways. The butties, he believes, occasionally have boys at night but they were not worked by day. They work only 8 to 10 years. If a regulation was ordered that no children should work under 12 it would be an injury to the master and a greater to the parent. He also thinks a limitation of hours to 12 hours a day would be an inconvenience to the master and an injury to the parents. He has himself worked since he was six years old and he should know. The firm never interferes as to rewards and punishments. When he has heard of a child being abused, given the butties a lecture. There are neither club, school nor reading room and no interference is made with the management of children by the butties as to bad language or anything else so long as they commit no depredations on the property of the firm. He was not understood as to the engineers. Besides the men at each engine there is a superintending engineer who occasionally visits each engine. In all the pits the walls are laid with lime and the shaftsmen have particular orders to prevent any person from approaching the pit mouth while people are ascending or descending.

(Signed) STEPHEN BARTON.

No.137. * ***, engineman.**

The Roughs are 66 yards deep with the seam 1 yard 7 inches with the headroom the same. It is ventilated from another pit a quarter of a mile off and it is dry both under and over and there is no wildfire but they are hindered by a little blackdamp. There are 18 or 20 children and not above

seven or eight young persons. They are let down at six and are drawn up at eight with only half an hour allowed for dinner. He has no watch but he guesses the time. The youngest in the pit is seven years old and has only worked for seven or eight weeks. The engine is eight horse power. He has when working whole days, often seen children lay down on the pit bank and go to sleep they are so tired.

[This evidence was taken from the engine-man at the pit mouth.]

No.138. John Leadbetter.

He is 15 years old and has worked in the pit since he was 12. He used to waggon and had 9d. per day. He follows the corve, that is, when the men break the coal he picks up the pieces and loads them into a corve and has 1s. 3d. per day. He has two miles to go to the pit and must be there before six and works till eight. There is never more than half an hour allowed for dinner when the engine stops but sometimes they have to do work in this half hour. He has often worked all night and has been made to work the next day by the butties. This was last year at Shipley but he has not done so at Babbington. He used to be employed in the night lengthening the waggon road when it wanted. There was a man with him but if the wildfire or accident had happened, no alarm could be given until the engineman came in the morning. Last summer he was lamed in the foot by the bind falling and was laid aside for six weeks and another boy had his arm broken from the same cause. He has never known wildfire and seldom the blackdamp to do any harm. He has often been so tired that he has laid in bed all Sunday. He has often been wheeled and lugged if any of the coals fell off the corve. He knows no work so hard as that of a pit lad. He now goes to a writing school on a Sunday and pays 1½d. per Sunday. He used to go to the Ranters' Sunday School. He never got out of easy lessons and cannot write his name.

No.139. Joseph Reeve.

He is 16 years old and has worked in the pit for four years. He helps to hang-on, that is hangs the corves on the chain to be drawn to the pit mouth. He has 1s. 3d. per day. He works in the hard coal pit which is between 80 and 90 yards deep. The seam is 3 feet 2 inches and the banks are one 20 and the other 25 yards. The pit is rather wet and hot and he often sweats until his cap is wet through. He had never known wildfire. The pit is now standing and often does so because of the blackdamp. There has been no accident as he recollects, excepting about two months since the bind gave way and injured the man so much in the back that he was not able to work. They have neither lamp, bonnet nor rope. He has never worked a whole day since the pit was opened. They go to work at six and work until four with half an hour allowed for dinner. He has been to the Ranters' Sunday School four or five years. He reads in the Testament but cannot write. He was a stocking maker for nearly three years before he came into the pit. It is much harder work in the pit but they are better paid.

No.140. Aaron Widdowson.

He is seven years old and has worked in the pit for one year. He drives between at Babbington. He leaves home at five and goes down at six until eight. The engine does not stand but the boys are allowed half an hour for dinner. He has meat, potatoes and sometimes beer. He has never been punished.

No.141. John Moul.

He is 11 years old and has worked in the pits for three years. He helps to waggon and has 1s. 2d. per day. He goes down at six until eight with nearly an hour allowed for dinner. When he come out he is never able to play but goes to bed. He attends the Ranters' Sunday School and is in the easy lesson book. He works for North and Co. in Williamson's soft pit.

No.142. Thomas Robinson.

He is 11 years old and has worked nearly for four years. He drives between and has 1s. per day. He works in Williamson's soft pit which is 75 yards deep. The bank is 3 feet high and is dry both under and over. They have no wildfire but often blackdamp.

No.143. Joseph Aram.

He is 15 years old and has twice had his leg broken in this pit owing to the coal and bind falling. They are let down and taken up together, boys and men, as it happens. They have neither bonnet nor Davy lamp, nor rope. The pit is rather hot. When he has worked a whole day he has got home as fast as he could to go to bed. He is too tired to play. He has been at the Ranters' Sunday School for five years and reads in the Testament. When he has worked all week he cannot help going to sleep at school.

[The three preceding witnesses could only be seen at the pit mouth for a few minutes.]

No.144. Aaron Richardson.

He is seven years old and works in the soft coal pit and has done so for about a year. He lives at the Rope Walk at Ilkeston and drives between and has 1s. per day. He leaves home at five and goes down at six until eight. He goes to Ilkeston Church Sunday School.

No.145. William Bostock.

He is 12 years old and he began work at eight. He was then at Sunderland and opened and shut the door. He had 10d. per day. He then went down at four and worked until four. He afterwards went to Ilkeston and worked for Messrs. Potters and drove between and had 1s. per day. He then went to Babbington and had the same work for the same wages. He now helps his father to hang-on, that is, fixes the chain to the corve for it to be taken up to the surface. He has to get up at half past four to get his breakfast and walk two miles to the pit. He goes down at six and come up at seven or eight and it is only now called three-quarters of a day. He never works so as to be paid for whole day. Before he worked under his father he was often beaten with sticks and had his ears and hair pulled and coals thrown at him. As the men take all by the job they use the lads most cruelly. He has heard what his brother said and it is true. He never thinks of play but gets to bed as soon as he can. He has never complained to his masters but his mother has until it is of no use and the boys who have complained to the magistrates have done no good as the butties always take the part of the corporals. He goes to the Primitive Methodist Sunday School and used to go to day school before he worked in the pit. He now reads in the Testament but cannot write. He was laid up 10 weeks owing to the hook catching him and threw the loaded corve over him with about half a ton on it and cut his leg all down the shin.

No.146. John Bostock.

He is 17 years old and worked before he was seven when he opened and shut the door and had 6d. per day. In two years he began to waggon and he then was raised to 10d. When he was 11 he had 1s. At Sunderland where he remained five years, it was not near so hard work as at Babbington. When he came back he had 1s. 6d. per day and made the banks high enough for the asses. He then went behind. He now waggons and has 2s. a day. He goes down at six to eight and sometimes the butties make them work until nine. He has to walk two miles to his work and had never more than half an hour but seldom so much allowed for dinner. When he gets besides he is forced to snatch as he can. He has meat and potatoes and sometimes pudding and water to drink sometimes milk and water. When he gets home he has meat and bacon. He never works over hours or by night but some of the lads assist in cleaning the banks. The pit is dry both under and over and is always hot enough to make them sweat. When they get their dinner it is very cold, "but they soon sweaten again". He never works on Sundays. They get their ears pulled by the corporals and sometimes they mark their backs. They used when his father was not with him, to take burning candle wicks, after the tallow as off to grease the wheels, light them and burn his arms and he has often been made to work until he was so tired as to lay down in the road home until 12 o'clock, when his mother has come and led him home. He has done this so many times when he first came to the pit. He has sometimes been so fatigued that he could not eat his dinner but has been beaten and made to go to work until night. He never thought of play and was always anxious to get to bed. He is sure this is all true. His father works in the same pit and he is now able and is not so ill used. He knows other lads used so at Ilkeston and he has known his uncle take a boy named William Wright by the ears and knock his head against the wall because his eyesight was bad and he could not see to do his work as well as the others. He has complained to the butties but they always take the part of the corporal. He has known one boy beaten until he was black and blue. He complained

to Messrs. Potter's agent who then told the butty he would turn him away and since then the boy has been used better. He does not go to school, he is too tired and is always glad to "stop a whoam". He never goes to church or chapel neither does his father or mother. He has two brothers who work in the pit. His brothers go to Sunday School at the Ranters. He thinks a pit boy had very hard work and had rather work above ground for he is sure no master dare make them work so hard when they could be seen. He is sure no boy ought to work in a pit before he is 13 years old. When he was under he was hardly known how to lie on his bed. He was tired all over and when he has sat down he hardly knew how to get up. The belt has often made his hip was quite raw.

No.147. George Riley and Ephraim Riley.

The former is 13 and the latter 12 years old. George has worked three years and Ephraim one. Ephraim is out of place. George drives between and has 1s. per day. He has two miles to go to the pit. He gets his breakfast and goes down by six until eight. He works in the same pit as the others and of course receives the same usage. At night he is so stiff and sore that when he sits down he can hardly get up again. He has been beaten by the men and coals are thrown at him when he could not make the ass draw. They are so fast sometimes they have nearly a ton on and he can scarcely move it. The bank is so low he is obliged to stoop. He goes to a Sunday evening writing school and pays 1½d. a Sunday. He has been at the Primitive Methodist School but has never got out of easy lessons. He cannot write his name. He has not got further than AM.

No.148. Samuel Kirk.

He is 69 years of age and has worked in the pits for nearly 63 years. He was not seven when he first went. It was at Bilborough when he drove the gin horse and had 8d. per day. When he was 10 he went in the pit and helped his brother draw the waggon and has 1s. 2d. per day. He then went with the horse and had 1s. 6d. per day. At 13 he had the big boy's place at the waggon and had 1s. 8d. per day. He then went to clear the way for the holers and was then 17 and had 1s. 8d. per day. He then holed and had the same wages and then went to various works as a collier and worked by the piece. He worked at Greasley, Trowell, Strelley and many other pits. He now, when he is able, works at Messrs. North and Co.'s at Babbington at the hard coal pit. It is about 120 yards deep. The seam is nearly 4 feet and the headway about the same. It is ventilated from an old shaft about 400 or 500 yards off and he has never seen any wildfire but has sometimes been stopped by the blackdamp. The boys go to work at six to eight with about three-quarters of an hour allowed for dinner when the engine stops and never any more. They have 9 or 10 under 13 years old and 4 or 5 under 18. The youngest in the pit is about 10 and he has worked for about two years and is very small. Four or five men or seven or eight boys are let down at a time. He has been turned off by the staver because he would not go down with six others. There is a bonnet there but at no other pit. He owes his life to the bonnet. The pit is laid in lime and they are let down by a rope but if the men themselves do not look after it no one else does. There is no Davy lamp in the fields in which he works. A boy named Thomas Neds was suffocated by the blackdamp. He went down to fetch a hammer and dropped from the chain through suffocation. He was about 15. No precaution had been used or it would not have taken place. Another boy named Whittaker nearly met the same fate about the same time but he was got up in time to save his life. Soon after, two men in sinking the same shaft were so overcome by the damp that, in coming up, one fell from the tub by which he broke his thigh in two places, his arm also and was otherwise sadly hurt. The other escaped excepting the sickness. Notwithstanding these accidents no Davy lamp is used. Several use the dog belts, one or two not more than 12 years old but they are well paid. It is very hard work and they are on the run from morning until night and the corves vary in weight from 6 to 15 cwt. The pit could be worked by boys of 12 years old as well as under. He thinks a boy of nine is quite young enough to work in a pit, they get knocked about so and 12 hours is enough for either men or boy. There are two butties and a staver under whom they work. They are neither hired nor apprenticed. There are no rewards but they are sometimes beaten by the corporal but not to do them any damage. There are no schools but six or seven weeks ago a club was formed. The men pay 2d. and the boys 1d. a week in case of accidents. He has not heard that the master are members or contribute towards the funds. The biggest part attend various Sunday Schools. Some can read middling well, some little, if any. There are both Church and Dissenters' Sunday Schools and it is their parents fault if they do not attend. He thinks Babbington is as bad as any field he ever worked in as to swearing but he has now and then snubbed the boys and he has heard others, "but the Strelley pits as to this is almost like heaven compared to Babbington". He has had 11 children work in the pits and they all went down at eight years old and have been very lucky. They never

have had an accident worse than a crush or a trap. He thinks, in general, they have not worse health than others, if it was not for rheumatism, which is brought about by overworking.

his
SAMUEL X KIRK
mark.

[The pit is dry both under and over.]

No.149. Hannah Buxton.

She has two children who worked at Messrs North and Co.'s pits. They are 14 and 10 years old. The eldest has worked for five years, the youngest a year left a few weeks ago. The eldest helped to hang-on, the youngest drove between. They left home at half past five and went down at six or seven but they have been later. The elder had 1s. and the other 9d. per day. They lately have worked only pieces of days and they make them work more hours, accordingly, than they pay for them. The butty engages the children and pays them. North and Co. never interferes. She is sure it would be better for the master to employ the children for as it is the butties "slave them past anything and give them very little for their slavery". They, when they work three-quarter days, come home very tired but much worse when in full work. She has frequently had them drop to sleep as soon as they have got into the house and complain about their legs and arms aching very bad. She is sure if children could be employed any other way, they ought not to work in a pit until 12 or 13 and 10 or 11 hours at furthest is plenty, so hard as they work. They go to the Church Sunday School and are taught to read, the eldest in the Bible, the other in Easy Lessons.

her
(Signed) HANNAH X BUXTON
mark.

No.150. Jos. Aram.

He is 16 years old and he began work when he was six or seven. He then worked for Barber and Walker at the Robinette. He opened and shut the door for three months and had 9d. a day. He then drove between and had 10d. per day. When he was nine years old he helped to waggon and had 1s. When he was 13 he went to Babbington, wore the belt and had 1s. 6d. a day. He did the same until he met with his accident. He is now out of work. He went at six until eight, sometimes half an hour at others more than 20 minutes allowed for dinner. The reason for this is the men take their work by the ton and will not let boys, who are by the day, stand. He often has no time to swallow his for if they do not start the "men give them the stick". He works at Williamson's soft pit where it is dry above but below, in places, it takes them over the shoes. It is not hot when you are at work but it makes you "sweat all over". He has often been so tired that he has felt that he could "hardly walk whoam". He had two miles to walk to the pit and to get his breakfast before six. If he was not there exactly they were stopped a day's wages. About three or four years since the wildfire was in the pit but it did not do much damage, but in a pit, now exhausted, close by, a man, Joseph Ganger (but that is his nickname), was much hurt on his face and back. He has not had blackdamp but the sulphur-damp, which is worse, often before rain or hot weather, and are taken badly before they can get out, but sooner get better. He has met with more than one accident. The first was nearly a year and a half since. He was then a night boy he was repairing the bank. About nine o'clock the bind gave way and buried him. There were three men and a boy in the pit and it took them half an hour to release him. The engine man was gone home but one of the men, at the risk of his life, climbed the chain and went for him. It was three hours before he could be got out. On the surgeon coming he found his leg was broken in two places and his head much bruised. He was 12 weeks before he could get out and 25 before he could work. The master never gave him anything during this time and he was obliged to go on the parish. About three weeks before last Christmas, he was going with an ass and wearing the belt when the bind gave way again and fell and broke his other leg. The roof is supported by timber every two yards and between each is another support made of loose coal which is apt to give way. It did so then. He considers the pit he worked in before was safer as it was better looked after and had a better roof. In this place the butties look after the roof and the pit being nearly worked out they would not bestow the trouble upon it they otherwise would have done. He has been out of work on this account for 15 weeks. There is no club nor has there been anything subscribed to him either by men or masters, excepting the latter gave him 3s. 6d. the first week. There are no rewards but they are often punished until they can scarcely stand. He has to draw as well as guide the corve by the belt. He has often to draw hard when the asses tire and they have to start them again. He has often had his hips ache and smart again when he gets home and it often galls him as the collar does a horse. He is not only punished with a stick but his ears are pulled as well as being kicked and bruised by the butties and those who break the coal out.

His brother was so beaten four months since he dare not go to the pit. He is only nine years old and drives between. He gets so tired that he cannot get on and then towards dinner time, or at the end of the day. The corporal thrashes him. They may swear or use what language they please and are never beat for that. His mother has complained to the masters who always say they shall not be served so but they hear no more of it and are used no better. On other grounds he believes the boys are not so ill used as in Babbington. They are let down by pit chains, sometimes six men, sometimes seven and about eight boys are let down at a time. The youngest in the pit is seven and he had worked for about a year. His name is William Lim of Kimberley. He now goes to the Church Sunday School. He also went for about a year to the Cossall Church Sunday School. He reads easy lessons but can scarcely spell the commonest words of one syllable. His father was a collier but has been dead for four years. He has milk or coffee with bread and cheese for breakfast and takes bread and cheese and a little beer with him for his dinner. When he gets home he gets bread and milk. He never gets meat excepting on a Sunday.

his
(Signed) JOSH. >< ARAM
mark.

No.151. Sarah Aram.

She is a widow and has heard the evidence of her son and believes it is true with one exception which the boy did not know of. The butties and the men made a gathering amongst themselves and allowed her 3s. 6d. a week during the first accident until the pit was stopped and for the first ten weeks of the second accident but she did not tell her son because she did not want the parish officers to know. Her boys are better even at this pit than they were at Hunt's pit where they were ill used by the bigger boys. Her youngest son, about four months ago, came home covered in bruises, having been so beaten and only eight years old, merely because he could not get on quick enough to prevent the other corves being delayed. She got one of the colliers to look at the boy when he promised to prevent the same taking place again but when she went to the pit they all denied it. She therefore removed the boy from the pit. She dare not appeal to the masters for fear of affronting the butties in which case both her sons would have been turned off. Both of her children have often come home so fatigued that they could scarcely speak and been quite exhausted. Since her eldest son broke his leg she had many time had to bathe it with warm water before he could get even a wink of sleep. She is now fearful that he will never be able to work again. He had both his arms crushed as well as his leg broken. She does not think their health in injured, excepting for want of food. This and schooling is out of her power to give them. She has two and Joseph is the eldest. If she could avoid it she is sure she should not send her children into the pit for it is most slavish. They often come home covered with dirt.

her
(Signed) SARAH >< ARAM
mark.

No.152. Sarah Bostock.

She has two sons, John and William and they both work at Babbington but have not done so for many weeks. They used to work at Ilkeston Bath pit. She has heard what her sons have stated and it is true but it took place before they went to Sunderland. They are much better used now but she believes and knows that the boys are sadly used. The men that were the butties when her sons were so ill used, one is killed and the other is the one who used Wright so cruelly in Potter's Pit. John went to work before he was 7, William 9 years old. They were forced to send them to work so young but thinks they ought not go before they are 11 or 12 and should not work more than 11 hours, either men or boys.

[This woman was confined. I thought it was necessary to have her son's evidence corroborated. I therefore went to her.]

GREASLEY FREE SCHOOL.

Lancelot Rolleston, by will dated 1748, gave to his brother John and the Rev. William Wright, the then Vicar of Greasley, £300 in trust, that they should purchase the lands therewith and pay the rents and profits for the support of a schoolmaster and buying books for the instruction in writing and reading "such and so many poor children within the parish of Greasley as the said John Rolleston, his heirs and assigns, and the said William Wright and his successors, vicar of Greasley, should think proper". This bequest was augmented by a gift of £100 from Frances, sister of Lancelot Rolleston, as well as by she and her brother John building and conveying

to the said trustees a school-room and house situated at Bogend Thicket with half an acre of land in September, 1795. The trustees purchased a close in the liberty of Derby, called Little Field, as well as two closes and a lane in Little Field, containing altogether 4 acres 3 roods and 15 perches, part of this land, 1 acre 2 roods and 15 perches, was taken by the Derby Canal Company, for which they pay £6 per annum. The remainder is let for £21 per annum. The school-house and gardens considered worth £6 per annum.

No.153. John Attenborough.

He is now the schoolmaster and has been for 17 years. There are 22 boys instructed in reading, writing, arithmetic and surveying as well as book-keeping. He has a few private pupils and is superintendent of the Sunday School held in the same place for which he receives a small salary arising from a collection after a sermon. At the Sunday School there are 16 boys under 13 years old who work in coal pits. They are taught Trimmer's Easy Lessons, the Bible and Prayer Book but neither writing or accounts. The number on the list is 70 boys and 30 girls. He has observed the collier children are more tired and dull than the others but equally anxious to learn. Very few can write, nor have they had the opportunity of learning until lately as they have not been allowed to attend (even as pay pupils) the day school for an odd day. He has opened an evening school but only two collier boys take advantage of it. At present his terms are 1d. per night for writing and 1½d. for writing and accounts.

[I observed in this school the children did not read with the twang so usual in the village schools.]

GREASLEY. (North and Co.)

No.154. John Fisher.

He is 55 years old and has worked as a collier since he was six years old. He then drove between and had 6d. per day. At 12 years old he wore the belt and had 1s. 6d. per day. When he was 15 he hung the coals on the chain and had 2s. 6d. per day. He then proceeded in the various graduations and now works at the Little London Pit which is 60 yards deep with the seam 4 feet and 3 feet 6 inches headroom. It is ventilated from a shaft 100 yards off. There is a man who has charge of the wind roads. It is well winded and there is no wildfire but when the wind is in the north they cannot prevent the blackdamp and are obliged to stop the works. They have time to get off but it is very dangerous for those who work at night as the engine is left and there is no way of giving the alarm. He and another man and two youths above 18 are working at night and have to do as well as they can. It makes them very badly but they get among the asses and can work no more that night. He has not known any serious accidents these two years in the pit excepting three months since a youth about 17 years old, it being intensely cold, slipped in the pit and was killed on the spot. One of his legs fell from his body. The pit mouth is not guarded but if it was he is not aware it would have saved him it was so slippery. The shaft was not laid in lime and there is no bonnet, no rope and no Davy lamp. Eight or nine are let down and up at a time. He thinks there is no business to be above three. He is not aware how many under 13 or 18 are employed. He has two of his own children the one seven and the other eight. The one aged seven has worked three-quarters of a year the other was very little above five years old when he opened and shut the door. Soon after he was six he drove between. He thinks at eight or nine they would be better at work but thinks 12 hours enough for either man or boy. The pit is now dry but it has been uncommonly wet. He has seen his children many a time when they were at full work sit down on the hearthstone, drop asleep and not have the power to eat their supper. They go down at six and come up between eight and nine. It has been ten before they got home about a quarter of a mile distant. Not half an hour was allowed for dinner. For half a day they work from six to five or four, three-quarter day from six to six or after with no meal times except when they work whole days. He considers, on the part of the butties, it is an imposition on both parents and children, making them work 12 hours for three-quarters of a day, for they have got about all the day's strength out of a child by that time, and only pay them three-quarters of their wages. There are no rewards but plenty of punishment. They are not particular as to open hand, stick or fist. They are at times beaten cruelly. He has complained to the masters and for two to three weeks they have been better used but it is little use of complaining or both he and his children would be turned off. There is no punishment for swearing or wickedness, there should be, if there was, and the hours of work less he thinks it would do no harm their working so young, as you may "sooner bend a twig than a tree". He has not met with any accident at this pit but at another in Greasley. The bind fell on the small of his back and he was prevented working 14 weeks. At Newthorpe Common he fell 35 yards owing to the side of the shaft giving way and a great weight of bricks threw him out of the chain. It laid open his head and he could not work for months. At Moor Green he was out of work 21 weeks owing to coal falling on his leg out

of one of the corves. He is not aware how many of these accidents could have been avoided, excepting the one owing to the shaft giving way. He thinks both shallow and deep shafts should be laid in lime. He is very fond of bonnets, he considers where there are two chains or ropes they are likely to catch the hook and may throw all out of the chains.

[The method of bringing people out of the pits, they sit in a rope or chain and hold their hands. This bonnet is iron shapened like an umbrella. Should it be caught on the chain or rope going up it would suddenly jerk them and if for an instant they left hold, they would either drop or hang by the legs.]

his
(Signed) JOHN >< FISHER
mark.

GREASLEY NEW LONDON PIT (North and Co.)

No.155. James Walker, engine man.

His engine is 16 horse power and the pit is 64 yards deep. He does not know the length of either the waggon ways or the banks. The seam is nearly 5 feet and there is plenty of headroom but he cannot say how much. The waggons are drawn by men and boys from 8 to 14. There are many children under the age of 10 or 12 and nearly as many young persons. The youngest child is not eight and he drives between. There is no rope, no bonnet and Davy lamp. The pit is wet under and is a little subject to black damp. It used to be more so but there is no wildfire. It is vented from an old shaft and the windways are good. When the wind in is one quarter they have a fire in the cupola. No accident has occurred excepting John Clarke falling down the shaft as described by Fisher. The shaft is not laid in lime. The children, for whole days, work from six to eight with half an hour allowed for dinner when the engine stands. They are let down seven or eight at a time. For three-quarter days they work for six to six with half an hour allowed for dinner. For half days, six to six and no dinner.

[The shaft of this pit notwithstanding Clarke's accident, remains in a very bad and unguarded state.]

No.156. Stephen Barton.

One pit is 70 yards, the seam 5 feet and the headway 4 feet 4 inches. It is ventilated from an old shaft the water is pumped from. Part is wet under foot but there is no wildfire and the blackdamp only occasionally. A few weeks ago, it being frosty, the boy who regulated the corves at the pit mouth slipped and fell down the shaft. He was killed on the spot. He is not aware of how it could have been prevented.

(Signed) STEPHEN BARTON.

No.157. William Orrall.

He is 11 years of age and has worked in the pits for nearly four years. He helps the loader and has 1s. 2d. per day. He goes down at five to seven for whole days of three sets with no dinner, three-quarter days from four to three. He lives more than two miles from the pit and breakfasts before he goes on either milk or tea with bread and cheese or butter. He takes bread and cheese with him and has water in the pit. He gets meat and potatoes when he gets home. When he first went to work in the pit he drove between. The pit is 200 yards deep and the seam above one and a half yards. The banks allow him to stand almost straight. The bank is "12 goblins". He thinks a goblin is 10 yards. The waggons are drawn by ponies and asses. No lads draw with the belt but use it to lift the corves on the load. Four of the banks are all dry and the other three are about 20 yards each. The pit is ventilated from the engine shaft. Now and then there is wildfire but no blackdamp. About a year ago he was lamed by the coal falling so he could not work for six months. About half a year since John Herrod was much burnt with wildfire so he could not work for three months. They are let down by a rope six at a time. There is no bonnet and they now and then use a Davy lamp. One side of the pit is very hot but the other rather cold. There are 12 or 13 under 13 and five or six under 18 years of age. The youngest in the pit is nine. There are no rewards and they are seldom punished, never for swearing, the men swear too much themselves. They work under butties and are neither hired nor apprenticed. He is very tired after work and wants to go to bed. He likes working in the pit and would rather do it than go to the plough. He goes to the Methodist Sunday School at Hilltop and before that he went to Eastwood Church Sunday School for about three years. He went to a day school before he worked in the pit. He can write.

[He either cannot or will not write and can scarcely spell.]

No.158. William Riley.

He is nine years of age and now works at William Lane Pit. He has worked for two years where he assists in loading and has 1s. 1d. per day. He lives two miles from the pit and goes down at four until seven and for three-quarter days from three to four. No dinner hour is allowed. He lives very much the same as others. The banks are all dry. Before he helped to load he drove between. He never gets rewarded or punished either for swearing or anything else. He likes working in the pit and had rather do it than work above ground. He feels tired, particularly his arms and is glad to get to bed. He does not often work whole days and never works at night or on Sundays. No accidents have happened excepting those stated to Orrall. He goes to Hilltop Methodist Sunday School and has been there for two years. He went to a day school at Eastwood and paid 3d. per week. He reads in the Testament and can write.

[Cannot write his name. Spells pretty well.]

No.159. The Rev. John Hides.

He is the minister of Greasley which includes Watnall, Kimberley, Babbington, Beggar or Beaverlee, Newthorpe, New and Old Brinsley as well as Moor Green. He has been minister for 26 years. He considers the colliers, as a body, may be rather courser in their manners and more inclined to drink than their neighbours above ground but their work is much harder. He thinks they are improved since he first resided here and attributes this, in a great degree to the various Sunday Schools. There are very few, if any, fights now taking place and he is willing to believe less drunkenness. He cannot say they are good attendants at church or chapel. He considers this may be because of being paid late on Saturday and have their change to procure and accounts to arrange at a public house on a Sunday. This is not the case with Messrs. Barber who pay their people on Fridays. There are in these villages a free school at Watnall at which 22 children are taught reading, writing and accounts also a day school at Brinsley which was erected by subscription and children are taught by paying a small sum weekly. There are both Church and Dissenters' Sunday Schools at Bogend and Brinsley and Dissenters' at Moor Green, Beggarlee, Newthorpe two, three in Kimberley and two in Brinsley. He is not aware what is taught in the dissenting schools but at the Church there is reading in Mrs. Trimmer's, Testament and Bible, Church Catechism and Collects and other parts of the Prayer Book. Writing is not taught. He is not aware of the number of collier's children in each school but thinks there are children of all sorts, about 100 on each list.

(Signed) JOHN HIDES,
Vicar of Greasley.

NEWTHORPE COMMON (North and Co.)

No.160. Stephen Barton.

One pit is 70 yards deep with a two feet four inch seam, one foot and about four inches below. The head room is about three feet eight inches. The bank is 150 yards long and the pit is ventilated from another shaft which is not worked about 30 yards off. He has had both wildfire and blackdamp. The former injured a boy by some of the men leaving the wind door open. The blackdamp causes them hindrance. In the shaft aforementioned, when sinking, a man was killed by the bucket handle breaking after lingering a week. The windways, waterways and machinery of this and Cottage Pit are superintended as at Babbington. Cottage Pit is 40 yards deep, seam three feet four inches under the headway the same. It is ventilated from another shaft now standing. There is no bonnet and no Davy lamp. A rope is only used at the first shaft. At the last, the man are let down by a chain. Both these pits are dry with the exception of one small part of the soft pit.

(Signed) STEPHEN BARTON.

No.161. Thomas King.

He is butty at the old pit. It is 35 yards deep with the seam three feet two inches, headroom about two inches more. The bank is 250 yards. The waggons are drawn by ponies. About one or two children are employed under 13 and six or seven under 18. The youngest is 10 years old. They work from six to eight, three-quarters of an hour is allowed for dinner. Three-quarter days from six to five, dinner the same. Half days from six to two with no dinner time allowed. It is dry above but over the shoes below. There is no wildfire but a little damp. He went to work himself as well as his brother at six and a half years old and does not know they are the worse for it nor does he think 14 hours a day too much. He might have done so when he was a boy but they then more frequently made whole days. He does not think 12 hours more than three-quarters of a day. The pit is vented

from an old shaft. There is a man to attend to the windways. They have neither rope, bonnet nor Davy lamp nor is the shaft laid in lime.

No.162. Thomas King, butty.

He has worked in the pit since he was six and a half years old. He then drove between and had 10d. per day. The pit is between 80 and 90 yards deep and it is ventilated from a shaft close by. He considers it well winded. They have very little wildfire and that to do no harm and no blackdamp. The banks are dry above and not very wet below. One is 100 yards long, the other 70. The waggons are drawn by man and boy. They use a rope only and from six to eight are let down or up at a time. There are not more than two under 13 years old but many under 18. He cannot say how many. They work whole days from six to eight and have about an hour for dinner. For three-quarter days from six to five with one hour for dinner. Half days from six to two with no meals. When the shaft was nearly finished the bucket tackle gave way and fell on a man who lingered two or three weeks and died. He knows not how such accidents may be prevented. He thinks a child cannot be too young if he is to make a good collier. He forgets whether he received any harm but if he did they worked six whole days a week and he now only knows one or two pits that are able to do that.

No.163. * ***, engineman.**

He has not worked long in this field. His engine pumps and raises at both the old and the new pits, the new by a flat rope, he thinks about 240 or 250 yards long, the old by a chain nearly as long. He lets the men and children down and up four at once. Whole days they work from six to eight, three-quarter days from six to six and half days from, six to three. Twenty minutes are allowed for dinner. The pit is dry above but wet under. The pit is 30 yards deep. They have neither bonnet or Davy lamp. At the new pit the shaft is laid in lime, the old one not. There are cabins, but only like pig sties. Both pits are ventilated from the engine shaft. The new one has a windway from a shaft just sunk but not at work, within 30 yards of it. A boy who was assisting to hang on the corve at the bottom got his hand trapped with the hook and has not been able to work since, also about the same time, a man hurt his hand in the bind falling.

NUTTALL, or AWSWORTH (North and Co.)

No.164. Stephen Barton.

They have two pits. Hutchby's soft coal, 50 yards deep, a three feet seam, headway three feet six inches and bank 60 to 80 yards. The pit is ventilated from an old shaft as well as one now at work. It is well ventilated and has not seen any wildfire but, like Babbington pits, it is liable to blackdamp. Twigger's Pit is about 50 yards deep and works two seams. The hard about three feet including one foot soft, the soft three feet, the headway higher. It is ventilated from Hutchby's. Both are worked by engines. He does not know how many children the butties employ. The windways, waterways and machinery are superintended as at Babbington but no boys are employed. There are no bonnets or Davy lamps. Twiggers is wet under so as to take the boys about the middle of the shoe. The other is dry.

(Signed) STEPHEN BARTON.

KIMBERLEY SCHOOL.

No.165. Samuel Bretnall.

He has been superintendent more than six years. They are taught Mason's Easy Lessons, Testament, Bible and spelling but no catechism. He has 47 boys and 74 girls on the list but 210 are on the funeral fund. He has observed the pit boys more unruly and more blackguardly than the others. They are also frequently duller and more stupid at learning. They are very heavy and drowsy and frequently drop asleep during the service. He has observed this is more so amongst the younger ones.

(Signed) SAMUEL BRETNALL.

AWSWORTH. (North and Co.)

No.166. Samuel Richards.

He is 40 years of age and was eight when he first went into a pit. He now works for North and Co. at the Flying Nancy Pit. They have that and the Hutchby's at Awsworth. When he first went into a pit he drove between and had 1s. 4d. a day. When he was 15 he waggoned and had 2s. 6d. a day. He then went through the different occupations of a collier and is now nightman and works with his son who is 12 years old. He goes down at 6 p.m. and comes out at six a.m. They do not have any meals in the pit except a bit as they can snatch. They never work on Sundays. The two pits are ventilated by wind soughs from each other. There is man for the purpose of keeping them in order. He considers that are well ventilated and there is no wildfire but they are now and then hindered by the blackdamp. They are worked by an engine and the shaft is not laid in mortar. There is no bonnet, rope or Davy lamp. They are let down 9 or 10 at once. The pit is 60 yards deep and the seam 3 feet. The head room is 1 yard 1 inch and the banks 200 yards long, the soft coal, 100 yards. There are 40 under 13 and 50 under 18 years of age. The youngest is eight years old. They use the belt at nine. He has a boy of his that wears it. No females are employed in these districts but in Staffordshire they do employ them. On average there is about 10 to 12 cwt. on each corve, sometimes a ton when the coal is large. The pit is very wet both under and over but it seldom rains in the banks. Under it is wet to the knees and the boys are covered in dirt by the asses splashing. It is neither too hot nor too cold excepting when "beans are coming into flour, that's the awkedest time for a collier". He considers the work would not be impeded by allowing no lads to work under 11 or 12. For their own sakes they have no business down the pit under 10. They go down a quarter before six until nine, for half days until four and for three-quarter days seven or half past. When they work whole days half an hour is allowed for dinner, otherwise the engine never stops for meals. They are not hired or apprenticed. They work as at other pits, under butties. There are no rewards excepting the stick, "that's all the rewards in pits for little lads". The corporals are placed there for the purpose of looking after the lads. He has within three months see a boy of nine years beaten by a butty because he had not come the day before until he wetted his breeches. He has often seen them beaten so that they were black and blue and if the parents were by they dare not say anything or they would be turned off the ground directly. "He has never known the proprietors interfere, they only ought to do. "They may swear as they like, no one will prevent that, indeed they curse and swear at one another so, it is quite scandalous. There is no school, club or anything of that sort connected with these coal works. There are Sunday Schools when they will go but when boys have been beaten, knocked about and covered in sludge all the week, they want to be in bed all day to rest on Sunday. There is a cabin at the pit mouth. There has been no accident of any consequence on this field in the last two years.

He helped to sink the Hutchby's. It is 37 yards deep. The seam and the banks are the same as the Flying Nancy, but much dryer. There are about 30 under 13 years of age employed, 9 or 10 under 18. The road is about 150 yards and the shaft is not laid in lime and the pit is regulated in the same manner as the others. He wishes they had a bonnet, they are great 'salvation' for colliers.

his
SAMUEL  RICHARDS
mark.

No.167. Levi Richards.

He is 13 years of age and has worked in the pits since he was six. He now works at the Flying Nancy. When he first went to the pit he opened and closed the door and had 10d. per day. He remained at that post for three years when he took cold with severe draft, there being in winter icicles as thick as an arm hanging over the doorway where he sat and stood all the day. He was sent to hospital for six weeks when they discharged him and told him he had better go home as they could do him no good. He in some weeks got that he could not go to the pit again when they put him to a warmer door and he got better but he is still not well, "he is so short of wind". He now works with his father and wears the dog belt and draws the dirt box. He goes in at six to six and has 2s. 2d. The pit is cold at night. He prefers night work as it is shorter than day. He goes to the Methodist Sunday School and had been there two or three years. He is not out of the alphabet. He attends every Sunday both school and chapel. He is sleepy but all the pit boys sleep more than others. They often have to wait until one o'clock a.m. on Sunday before they can get their money and had six miles or more to walk after that. He prefers being a collier to working above ground.

[This boy breathes very hard.]

No.168. Jos. Latun.

He is nine years old and has worked in Hutchby's Pit for three years. When he first went in they put him to drive between, where he still is and has 10d. per day. His father is a loader in the same pit. He walks about a mile to the pit and goes down six to eight with half an hour allowed for dinner. Half days are from six to near three, three-quarter days from six to six with no time allowed for dinner. The bank is very hot and they sweat all day although naked to the waist. There is no wildfire but sometimes blackdamp. When it comes it puffs them up and makes time feel quite full. Their heads ache and they become dizzy. The lights go out and then they are allowed to give over. They get right again when they have been up an hour. There are no rewards and the buttie sometimes use a stick as thick as a hedge-stake and hits them over the back and legs and bruises them. They kick them and pull their ears because they do not get the asses on sharp enough. He has known Jonathan Watts, a butty, beat a boy named Jemmy Robinson with his fist and stick, pull his ears and kick him until Robinson's father was obliged to send him home. When his father complained the father was told the boy could not get the ass on and no more notice was taken of it. Other boys have been shamefully used by this man. He struck a boy named Slater with his stick and the boy fell and he then stamped on him until the boy could scarcely stand. He never told the masters. He said he should not for he should only be served worse. Slater is near 15, Robinson nearly as old. Slater waggons and Robinson wears the belt and drives the ass. He goes to the Methodist Sunday School and had been two years. He is in Easy Lessons. He is too tired every to play excepting when working half days.

[Cannot read words of one syllable.]

No.169. James Robinson.

He is 14 years old and has worked five and half years in the coal field. He opened and shut doors two years and had 10d. per day. He now goes with the ass and wears the belt. He works from six to eight or longer, half days from six to three and three-quarter days from six to seven. With a whole day, half an hour is allowed for dinner. He never works nights. The bank is dry at Hutchby's but he nearly has to bend double in places, the asses can scarce get under. There is no wildfire but mostly blackdamp every week. He has never gone down with more than four. Often he has a headache as well as the other boys. He thinks the blackdamp causes it. He had his head laid open, the cap of his knees knocked down and his ankle put out as well as one of his fingers by the falling bind. He was then fastened to the corve by the belt. He could have got away but for the belt. The other boy and the asses did get out of the road. There are no rewards but he is often beaten by the corporal Sam Meakin. He beat him last week so that he could not raise his arm. The stick was as thick as two fingers and a knob at the end. He broke it over him. He was pushing the waggon and Meakin's son lay in the road all his length and he not seeing him, hurt his leg. He has beaten him before because he has not drawn the corve or start the asses. He was then wheeled all over. He told his father and mother he had no time to complain to the masters as the office is shut when they are out of the pit. They never mind how they swear. He worked at Hunt's Pit at Babbington where he was so beaten that his father on that account took him away. The corporal there has kicked him when he was down, pulled his ears and hair and threw coals at him. He dare not tell his masters then or he believes the corporal would have killed him. His brothers one 10 and the other 13 years old, now work at Hunt's and are beaten until they can hardly get home and dare not tell for fear of worse usage and they and their father loosing their work. He goes to the Methodist Sunday School. He has been there for one year. He was at Awsworth Church Sunday School two years. He is in Easy Lessons. He is sure all this is true.

his
(Signed) JAMES  ROBINSON
mark.

KIRKBY PORTLAND COAL FIELD. (Butterley Company.)

No.170. Bradley Mart, colliery clerk.

They work seven shafts. No.1 is run out. No.2, 180 yards deep with the seam 4 feet 6 inches and headroom the same. There are two banks about 30 yards each and a waggon road 500 yards. It is vented from another shaft about a quarter of a mile off by wind-soughs. They have a person purposely to look after the windways. It had been subject to wildfire for above two years. There is no blackdamp with a little sulphur. Both are dry over and under and he considers it well vented. No.3 is worked out. No.4 is 140 yards deep and the seam 4 feet 6 inches with the headroom the same. There are two banks about 30 yards each and the waggon road is 400 yards. [On this as well

as the other waggon roads, asses, mules and ponies are used and the boys do not wear belts.] The pit is vented by a current running down the shaft to Nos.5 and 2 by wind-soughs. There is very little wildfire and neither black nor sulphur-damp. It is dry above but rather wet under. No.5 is 180 yards deep with the seam 4 feet 6 inches and the headroom the same. There are two banks 40 or 50 yards and two waggon roads of 200 yards each. This pit is vented as stated before from No.4. There is no wildfire, blackdamp or sulphur and it is dry under and over. Nos.6 and 7 are not yet worked. The engine works both Nos.4 and 5 and is 20 horse power. They have 29 boys under 13 years of age and 27 under 18. The youngest is seven years old. They are let down and drawn up by a rope and no regard is paid to the number. They work from six to eight and are allowed two hours for meals when the engine stops. Three-quarter days are from six to four with two hours for meals and half days from six to twelve with no time for meals. All the shafts are laid in lime and there are no bonnets but every pit has a Davy lamp at hand. There is a cabin at every pit. At No.2 Charles Kirk, about a month ago, had his leg broken by the coal falling and is now out of work. Walters, nine years old, had his leg broken at two different times by the bind falling and at the second time by catching it against a waggon. Others have been hurt and a boy of 12 years old was killed by the roof and coal falling. At No.4 Christopher Cresswell about 16 months since had his leg broken by the roof falling and was unable to work for six months. There have been other accidents but he cannot now recollect. At No.5 James Knowles had his ankle crushed by the roof falling about half a year ago and was six months out of work. He thinks it is impossible to prevent these accidents and every precaution is taken to well wood the pit. When a shaft is sunk it is put to the lowest bidder amongst the butties at so much per ton, a month's notice to be given by either party. The butty underlets it to the loaders and banksman at per ton, to the holers at per stint, the hammerers, woodmen, corporals, hangers on and children by the day and the company consider they do not have anything to do with any of these parties except the butties. There is no Sunday work and no children work by night. No directions are given as to punishments and rewards either for misconduct, swearing or anything else. There is no reading room but all belong to the Butterley Club. There is a day school at Portland Houses, principally supported by the Duke of Portland, the Butterley Company and the rector where they are taught treading, writing and accounts but he is very sorry to say very few take advantage of it and not many attend the schools on Sundays which are of various denominations in the neighbourhood. He does not consider it would in any way be an injury to the company if children under 10 years of age were not allowed to work in the pits. He has frequently to go down the pits and is well acquainted with the employments of the children and is of the opinion they should not work in the pits before 12 years of age. He thinks 12 hours, including two hours for meals sufficient.

(Signed) BRADLEY MART.

No.171. Thomas Spinks.

He is the engineman to No.2 Pit. The engine is 25 horse power and he does not know the depth of anything below. They have from 6 to 12 cwt. on each corve. The waggons are drawn by ponies, asses and mules. He does not know how many children or young persons are employed but he thinks the youngest must be near eight years of age. They go down 10 at a time. They have no chains or bonnet but a Davy lamp if they want it. There is sometimes wildfire but no blackdamp and but a little sulphur. The children go down at six to eight or nine with one hour for dinner. Half days are from six to three or four. A man broke his leg a fortnight ago and another his also in two or three places by the coal falling and two others but he cannot tell their names. Joseph Abbott, a boy that drove between was killed and the ass also by the pot-hole falling.

No.172. John Bonser.

He is 10 years old and has worked about a year. He now works in No.5 and drives between for 1s. per day. He works from six to nine and sometimes 10 or 11. He has been five or six times as late as 10 or 11. He never works three-quarter or half days excepting owing to accidents. One hour is allowed for dinner. He breakfasts before he goes and has dry bread and tea. His dinner is sent consisting of bread, potatoes, meat and sometime pudding. He has bread, bacon and tea when he comes home. They are let down by a rope generally eight or nine together. He has gone down with 15, often eight, four on the top hook and four on the bottom one. He does not know how many yards the banks are but thinks they are 200. He has to stoop for a yard in many places but in general the headroom is 4 feet 6 inches, the same thickness as the seam. It is dry under and over but it is hot. There is but little wildfire and no blackdamp but a little sulphur. John Deane aged 14, an ass boy, last week injured his wrist owing to the asses being stopped when the coal on the corve crushed him against the wooden support. John Wass, the hanger-on, had his leg broken by the coal falling down the shaft and was seven months out of work. Charles Kirk, six weeks ago broke his

leg by the coal falling. It broke it in two places and he is not likely to leave his bed at present. He goes to the Methodist Sunday School in Tod's Row and has attended there for five or six years. He reads in the Testament. Some of the scholars write but he does not. He cannot spell either church or horse and he does not know what cloth is made of. He does not like working in a coal pit. The corporal thrashes him. He lays on him with an ass stick and weals him. He had rather plough or go to school. He is very tired and can never sit down except at dinner.

No.173. John Spinks.

He is the engineman at No.4. The engine pumps as well as draws both shafts and the gang waggons. They have no chains. The children go down at six to eight or nine with one hour for dinner. He has no orders or limits as to the number going down or up. There is no bonnet but they may have a Davy by sending to the office a quarter of mile off.

No.174. Levi Bradby.

He is 10 years old and has worked for two years. He drives between and has 1s. per day working from six to nine and not above three-quarters of an hour allowed for dinner. He has since worked until one o'clock in the morning and had nothing more for it. They sometimes work all night but he never has. It is the boys who clear the roads. They always work the day before and some he has known the day after as well. He is sometimes beaten by the corporal with the ass stick and is pretty well marked. He goes to the Church Sunday School at Kirkby and has been 13 or 14 weeks. He has been at various schools but never stopped long at any. He is in Easy Lessons and has not any notion of spelling. He has dry bread and tea for breakfast. For his dinner he has meat, bread and potatoes and when he gets home, bread and tea. He lives with his uncle. His father and mother died of the cholera in Sunderland. He came back with his brothers and sister, all older than himself. He does not like working in the pits being so ill used by the corporals.

No.175. Joseph Robinson.

He is 12 years old and has worked for nearly six years. He never opened and shut the door but drives between. He now goes with the ass and wears the belt and has 1s. 6d. a day. The belt hurts him and often makes him raw. He has only worn it when he has been working with other boys, a few days at a time. He thinks if he wore it constantly it would not be so bad. The bank he works is 200 yards long, the waggon road 300. The headroom is, in general, above four feet but there are places where he has to stoop where it is not about 3 feet or 3 feet and one inch or two. There is little wildfire. George Peach, aged about 17, was badly burnt but soon got better. Others have been burnt but not very bad. There is a little blackdamp and sulphur. He relates the same accident as Bonser. There are down from six to nine, they call it eight but it is oftener nine with one hour for dinner and no other meals. They now only work three or four days a week. He now cares nothing about working in a pit as the men dare not hit him. When he was younger he has many a time come home with his back covered with weals. He goes to the Church Sunday School at Kirkby Woodhouse. He reads the Bible and writes. He used to go to the Ranters' four or five years ago. He cannot write his name.

HEANOR (Butterley Company.)

No.176. Samuel Staley.

He is the coal agent for this field. They have two shafts at work, one soft, the other hard. The hard is 46 yards deep and the shaft is not laid in lime. The seam is 2 feet 10 inches and the headway 3 feet 3 inches. There are two banks about 60 yards each and the waggon road is 30 yards. The pit is ventilated from an old shaft 400 yards off and also from a new shaft 200 yards away. No person is appointed to look after the windways but the pit is well ventilated with rather too much wind. There has been no wildfire lately. About two years ago it set the coal on fire for a month but no lives were lost. There is no blackdamp and it is dry both under and over. They keep a Davy lamp at hand but there is no bonnet. They use a flat rope but no chain. Four are let down and up at one time. There is a cabin at the pit head. They go down at half past six to seven, for half days half past six to one with an hour for dinner. There is no Sunday or night work. The soft pit is 47 yards deep, the seam 3 feet and the headway 3 feet 3 inches. There are four banks 60 yards each and the waggon road is 280 yards. The shaft is not laid in lime. It is ventilated from the engine pit 17 yards off and it is equally well winded as the hard pit. There is no wildfire or blackdamp. They have a Davy lap. There is no bonnet and they use a flat rope. The same regulations are acted on at both pits. The waggons are drawn by boys. A few under 13 draw by the belt but in general they are

from 16 to 18. There are 10 under 13 and he thinks, 14 under 18. In the soft pit there is no cabin but they shelter in the enginehouse. There are no rewards or punishments. He has never had any complaints made to him and he has been in the field for six years. They work under butties, who encourage them. They are not hired or apprenticed. They have to give a month's notice. There are no females employed. There is no interference by the company as to punishment for swearing. There is no reading room or school but there is a sick club at Butterley of which all getting 8s. a week are members. They, most of them, attend various Sunday Schools, principally the Calvinist at Marpool and the Baptist at Langley. They could not do without children under 10 years old. They can get on the banks much better than the older ones. They could do with a double set of boys and for the children's welfare, he thinks 10 years soon enough to work and not above 12 hours a day. He is not aware of any serious accident from any cause.

(Signed) SAMUEL STALEY.

No.177. Joseph Hardy.

He is the engineman to the Butterley Company's Pump and Soft Coal Pit. The engine is of 12 horse power. They have no chain but a flat rope. The engine works both pump and shaft by day and the pumps all night. He lets down and up six or seven at a time, boys and men. They are let down soon after six to eight or half past. They seldom make three-quarter days when they do it is about 12 hours and half days from six to two or after. They have three quarters of an hour when he stops for dinner. Thomas Gillott, about three weeks since, had his leg crushed by the bind giving way. He has not been at work, nor is he likely to come again at present.

[The shaft is not laid in lime and the bricks are loose without a curb at the top. The pit mouth altogether appears in a slovenly state.]

No.178. Amos Brown.

He is 13 years of age and has worked in the pit about two and a half years. He helps to waggon and goes behind. He works from six to eight with one hour for dinner, half days from six to half past two. About half a year since he hurt his hand. It was on the corve when the coal fell from the roof and crushed it. He was out of work for six weeks and has lost the use of his finger. The corporal thrashes him so much that his mother has threatened to take him before the magistrates.

No.179. Thomas Booth.

He is 80 years of age and he did not begin working in the pits until he was 30 years of age and he has done so ever since. Before that he was a labourer. He now works in the Hard Coal Pit. He sometimes holes but he mostly clears the roads by night. He has never done the boy's work in the pit but has had four sons brought up to it. One went in when he was seven years old, two before eight but the other was 10. As they (that is, he and his wife) wished to give him a year or two at the Smalley Free School. They are now grown up and most of them have children working in the pits. He and his wife are both of a mind that the one at 10 was the "properest age". He is also convinced, a man like himself, not brought up in a pit, cannot make a collier equal to those brought up in the pits from childhood. The children are let in both pits soon after six o'clock to eight or nine with three quarters of an hour allowed for dinner. For half days they go down at the same time and it is three or four before they come up. He considers both pits well winded but when the wind is stopped by the water they are troubled with wildfire twenty or thirty times a year. They are then obliged to leave the pit. There is no blackdamp. They seldom appear much in the same pit. It has frequently injured many but he does not recollect any within the last two years that it has hurt very bad. Many have been "sorely bruised" but really they get so hardened, owing to the frequency of accidents, they forget when they occurred. In pits subject to blackdamp, colliers soon become old men and are asthmatic and full of aches and pains. A collier must put up with these and crushes and bruises.

(Signed) THOMAS BOOTH.

No.180. Thomas Gilliott.

He is the engineman to the Butterley Company's Hard Coal Pit. The engine is 8 horse power. The rope is attached to the shaft of the pit is a flat one, 360 yards long. He lets down and up six or seven at once but he is at such a distance from the shafts, he scarcely knows how many either come up or go down together. They are let down six or ten minutes after six and for whole days come up

between eight and nine, seldom much before nine, three-quarter days from six or ten minutes past six to six p.m., half days from ten minutes past six to three, allowing half an hour or sometimes five minutes more for dinner.

[The pit is not laid in lime and the two or three top-courses are in a falling state. It is in noway guarded from men or cattle. The cabin is a mere hut of loose bricks.]

No.181. William Naylor.

He is a butty at the Butterley Company's Coal Pits. He works in the Hard Pit which is 47 yards deep with the seam one yard and headroom of one yard six inches. One bank is 30 yards and the other 80 yards and another 20. There are two waggon roads, one 30, the other 40 yards. The waggons are drawn by boys wearing belts, one aged 14, the other 17, one only to each road because they are so short. The pit is winded from the engine pit through an old work. There is a wind sough from a vent on purpose about 400 or 500 yards off. It is well winded but it is sometimes subject to wildfire. There is a little blackdamp and the shaft is laid with loose bricks. A year last Christmas the pit fired when they were very near loosing all their lives. Five asses and a pony were killed and £50 or £60 worth of tools were lost. Four or five are let down at a time by a flat rope. There is no chain and no bonnet. They used to use a safety lamp but have not had one for the past year. They have six or seven boys under 13 and eight under 18. The youngest is seven and he drives between and has 10d. a day. Whole days are from six to eight with dinner sometimes three quarters of an hour, half days from six to two and there is no Sunday working or work at night. He thinks 10 years old is quite soon enough for a child to work in a pit. If sooner they stand no chance of education. He thinks that if a child works 12 hours it is quite enough and thinks that 10 hours and two for school would be better than 12 hours work and one day for school. He is sure, both for himself and what he sees from the children at the Methodist Sunday School, that collier boys are much more tired and duller than the others. He is sure if he was to go 50 miles off and met with collier's boys in a school, worked equally hard with the boys in this neighbourhood, he could pick them all out from the others. It would be inconvenient to carry on the works as they are now without employing children under 10. A relay of young children at dinner time would be no loss but in case of bigger boys being used they could not lower the banks many inches and the bind would not allow them to raise the roof. He has worked in the pits since he was eight years old. He then drove between. He was very tired and has for many weeks not seen daylight from Sunday to Sunday. He always felt dull at the end of the week and very glad when Sunday came.

(Signed) WILLIAM NAYLOR.

BUTTERLEY IRON-WORKS (Butterley Company).

Butterley Pay Check, 24th. April 1841.

No agent is allowed to make any stoppages on any account except the company's and it must appear in the checks returned to the Butterley Office. Errors in this account must be stated on Monday after pay-day. Contractors are required not to settle with their men at public houses and to pay them with money only.

	Amount			Stoppages			For What	Amount Paid.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Poyser, William	3	0	0	0	1	0	Club	2	19	0
Sims, William	2	11	3	0	1	0	Ditto	2	10	3
Sims, Joseph	2	12	6	0	1	0	Ditto	2	11	6
Harrison, Enoch	2	3	9	1	10	0	Cash, and Club	0	12	9
				0	1	0				
	10	7	6	1	14	0		8	13	6

This is a specimen of the tickets furnished to the workmen at the time of payment at their reckonings.

No.182. Mr. George Goodwin.

He is superintendent of the Company's general affairs and has sent in a return of all those under 13 and 18 years of age employed at the Butterley Company, both in their forges, iron and coal mines. He has been 45 years at the works. So far from the iron works being injurious to the health

of children, he considers it to the contrary. He has known many contagious fevers have been in their neighbourhood their work people escaping. He also thinks it cannot injure the eyesight. He cannot recollect an individual going blind belonging to the working of the company. He also considers the children and parents are satisfied as they always have scores waiting to be employed. They, the company, do not employ them without a character. He thinks, taken as a whole, they are more respectable than any body of men in the neighbourhood and is happy to say having worked at Butterley is a character for a man throughout the mechanical part of the community. He thinks it would be impossible, particularly when things are brisk, to procure a relay of children for their pits. In the forges he is sure it would not be desirable for the same reason and to prevent the employment of children under 10 years of age would be an impediment to the works. The Butterley Company have a club to which every person whose wages amount to 8s. per week contributes 1s. per month and receives in case of accident or illness, 6s. per week and medical assistance in cases of serious accident should the funds fall short, the company pay the deficiency. They also, in case of accident for those whose wages are less than 8s. per week, pay medical assistance. The Company, besides the school lately erected for them at Ironville, contributes to the Ripley Church Sunday School. The mechanics in the works have a reading society to which the Company have rendered assistance. They have no rules printed as to punishments but it is generally understood that none will be allowed beyond mere correction. They do not employ any under 14 in the iron works. They are all apprenticed for seven years. They receive 6s. per week to 11s. for maintenance and 1s. a week for tools and pay no premium. The miners are paid sustenance every week, that is about two thirds, who account to the children and others working under them. The workmen come themselves to the monthly settling and receive the balance due to them.

(Signed) GEORGE GOODWIN.

BUTTERLEY and RIPLEY.

No.183. Wm. Henry Fletcher, Esq.

He has for several years been medical attendant to the Butterley Club and in the course of his practice attends most of the colliers in the neighbourhood. He thinks the colliers are very subject to asthma which he attributes to the want of better ventilation in many of the mines as well as the position in which they work. They are also subject to hernia, owing to the great weights they occasionally have to lift. It is very seldom you find colliers well developed, which he in a great degree attributes to their working too early and too many hours and for this reason he believes the evident premature old age proceeds. He has not noticed any disease the forgers are liable to nor has he noticed more disposition to cataract although he should suppose the great heat would predispose the eye to that disease. He has noticed that the puddlers and keepers are very much disposed to premature old age. On the other hand he considers carbon a great anticontagionist and they are less liable to epidemics. He is satisfied children ought not to work in a pit, looking on the subject as a medical man, before they are 10 at least and then not more than six hours a day allowing a meal in that time and that a relay of children would be desirable.

W.H. FLETCHER. Surgeon.

BUTTERLEY PARK. (Butterley Company.)

No.184. Mr. George Hunt.

He is the ground bailiff for Butterley Park, Newlands and Summercotes and for some in Codnor Park in Butterley. There are eight coal shafts and twelve large ironstone ones, exclusively of the small ones, worked by horses. At Newlands there is one coal shaft and four iron. At Summercotes, two ironstone. He has sent a list of the number employed. The least thickness of the coal seam is 27 inches in the Waterloo, the thickest is 3 feet 8 inches in the iron pits. The headways in the banks are from 3 feet 8 inches to 5 feet. The waggons are run by some ponies and asses and others by boys from 10 to 20 years of age. He has a ground bailiff and several men under him whose duty it is to look after the windways as well as the ropes or anything connected with the safety of the workpeople. All these pits, with the exception of two coal and one ironstone in Butterley Park, are worked by butties. The shafts are sunk, heading, airways and waterways made right, by the company. They then let them by ticket, at others merely a private bargain, to butties per ton but no stipulation is made as to their usage of children. They then underlet the holing by stint, the loading and banking per ton, the wooders, blowers or hammerers when employed and children per day. The children are obliged to give and take a month's notice as by combination board. In other

respects they are considered as being engaged by and belonging to, the butties. The three pits not under butties have an overlooker each for the purpose of seeing they attend their work and he is allowed to take on and turn off children without consulting either the company or any of their agents. In the ironstone they work from six to seven with one hour allowed for dinner, in the coal from six to eight with one hour allowed for dinner and they never work half or three-quarter days. The agents are repeatedly told that the company will not allow a boy to be struck or ill used and they have always orders to prevent bad language. No children are now working by night or on Sunday. The windways, waterways &c., are all done by day. Both men and children receiving 1s. 6d. per day belong to the Butterley Club. None are either apprenticed or hired. I have returned an account of any serious accidents that has occurred within two years. He has worked in the pits for 30 years and began when he was about six years old. He then drove between and laid the garlands on the corves and had 4d. per day and worked 12 or 13 hours. If the child's future welfare is to be thought of, 10 years old is soon enough for them to work in a pit and 12 hours a day, including one for dinner, "plenty long enough."

(Signed) GEORGE HUNT.

No.185. George Outram.

He is the engine man to Nos.3 and 4 pits. The engine is 20 horse power. No.3 is 170 deep but are working at 112 in it. The shaft is not laid in lime. The cabins are merely loose stones. The shaft and works are rather wet. There are three banks and two waggon ways but he does not know the length. The waggons are drawn by asses. There are none under 14 years of age in the pit. No wildfire but a little blackdamp. No.4 is coal, 160 yards deep with the shaft not laid in lime. There are two banks, one 34 yards and one 46 yards. There are three waggon roads 140 yards altogether. The waggons are drawn by young men about 17 or 18 years of age. There are six under 13 in the pit, the youngest 8. One hangs on and he believes, the others drive between, excepting one who is an ass lad. The waggon ways are wet but the banks are dry. The seam is 3 feet 6 inches and the headways 4 feet. There is very little wildfire or blackdamp. The children are let down at six o'clock to half past eight. Three quarters of an hour are allowed for dinner. Half days are from six to two or three. He lets down as many as nine or ten at a time. The pits are winded from each other. At No.3, about a year since, a man had his eye crushed by the bind falling and another lost his finger from the same cause.

[Part of this was obtained from a holer sitting in the engine house.]

No.1 Coal Pit.

[This is between 80 and 90 yards deep, shaft not laid in lime, cabin a mere heap of stones.]

No.186. John Wiseall.

He is 17 years old and has been an engine boy for a year. The engine is eight horse power and works No.1 and 10. They have no bonnets and let down eight or nine at a time. In No.1, the waggonway is wet under. He does not know how many are employed under 13 years of age. The youngest is seven and drives between. There are four banks but he does not know the length. There is one waggonway 60 yards long. The waggons are drawn by children of 12 and young men of 17 or 18, by belt. It is not well winded but there is no wildfire but they are plagued with blackdamp.

At No.10, which is 40 yards deep. there are none under 13. The works are all wet. There is no accident at either pit. The children go down at six to eight, three-quarter days from six to six, half days six to three. Three quarters of an hour is allowed for dinner.

No.187. George Atkin.

He is 14 years old. He has sole care of the engine for two years and a half. It pumps Nos.1 and 2 ironstone pits. No.1 is 100 yards deep, No.2 110 yards. He does not know how many under 13 or 18, nor how old is the youngest. They go down by a flat rope six at a time. At No.1 four. At No.2 they always use a bonnet. The shaft is wet and not laid in lime. There is no Davy lamp and no wildfire and blackdamp. They work from six to seven and stop three-quarters of an hour for dinner. The waggons are drawn by asses. The company pay his wages.

No.188. Isaac Stevens.

He is just 15 years of age and he has the sole care of the engine for eight months. The engine is 8 horse power and works Nos.1 and 2 Tanner's Field ironstone. There is a bonnet to No.2. He lets down six at a time. There is only one under 13 years old at each pit. They drive the asses. At No.1 the waggons are worked by the engine for 70 yards. The children go down at six to seven with

three quarters of an hour allowed for dinner, half days from six to two. The company engage him and pay his wages.

No.189. Thomas Stevens, engineman.

The engine is 20 horsepower and pumps and works Nos.1 and 2 shafts. They are 190 yards each. None at present are employed under 18 years of age. The pits are not yet full at work. They are to be worked on the new principle. The shafts are laid in lime and well fitted at the top and far superior to the old ones. They have neither bonnet or Davy lamps although last Saturday at No.1, Thomas Stevens was so badly burnt by wildfire that his life was put in great danger. The flesh of his cheek was burnt off and his body injured. At the same pit another had his eye blown out by powder.

No.190. Thomas Hall, hammerer or blower.

The Waterloo Gin Pit is 30 yards deep and worked by one horse. The seam is three quarters of a yard, headways 4 feet and four banks. He does not know the length. There are two waggon ways of 100 yards each. The waggons are drawn by the belt by children of 12 and young men. The works are wet under foot. There is neither wildfire or blackdamp. About a year ago the horse gin driver was thrown down the shaft by the gin shaft catching him. He was seven years old and was killed on the spot. The mouth has since been better guarded. There are five under 13 years of age. Three drive between, one drives the horse gin, the other, about 12 years old, draws by belt.

No.191. William Hall, butty.

The pit is called Bolty and is worked by one horse. It is 35 yards deep. The shaft is not good nor the cabin. The seam is 2 feet 6 inches, headway 4 feet 2 inches. There are two banks, together 160 yards, besides four old ones not worked out, one 30 and three about 40 yards each. The waggons are drawn by young men 17 or 18 years of age. There are three under 13 in the pit. They drive between and two at the mouth. One is deaf and dumb. He lets down two at a time. They work from six to eight with half an hour for dinner, half days from six to two or three. The pit is rather wet under foot in the workings. There is no wildfire, but a little blackdamp. They have had no accident whatever.

No.192. William Rees.

He is 15 years old and has sole care of the engine to Nos.2 and 5, Waterloo Field above a year. No.2 is 25 yards deep, No.5, 20 yards. He lets down four at a time. They go down at six to eight with three quarters of an hour, three-quarter days from six to six. There are no half days. Both pits are wet with neither wildfire nor blackdamp. Four are employed under 13. Three below drive between.

No.192a. Samuel Godber.

He is seven years old. He has worked on the bank for three months. He can read and write. He used to go to the National School at Ripley. He now goes to the Church Sunday School.

No.193. William Gent.

He is 38 years old and he has been a header for 14 years. It is usual, when a shaft is to be sunk and pit headed, for the proprietor to let it to a butty and he underlets it to others who find children and work it at per yard, the proprietor finding gin, pipes and fan. In sinking the shaft, it only requires one boy, who drives the gin horse but when they get to the bottom and begin to head, it requires six or eight. They are in general from seven to fourteen years old. He could do with children of ten years old. The youngest hangs the boxes on at the bottom of the shaft and one draws with the belt. The box is about 3 cwt. and the distance mostly 40 or 50 yards. This child is about 10 years old. Another, about 12, draws the same 60 or 65 yards further, another about 80 yards further. This boy is about 13 years old. Another 100 yards further, 14 or 15 years old. Another fills and draws it the first 30 yards and he is about 12 years old. During this work they are mostly up to their calves and knees in wet. If the works were dry there would be great danger of sulphur. They, in general, work 12 or 13 hours and by night as well as day. It is more disagreeable work than getting coal but they are better paid. A boy that drives between, and has 1s. a day would have 1s. 2d. at this job and so in proportion would be the others.

his
(Signed) WILLIAM >> GENT
mark.

No.194. John Gent.

He is 13 years old and has worked in the pits for about six years. For the last two months he has been heading in No.2. When he was getting coal he drove the ass and had 1s. 6d. per day. He went down at half past six to nine or after with half an hour for dinner. Three quarter days, half past six to six or seven, half days, half past six to six or four with no dinner time. He now has 1s. 8d. a day. He clears the bank and draws a box with the belt. He goes to work at six to six in the morning and works up to his calves in water all the time. He gets his supper before he goes, coffee, bread and butter and takes bread and cheese with him and eats it at 12 o'clock. He has one pint of milk and bread when he comes home in a morning. He does not like working all night and he does so by alternate weeks. He gets thrashed by the butties with what they can lay their hands on. They set them more than they can do and then beat them. He has been thrashed at Mr. Woolley's pit until blood flowed out of his side. He goes to the Methodist Sunday School and has been there for five or six years. He is only in easy lessons but spells pretty well. He cannot write.

No.195. William Gent.

He is seven years old and he is sure he has worked in the pit for two years or nearly under Mr. Woolley and Mr. Jessop. He drove between at Mr. Woolley's and he is now heading at Butterley and helps to waggon. He has 1s. per day. He goes down from six to six with one hour for dinner, half days from six to one. When he was getting coal he worked from six to eight with half an hour for dinner. He has to work nearly up to his knees in sludge all day. His legs were cold but other parts very warm. He had rather get coal than head it is so wet and he cannot stand up. It makes his neck ache. The butties beat him so that his mother would not let him go for a day or two. He is so tired, dirty and wet when he gets home, that he undresses, gets his supper and is glad when he is in bed. He goes to the Methodist Sunday School at Ripley and has been four or five years. He reads a b, ab but he cannot spell in the least neither dog, cat nor tell what d o g spells. He says gun.

[He is very ignorant.]

BUTTERLEY PARK, HIGH HOLBORN IRON-PITS. (Butterley Company.)

No.196. Thomas Hunt, engineman.

The engine is 20 horse power and it works Nos.5 and 6 shafts, pumps and works the railways. No.5 is 160 yards deep. The waggons are drawn by ponies and boys, three or four under 13 draw by the belt. They are let down at six or seven with three quarters of an hour allowed for dinner. Half days are from six to two with no dinner time allowed. The shaft is not laid in lime and there is no bonnet. There is a Davy lamp in the office about a mile off. The pit is winded on the banks of two coal pits. Where they are working ironstone it is only 132 yards deep. They are not working the coal at present.

No.6 is 93 yards deep and is winded in the same manner as No.5. They are working only the ironstone at 81 yards. There is only one boy under 13 and he hangs on. The waggons are shoved by boys from 16 to 18 years of age. The shaft is not laid in lime and there is no bonnet. The Butterley Company never work their shafts with chains and four to six are let up or down at a time. About two months since Joseph Waters broke his arm by the bind falling. There is very little wildfire or blackdamp in Nos.5 or 6.

No.5 is pretty well guarded when not at work by the cover fixing close over. The shaft has a metal rim. It is wet in the shaft and the banks are up to the calves in sludge and water. There are three banks and they are from 100 to 150 yards long. The waggon road is 120 yards with a headroom of 5 feet. The cabin is very small and merely of loose stones.

BUTTERLEY PARK, HIGH HOLBORN, No.6.

No.197. * ****

There is only one under 13 years of age and he hangs on. The pit is always wet and the shaft rains very much. There is no wildfire, but a little blackdamp. The banks are wet and there are two, 100 yards each with four feet headroom. The shaft is good but not laid in lime with an iron rim. They seldom have more than five at a time let up or down and they never use the bonnet only they ought to do so. About three months since Joseph Waters broke his arm by a fall over some bind. They have had many traps which kept them from work for a week or so but nothing serious.

[The man who gave me this information would not tell his name. He works in the pit.]

NEWLANDS. (Butterley Company.)

No.198. George Jackson, engine boy.

He is 14 years old and he has been the sole manager of the engine for above a year. It is a 12 horse power engine and works the coal shaft and No.1 ironstone. The coal is 110 yards deep, the iron 80. A flat rope is used and always with a bonnet and he draws up from four to six at once. They go down at six to eight and he stops the engine three quarters of an hour for dinner. Three-quarter days are from six to six, half days six to two. He does not know how many under 13 or 18 nor how old the youngest is. The works are not very wet. In the coal pit there are four under 13. There are two banks, about 28 yards each. The waggons are drawn by asses. The seam is one yard four inches and the headway one yard six inches. The shaft is very bad

No.198a. James Dallison.

He is 12 years old and has been three years the bank lad. He goes to Swanwick Methodist Sunday School and reads in the Testament and spells pretty well.

No.9 Ironstone is turned by one horse. There are three under 13, two gigging and one driving. The gin horse works from half past six to six with half an hour allowed for dinner.

No.8 ironstone is worked by one horse and there are none under 13 excepting the following:-

No.199. Ann Wardle.

She drives the gin horse and she is near 13 years of age and has driven for about two months. She likes it better than lace making which she worked before. She has been nine years at the Ridding Methodist Sunday School but cannot write but reads the Bible. She cannot spell either Bible or Derby.

No.200. William Thorp.

He is 12 years old and is the bank boy at No.1. He does not know how long he has worked but he has never worked in a pit. He has been at the Codnor Methodist Sunday School above a year and is in easy lessons.

[He is very ignorant on every subject.]

SUMMERCOTES. (Butterley Company).

No.201. Charles Naylor.

He is butty to both upper and lower iron pits. The upper pit is 38 yards deep, the bed four feet. There are two banks, one 37 yards and one 18 and two waggon ways, one 16 and one 35. The waggons are shoved by young men from 14 to 18 years of age. There are no corves but the whole is worked with iron boxes with wheels fixed under. There is no wildfire but they are troubled with blackdamp. Other pits are winded from each other and a wind shaft, down which they often suspend a fire basket. There is only one under 13 years of age in the pit.

No.201a. George Spencer.

He is eight years old and has worked half a year. He comes at six to six with half an hour allowed for dinner. He goes to the Riddings Methodist Sunday School and has been there for four years. He reads in the Testament and can spell pretty well. He drives the gin horse.

No.202. John Nitingale.

He does not know how old he is and has worked half a year where he picks over the stones and hammers off the dirt. He works from six to six with half an hour allowed for dinner. He goes to the Ranters' Sunday School at Summercotes. He reads the Testament.

[He is very ignorant and can spell neither cow nor coal]

The lower part of the pit is 27 yards deep and the bed 4 feet. There are two banks, together 72 yards and two waggon roads, 68 yards. The waggons are drawn by boys of 14 to 18 years of age. There are none in the pit under 13. There are two on the bank. One is now only six and a half and has driven the gin horse two years. He goes to the Calvinist Sunday School at Riddings and has been for two years. He cannot spell a word and is in easy lessons. He does not know how he gets on at school but never spells.

No.203. Samuel Godber.

He is 10 years old and has worked in the pits two years where he picks stones and has 6d. a day. He works from six to six with half an hour allowed for dinner. He goes to the Riddings Church Sunday School and has been there for three of four years. He reads in the Testament. He can spell church and Nottingham but cannot write.

No accident has occurred at either of these pits since they were worked and the shafts and the cabins are good.

There is another shaft sunk for coal on the new plan but it is not headed. It is laid in lime.

CODNOR PARK IRON-WORKS. (Butterley Company.)

No.204. Mr. Peter Brown, superintendent.

He has been so 36 years. The list forwarded to London contains the whole of the children employed in these works. From his experience he does not think the work at least injurious to the health but on the contrary. He considers they generally are well fed and kept up to their work. He is not aware that the work injures their sight and has known of only one person going blind and cannot say that that was owing to his employment. There is an Odd Fellow's Club consisting of very few, except the hands employed in the iron-works. It consists of 80 members and not one death has occurred since its commencement nine years since. There are two boys under 13 in the forge that work by night. They are puddlers' assistants and rollers. It would not be of any consequence if they were prevented employing children under 13 by night. At the same time he believes it is cooler and the children prefer it to working by day. All the men and children getting 7s. per day belong to the Butterley Club. The Butterley Company have built, or nearly so, a handsome school, a house for the master and mistress and grant them annual salaries. The school is open to all the children belonging or working at the Butterley Works. The children which are but few in the neighbourhood are also admitted. The whole pay for reading, writing, accounts and mechanical drawing, 4d. per week, reading and writing 3d., reading only 2d. This school is open to all denominations. The scholars are supplied with books and stationery in the above payments.

The works are not near so liable to cause accidents as the mining works.

(Signed) PETER BROWN.

No.205. Samuel King.

He is 12 years old and has worked for two years and for the last six months has helped his father to puddle. If he gets on well he has done 12 hours.

No.206. John King.

He is 11 years old and has worked the same time as his brother, Samuel and also assists his father. Both of them go to the Riddings Methodist Sunday School and both read in the Testament. The boys are extremely ignorant in every respect. They earn 10d. per day each.

No.207. William Peniglove.

Aged 16 years and has worked four years. He is a hammerer and gets his dinner as he can and works from six to six and has 10s. per week. He used to go to day school but now he goes to neither church nor chapel. He cannot spell either forge or coal.

No.208. William Dewlow.

He is nine and has worked a year for six to half past five or six. He gets his dinner as he can and carries rods. He has no clothes either to go to school, church or chapel. His step-father says he is aged 11. He has 6s. per week and can spell neither church nor chapel.

[Have every reason to believe this child has very bad parents.]

No.209. Cyrus Hunt.

He is 16 years old and he puddles. He goes to the Baptist Sunday School at Riddings, he can read and write. He worked from six to six with half an hour for breakfast and one for dinner. He goes home to meals. He cannot spell either iron or foundry.

No.210. John Vernon.

Aged 14. He draws rods and works from six to six and catches his dinner as he can. His eyes are very weak and run bad when he gets home. He has worked for three years. They were not very strong before he went to work but they are deal worse now. He goes to the Baptist Sunday School where he is in the spelling book but cannot write.

No.211 Frederick Walton.

He is aged 14 years and works from six to six and catches his dinner as he can get it. He has worked two years and a half and draws rods. His eyes run sometimes.

No.212. James Graney.

He is 13 years of age and he has worked two or three years. His eyes water and has burnt his foot. They seldom meet with serious accidents but are often hurt. He goes to the Ironville Church Sunday School and reads in the Testament.

No.213. William Booth.

He is 16 years old and has drawn rods for four years. The work never hurts his eyes. He goes to the Riddings Baptist Sunday School. He reads in the Bible and writes.

No.214. John Cook.

He is 17 and has worked six years and it never hurts his eyes. He works from six to six, the same as the others. He goes to Brinsley Church Sunday School and reads in the Bible. He had learnt to write before.

No.215. James Gregory.

Aged 11 years and carries staffs. He has 5s. per week. He goes to the Selston Church Sunday School and can spell words of one syllable.

No.216. Robert Wardle.

He is 11 years old and has worked about a year drawing rods. It has never hurt his eyes. He works from six to six with on hour for dinner. He goes to the Methodist Sunday School and reads in the Testament. He went for one year to day school and can write a very little.

[Not any of these children are hired or apprenticed.]

**CODNOR, ORMONDE AND FURNACE COAL FIELD AND IRONSTONE.
(Butterley Company.)**

No.217. George Staley, agent.

He has been 48 years servant to the Butterley Company. They have three pits for coal at work, ten pits for iron as well as one open one. When the coal pits are sunk and headed by the company he has always let the pit to two butties whom he considers the most deserving. They contract and find sufficient numbers of colliers and children to work the pit. He has now two butties who have begun and continued in the same field working if for 15 years. The holers are engaged by the stint, the hammerers, loaders and banksman all by the ton and children are engaged under these men by the day's work. He does not consider the company have anything to do with the management of the children, no more than they have with the asses and ponies. He has one man who attends to the windways and considers he is sufficient. The ground agent is, or ought to be attentive to the ropes and other parts of the works. He never suffers, if he knows it, about four to come up or down at a time. They have no chains. They always have a Davy lamp in the counting house but they are never used. They have no bonnets. He has given no orders as to punishments, rewards or bad language. If any complaints are made by the children or parents his orders are to refer them to the magistrates. All the hands earning 8s. per week belong to the Butterley Club and if any accidents occur to others the company pays for medical aid. There is no school at present or reading rooms attached to the works. The iron pits are let in nearly the same way but the butties have to pay a certain proportion towards the expense of sinking the shafts. He is fully acquainted with all the works of a collier and miner and has worked in the former capacity from 14 years old and is of the opinion it would be better for the future health and welfare of a child for him not to work in a coal pit before he is 9 or 10 and that 12 hours including meals is enough. He is convinced the work is not nearly so hard for children as it was when he was a boy. Then they drew by the belt and had neither iron rails or asses.

(Signed) GEORGE STALEY.

CODNOR PARK, ORMONDE COLLIERY. (Butterley Company.)

No.218. Alexander Parker.

He is aged 62 and has worked in the pits since he was 6 years old. He assisted in cleaning the banks but did not collect the wages he had. After that he drove between and had 1s. per day. At Wollaton he worked from 7 to 9 with one hour allowed for dinner. He then went with the ass and wore the belt. He had 1s. 4d. a day. He went through the different occupations of a collier and now is a butty under the Butterley Company. He has worked as such for 30 years. He now works at No.7 hard coal pit which is between 70 and 80 yards deep. The shaft is not laid in lime and there is no bonnet or Davy lamp. There is a flat rope and six or seven are taken up at a time. It is well winded from the wind shaft about 250 yards off. The wind soughs are made for the purpose and there is a man whose duty it is to attend to the windways. It is well winded and is not subject to wildfire but they are troubled with blackdamp which hinders them at times. The banks are very dry under and over and they have three. One 80 yards the other two 60 yards each. The waggon road is 300 yards and the waggons are drawn by ponies and asses. He does not know how many children there are under 13 or 18 years of age but he thinks seven or eight or more under 13. The youngest is about eight and drives between. The seam is 1 yard 5 inches and the headroom the same. There is no Sunday work and the children are neither hired nor apprenticed. There are no children employed at night. They work from seven to eight with three quarters of an hour allowed for dinner. Three-quarter days are from six or seven to five and half days from six or seven to one or two. There are no rewards and very little punishment. He always checks them for swearing or bad language. There is no reading room or school but they belong to the Butterley Club. They have had no serious accidents within two years. He thinks the children ought to work at eight or nine and they always make the best colliers and 12 hours is quite enough. Colliers are very subject to accidents and the sulphur has a bad effect upon their lungs. Many are asthmatic and the work being so hard their "days are shortened". They look older for their years than others. Colliers are very subject to rheumatism. He has had to draw with the belt until he has been "as raw as beef," but he cannot do without it. He has seen a belt they use in Staffordshire which they call the "Bywards" that the arms go through something like those used by a barrow man. That is much better than those used in the county. It makes the work more even and does not gallop so much.

his

(Signed) ALEX.  PARKER
mark.

No.7 pit is not guarded or laid in lime. The bricks at the top are very loose, notwithstanding there is an iron rim. Neither this nor the soft pit are guarded. The pit boy or unloader is John Latham. He is 12 years old and has worked for six years but never down the pit. He goes to the Methodist Sunday School at Codnor but he does not know how long he has been and is only in easy lessons. He cannot spell a word of two syllables. At the other pit William Jackson is 12 and has worked at the pit mouth for nearly six years. He goes to the Golden Valley Methodist Sunday School and is only in easy lessons and can scarcely spell. Both boys appear very healthy but not very sharp.

No.219. Samuel Lee, engineman.

The engine is eight horse power and works both the ironstone shafts Nos.1 and 2. No.1 is 70 yards deep and No.2 80 yards. The pit are winded from each other and a windway from an old shaft. He considers it well ventilated. They have no wild fire and very little blackdamp. It is a little wet but not much. The waggon way is about 14 yards in No.1 and the waggons are drawn by men. None are employed under 14 or 15 excepting the bank boy. In No.2 the waggon road is 30 yards and the waggons are drawn by a pony and a boy of 15 with a belt. The bank in No.1 is 80 yards and No.2 about the same. The headways are 3 feet 6 inches. The shafts are not laid in lime and there is no bonnet or Davy lamp. There is no chain but a flat rope. The hands are let down at 10 minutes past 6 to 20 minutes past 6. Three quarters of an hour allowed for dinner. They seldom or never work half or three-quarter days excepting owing to accidents.

No.220. George Walters.

He is 10 years old and works on the bank where he picks dirt from ironstone. He begins at six to half past six with three quarters of an hour allowed for dinner. He goes to the Codnor Methodist Sunday School and reads easy lessons. He can spell a little, dog cat and such words.

[Appears a sharp lad.]

No.221. Jurman Brown, engineman.

The engine is 20 horse power and works the shafts of No.7 hard, which is 80 yards deep and of another, soft, 100 yards deep. The pit is winded from a windgate and soughs for the purpose about 100 yards off, the hard from the soft by a communication partly by the banks and partly by means of soughs. They are not subject to wildfire but they have been frequently hindered by blackdamp. The banks are rather wet under. There is no waggon road and the corves draw each other down and up by chains on an inclined plane with the assistance of boys with belts, two or three under the age of 13. He does not know how many under 18. The youngest is seven. The hard pit is dry under and over and it is well winded. There are two banks of 100 yards each, the seam 3 feet 4 inches with the headroom the same. The waggons are drawn by ponies and asses. The boys that drive do not wear the belt. There are above 13 under 13 years of age and he does not know how many under 18. The youngest is seven. They put from 4 to 10 cwt. on each corve. They have neither bonnet or Davy lamp and a flat rope and chain. In the soft pit they seldom let down more than six or seven at a time, in the hard sometimes 10 or 12. They are let down from six to eight with three quarters of an hour allowed for dinner. In the hard if they come up at half past seven they are paid for three quarters of a day. Half days are from six to two, often there are no meals. Last Whitsuntide year three men and a boy were killed at the hard pit by the rope breaking. It is the ground bailiff's duty to look at the rope. He comes twice a day. Ten weeks since the bind and coals fell upon James Thorp, a holer and so crushed his body that he has not been able to work since.

No.222. William Sellers.

He is 22 years of age and has worked since he was eight years old and now works for the Butterley Company as a header. At present few boys are employed in his pit with none less than 16. The coal is to be worked on the new plan. They will want nearly 100. It is the same plan that is used at the pits near Barnsley. Messrs. Oake are now partly working under this plan. When he first worked in a pit he drove between and had 9d. per day. At 11 or 12 he wore the belt, and has 1s. 4d. a day when he then waggons but he did not use the belt. The belt made his very sore. He has never seen a "byward" as described by Parker. When he first worked in a pit he has been so tired that he has slept as he walked. He thinks a child ought to be nine before he works in the pit but if they do not go in young they never make a collier. He thinks 12 hours a day not too much. They do not work so hard as they used to do. He has not been much to school, some little to Sunday school. He can read a little. He has never had an accident or experienced asthmatic symptoms.

his
(Signed) WILLIAM  SELLERS
mark.

No.223. George Taylor, engineman.

The engine is 20 horse power and the pit 90 yards deep with the seam 3 feet 6 inches and the headway the same. The waggon road is 80 yards. The waggons are drawn by boys of 16 or 17 years of age. There are two banks, one 80 yards and the other 32. The pit is winded from the engine and another shaft about 200 yards off. They have neither wildfire nor blackdamp nor have they had an accident. There are only two or three under 13. They go down at half past six to half past eight, three quarters of an hour are allowed for dinner. Half days are from half past six to two or three with no dinner hour.

No.224. William Kirkland.

He is 10 years old and pushes behind and sometimes draws by the belt. He has done so above half a year. He used to drive the gin horse. He begins work from seven to six with half an hour allowed for dinner. He goes to Codnor Methodist Sunday School and reads in the Testament.

[Cannot spell horse or house.]

No.225. John Jephson.

He is 13 years of age and he fills for 1s. 4d. per day. He goes to the Riddings Church Sunday School and is in easy lessons.

[Does not know his letters.]

No.226 John Peake.

He is nine years old and has worked in the iron pits two or three years. He is sure he was only six when he began. He used to drive the gin horse. He, for the last year has pushed behind the waggon and had 7d. per day and works the same hours as above. He goes to the Codnor Methodist Sunday School and reads in the Testament.

[Can spell well.]

No.227. John Wilkins.

He is nine years old and drives the gin horse and has 6d. per day. He goes to the Codnor Methodist Sunday School and has been for a year. He reads in the Testament.

[Spells words of one syllable.]

No.228. Reuben Davis.

He is aged nine and picks stones and has done so for a year. He has 6d. per day. He goes to Church Sunday School at Riddings. He has been there for only five weeks.

No.229. William Bacon.

He is eight years old and drives the gin horse. He never was at either church, school or chapel in his life.

No.230. Samuel Fletcher.

He is 13 years old and goes to Loscoe Baptist Sunday School. He reads in the testament and can write a little.

[He can neither spell his own name nor place of abode.]

No.231. John Burgin.

He is 13 years old and goes to the Codnor Park Church Sunday School. He reads in the Testament and writes a little.

[He can neither spell his own name nor place of abode.]

No.232. Fredeick Burrows.

He is 13 years old and goes to Codnor Park Church Sunday School. He has been there half a year and is in easy lessons.

[Knows nothing.]

No.233. Richard Vicars.

Tissington's Pit is 42 yards deep and is worked by the gin horse. The waggon road is 50 yards. The waggons are worked by boys who shove them. There are three under 13 years of age, one gin boy, one stone picker and one shoves the waggon. They work from six to six with one hour allowed for dinner. There is notwildfire and very little blackdamp. There have been no accidents.

No.234. Thomas Spencer.

He is the headsman at George Davis's pit. It is 38 yards deep, drawn by one horse. There are three boys under 13, one drives the horse, one picks stones and the other draws the ass and wears the belt. He is 12 years old. The driver of the ass is nine years old. They work from six to seven or eight or nine with three quarters of an hour allowed for dinner. The pit is winded from an old shaft. There is no wildfire but much blackdamp. It is dry. Samuel Davis had his leg broken a few months ago owing to the bind falling.

No.235. John Waplinton's Pit.

He has no boy under 13 old besides the gin lad who is now at work. The pit is 22 yards deep and is drawn by one horse. At this pit Elizabeth England, 12 years old, picks stones. She used to run lace and now has 6d. per day. She works form half past six to six with one hour allowed for dinner and half an hour clocking. She likes the work better than lace. She can neither read nor write and had never been at school, church or chapel in her life and appears perfectly ignorant.

No.236. William Ratcliff's Pit.

It is winded from two old shafts and is drawn by a gin horse. It is 14 yards deep and has four boys under 13.

No.237. Hannah Neale.

She has a son 14 years of age who works at Butterley Park who goes with the ass and wears the belt and another, 13 who does the same. Her house is a mile from the pit. They go down at six to eight. If they come home before eight they are paid only three-quarters of a day. They used, a few years since, often to work after 10. She also has a son 10 years old who works at the soft coal pit where he drives between. He works from six to eight but if they have not got their stint of coals they are not paid for the day. They come home so tired that they become stiff and can hardly get to bed. Their caps are wet through with sweat. Constantine, the one 10 years old, formerly worked in

the same pit as his brothers but about half a years since his toe was cut off by the bind falling. Notwithstanding this the loader made him work until the end of the day although in the greatest pain. He was out of work more than four months owing to this accident. Isaac, aged 14, when he was nine years old, had his leg broken from the same cause and was 15 weeks unable to work. They all three attend the Methodist Sunday School where they are taught reading and their father now and then teaches them a little writing.

her
(Signed) HAHHAH \times NEALE
mark.

No.238. James Wright, headsman.

He did not begin work in the pit until he was 20 years of age. He has a brother who was a stocking maker, like himself until he was 18 and he is allowed to be as good a collier, in every respect, as in any field. The pit has scarcely begun, they are merely heading it. It is 179 yards deep. There is only one boy by day under 13 years old who hangs on the corves and two by night. They work 12 hours each set.

No.2 is 160 yards deep. Only one under 13 clears the roads. Both these pits are winded from another pit by old banks.

RIPLEY AND HARTSHAY COAL WORKS. (C.V. Hunter, Esq.)

No.239 Thomas Wilmot.

He has been the underground agent in the coal field upwards of 20 years. They now have three shafts at work, all of them in Ripley. No.1 is 145 yards deep but 114 to where they are now working. The seam is 4 feet and the headway the same. There are three banks and he thinks they are all 120 yards. The waggon road is 150 yards and the waggons are drawn by boys from 14 to 18 years of age. The pit is winded from No.2 by old banks. They have two men regularly looking after the windways. There is no rope at any of the pits, no Davy lamp nor any use for one. They have bonnets at Nos.1 and 3. No.2 is not at work at this time. No.3 is 65 yards deep to the soft coal and 30 below that to the hard which is now working. The seam is 3 feet, besides the roof, which is of coal and left a foot thick. The headway of 4 feet 6 inches. The pit is dry. There are three banks, 100 yards altogether. The waggon road is 60 yards and the waggons are drawn by boys with the belt. No.4 is 66 yards deep. The seam and headways are the same as No.3. The waggon way is 5 feet and the waggons are drawn by the engine and the boys without the belt 180 yards and then drawn by asses 180 yards more. The shaft is not laid in lime. Mr. Hunter sinks the shafts, makes the headings, finds the waggons and wood work and then lets the pits to butties who the employ the holers by the stint (that is a little more than two yards.) The hammerers or blowers, banksman and children per day and he does not consider that he or Mr. Hunter has anything at all to do with the children. The only notice board or directions given from the office is, "That all shall give and take a month's notice". They know they ought not to let up or down more than four at a time but no direct orders have been given to that purport. All the pits are well winded and are not troubled with wildfire or blackdamp. There has been no accident excepting John Weightman who, "about six months ago, had a slight rap, owing to a little bind falling out of the shaft which caught him over the side". He has not been at work since. He has worked in the mine since he was 14. It was a lead mine at Ashover he was first employed in. It would not impede their works if children under 10 were not allowed to be employed and thinks at that age it would do the child no harm to work 12 hours a day, including meal times. They have no club belonging to the colliery.

(Signed) THOS. WILMOT, Sen.

NEW RIPLEY. (Mr. Hunter.)

No.240 George Wilmot, engineman.

The pit is about 100 yards deep and the seam 1 yard of hard coal and 18 inches of inferior. The headway is 4 feet 6 inches with two banks, about 50 yards each. The waggons are drawn by the engine part of the way, the rest by men and boys. The part they are now working is only 70 yards deep. He does not know how thick the seam is or headway. It is winded from No.2 by old banks connected to wind soughs. There are no ropes and he lets down up to seven or eight at a time by chain. They have no Davy lamp and no bonnet. All is dry with no wildfire and very little blackdamp. The only accident, a man was hurt about six months ago by the bind falling out of the

shaft which is only bricked a few yards and so crushing him that he will never be able to work again. He is an old man. The children go down at six to eight or nine for a whole days with half an hour for dinner but not more. For three-quarter days, six to six and does not stop for dinner. Half days are from six to three of four.

No.241. Samuel Waters, pitman.

He works at this pit. He is 72 and began at 17. He thinks children should not be allowed to work in the pits under 12 or for more than 12 hours including a good hour for meals.

NEW RIPLEY, No.3. (Mr. Hunter.)

No.242. John Stone.

He has worked in the pits since he was six and a half years old and he is now 70. He works at the pit mouth. No.3 is 66 yards to the hard and 40 yards to the soft. The waggon roads in both hard and soft are 300 yards each. There is a little black damp in the soft. Joseph Stone, a few months ago, got his shoulder bone crushed by a fall of coal falling down the shaft. They have three, at least, under 13. The youngest is nine years old and drives between. He thinks the boys ought not go to work before 12 or 13 years old and then not more than 12 hours including meals.

[This pit was standing and the engine man absent. The shaft is not laid in lime and has a bonnet but neither Davy lamp or rope.]

No.243. Thomas Siddons.

He is 12 years old and has worked in the pits for five years. He now works in No.3. He sometimes draws by the belt and it hurts him. He goes to Heage Ranter's Sunday School and is in easy lessons. "He can spell naught. they ne'er ask him."

NEW RIPLEY, No.1 (Mr. Hunter.)

No.244. Cornelius Fulward, engineman.

The pit is 145 yards deep to the hard coal, 115 to the soft. The seam is about 4 feet with headways full as much. There are three banks, one 70 yards and two of 50 yards each, two waggon roads, one 100 yards and one 70. The pit is winded from No.2. There is no rope and four or five are let down and up at a time by a chain. There is a bonnet but no Davy lamp. There is no wildfire but a little blackdamp. There have been no accidents. It is a little wet under in the banks and it rains much in the shaft. The No.2 the hard, is 114 yards and the seam 3 feet, headway 4 feet. There is no bonnet, Davy lamp or rope. The shaft is not laid in lime and it is in a bad state. His engine is 21 horse power and works both shafts. There are six or seven under 13 at No. 1. No.2 has not been at work for some months. The youngest at work is 9 or 10 years old. He lets the children down at six to eight with half an hour for dinner, three-quarter days from six to six and half an hour allowed for dinner. Half days are from four or five. The waggons are drawn by the belt by boys and men. He thinks none of them are under 13.

NEW RIPLEY and HARTSHAY. (Mr. Hunter.)

No.245. Abraham Wiseall.

He is 14 years old and has worked five years in Mr. Hunter's pits. When he first worked he drove between and had 2s. per day. For the last five years he has helped to hang on at No. 3 pit and has 2s. 6d. per day. He goes down at six to nine and has half an hour allowed for dinner. He has 1s. wage and half a day from six to four. There is no Sunday or night work. He breakfasts before he goes out and has water porridge and bread. His dinner is sent, bread, meat and potatoes. He has bread and cheese at 10 o'clock and catches a mouthful as he can. He has as tea and dry bread when he gets home. He was always too tired to play when he did a whole day's work. He goes to the Ranters' Sunday School at Heage and has been for little more than a year. He is in easy lessons. He cannot spell in the least. About a year since his foot got trapped between a prop and the coal and he could not work for a month. The coal was on the corve.

No.246. Sarah Wiseall.

She is the grandmother of Abraham and he has lived with her ever since he was born. He used to come home very tired and weak with being overworked. She had three sons working in the pits, one is 18, one 25 and one 32. She is convinced that, if parents could afford it, children ought not to work until they are nine years old and then not more than 12 hours, including one hour for dinner.

No.247. John Barlow.

He is the butty of this pit. He says they go down at half past six and come up, for a whole day, at eight but some of them work longer at odd jobs but not much. They are for this, paid extra. For three-quarter days, half past six to half past five and have what time they like for dinner. Half days from half past six to three but some of the older boys having 2s. 6d. a day receive 1s. 6d. for a half day. The least of the boys only have half their wages. He considers they have more wages than they would have per day if the pit was full at work.

OAKERTHORP. (Benjamin Strelley, Esq.)

No.248. Richard Strelley, son of Benjamin Strelley, Esq.

He has the management of the coal works. He has only one shaft at work and it is 30 yards deep with three banks, one 100, one 20 and one 12 yards with one waggon road 100 yards. The waggons are worked sometimes by asses and at others by boys from 14 to 18 years of age. They push them without a belt. The seam is 4 feet in and the headway 4 feet in the banks with a small part only 3 feet owing to the roof not being strong enough without the coal, a foot of it being left. The pit is dry in the works and there is no wildfire, no bonnet or Davy lamp. They have a round rope by which two or three are let down and up at a time. They go down at six or seven or later with one hour for dinner. There are 32 stints, 2 yards each per day. Three-quarters from six to four with an hour for dinner and, half days from six to one with no dinner. Two are employed under 13, one the gin horse driver aged 10 years and the other assists to hang on and is 11. They do not have butties and he has never worked with butties since he had management of the works. He thinks children are better off without them. There has been no accident except one man who had his collar bone broken by the roof falling while holing. There is no club, school or reading room. Only 3 cwt. are on each corve now, when the coal is large as much as 10 or 12 cwt. The pit is winded from the engine and a wind shaft 300 yards off, partly through old works. They frequently attend to them.

(Signed) RICHARD STRELLEY.

No.249. John Jepson, engineman.

The engine is 9 horse power and there is no chain but a round rope let down by the gin two or three at a time. They work from six to seven or eight with one hour for dinner, three-quarter days from six to five or six with three quarters of an hour for dinner. Half days are from six to two with no dinner. The works are nearly dry but there is a little blackdamp. Neither bonnet or Davy lamp are used and there has been no accident. The shaft is not laid in lime but very rough stone.

No.250. James Rawson.

He drives the gin horse which works the shaft, the steam engine only pumps. He is 10 years old and has worked for about a year. He seldom works whole days but three-quarters when he come at six to four or five. He goes to the Methodist Sunday School at Wingfield and had been at day school for five years.

(Signed) JAMES RAWSON.

KILBURNE. (John Ray, Esq.)

No.251. William Willis Bailey jnr., agent to Mr. Ray.

They have only two shafts. No.8 is 110 yards deep and a 4 feet seam with headways a little more. Two banks, one 18 the other 60 yards and two waggon roads one 40 the other 60 yards. The waggons are drawn by asses and a pony assisted by boys who use no belts. The pit is winded through the workings from No.7 pit and the engine pit. He considers it exceedingly well winded. There is a little wildfire but it has not done much harm for the last three years. They have blackdamp in the bassit. The shaft is wet, and the banks are now dry. There has been no serious accident within the last two years. They have aonther pit, No.10 which is 60 yards deep and the shaft partly laid in lime. There is no rope but they are let down and up with a chain, never more than four at a time. There is no bonnet. It is dry altogether. One bank is 80 yards and the seam is 4

feet with the headway the same. The waggon road is 500 yards, 90 yards of which are giggered by the engine. About 80 yards are drawn by youths but not by the belt, the remainder by ponies and mules. He does not know at present either the number or ages of the boys. Both pits have Davy lamps and Upton and Rogee's which he considers more superior. He has strict orders from Mr. Ray that they should be used, particularly on a Monday morning. Mr. Ray prepares the shaft, headings, rails and tools and then either lets it to their own butties or looks out for others they think desirable, by the ton. The butties then engage the holers by the stint and the hammerers, loaders, corve men, banksmen and children by measure. The time of working much depends on how the coal comes down. The children work from half past six to six or seven, sometimes later and sometimes earlier. The engine stops 40 minutes for dinner. He considers the children belong to the butties. They are paid, engaged and dismissed by them and Mr. Ray has nothing to do with them. He has taken an average since the opening of the field and finds that during that period they have not worked above nine days per fortnight and they never work on Sundays or by night in the coal shafts for the reason stated. Fourteen days are to be given or taken on leaving. There is no school or reading room but there is a club in case of accident. The man as well as the youths who have 2s. per day pay 3d. per fortnight and in case of accident receive 6s. per week, Mr. Ray paying for medical assistance. He has never worked in a pit and does not feel himself able to say at what age a boy ought to be brought to begin work. If children under 10 were forbidden, it would be no impediment to their works. The children most of them attend Sunday Schools, the Methodist and Baptist at Kilburne. They also have an opportunity for learning to write and account, by merely paying for their copy books and slates at evening school and both the above chapels one evening each week. Many take advantage of this.

(Signed) W.W. BAILEY, jnr.

No.252. Samuel Aldred.

He is 49 years of age [He looks 70.] He began work when he was six years old when he then drove the gin horse. He did not work in the pit much before he was 12 and he then cleared out. He did not wear the belt until he was a man. The belt hurts a man the same as a boy until they are used to it. He is not aware how a man or boy could draw as much as he does now without a belt. He has been a labourer above ground for 20 years of his life. A collier's life is much harder. He does not know any men or boys whose life is more hazardous or labour so hard as colliers. He thinks a boy ought not to work before he is 12. He ought to get a little knowledge before he goes in or he is almost sure to get his head or limbs broken. He has known several, let them say what they like, not more than six years old, now working in pits at Kilburne. He is now again working as a labourer. again. The butties are most of them shop or beer keepers or sell groceries, ale and eatables to the men and allow them credit and do not like those who do not buy all or nearly all from them.

his

(Signed) SAMUEL >< ALDRED.
mark.

No.253. John Brown, engineman at No.8 pit.

The shaft is laid in lime and it is 106 yards deep. They have both flat rope and chain and the men and boys are let down and up with rope and bonnet, four at a time. There is also a bonnet with box attached but it is not often used except to repair the shaft. The engine is about 12 horse power. The children are let down at half past six to half past seven, half days half past six to half past one, three quarters of an hour is allowed for dinner. There is no wildfire now or blackdamp nor has any accident occurred. He does not know how many there are under 13 nor how old the youngest is.

No.254. Stephen Crofts.

He is 10 years old and has worked for more than one year. He drives a mule on the waggon road and has 1s. per day. He goes down at half past six to eight, sometimes to nine. They do 74 yards with 40 minutes allowed for dinner, three-quarter days from half past six to half past five, half days half past six to two. They never work on a Sunday or at night. He does not know how long the waggon road or the banks are. The pit is neither hot nor cold. There is no wildfire but a little blackdamp. He does not know how many there are under 13 years of age but he thinks there are but two younger than himself. Sometimes the corporal lugs him. He breakfasts before he leaves home on bread and milk. His dinner is sent, meat, bacon and potatoes or bread and cheese. He has bread and milk or coffee when he gets home and does not feel tired. When he gets home he is wet nearly to the waist, the waggon way is so wet, the banks are not. There has been no serious accident excepting John Calton who had his ankle, foot and was crushed by the bind falling on the bank. He

used to go to the Horsley day school and paid 3d. per week. He now goes to the Kilburne Methodist Sunday School and reads in the Testament and writes a little.

(Signed) STEPHEN CROFTS.

No.255. Samuel Allen, engineman.

The engine is 8 horse power. They have neither rope nor bonnet and three or four are let down and up at a time. He does not know how many there are under 13 years of age or how old the youngest is. They go down at half past six to seven or eight with 40 minutes allowed for dinner when the engine stops. They always have a Davy lamp at hand and a pretty good cabin. He used to work in the pits and he began when he was six years old and worked until he was 20. He thinks 10 years quite soon enough for a boy to go into the pit and 12 hours a day, including meal times, sufficient for man or child.

No.256. John Hall.

He is eight years old and has worked only occasionally in the pit. He helps the loader and has to pull the empty corves four or five yards. He goes to Denby Sunday School and is in easy lessons. He neither knows what d o g or c o a l spells.

**MORLEY PARK FOUNDRY, COAL PITS and MAREHAY RIPLEY
COAL PIT.**

No.257. Mr. John Stafford.

He is the agent to Messrs. John and Charles Mold of Morley Park. They have three coal shafts at work, one at Ripley and two at Morley Park. The Ripley Pit is 117¹/₂ yards deep with a 4 feet seam of hard and the soft about the same. In the hard seam the children go down from six to six with one hour for dinner. In the soft coal the children go down from six p.m. to six a.m. and they also have an hour for meals. They have not worked with butties for 20 years. The reason for their not doing so is that they thought butties imposed on both men and children under them. The holers only work by stint in all the shafts. In the hard coal both hammermen, loaders and banksmen work by the ton. The children get a certain quantity for a day's work and are paid and engaged by the firm. He thinks the children and young men are better used and never get imposed upon as they would under butties. They have no person whose duty it is immediately to attend to the windways but have an underlooker at each pit and a ground bailiff, who would immediately notice if anything was out of order. All the shafts are worked by chains, not ropes and have bonnets at all the shafts but no Davy lamp. They have very little wildfire, but they have blackdamp. There has been no accident excepting Alfred Butler who was killed 12th. February by he and three others being drawn over the pulley wheel. He was aged 13. Francis Walker was also much hurt and has lost his arm. Abraham Stone has his leg broken and the other escaped unhurt. It was sowing to the neglect of the engine boy who took his trial at the assizes but was liberated on consideration of his being six weeks imprisoned. The children are not rewarded nor punished except by fine. There is no school, reading room nor club. The men, in case of accident, collect amongst themselves. There are no orders as to swearing neither are they hired nor apprenticed. No females are employed. They do not employ any children at the iron pits and only three at the foundry who assist the moulders in riddling the sand. They work by job and are sometimes eight at other 15 hours a day. The youngest is 11 years of age. He is not aware of any part of their works that would be impeded by not being allowed to employ children under 10. There are five coke boys whose duty it is to separate the good coke from the inferior. They work in general 12 hours but never by night. The deep pit at Morley is 163 yards deep, 3 feet 9 inches seam and the bassit 130 yards deep the same as the deep pit.

(Signed) JOHN STAFFORD.

No.258. John Jackson.

He is the overlooker in No.1 Soft Pit. The engine is 22 horse power and worked both Nos.1 and 2. No.1 is 175 yards deep and there is no rope or bonnet. Five or six are let down and up at a time by the chain. They are let down from six to eight with 25 minutes for dinner. There are two banks, one 165 yards at work, the other 65 is now standing. The waggon road is 600 or 700 yards. The waggons are drawn by a pony or asses. He does not know but he thinks there are only two or three boys under 13. They drive the waggons and between. The pit is winded from a pit 150 yards off through old banks. It is rather wet under foot in the banks. The shaft is very wet and there is a little wildfire and blackdamp. Nine weeks ago two men and two boys were descending when, through the engine boy being absent, the engine reversed and drew them over the pulley and one boy about

13 was killed, another about 18 was much hurt that he lost his arm and is never likely to get well again. Another broke his leg. The engine boy was dismissed. He is now 58 and has worked in the pits upwards of 50 years. He thinks a boy ought to be 12 before he works in a pit and then not above 12 hours a day including meals. It would then not injure his growth and give him a chance of a "little learning."

No.259. Samuel Sparaham.

He works in the No.2 pit which is 136 yards deep, four feet seam and headway. There is one bank 130 yards and the waggon road is 200 yards. The waggons are drawn by a pony and asses. The roads are quite dry. There is no rope or bonnet and no Davy lamp but there is no wildfire or blackdamp to do any harm. No accident has there been since the shaft was sunk. He does not know how many boys under 13 or 18 neither does he know how old the youngest is.

MORLEY PARK COKE OVENS. (Messrs. Molds.)

There are five boys employed sorting and raking cokes. Their work is uncertain and they never work more than 12 hours or by night.

No.260. John Stone.

He is 11 years old and has been two years at day school. He now attends the Methodist Sunday School at Heage. He reads in the Testament and can write. He receives 8d. per day.

No.261. Robert Redfern.

He is 12 years old and has been two years at day school. He now goes to the Methodist Sunday School at Heage and reads the Bible.

No.262. James Michael.

He is 11 years old and has been at a day school for a year and now goes to the Methodist Sunday School at Heage. He reads in Easy Lessons but cannot spell or write a letter.

No.263. James Hawkin.

He is 11 years old and has been at a day school for a year. He now attends the Ranters' Sunday School at Heage and can read and write.

[The other boy was absent.]

RIPLEY. (Messrs. Molds.)

The pit is 115 yards deep to the hard coal. The seam and headways three feet six inches and there are two banks, one 12 yards and one 40 yards. There is a cabin but no rope and they are let down with a chain four or five at a time. There is a bonnet but they do not use it often. There is no Davy lamp. They are seldom troubled by wildfire or blackdamp and they have had no serious accident. The soft coal pit is 15 yards from the hard and a separate set of men and children work it by night, one set from six a.m. to six p.m. with half an hour for dinner and the other from six p.m. to six a.m. with an hour for meals. The waggons are drawn by boys from 12 to 16 years of age with belts. The seam and the headway is one yard and a quarter. There are 10 boys under 13 the youngest aged nine. At this period the hammerers came up and told my informant to answer no more questions nor give his name.

No.264. Joseph Meakin, engineman.

He does not know the power of the engine. They all work by stint or ton in the hard pit. The children go down at seven a.m. to seven p.m. had have an hour for dinner and in the soft pit from seven p.m. to seven a.m. with half an hour for meals when engine stops. They are let down five at once by a chain, they have no rope, "they only ought to have". There are about 10 boys under 13 who work by night and the same number by day. The waggons in hard coal are drawn by pony. They have no Davy lamp but they have a bonnet but it does not fit the shaft and is not used. The shaft is winded on banks by an old shaft 50 yards off.

NEW BIRCHWOOD COAL FIELD. (Mr. Humphrey Goodwin.)

No.265. William Goodwin, Son and Manager for Mr. H. Goodwin.

They have three shafts at work, Balguy, Shady and Landsale. The Balguy is 80 yards deep with seam three feet ten inches and headway about four feet. There are two banks each of 100 yards and one waggon road 50 yards. The waggons are shoved by boys from 13 to 17 years of age. They are winded from an old shaft and each of them is well vented and quite dry. Shady is 60 yards deep with two banks of 60 yards each and waggon way 80 yards. The waggons are drawn by boys but from 30 to 60 yards by asses. The other pit is worked on same principle and is quite dry. Landsale is worked by one horse and is 60 yards deep with seam four feet and headways same. There is one bank of 60 yards and waggon road is 90 yards. The waggons are hurried by boys from 15 to 16. There are no asses. It is winded from an old pit. They have a Davy lamp but it is never used excepting in the heading. This coal field is worked by butties by ton and they engage all under them both men and children. Mr. Goodwin has established a school and a reading room. There is a club to which men pay 1s. the boys under 2s. pay 6d. each per month. The men receive 6s. per week in case of accidents or sickness, boys 3s. This is optional with the workpeople. Mr. Goodwin pays for medical men.

(Signed) WILLIAM GOODWIN.

No.266. John Mellon.

He is nine years old and has worked for two years and he drives between. He has 1s. per day. He lives two miles from pit and goes down at seven to eight with half an hour allowed for dinner, sometimes only 20 minutes. Three-quarter days are from seven to three. They let them down six to ten at a time. He has not been ill used by men but has by the ass lads many a time. They have wildfire and many little accidents when blackdamp comes. It put out the candles and makes them feel queer and when in dark they often bruise their heads against roof. When he has done either a whole or what they call a three-quarter day, he never plays but gets to bed. He goes to the Methodist Sunday School and has been there for three or four years. He is in Easy Lessons. "He can spell nought, they ne'er ask him."

No.267. John Brown.

He is nine years old and has worked a year where he drives between. He has 1s. per day and goes down at half past six to half past eight. He is just come up (half past three) for half a day. He goes to Mr. Goodwin's school. He does not know his letters.

No.268. William Gascoign.

He is 10 years old and has worked two and half years at least. He dirves between. He attendes Mr. Goodwin's Sunday School and reads in teh Bible but cannot write or spell.

No.269. Thomas Barlow.

He is 11 years old and has not worked quite a year in pits. He hangs on and has 1s. 2d. per day and goes down at half past six to eight or nine, half days, half past six to half past three or four. He used to go to day school and now goes to Ranters' Sunday School at Summercotes. He reads in third class book and spells very badly.

No.270. Richard Gascoign.

He is 10 years old and has worked for three years for Mr. Goodwin. He drives between. He goes to Mr. Goodwin's Sunday School and is in Easy Lessons. He cannot spell cat or dog.

No.271. Samuel Radford.

He is 19 years old and is now a holer in Mr. Goodwin's Balguy Pit. It is 81 yards deep with seam one yard nine inches thick and there are two banks 70 yards or more together. There is a new waggonway, 40 yards and waggons are drawn by a boy of 15 one way and shoved the other. He does not know how many there are under 13 but knows that there is just one of seven who drives between. The works are quite dry. He has now worked 10 years in pit. He was not nine when he first worked and he then drove between and was very tired. He has been a week together and never seen day light but on Sunday and not much then. He was so sleepy. He thinks a boy ought not to work in a pit until he is 12 and then not above 12 hours, including meals. It would be a kindness to give then half an hour for breakfast and one for dinner.

No.272. Hannah Fidler.

She is 13 years old and has worked a year at pit mouth. She goes to Mr. Goodwin's school and use to go to the day school in South Normanton. She reads Bible and can write her name and is in general, more intelligent than any I have met with.

No.273. William Barlow, engineman.

The engine works both Shady and Balguy shafts neither of them are laid in lime. There are cabins and flat ropes to each but neither have bonnets or Davy lamps. Balguy is 80 yards deep, Shady 70. He lets down and takes up four or five at a time. He does not know how many there are under 13 years of age. The youngest is not nine. They go down at half past six to nine, half days from six to three or after. The workings in both pits are dry and there is no wildfire and but little blackdamp. About three years ago several accidents occurred. There was a young person who fell down Balguy shaft and a very short time afterwards another fell down Shady. Besides these, one man was suffocated and another killed owing to the bind falling. Six months since a man had his foot badly crushed by coal and has never been able to work since.

MAREHAY COLLIERY. (Mr. Samuel Woolley.)

No.274. William Bettison, ground bailiff.

The shaft at No.1 is partly laid in lime but not at top for eight to ten yards. It is winded from the hard coal pit on old banks. There are two men whose duty is to see after the windways. They do so twice a week. Both pits are well winded. They have but little wildfire or blackdamp. They have two waggon roads 300 yards long and the waggons are drawn by a pony and some boys, some under 13. He does not know how old the youngest may be. They are drawn part of the way by giggering, that is, pulled by pulleys and chains. There are two boys who draw by the belt under 13. Robert Clarke had his leg broken by the bind six months since and he is not yet able to work. No.2 is laid in lime and 180 yards deep. It had four banks, two 80 yards each and two about 30 and two waggon roads 250 yards. The waggons are drawn part of the way by ponies and part by men and boys under 13. The works are dry and there is a little wildfire and blackdamp. It is well winded from the engine pit. At this coal field Mr. Woolley sinks the shaft and prepares the headings, finds waggons, wood and everything. He then lets it by the ticket, reserving the right of choice in the case of the lowest bidder being an improper person. The butties then let the holing by stint. The loaders and banksman are paid per box, two tons per box. The hammerers, woodmen and children are paid by the day as well as the hangers-on. He considers the children as belonging to the butties and Mr. Woolley has nothing to do with any but the butties themselves. They have no notice except on the board ordered by the combination, of a month's notice on either side in case of leaving. No orders are given as to rewards or punishments but they check all blackguardism as far as they can on the ground. There is a club belonging to the coalfield when the men pay 1s. per month, the boys 6d. The former, in case of accident, receive 6s. per week, the latter 3s. but nothing in the case of illness. Mr. Woolley finds medical aid. He has worked in a pit since he was 10 and is now 55. He thinks a child should not work in a pit sooner than he did and thinks they should not be worked as many hours as now.

(Signed) WILLIAM BETTISON.

No.275. Joseph and Mary Buxton.

They have three boys in work in Mr. Woolley's pits, one nine, one 12 and the other 15 years of age. The one at nine has worked three years and he drives between and has 1s. per day. The one at 12 helps to waggon and draws with the hook but not the belt. The one at 15 drives a pony and helps to draw the waggon and he has worked nearly five years. They go down from six to eight or half past, three-quarter days from six to six with one hour for dinner, half days from six to three or four. The works are dry under and over. There has been no serious accident over the last two years but about four years since the shaft was not well winded and a man was killed by the wildfire and many other accidents happened. Sometimes the 12 year old boy works all night with his father. He works the day before but not the one after. They are not ill used in the pits and have nothing to complain of but that they are made to do too much work for a day's pay. The last month they worked every day from six to nearly four and were paid for ten and half days. They all go to the Methodist Sunday School at Denby. Two read in the Testament, one in Easy Lessons.

[I examined these boys separately. They all agree and are quite sure it is the truth as to the time their father and mother say they worked, They can read a little but only one can spell his name.]

No.276. Joseph Cotton.

He is seven years old and works for Mr. Woolley. He has worked in a pit more than half a year. He drives between and has 1s. per day. He has bread and milk for breakfast before he goes and potatoes, bacon and water sent for dinner and bread and milk when he gets home. When he has either done a day's or three-quarter of a day's work, "he does not play but gets to bed". He leaves home at half past five, goes down at six and does not get home again until nine. Three-quarter days he goes down at six and gets home at seven, half days from six to half past three. He neither goes to school, church or chapel and "does not like to work in a pit". He would like to go to school.

No.277 Joseph Roper.

He is seven years old. He opens and shuts the wind doors.

No.278. William Slater.

He is six years old and draws the empty corves to the hook.

[Both these go to the Denby Methodist Sunday School.]

No.279. William Bettison.

He is 16 years old and has care of the engine. It is 20 horsepower. The shaft is 170 yards deep. There is a rope, no chain and no bonnet. They are let down three or four at a time. They go down from six to eight or half past, three-quarter days from six to six or half past, half days from four to three or half past. For whole and three-quarter days they have one hour for dinner.

No.280. John Atkin, engineman.

The shaft is laid in lime and is 180 yards deep. There are four banks, two of 80 yards and two about 30. There are two waggon roads about 250 yards. The waggons are drawn by ponies and boys with belts from 12 to 18 years old. The pit is dry but there is a little wildfire and blackdamp. It is well winded from the engine shaft and from one for the purpose.

No.281 Mr. Samuel Woolley, owner.

He has three shafts at work, the Old Hard, the New Hard and the Soft. The Old Hard is 130 yards deep and the seam of getting coal between 4 and 5 feet with the headroom the same. There are two banks but he does not know the length and one waggon road, 50 yards. It is dry. The waggons are drawn by ponies, asses and mules. The New Hard is 115 yards deep and the seam 3 feet 3 inches, headway 3 feet 6 inches, three banks and he does not know the length. There are three roads for waggons, 100 yards or more each. It is dry and the waggons are drawn by asses. The Soft is about 95 yards deep with a three and half foot seam and a headway from 4 to 5 feet, two waggon roads about 100 yards each and the waggons are drawn by asses. There are flat ropes in all the pits and bonnets. A Davy lamp is always at hand but seldom wanted. The Old Hard is winded from a wind shaft about 15 yards off, the New Hard from the Old Hard. The Soft is winded from the New Hard pit through the workings in the soft coal now got to that pit. There is a man whose duty it is to attend to the windways but he is not always wanted for that purpose but is at hand if wanted. The coal is worked here as at Merehay, and is under the same agent.

(Signed) SAMUEL WOOLLEY.

ALFRETON.

No.282. George Oldham, Esq., Surgeon.

He attend the Riddings, new and old Birchwood and Marehay's coal and iron works. He considers the miners are subject to asthmatic disorders and hernia but does not think they are more so to rheumatism than others. Accidents are numberless. The forgers, he considers, are more subject to diseases of the heart. This he attributes to the great excitement of the vascular system, from the sudden change of temperature. They are also more subject to bronchitis from the sudden change of atmosphere. He has not perceived that they are less liable to epidemics. He has observed that those who have worked very young have their growth stunted and they are very often bow-legged. As a medical man he is sure 10 years is the youngest they can bear the work in the mine without injury and that eight hours and a meal during that period, is quite enough for a child or young person to work. He is also convinced that they could not bear in this neighbourhood, the work they do if they did not live well. As a proof of this, those in South Normanton decidedly live worse and are more subject to both bodily and mental deformity. He has been in practice amongst the miners for five or six years.

(Signed) GEORGE OLDHAM.

OLD BIRCHWOOD.

No.283. John Spencer, engineman.

The engine is 10 horse power and they use both a rope and chain and always the rope to let the men and boys up and down. They have no bonnet because they have a double tackle and it would be dangerous if they let down five or six at a time. The pit is 120 yards deep and he does not know how many boys under 13 and 18. The youngest is about eight and he opens and shuts the door. There is no Davy lamp, wildfire or even blackdamp nor has any serious accident happened. He lets children down at half past six to eight, three-quarter days half past six to six with three quarters of an hour for meals in both of these. Half days, six to half past three and no dinner. The waggons are drawn by young men. The pit is dry and he is paid by the butties.

No.284. George Spencer, engineman.

The engine is 12 horse power and works both the Hard and the Soft shafts. They are partly laid in lime. He does not know how many under 13 or 18 are in the pit. The youngest he knows of is only six years old and he opens and shuts the door. He, the engineman, lets down and up six or seven at a time and uses both flat rope and bonnet. They are let down at half past six to eight with one hour for dinner, three-quarter days from half past six to half past six with one hour for dinner but at the Hard pit from half past six to five and no dinner. Half days are from half past six to three or four and no dinner. Both pits are dry in the works. They have a Davy lamp at hand and very little wildfire or blackdamp. There are no accidents. He is paid by the butties.

No.285. John Webster.

He is 18 years old and waggons and draws by the belt. He works in the Old Hard and it has two banks, one 46 and the other 25 yards and there are seven or eight waggonways. They reach altogether, half a mile and are upwards of 200 yards each. The waggons are drawn differently on different stints, some by horse, mules and asses, others by boys and young men from 15 to 18 years of age. The pit is dry, the headways high and no wildfire or blackdamp. The shaft is laid with large rough stones. There are cabins to each.

No. 286 Thomas Barlow.

He is nine years old and has not worked above half a year. He drives between and has 1s. per day. They are let down from half past six to eight with three quarters of an hour for dinner. Three-quarter days are from half past six to six with three quarters of an hour for dinner. He has to fill the corves and get them into the waggon road before they dine. They have often to do this after the engine stands. They have no wildfire but a little blackdamp. He takes his breakfast before he comes and has milk porridge, for his dinner potatoes and bacon. It is sent. He has tea and dry bread when he gets home. He goes to Normanton Ranters' Sunday School and has been two or three years. He is in Easy Lessons. He is very ignorant. His father is banksman.

No.287. John Robinson.

He is 15 years old and has worked for five years. He is now an ass lad and wears the belt. He has 1. 10d. per day. The belt hurts him but he sure he could not do the work without it. He works the same hours as Barlow. He used to be tired after a day's work and he is tired enough now. He goes to the Normanton Ranters Sunday School and has done so for four years. He cannot spell either church or chapel but can spell his name.

No.288. William Brooks.

He is 13 years old and has worked three years. He drives between and has 1s. per day and works the same hours as the other two. He has to walk two miles and has bread and butter and tea before he starts. Bread, meat and pudding are sent and he has bread and milk when he gets home. When he gets home he plays at "nought" but goes to bed.

[This boy appears to be about 8 or 9 years of age and is weakly looking. He says he often takes cold but no so bad as to keep him from the pit. He has been at Normanton Methodist Sunday School two years and a half and is in Easy Lessons. He cannot spell a word.]

PINXTON COAL WORKS. (John Coke, Esq.)

No.289. James Wild, machineman.

They have two shafts at work at Pinxton, Nos.1 and 9, two at Sleights, Nos.2 and 3 and at Carnfield two more, Nos.1 and 2. No.1 at Pinxton is 60 yards deep, seam 3 feet 9 inches with two banks, one 10 and one 100 yards. The waggon road is 55 yards and headway 3 feet 9 inches. The waggons are drawn by mules and asses. No.1 is well winded. Five are employed under 13 and seven under 18 with the youngest being 10. He drives between. No.9 is 70 yards deep, seam 3 feet 9 inches, two banks one 146 yards, the other 132 yards and one waggon way 90 yards. The waggons are drawn by asses and mules. The deep way is well winded, the bassit way not so well but it is dry. There are three under 13 employed and nine under 18, the youngest being 11. He drives between. Sleights No.2 is 130 yards deep and the seam 3 feet. There are four banks, two 113 yards, one 37½ and the other 142. The waggon ways are 225½ yards where the waggons are drawn by asses. The works are dry but the shaft is wet but it is well winded. No.3 is 114 yards deep with the seam 3 feet 6 inches and two banks of 40 yards each and another 40 yards now opening. There are two waggonways one 440 yards and the other 40 yards with a headway of 4 feet. The waggons are drawn by asses. The pit is quite dry and well winded. In No.2 seven are employed under 13, eight under 18 years old. In No.3 there are 16 under 13 and nineteen under 18 the youngest being 9 and he drives between. Carnfield No.1 is 112 yards deep with a seam of 3 feet 9 inches. There are two banks, 176 yards and 242 yards and one waggon road. On twenty four yards of the waggon road, the waggons are drawn by a "gig-stint," that is, the loaded ones draw the empty ones up. The rest of the distance is drawn by boys from 13 to 18 by the belt. It is dry and well winded. No.2 is 100 yards deep and the seam 3 feet with two banks and one waggon way of 220 yards. The banks are 2½ chains each. It is quite dry and well winded. The waggons are drawn by boys from 13 to 18 years of age by belt. There is not above 3 or 4 cwt. on the corves. No.2 at Carnfield is subject to wildfire, the others are pretty free. Pinxton pits are rather subject to blackdamp. None of the shafts are laid with lime and they have no bonnets. They have a Davy lamp at the office, one mile off. At the Carnfield pit they are not used. All have ropes. At No.3 William Smith, 10 years old, was killed about two months since (March 9th.) by a stone falling upon him as he was driving the waggon. It was 30 cwt. It was altogether out of the question of preventing it or like accidents occurring in the future. They have not only men to look after the windways, but nightmen to examine every part of the pit and regulate all the banks and roads.

When Mr. Coke begins a new pit he sinks the shaft, prepares the headings &c. Mr. Machin, Mr. Coke's agent, fixes the price and offers it to their own butties, who mostly take it. They then let it to holers by the stint and the hammerers, loaders and banksmen by the ton. The children only are by the day. No one has anything to do with the children but the butties, they have that management to themselves. They have no regulation as to punishment and no notice at the office or other places, excepting the combination notice as to warning. Mr. Coke has a Sunday School at Pinxton Wharf which he built for the purpose. It is also used as a reading room both of which are free to the colliers and tenants. The school room is used as a day school and for any child attending and paying 1d. per week, Mr. Coke pays 2d. for which they are taught reading, writing and accounts and the females needlework and knitting. The children go down the pit at seven to eight with one hour allowed for dinner. Three-quarter days from six to four or five with no dinner, half days, six to two. They do not work Sundays or nights.

(Signed) JAMES WILD.

[The above was corrected by JOSEPH MACHIN, the Manager.]

PINXTON AND ALFRETON.**No.290. Griffin Spencer, Esq., Surgeon, Alfreton.**

He attends the collier's club at both Pinxton and Alfreton. He does not think the colliers are more subject to asthma or bad breathing than other labourers neither does he think they are more subject to hernia or rheumatism. They certainly are more subject to accidents. He had not met with a case where he considered the development had been injured by too early working in the mines or too many hours. As a medical man he considers nine or ten early enough for children to be employed in mines and he thinks at that age they might work eight hours but certainly should have a meal in that time.

(Signed) GRIFFIN SPENCER.

PINXTON, No.3.

[This pit, 135 yards deep, is partly laid in lime. The waggons are drawn by mules and asses. The works are dry. The cabin is not good.]

No.291. Benjamin Hill, engineman.

The engine is 20 horse power and the pit 122 yards deep. He lets down four to six at a time by the flat rope. They go down at half past six to eight or nine with one hour allowed for dinner. They have neither bonnet nor Davy lamp. Three-quarter days are from half past six to half past five with no dinner hour but they very seldom make half days. There are about 17 under 13 years of age. There is a little wildfire but no blackdamp. About six weeks since William Smith was killed by the bind falling on him in the waggon road and John Hay hurt his knee by the coal falling. He is not yet able to work.

No.291a. John Hill.

He is 10 years old and works on the bank. He goes to the Methodist Sunday School and has been there for three or four years. He is in Easy Lessons. He cannot spell and does not know what his dress is made of nor what flannel is.

No.292. John Smith.

He is 16 and used to work at No.3 but left six weeks since because his brother was killed by the bind falling. He used to waggon and draw by the belt. It hurt him but it is not so hard work as the brick yard. He likes the brick yard best. They do not keep him so long at it. His brother was 13. He was not in the pit at the time his brother was killed and he had been unable to work for a week, having crushed his hand. The reason he is not at work now is, he is afraid to go. He used to work from half past six to half past eight with one hour for dinner. He has been to day school and now goes to the Methodist Sunday School where he is in Easy Lessons.

[This boy spells a little.]

PINXTON, No.9, or BEN MOOR'S PIT.

No.293. William Bloor, banksman.

The shaft is laid in lime and they have no chain but a flat rope with no bonnet. The pit is 60 yards deep and there is no wildfire but some blackdamp. The seam is 4 feet but in some places there is not quite a yard headway. They cannot alter it or the roof might fall. The waggonway is 50 yards and the waggons are drawn by a mule or a pony. There are three boys under 13 and two working at the mouth. There are ten under 18. The two in the pit under 13 drive between. The pit is winded by old banks from a shaft 300 yards off. One of the banks is wet. The butty at this pit never allows the boys to be punished but by himself. They go down at seven to eight with one hour for dinner. Half days are from seven to half past two or three with no dinner time.

No.294. William Slater, engineman.

The engine is 8 horse power. He lets down seven or eight at a time by a flat rope. They go down at seven to eight with one hour allowed for dinner.

No.295. Benjamin Hill.

He is nine years old and has worked at the pit mouth pulling a waggon half a year. He goes to the Methodist Sunday School at Pinxton and was three or four years at a day school. He cannot write or spell the easiest words.

No.296. Samuel Bloor.

He is 12 years old and has worked on the bank for a year. He used to go to a day school and now he goes to the Methodist Sunday School at Pinxton. He reads the Testament and writes. He cannot write his name nor join letters nor spell church or chapel.

PINXTON No.2.

No.297. William Hill, engineman.

He does not know exactly the power of his engine. The pit is 130 yards deep and they have no chain. They let down nine or ten at a time. The children go at half past six to half past eight with one hour for dinner. For three-quarter days, half past six to six with no dinner. Half days are from half past six to three. There is neither bonnet nor Davy. The pit is vented from an old engine shaft 300 yards off by air soughs. There is a good cabin.

No.298. George Freeman.

He is 20 years old and is a holer. He used to work in the bank until he was 10 years old and then drove between and has 1s. per day. Half a year after he drove and ass and wore the belt. It hurt him bad enough both then and now. He has been using it today and is quite sore. There are four banks, two 40 yards each and one 30 and one 20 with two waggon roads. One is 200 yards the other 120. The waggons are drawn by asses and part of the way by belt. Some of the boys are not 13 years of age. The seam is 1 yard 2 inches and the headway 1 yard 6 inches. The shaft is wet and there is a little wildfire and not much blackdamp. About three quarters of year since George Knowles, the boy on the bank, was struck by the rope that broke with a load of coals about two tons in weight. He is crippled and is never likely to work at anything again. Lee was five or six weeks out of work owing to the coal falling on his shins. There are eight boys under 13, the youngest nine years old. He opens and shuts the doors. and there are 8 under 18. The two that draw by the belt, one is 12 and the other 14. Neither have many yards to draw.

No.299. Joseph Shooter.

He is 12 years old and has worked since he was seven. He drives the waggon and has 1s. 2d. per day. He cares nothing about whether he works in a pit or elsewhere. He goes to the Pinxton Methodist Sunday School and has been there for five or six years. He reads in the Testament but cannot write, or spell house, dunce or chapel.

No.300. Samuel Freeman, banksman.

He earned £3 at 3s. per week before he wore breeches. He was not six years old. A boy ought not to be allowed to work in a pit before he is 12 but parents will send them.

[At this period the butty came and he would say no more.]

No.301. Samuel Smith.

He does not know how old he is. He drives the ass and wears the belt. He has 1s. 4d. per day. He works whole days from half past six to half past eight or nine, three-quarter days from half past six to six and half days from six to three with plenty of time for dinner. He works at No.1 Pinxton. He used to stop later when he worked at Sleight's and had not so much time for dinner. He had rather work in a pit than out. He does not go to Sunday School, church or chapel and does anything on a Sunday. He did go to school now and then. Does not know his letters.

[He appears to be 14 and is very ignorant.]

PINXTON, No.1.

No.302. Thomas Hill.

He is 12 years old and has sole care of the engine which is 14 horse power. The pit is 70 yards deep. They have a flat rope and no chain. He lets down and up four or five at a time. The pit is winded from the engine shaft. They have no Davy lamp and very little wildfire. He lets the children down about 20 minutes to seven to half past eight. The engine stops one hour for dinner. There is a good cabin.

No.303. William Valance.

He is 67 years old and is the butty at No.1. He has worked in the pits since he was 11 years old. the pit is 70 yards deep with two banks, one 160 yards and one 100 yards. There are two waggon roads, one 120 yards and the other 100 yards. The waggons are drawn by mules and asses. The pit is well winded. There are two men and a boy always engaged for the purpose of attending to the windways of this field. He has no wildfire but a little blackdamp. There has been no accident. He employs three boys under 13 and 10 under 18 years of age. The banks are mostly dry. The seam is 1 yard 5 inches and the headway 4 feet. He thinks the boys ought not to work in a pit under 10, or more than 13 hours a day and he is sure they ought to stand for meals.

SLEIGHT'S PIT, No.3.

No.304. John Hayes, collier.

He is 47 years of age and has worked in the pits since he was seven. He then "hanged-on" and had 1s. a day but for the first year or two he worked on the bank. He now woods and holes and generally in the night. It is his duty to examine the roof and roads of a part of the pit. The children are let down at half past six and, according to an order that has been on the field ever since he worked as a boy, eight o'clock is the time they are to leave off but if the work is not done, the children are kept down until it is. He has known it to be 11 o'clock before they have come but nine is often the case. They seldom get an hour for dinner, it depends upon what state the work is in. It is a rule that before the boy gets his dinner his corves all be filled and brought down to the waggon gate or usual place of meeting. If it happens the corve is empty and the work at the far end of the bank, the child has to wait its filling and draw it about 400 or 500 yards while the others are getting their dinners. By this means he has not above five minutes of his own. Three-quarter days are from half past six to five and he has known them work until seven for three-quarter days. Half days from half past six to two, often nearly four with no dinner hour for half or three-quarter days. They have not much correction but what they deserve. He thinks they ought not to work before they are 10 and 12 hours and regular meal times as in mills, would be a great blessing.

(Signed) JOHN HAYES.

PINXTON DAY SCHOOL.

No.305. Thomas Hanbury, Master.

He has now 56 boys and 20 girls on his list and they are pretty good attendants, particularly in winter. Mr. Coke pays him his salary and finds the books, the latter out of a charity of the Rev. D'Ewes Coke, which, although void by the Act of 9 Geo. II. c. 36, Mr. Coke still wished to continue. Mr. Coke also keeps the school room in repair, finds fire and is at every other expense. For this, he, the master, is obliged to teach all the children whose parents are in Mr. Coke's employ to read, write and cast accounts, the writers paying 2d. per week and finding their own copy books, the readers 1d. a week and he is also obliged to instruct those children employed in Mr. Coke's colliery if they are out of work even for a day. In addition to these he takes 10 private pupils. The girls, in addition to what the boys are taught are instructed in needlework and in all its branches.

He is also librarian to the library held in the school room consisting of mechanical publications, history, religion and general knowledge. To this library Mr. Coke is a large contributor but the bulk of the books have been purchased by the subscribers. This library is now open to all classes and sects who are only subject to fines in case of the books being damaged or overkept.

(Signed) THOMAS HANBURY.

CARNFIELD. (John Coke, Esq.)

No.306. Samuel Flack, engineman.

The engine works two shafts and is 30 horse power. The hard pit is 130 yards, the soft 112 yards deep. The seams in each are 4 feet and the headways the same. He does not know much about the inside of the pit. He has a flat rope and lets down as many as 10 or 12 at a time, when all men, about six. They go down at half past six to eight or half past with one hour for dinner, three-quarter days from half past six to six with three quarters of an hour for dinner and half days from half past six to three with no dinner hour. He has no bonnet but a Davy lamp. Both pits are dry in the works. He cannot say how many under 13 are employed but the youngest is hardly nine and he drives between. In the other pit the youngest is nine and does the same work. The butties pay him and he is not allowed for overtime. They have a little wildfire now and about a year ago many of the man and children were sadly burnt. They were crossing a fault and the sulphur was bad for three months but all have now got about well. A man broke his thigh by the bind falling. The soft pit is laid in lime and the cabin is good. In the hard pit the shaft is laid in lime and the cabin under repair. The pit is quite dry and the waggons are drawn by asses. There is no flat rope but a chain.

No.307. Stephen Gascoign.

He is 10 years old and has worked for three years. For the first year he opened and closed the door and he now works on the bank. He did drive between until lately. He has 1s. 2d. per day and lives a half mile from the pit. He is obliged to be there from half past six to eight with one hour for dinner, three-quarter days from half past six to seven and half days from half past six to four. He has dry bread and tea for breakfast and meat, bread and potatoes for dinner and the same again at night. He goes to the Normanton Ranters' Sunday School.

[This boy is B B and knows nothing. He says he is in Easy Lessons.]

No.308. Robert Shaw.

He is 11 years old and has worked for one year. He went for two years to the Normanton Church Sunday School and reads in the Testament and says he can write.

No.309. George Bentley.

He is eight years old and has worked for a year. He drives between and has 1s. per day. He lives at South Normanton and has a mile and a half to walk to the pit. He breakfasts before he leaves home. He goes down at half past six to eight and has one hour for dinner. Three-quarter days are from half past six to half past three or four with no dinner allowed. He never works at night or Sunday. He has bread and fat for breakfast, bread, potatoes and sometimes bacon for dinner and bread and milk at night. He goes to the Ranters' Sunday School at Normanton and learns a b, ab.

[This boy appears half-starved. He, as well as three others are BB. I visited their homes. It and the boys were the most wretched I witnessed.]

DENBY. (Robert Holden, Esq.)**No.310. John Hawley Sharpe, book-keeper.**

They have seven shafts at work. Nos.1, 2 and 3 are worked out and No.4 is not worked out but standing. No.5, Kilburne coal, but in the parish of Denby is 84 yards deep with the upper part only laid in lime. One bank is 70 yards and the waggon road is 16 yards and railed and 140 yards laddered and is drawn by young men from 15 to 18. It is winded from a windshaft 300 or 400 yards off. He considers it well winded. There is no wildfire and but little blackdamp. It is very little wet on the banks. The seam is 3 feet 6 inches with the headroom the same. There is only one employed under 13. No.6 Kilburne, in Kilburne parish is 54 yards deep and the shaft is not laid in lime with one bank 45 yards and the waggon road 130 yards. The greater part is laddered, that is, wood is laid as a ladder. The corves are the drawn by youths 16 to 18 years of age by the belt down a descent and then the empty one up. If these descents were laid with rails the weight of the corve would overcome the drawers. The seam is 3 feet 6 inches with the headway the same and it is winded from an old shaft 200 yards off by the old banks. It is well winded and there is no wildfire and very little blackdamp. It is a little wet under. Two only are under 13, the youngest is eight and opens and shuts the door. The Denby coal pits are the new coal. Salterwood Pit, No.13, is 31 yards deep and worked by one horse. The shaft is not laid in lime. The seam is 2 feet 9 inches and the headways vary from 3 feet 3 inches to 6 feet. There is one bank 14 yards and the waggon road is 19 yards. The waggons are drawn by youths from 13 to 16 years of age. It is winded from an old shaft 100 yards off. It is well winded and there is neither wildfire not blackdamp. It is rather wet under and above. There is one employed under 13 and seven under 18 years of age. College Pit is 20¹/₂ yards deep but he does not know the length of the bank. The waggon road is 32 yards and worked by one horse. It is winded from an old shaft. It has only been at work two or three days. The Mare Close, soft coal No.2 is 60 yards deep and the seam 3 feet 8 inches with the headroom the same. It is dry and not laid in lime. There are two banks of 59 yards each and the waggon way is 155 yards which is drawn by youths from 14 to 17 years of age by belts. It is winded from an old shaft and it is well winded. There is no wildfire but a little blackdamp but not to damage. Two are employed under 13 and the youngest is seven. There are seven under 18. Horse Pasture Pit, soft coal, is 70 yards deep and the shaft is not laid in lime. There is one bank of 128 yards and the waggon road is 37 yards. The seam is 3 feet 8 inches and the headway the same. It is winded from an old shaft. It is well winded and there is not wildfire or blackdamp. The waggons are drawn by youths from 15 to 17 years of age. There is one under 13 and he is 11 years old. Eight are under 18. Salterwood, No.12, hard coal is 66¹/₂ yards deep with the seam 3 feet 4 inches and a headway of 4 feet. One bank is 61 yards and the waggon way 82 yards and laddered part of the way. It is dry and the waggons are drawn by youths from 14 to 16 years of age. It is well winded from a wind shaft and

they have neither wildfire nor blackdamp. Two are employed under 13, the youngest is 10 and there are 11 under 18. It would be no detriment to these works if children under 10 were not employed. They have no bonnets, no Davy lamps but there are ropes for the men and boys and they let them down two to four at a time. They work from seven to seven with no dinner hour, three-quarter days from seven to uncertain and half days from seven to uncertain. Mr. Holden prepares the shaft and headways, finds the tools in the first place and they are afterwards repaired by the men. It is then let by their own butties at so much per ton. The holers are paid by the stint. The hammerers, loaders and banksman as well as the children are paid by the butties per day's work, so many per ton. The butties are not allowed either to take on or turn off either men or boy without the consent of Mr. Holden's agent. He considers the children are under Mr. Holden's protection. There are three persons employed to keep the windways in order. The children are all males and they are neither hired nor apprenticed. There are no notices as to rewards, punishments or conduct but it is understood a month's notice will be required and given before leaving. There is neither school, club or reading room attached to the works. There are two Sunday Schools, one Church the other Methodist to both of which Mr. Holden contributes.

(Signed) JOHN HAWLEY SHARPE.

DENBY FREE SCHOOL.

This school was founded by Jane Massey who by her will in 1728 bequeathed £200 and other effects to trustees, £200 towards procuring Queen Anne's bounty to the church at Denby and the residue towards erecting a school and providing for the same as a Free School in the parish of Denby for teaching boys and girls within the said parish to read and write.

The premises purchased for support of the school consist of a farm house and buildings and several closes, altogether 38A. 0R. 18P. The lands lie partly intermixed with those purchased for the incumbent and the whole form one farm. The share of the rent applicable to the school is £47. 10s.

The school premises consist of a dwelling house for the master, and garden. The buildings are kept in repair by the trustees.

The master receives a salary of 30 guineas besides a gratuity of 4 guineas. Books are provided by the trustees and each child, if they behave well, receives a Bible and Prayer book on leaving school.

Rules of this school, by order of the trustees:-

Scholars to be at school at nine o'clock in the morning or be punished.

Every scholar that omits attending eight weeks together, be immediately dismissed.

Any scholar not attending 140 days within the year will be dismissed also, never to be admitted again.

No.311. David Stenson, Master.

This school is now free to 20 boys and 13 girls. The boys are taught reading, writing and "common arithmetic" also the Church Catechism. They are admitted at seven years old until 12 and none are kept longer than 12 years old. The girls are taught reading, writing, sewing, and knitting and some few the first rules of arithmetic. He also takes about 20 private pupils, readers at 4d., writers 7d., accounts 8d. per week. The third rule prevents the pit boys attending. He is also superintendent of the Church Sunday School where they are taught writing as well as reading on a Sunday until a year ago when, through religious motives, they left it off and he now teaches writing on a Monday evening as well as arithmetic from seven to nine. Very few of the pit boys avail themselves of this, they are too tired. He has not perceived at the Sunday School any difference between the pit boys and others.

(Signed) DAVID STENSON.

COLLEGE PIT.

No.312.

The pit is 21 yards deep and the shaft is only partly bricked without lime. It is worked by one horse. There are two banks 16 yards each and the waggon road is 30 yards. The waggons are drawn by an ass. It is very wet under foot and at present but badly winded from a shaft for the purpose and an old coal shaft. There is no wildfire but blackdamp. No accident has occurred and the pit has worked for only a few days. There is a round rope and never more than two are let up and down at a time. There are five boys under 13 years of age including the driver. The youngest is 10 and there are none between 13 and 18.

[Information got at the pit mouth.]

DENBY, KILBURNE OPENWOOD LANE PIT.

No.313. Vincent Fletcher, engineman.

The engine is 8 or 10 horse power and the pit is 84 yards deep. It is vented from a windshaft by soughs. It is dry and well winded. He never lets either men nor boys down by chain or more than four at a time. They work from half past six to nine with no dinner allowed. They never make three-quarter or half days. There are not many under 13 but the youngest is nine. He drives between. There is no wildfire but a little blackdamp but no accidents. They have neither Davy lamps nor bonnet.

No.314. William Knighton.

He is 74 years old and he began work when he was six years and three months. At that time he drew by the belt. "He is now like an old man". He does odd jobs on the bank of the pit mouth. He has not been able to work in a pit for 20 years. In his opinion, boys ought not to be allowed to work in a pit before they are nine. The case is, that in most pits a "little one is of more value than a big one". They ought to have half an hour allowed for breakfast and one hour for dinner and never work more than ten hours. He remembers "mony" a time he has dropped asleep with the meat in his mouth through fatigue. It is those butties, they are the very devil. They first impose upon them in one way, then in another. They now make a child receiving 1s. per day pay 2d. for candles. He was two years in farmer's service and several at the Butterley Foundry but in these places he never worked half as hard as in the pit. "It's sad slavish work, but he was brought up to it and always liked it best."

DENBY AND KILBURNE PIT.

[No.1 shaft is laid in lime and there is a poor cabin. There is flat rope and it is 60 yards deep. There is only one bank at work and the seam is 1 yard 10 inches. This shaft was not at work owing to the blackdamp and no one at the mouth.]

No.315. James Creswell.

He is just 14 and has worked in the pits for four or five years. He now draws the waggons by the belt. Samuel Hunt, who is 12 years old, shoves behind him. There are from 6 to 10 cwt. on each corve and it is uphill. He draws 42 yards. He has not used the belt above two months and it hurt him much at first. It hurt him now. Thomas Housley was obliged to be sent to the Derby Infirmary. He hurt his hip so that he cannot again use the belt and has been out of work for 20 weeks. He, James Creswell has 1s. 3d. per day. He goes down at half past six to nine but it has been this winter after ten and no dinner time allowed. Half days are from half past six to three or four.

No.316. Francis Parkin.

He is 13 years of age and has worked for two years. He now drives the ass and wears a belt. There are two banks, one 10 yards and the other 40. He brings 4 or 6 cwt. on each corve. The waggon road is 40 yards and the waggons are drawn by boys of 17 or 18 years old by the belt. The belt makes him red and sore. He is quite sure the engine does not stop for dinner. They take it in their hands and are not allowed to stop. The banks are dry and there is no wildfire but there is blackdamp. It puts out the candles and "makes them have a pain in the belly". No accident has happened since he was in the pit. They do not work on Sundays but work at night sometimes. They did so the night before Good Friday and do so before any holiday. Half a year since they worked all night every other week. They go down at six to nine, sometimes they come up at eight. They have to turn 22 waggon loads before they can come up, let the time be what it may. For half days they go down six to three or four. He has 1s. 3d per day. They very seldom work three-quarter days. There are only two under 13. They drive between with the ass. He gets his breakfast before he goes and has milk porridge. He takes his dinner with him, bread and cheese and sometimes cold meat. He has no clothing. He has bread and milk for supper and he never has anything to drink in the pit. He now goes to the Baptist Sunday School at Kilburne and reads in the Testament. He cannot write his name but spells a little. He cannot spell church or chapel but spells his name. His father is a butty at the pit.

No.317. William Ward.

He is 15 years old and is the engine boy. The engine is 11 or 12 horse power. The shaft is not laid in lime and they have no bonnet or Davy lamp. The pit is 70 yards deep. He never lets down more than five or six at a time and always by the rope. They go down at seven and if paid for a day it is nine or ten o'clock before he draws the up. There are two boys under 13. They never stop for dinner, they snatch it as they can. The waggons are drawn by the engine.

No.318. Vincent Brown.

He is the engineman to the hard and soft coal pits. He lets the men down the soft coal pit by a round rope and the hard by a flat one, four at a time. They work from half past six to nine or after with no dinner hour nor three-quarter days or half days. Fourteen gang waggon loads is considered a day's work. There are more than two tons in each.

No.319. Samuel Briggs.

He is 60 years old and works at Denby short soft or Salterwood Pit. The shaft is not laid with lime and is winded from three shafts. It is well winded and there is no wildfire and very little blackdamp. There are two banks better than 50 yards each and one waggon road. The waggons are drawn by boys, one 12, the other 16 years old with belts. There is half a ton or more on each corve and they have 20 yards to draw it. The headway is four feet. He does not know how many under 13 are employed but there are two only at nine and they drive between. They go down at half past six to eight or nine with no dinner hour allowed. They get it as they can. This is the worst in the field neither men nor boys have any comfort in their meals.

John Reeve, about a year since, broke his leg in this pit by the bind falling. He has worked in the pits since he was seven but had not been able to work down the pits for two years he is so rheumatic. He thinks children ought not to work under 10 or 12 years of age and eight hours besides meals is quite enough. "They always work double and thinks by that time it was time they straightened."

No.320. George Creswell.

He is 12 years old and has worked for two years. He first opened and closed the doors for half a year and had 8d. per day. He then assisted to load and had 1s. per day. He now helps to load at the Denby Kilburne Pit. He goes down at half past six to eight and sometimes as late as 10. Three-quarter days are from half past six to five and they never stop for dinner. They never work on Sundays or at night. They never go down more than four at once. He lives a mile from the pit and starts a little before six. He has his breakfast, milk porridge, which his mother makes overnight and takes bread and cheese with him which he eats when there is anything amiss, if not, "they have a bite when they can". He has potatoes and bacon when he gets home. He is never rewarded or punished as there are no corporals and he never swears. He goes to the Methodist Sunday School and has been there for a year. He was at Smalley Free School before he worked in the pits. He cannot write but reads in the Bible. He has lost his reading "welly" with being in the pit. He has no time. His back aches too much to read when they get home. He can scarcely spell words of one syllable. [Otherwise a sharp boy.] His father is a holer. He does not like working in a pit but had rather go there than drive a plough.

No.321. Samuel Hunt.

He is 12 years old and has worked for three years. He drove between and had 1s. per day. He now shoves the corve from the bank to the part of the waggon road as far as ladders. The boy who draws before was 14 last week. He draws with the belt. He goes down at half past six to eight and sometimes to ten with no dinner allowed. Three-quarter days are from half past six to four. He lives more than a mile from the pit and takes his breakfast, either milk porridge or tea, which his mother makes overnight and if they want it warm they must make the fire themselves. He takes bread and cheese and sometimes bread only which he eats as he can and has not other dinner. When he gets home he has potatoes and now and then some bacon. He had a bit of ham on Easter Sunday and it was two or three months since he had tasted beef or mutton. It is too late when they get home to play and he had rather go to bed. He does not often go to school but has been to the Methodist Sunday School a few times. He sometimes goes to the Methodist chapel at Kilburne and does so most Sundays. His father loads at the coal yard. He cannot spell *cow* or *cat*. He does not like working in the pit but had rather do it than go to the plough or make stockings.

PENTRICH.

No.322. George Haslam, partner.

They are now working only one shaft which is 70 yards deep, seam 3 feet 8 inches with headway the same. They do not work with butties and have not for 16 years. The reason is that the colliers working under the butties had so much difficulty in getting their money and they worked the men and children 16 or 18 hours a day. He is sure the children are much better used and fewer complaint made by their parents now than under the old system.

[In this return made by Messrs H. and Co. a new shaft only now heading was alluded to as to wildfire.]

(Signed) G HASLAM.

No.323. John Wilders.

He is the bailiff of Messrs. Haslam and Co. and has been so for about five years. They are now working only one shaft which is 70 yards deep and the seam and the headway 3 feet 8 inches. There are two banks, one 50, the other 70 yards. The waggon road is 160 yards and the waggons are drawn by asses and boys aged 17 with belts. The pit is winded from an old shaft 100 yards off and part through old banks and wind soughs. He looks after them himself and visits them once a month. It is well winded. There is no wildfire and very little blackdamp. No serious accidents have occurred in the last two years. There is no rope and no Davy lamp but they have a bonnet. The works are from six to eight with three quarters of an hour allowed for dinner. Three-quarter days from six to about five with three quarters of an hour for dinner and half days are from half past six to two. He has about seven boys under 13 years of age and 16 under 18 with the youngest aged 11. There are no females. Occasionally one or two boys work at night but never the day before. He has worked under butties but he thinks the children are better attended to and better off directly under the masters than the butties. There are no rewards or punishments excepting fining 1s. per month for an oath or 2s. 6d. for a man ill using the children. There is a club, the men paying 1s. per month and receive 3s. per week for either accident or sickness. He has worked in pits since he was 11 and is now 44. He thinks a child ought to be 12 or 13 before he works in a pit and 12 hours including one hour for dinner would do them no harm.

(Signed) JOHN WILDERS.

No.324. Nathaniel Waters, engineman.

There are three new shafts sinking and one nearly ready for work. They have only one boy employed and he above 13 years of age. One shaft is 115 yards deep and one 110 yards deep. The other has not got to the bottom. The shafts are partly laid in lime. They have a rope, a Davy lamp but no bonnet.

No.325. John Walker, engineman.

The engine is eight horse power and there is a rope but they do not use it. He lets down and up four or five at a time. There is a bonnet but it is seldom used. The children are let down from six to eight for whole days with three quarters of an hour for dinner. Three-quarter days are from six to five, often six.

No.326. Samuel Waller.

He is 12 years old and has worked a year and a half in the pits. When he first went he wore the belt and pulled at the waggon with the ass and had 8d. per day. He then worked by night and drove between and has 1s. per night. He is now heading at the new shaft. When he works at the coal he goes down from six to half past eight with half an hour for dinner. He is quite sure it is no more. He goes to the Swanwick Baptist Sunday School and has been there for three years. He reads in the Testament but does not write.

SWANWICK and SUMMERCOTES. (W.P. Morewood, Esq.)

No.327. Charles Mounteney, engineman.

The engine is 10 horse power. They have a flat rope, no bonnet or Davy lamp. He lets up and down five or six at a time. There is very little wildfire or blackdamp. There has been no accident at the pit but at the other to which the engine is attached but now worked out, a little more than a year since, two lads were much hurt and nearly killed owing to the carelessness of the engine boy who had care of the engine and was only 14 years of age, drawing them over the pulley. The engineman are obliged to be there by five in the morning and never home before ten and the butties allow 2s. per day for all these hours. They are therefore obliged to employ boys. He lets down children into

the pit at half past six to eight or half past with three quarters of an hour allowed for dinner. Half days are from half past six to four or after with no dinner time.

No.328. Marmaduke Wagstaff.

He is 12 years old and has worked in the pit two and a half years. One and half he drove between and now draws the waggon by the belt and has 1s. 4d. per day. He works from half past six to eight with one hour allowed for dinner, half days from half past six to two. He mostly has half a ton on the waggon but sometimes a ton. He and a lad who is 14 draws it and it is "hardish work". He goes to the Ranter's Sunday School and reads in the testament.

[This boy knows nothing.]

No.329. William Fletcher.

He is 10 years old and has worked one and a half years. He hangs on and has 1s. 2d. per day. He goes to the Calvinist Sunday School at Riddings and has been there for three years. He reads in the Testament. He can neither spell nor does he know what bread is made of.

[Is very ignorant.]

No.330. Joseph Tomlinson.

He has been ground bailiff 24 years. They now have two shafts at work in Swanwick, the Landsale drawn by one horse and the Crabtree by two and one shaft at Summercotes, worked by an eight horsepower engine. The Landsale is 20 yards deep with a seven foot seam, five feet only getting coal and headway five feet. There are two banks, one 20 and one 25 yards with the waggon road 100 yards. The waggons are drawn by boys from 12 or 18 to 20 by the belt. The children work from seven to three or four drawing but some of the boys go for odd jobs at three o'clock a.m. They let only one at a time down by a round rope. The pit is winded from a wind pit and Crabtree through old banks. There is no wildfire, a little blackdamp in summer but no accident. Crabtree is 35 yards deep and has two banks, one 25, the other 50 yards. There are two waggon roads and the waggons are drawn by boys from 14 to 15 by the belt. They go to work at six to seven or eight with one hour for dinner. Night work is from eight p.m. to half past six a.m. with one hour for a meal. Only one man and two boys are let down by a round rope. The seam is five feet getting coal and headways the same. There is no wildfire, a little blackdamp and winded from an old shaft and Landsale. Summercotes is 42 yards deep, seam 3 feet 9 inches in the soft coal with two banks, one 100 and the other 20 yards. The waggon road is 50 yards and the waggons drawn by boys and one stint by a pony. The pit is winded from the engine shaft which runs on the level and is well winded. There is a little wildfire and but little blackdamp. It wants a chimney sometimes in summer. There has been no accident in any of these pits. A flat rope is used. Two or three are let down and up and there is no bonnet or Davy lamp. It is a little wet in winter both under and over. Crabtree Pit is quite dry and six work there under 13 years of age, the youngest being nine. There are five between 13 and 18 at work in Crabtree. Mr. Morewood sinks the shafts, prepares the headings and finds certain quantity of tools. He then lets it to their own butties at so much per ton. The butties then employ the holers by stint, the loaders and banksmen by the ton and the hammerers, woodmen and children by the day. If he sees they are ill used he interferes but in other respects the butties are the masters of the children who are neither hired or apprenticed. The combination board as to warning is the only notice in this field. Men and boys all pay 1s. per month and receive 6s. a week in case of accident, 3s. for illness and when past work, 2s. per week. The medical man is paid out of any balance in hand and if that runs out Mr. M. pays the deficiency. He also finds the pensioners in coals. They have neither school nor reading room but most of them attend the various Sunday Schools in the neighbourhood. He has worked in the pits himself. He did not begin until he was 20 and before that he worked in lead mines at Ashover. He thinks nine or ten not too soon for a boy to work, "he thinks it right to begin with them by time". Twelve hours including half an hour for breakfast and one for dinner enough.

(Signed) JOSEPH TOMLINSON.

SWANWICK FREE SCHOOL

The school was founded by Elizabeth Turner by indenture, 3rd. April, 1740, to teach 12 poor boys of the parish of Alfreton of which Swanwick and Greenhill Lane should have preference, of whose parents could not well be at the charge of their children learning to read and write, and the remainder to be laid out in such charitable uses as the trustees should think proper and that no children should receive the benefit of the charities under 5 years of age or continue after 10.

The property now consists of a tenement with a barn, garden, &c. a croft containing 1A., as well as 13 closes containing altogether 14A. 2R., all situated at Swanwick. The house and farm are now occupied by the schoolmaster for his own benefit. On the 2nd. of November, 1810, the then trustees ordered that the schoolmaster should receive £15 a year ordered by the foundress for teaching 12 poor boys and 8 poor girls to read and write and cast accounts. That he should be admitted tenant from year to year of the house and lands, at the yearly rent of £50 and that the surplus of the rents beyond £15 and such other sum that might be required for repairs, should be paid to the schoolmaster on condition that he should teach 20 additional children, 12 boys and 8 girls, free of expense to read, write and cast accounts and that the master should find the children books, pens, ink, paper and coals provided that no child should be taught to write until he or she was seven years of age and that all children should be dismissed the Christmas after they have attained 10 years old and their places filled by trustees. That children absenting themselves a fortnight should be considered no longer on the charity. Also that if the master took more than 10 private pupils he should keep an assistant. Since this period the part as respects the schoolmaster finding books, &c., has been remitted by the trustees. The children are now admitted all of them from Swanwick and Greenhill Lane by the appointment of the Rev. J. Wood as vacancies occur.

No.331. Joseph Machin, Assistant Master.

There are now 25 boys who are taught reading, writing and arithmetic and 15 girls who are taught the same, besides these there are about 20 pay pupils who pay 3d. per week for reading in easy lessons, 4d. the Bible and 6d. for writing and accounts. He has none in the school who has worked in the mines or pits. He does not keep an evening school. He is a teacher in the Swanwick Church Sunday School, he has about 15 or 16 there who do work in the pits and the forge. He has observed the coal pit boys a little duller than others at the school.

(Signed) JOSEPH MACHIN.

[The regulations of the Free School prevent that school being of any benefit to the children employed in the pits, particularly to those whose parents send them to work before 10 years of age.]

No.332. Henry Fiddler.

He is 11 years of age and has worked a year. He helps the waggon, shoves and draws with a hook and belt. He thinks the young man who draws with him is 19. He goes down at seven and comes up between three and four. He is paid for half days, 9d and never works whole days now. His wages are 1s. 6d. per day. He never gets rewarded or punished. He is not in the club as it only for those whose wages are 2s. per day. He likes working in the pit and he has never met with any accident himself nor has there been any serious accident excepting the loader had his shoulder and back cut by coal falling. He was out of work for a week or two. He was at a day school two or three months. He reads the Testament but does not write. He has been at Sunday Schools for three years. He cannot spell Derby or Ripley.

[Is very ignorant.]

No.333. John Wilson.

He is 70 years old and has worked since he was seven when he drove the gin horse and had 4d. per day. When he went into the pit he was 10 and he then had about 1s. per day. He did not wear a belt as they did not at that time wear one in the pit. He then went holing and was 16. He has been through the different occupations of a collier and worked until last Christmas twelve months. He is not asthmatic or rheumatic and has pains all over him but, "thank God! he is heart whole". He last worked in the Crabtree Pit belonging to Mr. Morewood. The children began to turn coal at half past six to eight with one hour allowed for dinner. He cannot say what they did at Landsale Pit. He is sure it is owing to working in pits that he is suffering. When they are heading, at which work the children assist, they are always in the wet and to this he attributes his rheumatism and the blackdamp makes them all asthmatic by they are 50. He thinks a boy ought not to work in a pit until he is 12 years old, he cannot stand the fatigue, it is like working a horse too young. Twelve hours is enough for either man or child or horse to work. Out of this he ought to have one hour for dinner and thinks they should be allowed time for other meals. He considers Mr. Morewood's coal field one of the best both for man and child. He has been pretty free from accidents and has been bruised and his arm and ankle put out now and then.

his

(Signed) JOHN ~~X~~ WILSON
mark.

No.334. William Pepperday,

He is 14 years old and has worked for five years. He drove the gin horse a year and a half and had 6d. per day. He then was at the pit mouth to assist the banksman and had 9d. When he was 12 he went working in the pit and hung on the corves and had 2s. per day and he does so now. At Landsale the works are pretty dry, the shaft quite so. He assists to hole and goes about 3 o'clock and works until seven and then begins to turn and does so until three or "a bit after". For this he is paid half a day's work. 1s. and what he can get at holing at 3d. per yard or 6d. a stint. He has sometimes done a yard and two stints, that is 1s. is the most he ever got. They have an hour allowed to get "snap" at 12 o'clock. There are two in the pit and two at the bank under 13 years old. The two in the pit help to waggon, they shove the full corves and pull the empty ones with bank hook, it is a piece of iron, hooked and about a yard long. He goes to the Free School at Swanwick on a Monday evening to write and Church Sunday School where he reads in easy lessons. He cannot spell horse or brush and cannot write his name. He belongs to the club.

[England Pit is not at work owing to an injunction from the Court of Chancery. Tegg's pit also.]

No.335. Samuel England.

He is 12 years old and is the bank boy. He goes to the Swanwick Church Sunday School and had been there for only a few months. He used to go to the Calvinist and Baptist schools in the same village and has attended for five years. He reads the Bible and writes.

[Had not an opportunity to try his abilities.]

No.336 David Clark.

He is 12 years old and is the bank boy at the Crabtree Pit. He goes at 8 p.m. to 6 a.m. and stops an hour for meals. He works five nights a week and does not like it, it being so cold and dark. He had rather work two hours longer by day. He goes to the Baptist Sunday School at Riddings. He is just put in the Testament but cannot spell. He has attended for three years.

No.337. Samuel Farnworth.

He is 13 years old and has worked in a pit since he was 7. He drives a horse on the banks and wears a belt and goes backwards the same as the ass lads. He has 2s. per day. He goes down at six to half past six with one hour allowed for supper. He thinks there are none at Crabtree Pit under 13 either night or day. No accident of any kind past a trap or two. He reads in the Bible but cannot write his name.

[Crabtree Pit is not laid in lime and is worked by two horses. There is no chain but a round rope and no bonnet or Davy lamp. I examined two or three who were at work and could not stop. They appear to attend the various Sunday Schools but were very deficient in answering the most common place questions.]

LANDSALE PIT, SWANWICK. (Mr. Morewood.)

No.338. William Armstrong.

He is 11 years old and has worked at the pit mouth for two years. He clears the slack. He goes to the Baptist Sunday School at Riddings. He writes but spells badly. He has attended three or four years. He works from six to six with half an hour allowed for dinner.

(Signed) WILLIAM ARMSTRONG.

No.339. Thomas Parkin.

He is 10 years old and has worked at the pit mouth with Armstrong for a year. He goes to the Calvinist Sunday School at Riddings. He reads in the Testament and writes and spells better than Armstrong. He has attended for about four years. He works from five to six with half an hour allowed for dinner.

(Signed) THOMAS PARKIN.

RIDDINGS. (Messrs. Oakes, and Co.)

No.340. Edward Fletcher, Agent to the mines.

He has been so for 20 years. They now have five shafts at work for coal, one for coal and iron, three of them are upon the new principle, one of which has been at work about a year. He thinks the plan so good that they are sinking all upon that plan. The reason he prefers this method is that nearly all the asses and very young children are done away with. The corves are filled from the loader and it, and wheels attached are raised to the mouth in a much shorter time than by the old method. There is also another advantage, the corves are obliged to be filled with a regular weight, say 5 or 6 cwt. whereas, before, a coal of 15 cwt. was frequently hung on, which oppressed the engine and often occasioned accidents. The coal is also got much cleaner. This method allows nearly double the number of loaders to work at the same time. Another advantage is that a 12 horse power engine will do the work as full and easy as one of 14 by the old plan. Also a very great advantage is the letting the workpeople up and down. Although he has all his life been used to chains, he scarcely feels himself safe in them since he has used this method. These pits are well winded from each other and old shafts. He considers they are well winded and no coal field has had fewer accidents from either wildfire or blackdamp. He has never had an instance of either a man or a boy meeting his death from either of these causes. They have flat ropes at all the pits and no chains. They have Davy lamps but have never had occasion to use them. All their pits are quite dry in the workings excepting Riddings furnace pit. Now and then it rains but very seldom. All the new shafts are laid in lime. The Hard Coal is 100 yards deep, one bank 110 yards, one waggon road 131 yards, the other 133 yards. In one the waggons are drawn by asses in the other by boys of 10 to 15 years of age. They are shoved. The seam is 3½ feet, the headways about 4 feet. The Soft is also 100 yards deep and it is on the new plan. The workings are 152 yards and the headway 4 feet 6 inches, the seam 3 feet 10 inches. There are four waggon roads which are 271, 266, 245 and 245 yards. The Furnace coal is 180 yards deep in four banks, 14, 14, 41 and 44 yards. The waggon roads are 264, 272, 135 and 48 yards. The seam is 3 feet 10 inches and headway 4 feet 6 inches. These two pits are in Greenhill Lane. At Riddings the Furnace Pit is 50 yards deep on the old principle, There are two banks, one 20 and one 72 yards, the others 40, 37, 35, 45 and 43 yards. The waggon roads are 220 and 332 yards and the seam 3 feet 10 inches with headways 4 feet. The waggons are all drawn by boys from 10 to 15 years of age excepting for one stint where an ass is used. The New Main coal is 100 yards deep and on the new principle. There are six banks, one 20 yards and the others 40, 37, 35, 45 and 43 yards. The waggon roads are 116, 151, 171, 252, 209 and 249 yards. The seam is 3 feet usable with headways 4 feet 6 inches. The coal and ironstone is on the old plan but are going to adopt the new one. It is 52 yards deep with one bank 118 yards and waggon way 55 yards. The waggons are drawn by boys.

There is a club both for accidents and illness. The men pay 1s. per month, the boys not receiving 2s. per day, 8d. The men, in case of need 5s., the boys 3s. 6d. per week. The company mostly pay the medical men and make up the deficiencies. There is no school or reading room. There are no rewards or punishments or any notice excepting the combination notice as to a month's warning. In the old pits they are all worked under by butties as at the neighbouring fields, and the company have nothing to do with the children. On the new plan, the stallman gets the coals, loads them and employs a young man to shove them about 20 to 30 yards. He also pays the holers and blowers. The company then take charge of the coal, and engage children and banksmen on their own account. They never work more than 12 hours out of which an hour is allowed for dinner. The children are paid every month and have regular subsistence money. Besides the mines they have thirteen ironstone pits, six worked by gin horses, three by a steam engine, the rest by wallow. They are all well winded. In the pits on the new principle, one man is stationed in each pit, whose only work is to look after the windways. At the others, both coal and iron are under the ground bailiff who has two men under him who are always employed for that purpose.

(Signed) EDWARD FLETCHER.

RIDDINGS IRONSTONE PITS.

No.341. Benjamin Taylor.

He is 12 years old and has worked two years. He pushes the waggon and works from six to six with one hour for dinner, half days from six to three. He has 1s. per day. He never works nights nor Sundays. He is paid once a month. If he wants subsistence he goes to Horsley's tommy shop. He attends the Calvinist Sunday School at Riddings and has been there six year. He was one years at a day school. He cannot write but reads in the Bible. Spells pretty well.

No.342. George Daws.

He is 15 years old and has worked for seven years. He now hangs on and has 2s. per day and is paid once a month. He goes to the Calvinist Sunday School at Riddings but cannot write yet, they teach him nothing. He has been four years to Sunday School. He reads in the Testament. He cannot spell either church or chapel.

No.343. John Watts.

He is 9 years old and has worked half a year driving the gin horse. He works from six to six with one hour for dinner. He goes neither to church nor chapel nor school. Cannot say a letter. He does not know what either bread or cloth are made from.

GREENHILL LANE HARD COAL PIT.

[Shaft laid in lime, no chain, but rope, not a good one.]

No.344. William Lees.

He is 8 years old and has worked above a year. At first he drove between and had 1s. per day. He is sure he works from six to nine or half past eight and has only 20 minutes for dinner, three-quarter days from six to after six, half days from six to two. He now helps his father on the bank. He goes to the Ranters' Sunday School at Summercotes and has been for three years. He is in easy lessons but can neither spell cow, cat or dog.

No.345. John Fletcher, engine boy.

He is 14 years old and has had the management of the engine for eight months. He lets up or down eight or nine at a time by the rope. The pit is 95 yards deep with three banks and three waggon ways. The waggons are pushed by boys from 12 to 13 years old. He does not know exactly how many under 13 or 18 but thinks there are 10 under 13. They work from six to nine, three-quarter days from six to seven or after, half days from six to three or four. He does not stop the engine for many minutes, not more than a quarter of an hour, when the butties order him off again. There is a little wildfire and blackdamp. A few months since a man had his leg broken by the coal falling. His wages are paid once a month by the Company. He has no subsistence unless at Mr. Horsley's tommy shop.

No.346. John Bell.

He is 12 years old and has worked for five or nearly six years. The first year he opened and shut the door and had 10d. per day. He then drove between and had 1s. per day. He now helps the loader.

No.347. William Bell.

He is 11 years old and drives between. He and his brother have 10s. per week between them, whether the pit works or not. They are neither hired nor apprenticed "passed the months notice". They work from six to eight, often longer and have 20 minutes for dinner but are obliged to get all in order. Three-quarter days are from six to six and half days from six to three or after. The works are dry. Both he and John go to the Ranters' Sunday School at Summercotes. Neither of them can spell nor do they know what d o g spells.

No.348. Robert Bradshaw.

He does not know his age but he has had care of the engine for six months. It works the coal and the ironstone shaft. He does not know the power of the engine or how many boys under 13 or 18 are in the pit. He does not know how many banks and waggons roads there are. He thinks there is one boy under nine. He is a very little one. They go down at six to eight or after with half an hour allowed for dinner. Three-quarter days are from six to six, half days from six to three or after four sometimes. He lets down or up six at a time by rope. There is no wildfire but some blackdamp.

No.349. Francis Haywood.

He is 12 years old and has worked for five years. He pushes the empty tubs and has 1s. 2d. per day. He works from six to six and has one hour allowed for dinner, half days six to three. He goes to the Church Sunday School at Riddings and reads in the Bible. He has never learned to write.

No.350. John Sharp.

He is 11 years old and has worked three years. He opens and shuts the door and has 10d. per day. He goes to the Church Sunday School at Swanwick.

No.351. Richard Haywood.

He is 10 years old and has worked three years. He opens and shuts the door and has 10d. per day. He goes to the Church Sunday School and reads in the Bible. He cannot write and spells very badly.

No.352. George Daws.

He is 15 years old and has worked for seven years. He now hang on and has 2s. per day. He is paid once a month. He has been to the Calvinist Sunday School for four years but cannot write but reads in the Bible. He can neither spell church nor chapel.

No.353. Francis Marriott.

He is 10 years old and has worked at the soft pit for more than a year. He waggons but does not wear the belt. He has 1s. per day. He works from six to six with one hour allowed for dinner but has to make all in order before he can begin. He goes to the Ranters' Sunday School.

[Does not know a letter and is very ignorant.]

No.354. Joseph Hewitt.

[He is about 11 years old and was last Monday in the act of getting in the box to descend the shaft when his foot caught the box and flung him backwards down the shaft and killed him on the spot. No one was to blame but himself.]

No.355. Richard Eyre.

He is 13 years old and has worked five years. At first he drove between and has 1s. per day. He now drives the waggon and assists with the ass with the belt. He has 1s. 6d. per day and works from six to six with one hour for dinner, half days from six to three. The works are all dry and there is a little wildfire. They are let down by rope sometimes 12 at a time. They have neither rewards not punishments. They are paid every month in money, if they can wait, if not they go to Horsley's tommy shop. They take a ticket from the butties, who are always ready to give it, as, they say, they receive so much in the shilling for themselves. Last week Joseph Hewitt, a boy of 11 years of age, was too eager to get into the box to go down the shaft. He was striding over when the box rose and he fell backwards down the shaft and was killed instantly. He has been to a day school two or three years. He now goes to the Ranters' Sunday School. He is in easy lessons.

[Cannot spell and is very ignorant.]

No.356. William Flint.

He is the engineman to the soft and furnace pit. It is 100 yards deep. He lets down six or seven at time in a box. They work from six to six and have one hour for dinner. He knows nothing about the pit. They have a little wildfire. He has no Davy lamp. Besides the boy just killed, a man had his leg broken two or three months since by the bind falling.

No.357. Samuel Parker.

He is 11 years old and has worked two or three years. He drives the ass on the waggon road and has 1s. per day. He works from six to six and has one hour for dinner, half days from six to two. There are nine waggon ways and the waggons are drawn by boys excepting one stint. The works are dry and they have little wildfire and no blackdamp. They go down eight at a time. He was a year at a day school. He now goes to the Baptist Sunday School at Riddings. He can write his name.

No.358. William Langton.

He is the engineman in the new main shaft. It is 110 yards deep. His engine is 14 horse power. The pit is worked on the new principle. There are not above two or three boys under 13, they open and shut the doors. They work from six to five or six and do not stop for dinner, half days from six to two. He lets four or five down at a time on the cradle. They have a little wildfire but no blackdamp. A man was badly burnt when sinking or heading. He was kept out of working for a long time. They have no Davy. There are six banks and six waggon ways. The waggons are shoved by boys 15 to 16 years of age. They have 4 feet 6 headways. A pit could not be well worked on this

plan without a 4 feet headway. He is paid once a month by the company. There is no subsistence money. There is a very good cabin.

GREENHILL LANE SOFT COAL PIT.

No.359. Richard Eyre.

He is 13 years old and has worked five years. At first he drove between and had 1s. per day. He now drives the waggons and helps to draw with the belt and has 1s. 6d. per day. He works from six to six with one hour for dinner, half days from six to three and no dinner. The works are all dry and there is a little wildfire but no blackdamp. There is no chain but a rope and he has been down with as many as 12 at once. They neither reward nor punish. They are paid once a month and if they want subsistence they are obliged to take it in goods which they obtain from the tommy shop kept by the overlooker of the whole works by taking a ticket from the butties. He went to a day school three or four years. He now goes to the Ranters' Sunday School and is on easy lessons.

[Cannot spell horse or cow and otherwise is ignorant.]

No.360 Samuel Parker.

He is 11 years old and has worked in the pits for two or three years. He now works in Greenhill Lane Soft Coal Pit where he drives the ass on the waggon road. He does not wear the belt and has 1s. per day. He works from six to six with one hour for dinner, half days from six to two. He attends the Baptist Sunday School at Riddings. He was at a day school a year and can write his name.

No.361. Benjamin Taylor.

He is 12 years old and has worked for two years, he pushed the waggons and has 1s. per day and works from six to six with one hour for dinner, half days from six to three with no meals. He never works nights or Sundays and is paid once a month. If he wants subsistence he is obliged to get a ticket from the butty and go to the tommy shop. He went for a year to a day school, six years to the Calvinist Sunday School at Riddings. He cannot write and reads in the Bible. He can spell tolerably.

FURNACE COAL, Greenhill Lane.

At this pit the coal is raised in a very superior way. I should think the speed about four times faster than the usual method. The coal is loaded by the loader as he gets it. It is, if very large, broken and then about 6 cwt. in an iron a box, with wheels underneath, is shoved by two boys about 13 or 14 years of age on iron rails, which are placed up to the point the loader undertakes to deliver them. They are pushed with ease by the boys to under the pit mouth then placed by a man in a cradle, drawn up and when at the top, by a simple piece of machinery, the banksman closes the mouth of the pit, the waggon is wheeled off and all done with the greatest safety and without the aid of children in the pit under the age of 13 years. The shaft is 186 yards deep and wood is placed down each side to form a groove in the cradle to run in which steadies it and adds greatly to the safety. From information I received per letter, I found the closing of the pit mouth for the purpose of sliding off the waggon does not interfere with the ventilation of the pit.

No.362. Thomas Taylor.

He has a son, Isaac, 15 years old, he was obliged to take him away from the Hard Coal Pit as they imposed upon him so much. He worked 18 days and they only paid him for six. He has many a time worked from six to eight for three-quarter days. He was paid every month and no subsistence money excepting at Horsley's tommy shop. He now works for the Butterley Company and is much better off. They are paid subsistence money every week in hard cash.

No.363. Elizabeth Gaunt.

She is mother to John and William Bell. They work always from six to eight and she has not known them come home before 12. She has been obliged to fetch them from the pit at one o'clock in the morning. Scores of times they work until after 10. They are paid once a month and is quite sure if she wanted money between times she could not have it otherwise than by ticket from Horsley's tommy shop. She has never been obliged to sell her goods purchased there but has bought of others. They sell bacon, cheese, potatoes, flour, bread, groceries, flannels and worsted. Twice a year the hands are only paid once in six weeks. They call this the Tommy Fair. She has known those who had money to go to Belper. She saves 1s. out of 3s. by buying their goods there.

At this time the cheese is 10d. per lb., sugar 9d., tea 5d. per oz. The same sugar may be had at Belper for 7d. and tea 3d.

No.364. Hannah Lees.

Her husband is the banksman at the Hard Coal Pit. He has for the last six week been lame owing to trap with the coal. He is on the club. The first fortnight he was only paid for the odd days he had worked during the month and has nothing from the fund. There is a month due and it would have been very serviceable could she have received it weekly but she never heard of any one doing so excepting through the tommy shop. She wishes it was done away with, they not only pay more but cannot settle their own accounts.

IRONSTONE.

No.365.

The pit is worked by the gin horse which is 35 yards deep to the scaffold where they are at work but the shaft is 60 yards deep with two banks 30 yards each. There are three boys under 13. They and all the other ironstone getters work from six to six with one hour for dinner, half days from six to one. They have neither wildfire nor blackdamp.

No.366. Luke Taylor.

He is 8 years old and picks stones on the bank. His father works in the ironstone pits. They neither go to church nor chapel nor does he go to school. He does not know the alphabet.

No.3657. Henry Wallis.

He is 9 years old and drives the gin horse and has done so for about half a year and has 8d. per day. He goes to the Methodist Sunday School at Riddings. He is in easy lessons and cannot spell a word.

No.368. William Hopkins.

He is 11 years old and has worked for four years and has only drawn by the belt for a short time. It hurt him but he has only about 20 yards to draw, he does not know what weight is on the waggon. He has been at the Ranters' Sunday School at Summercotes two years. He is in easy lessons but does not know what c a t spells.

RIDDINGS. ALFRETON IRON WORKS. (James Oakes and Co.)

No.369. Mr. Thomas Horsley, Manager of the iron-works.

He has held the post four or five years. They employ in the iron works, children under 13 as assistants to the moulders. They merely mix and carry the sand also 18 to prepare and take off the moulds from the cannon ball. Besides these they have six apprentices, all above 14 years. These are engaged without premium and have 1s. per day for the first year and are raised 4d. per day for each year. They are smiths, moulders and fitters. They most of them serve their time. Indeed, they are so anxious to be bound that they have now scores standing on their books. There are other apprentices but they are bound to the different foremen and he does not consider the company have any control over them more than over other hands. They work from six to six with half an hour for breakfast, one hour for dinner and half an hour clocking. None of the children work at night or Sundays. There are no rewards and has never known any punishment. They are generally brought to the counting house and a reprimand has the desired effect. They employ no females. No orders are given as to punishments or swearing but he thinks very little swearing or wickedness is going on. This he in a great degree attributes to the foreman being a steady man and a local preacher. He has not perceived either the heat or gas arising from their works injure the workpeople. So far from it, he considers it prevents contagion. When the cholera was around they all escaped. The club described by Fletcher extends to the iron works. There is no school or reading room. The moulders

and their apprentices are paid by the ton. The master shot makers also take their work by the ton and find hammerers, finishers and boys. They also engage the boys and the company are not in anyway answerable for their control. The children are paid every month. No subsistence money is allowed excepting for illness or death in the family. The club money they can have weekly.

(Signed) THOMAS HORSLEY.

[There are very few boys employed under 13. I am told the following are all but no return has or will be made.]

No.370. George Walker.

He is 10 years old and has worked for about a year. He prepares the sand for the moulders and has 3s. per week. The heat never hurts his eyes or otherwise makes him ill. He has been two years at a day school and now goes to the Methodist Sunday School at Riddings. He is in easy lessons and cannot spell anything. He has 1s 2d. per day.

No.371. Samuel Walker.

He is 13 years old and has worked three months. He was a miner before. He likes the forge best. He gathers scrap iron and works from six to five with half an hour for breakfast and one for dinner. He has 1s. 2d. per day.

No.372. William Sterland.

He is 11 years old and has worked for only one month and has 10d. per day. He prepares the moulds for the casting of cannon balls. The boy's hands are guarded by leather. They have to open the moulds which the red hot ball is in and the perspiration runs from them. They could not bear it but have an hour's rest to cool between each "heat". He works from six to six or eight but during this periods have five hours to cool. He has been four years at a day school and was in fractions when he left. He now goes to the Church Sunday School at Riddings.

No.373. Thomas Hollingsworth.

He is about 10 years old and has been half a year at the cannon ball making. He goes to the Baptist Sunday School at Riddings. He is in easy lessons and cannot spell.

No.374. Samuel Hollingsworth.

He is 11 years old and has worked for two years. He receives 2d. each heat and can do four or five heats in a day. It is very hot work and makes them thirsty. He does not know it hurts them. He is neither hired nor apprenticed. He goes to the Baptist Sunday School at Riddings and can write a little but not his name nor can he spell it.

No.375. John Staples.

He is 11 years old and has worked a year at the balls. He goes to the Methodist Sunday School and has been there for two years. He is in easy lessons but does not know how to spell. He has never learnt.

No.376. Edwin Chambers.

He is 12 years old. He does not know that it hurts his eyes or his health. It is very hot work and he often burns himself. He goes to the Baptist Sunday School at Riddings. He has been six years at a day school and was in Practice when he left.

No.377. William Tupman.

He is 12 years old and has worked five years and was one year at day school. He now goes to the Baptist Sunday School at Riddings. He can write his name and spells better than most.

No.378. Alfred Fletcher.

He is 13 years old and has worked five years. He attends the Sunday School at Riddings and was at day school four or five years. He cannot write and got as far as long division in accounts.

No.379. George Sallers.

He is 12 years old and has worked at the balls for two years. He neither goes to church, chapel or school. He cannot say his a b c. His father is receiving for himself and family about £3 a week.

No.380. Joseph Bradley.

He assists at the foundry, cleans the moulds, carries sand and jobs. He has 10d. per day and works from five to four with half an hour for breakfast and one for dinner. He goes to the Riddings Church Sunday School and spells well but has never learnt to write.

CLAY CROSS. (George Stephenson Esq. and Co.)

No.381. Mr. Charles Henry Wilkinson, principle book-keeper to the Clay Cross Company.

He has eight shafts at work two of which are called the Tupton Pits and communicate with each other. They are 35 yards deep, the seam 4 feet 6 inches and headways 5 feet 6 inches. There are five banks, one 47 yards and one 22 yards the others 40 yards each and three waggon roads, two 300 yards and one 50 yards. The pit is worked by rolleyways or waggons from the loader to the pit mouth. They are open at each end and have 6 or 7 cwt. in each, mostly pushed by boys from 13 to 16 years old. They occasionally use an ass. The pit is winded from an old shaft and is well ventilated and there is no wildfire or blackdamp. Two are let down at once by a flat rope. Both at this shaft and all the shafts the engineman is subject to a fine he if he exceeds two at a time. The shafts are laid in lime and there is no Davy lamp or bonnet and they are dry above but rather damp under. The numbers under 13 and 18 are in the returns. The No.1 Main is 108 yards deep, the seam 4 feet 10 inches and headways 5 feet 6 inches. The pit is worked by wicker baskets run upon wheels not attached. There is one bank divided into 10 stalls and one waggon road. The baskets are partly giggered, partly drawn by ponies and the remainder of the distance by young men. The works are dry above but not so under. The pit is winded by a furnace at the bottom of one of the shafts, whereby a current of air is produced and driven to all parts down the other shafts. They have had some wildfire which has caused some slight accidents there is no blackdamp. There is a flat rope but no bonnet or Davy.

At the Three Quarters Pits there are four shafts, two 40 yards and two 35 yards deep. The seam in only three-quarters of yard of coal and headways 4 feet. There are two banks and two waggon roads in each. The shafts are in pairs and a wind communication between each of the pairs. The pits are well winded but are subject to wildfire but there is no blackdamp. They have flat ropes but no bonnets or Davy lamps. In the Main, Francis Cooper was killed by the coal falling, owing to want of attention on his part to the wooding. In the same pit John Shaw, about 11 years old, was drowned in the sump or well. This is an extension of the shaft to receive the draining of the pit. It is 16 yards below the floor of the pit. It is generally covered by a platform but it was then moved for the purpose of drawing off the water. There are no butties but the company prepare the shafts, headings and works and in the Tupton Pits the holing, loading and the "putting" or taking it to the bottom of the shaft as well as the banking are let separately by the ton. The woodmen and the roadmen are paid by the day as well as the boys who push empty rolleys to the banks and the hangers-on are also paid by the day. In the Main the getting, which includes holing, taking down and loading in the corves, are put together and let by the ton. The road laying and repairing roofs and putting is done by the day as well as the drivers and door tenters.

The Three Quarter Pits are worked by the day excepting part of the holing. The children are engaged by the company are neither hired nor apprenticed. As to the regulation, see Rules. There are no regulations as to punishments or swearing. It is in the contemplation of the company to build a school room, which is intended to be used as a day and Sunday School as well as a chapel. There is neither club nor reading room at present further than the 7th. Rule. The Three Quarter Pits only are worked by day and night. The other pits from six to six and one hour allowed for dinner.

(Signed) CHAS. H. WILKINSON.

REGULATIONS FOR THE WORKMEN.

I - Any man being desirous of quitting the colliery is required to give two week's notice of his intention at the office previous to his leaving. The owners of the colliery also giving the same notice to every man previous to his being discharged by them, retaining to themselves the power of discharging any man at a moment's notice for improper conduct.

II - If any man should neglect his work without permission from the owners, or without being able to give sufficient reason for such neglect, he will be liable to a penalty imposed by the owners for every such offence, the amount of the penalty being left to their discretion.

III - If any engineman, banksman or other man placed in a situation of trust, to be found intoxicated during his work or during the ordinary time when his attendance is required, he will be liable to instant dismissal, or the imposition of a heavy penalty at the discretion of the owners.

IV - Any inattention to the hours of attendance renders a man liable to a penalty or the forfeiture of a portion of his wages.

V - Any man found introducing intoxicating liquors on the works at any time will be liable to instant dismissal.

VI - No collier or workman is allowed to keep any fighting dogs, or fighting cocks, in the cottages belonging to the owners, or to introduce them on the works.

VII - Every married collier or pitman is required to give 6d. a fortnight and every single man 3d. to a fund raised every pay day for the purpose of procuring medical assistance whenever required for the men or their families.

Any workman openly defying the above regulations is rendered liable to such punishment as the law may inflict.

(Signed) CHAS. BINNS, Agent.

N.B. - The first mentioned regulation does not apply to day labourers.

No.382. Questions addressed to George Stevenson, Esq.

1st. - Can your method of working a pit be practised in a 3 feet seam?

2nd. - Can you in a rough way state the difference in expense of heading and preparing a pit for work by your method and the method used in the south of the county?

3rd. - Have you any idea what the difference per day is per ton of the quantity drawn by your method and the one used in the old shafts?

4th. - Have you any idea of a kind of crust between the bind, or rather a crust consisting of bind, which, if broken into, would let down the roof. If so, would it be practicable to work a pit so situated by your method?

DEAR SIR,

I have received your queries respecting the employment of children in coal mines, previous to answering which I wish to state I do not consider it desirable to employ children under 12 or 13 years of age.

Answers to queries:-

1st. - Certainly, in any seam which is workable.

2nd. - It is my opinion that the mode I adopt of working the coal is better for the men and cheaper to the owners.

3rd. - My plan of working the coal is cheaper when worked in large quantities than the one used in the south but in small quantities it is not cheaper. Let the plan be what it may the difference of cost cannot be much if the work is properly carried on.

4th. - We are working coal precisely under the circumstances to which you allude. The seam is 4 feet 8 inches thick. If the seam were very thin it might be a drawback or cause an increased expenditure in removing the crust.

Before answering these questions I wish to add my most decided objection to the system of butties so much despised in this county and I also believe connected with them is the tommy shops which are so injurious to the men. Our men work in small companies of three and four and are paid every fortnight in cash at the office. We have no second men. All arrangements with the men emanate from the office or the men themselves and not through butties.

I am, &c.,

(Signed) GEO. STEPHENSON.

Clay Cross, June 14, 1841.

No.383. William Mackarsie, Esq. surgeon.

He has attended to Stevenson and Co.'s works upwards of two years. He has not found the colliers more subject to particular disease excepting their breathing is affected but he considers this proceeds more through the dust and great dryness of the works than any other cause and that a slight emetic will take it off. He has not met with a case of hernia. The principle complaint he has to make is the closeness of their habitations, which last year caused a very unpleasant low fever and that to a great extent. He thinks that a child ought not to work in a pit before 12 and that 10 or 12 hours a day would not be too much but in that time they ought to have time allowed for one or two meals.

(Signed) W.J. MACKARSIE.

[Mr. M. considers that the neighbourhood of Mr. Stevenson's works is much more unhealthy than it otherwise would be, owing to the want of proper drainage and not being supplied with good water.]

Mr. Stephenson, for the convenience of his colliers and workpeople, has erected 88 neat houses, with gardens and other conveniences besides 30 he had purchased before. These are all new, and since the period Mr. Macharsie speaks he carefully drained and in a airy and healthy situation.

No.384. Samuel Bradder.

He is 13 years old and has worked one year in the pits. He was a stocking maker. He works alternate weeks day and night in the Three Quarter Pit. He works 12 hours with one allowed for dinner, he begins work at six p.m. on Sundays and has 1s. 6d. per day or night. He also in alternate weeks draws by the belt and push the waggons. When he uses the belt, it is to draw the corve up to load the waggon. He has no assistance. He goes to Sunday School and has been five or six years at a day school. He can write his name and he now reads in the Testament.

No.385. John Bradder.

He is 11 years old and has worked in the pit for four years. He hangs the basket or waggon on the rope and has 1s. 2d. per day. He has no assistance. From these wages of his and his brother's, 2d. per day each is deducted for candles. He is seldom punished but now and then gets "whacked" by the overlooker. He goes to the same school as his brother and reads in the Testament. He has been a short time at day school.

No.386. Edward Bamford.

He is 13 years old and has worked in the pits three years. He waggons and has 1s. 6d. per day. He pushes but does not use the belt. He used to work at night but now only by day, 12 hours and has one hour for dinner. He attends the Wesleyan Sunday School and has done so for two years. He was at a day school for two years. He reads in the Testament but can neither write nor spell. They do not teach him either.

No.387. Joseph Bamford.

He is 11 years old and has worked in the pits for two years. He and another boy the same age draw the corve by the belt. The other may be a year older. He has 1s. 4d. per day. He never works by night or Sundays. He goes to Sunday School and was three years at Denby Pottery Sunday School. He is in Easy Lessons but cannot spell cow, says d o g spells God.

No.388. John Bamford.

He is 15 years old and has worked in the pits six years. He draws the corves with a belt himself. They are not more than one and a half cwt. He could not draw more. The belt does not hurt him. He used to work for Messrs. Woolley's at Marehay. He likes his present work best because they do not work so many hours. He does not tire himself as he did there when he then worked 14 or 15 hours and was obliged to do so. He sometimes worked from half past six to five for half a day. He goes to the Wesleyan Sunday School and was two years at day school. He reads in the Testament and has just begun to write. He spells pretty well.

No.389. Launcelet Ball.

He is 10 years old and has worked one year in the Main or Blackshale Pit. He pushes the waggons and has 1s. per day. He goes down at six to six and has one hour allowed for dinner and he never works by night. He goes to the Ranter's but until a few Sundays ago, he attended the Wesleyan Sunday School. He spells a little. He has his breakfast, tea and bread before he leaves home. His dinner, meat or bacon and potatoes is sent to him. He has milk porridge when he gets home.

No.390. John Sledge.

He is 14 years old and has worked in the pits since he was seven. He used to work in Leicestershire. He worked there 14 or 15 hours a day but it was not so hard as he does now. He pushes the waggons and has 1s. 6d. per day and finds his own candles. He works all night but does not go until 10 on a Sunday evening. He neither goes to school, church or chapel. His mother says she cannot drive him.

No.391. Samuel Shaw.

He is 11 years old and has worked in the pits for three years. He now works at night and drives the ass. He has 1s. per night with candles deducted. He formerly worked in Pinxton where he drove

between. He was much more tired at Pinxton as they then worked from six to nine or ten. He goes to the Wesleyan Sunday School and reads in the Bible. He cannot write but spells pretty well.

[Stevenson and Co.'s Lime works at Crich, that at this time only employ 2 under 13 as flag boys and 5 under 18 at various jobs.]

No.392. Jabez Wright.

He is 10 years old and has worked only six weeks. His duty is to attend to the single flag and oil the pulleys. He comes at six to six and has half an hour for dinner allowed for his breakfast and one hour for dinner. He was a years and half at a day school and pays 3d. a week and now goes to the Crich Methodist Sunday School. He reads in the Testament and writes a little. He has 6s. per week.

[Appears intelligent.]

No.393. William Barber.

He is 16 years old and attends the stopper, that is, in case of the rope getting wrong or any accident, he can, by a break, throw the waggon on the opposite bank to where he is stationed. He served masons before he came to this employ. He was two years at Heage day school and paid 3d. per week. He now goes to the Heage Methodist Sunday School and reads in the Testament. He cannot write and spells badly. He has 9s. per week.

No.394. David Walters.

He is 14 years old and has worked for nearly one month. He is flag boy and attends the lower stopper. He used to carry picks on the North Midland Railway before he worked here. He has 6s. per week. He goes to the Ranters' Sunday School at Fritchley. He reads in the Testament but can neither write or spell.

No.395. William Swindall.

He is 16 years old and supplies the kiln with coals by means of a gangway. He neither attends church, chapel or school.

[Appears quite ignorant but rather ashamed.]

No.396. John Wragg.

He is 17 years old and throws the stone into the kilns and has 12s. per week. He was at Wirksworth day school two years. He can write his name and spells pretty well.

[Appears intelligent.]

No.397. William Drewy.

He is 14 years old and throws stone into the kilns. He formerly worked on the North Midland Railway where he carried picks. He now has 6s. per week. He has never been to school, church or chapel.

[Appears very ignorant and says he now employs his Sundays in bird nesting.]

TUPTON. (Coke and Chambers.)

No.398. John Mawe, agent.

Messrs. Coke and Co. sink the shaft, prepare the headings, waggonways and windways and let it to their own butties by the ton. The butties let it to the holers per stint and loaders by the ton. Messrs. Coke and Co. engage hangers on, banksmen and waggoners per ton and children per day. There are rules as to the men placed on the machine-house and head stocks but not for the children. They never interfere as to the rewards and punishments and have never had complaints of the ill usage of children. There are no rewards, no school, reading room or club. He does not know where

the children go on Sunday. The field has not been worked more than six months. There are two children employed at the burning of cokes. They are let to them by the ton, he finding the boys.

(Signed) JOHN MAWE.

TUPTON, in North Wingfield Parish. (Messrs. Coke and Chambers.)

No.399. Richard King, ground bailiff.

They have only one shaft where they employ children. The other is but just prepared for work. The working shaft of 116 yards deep, the seam, including dirt, is about 5 feet and headways in the banks 5 feet. There are seven banks, four 15 yards each and the other three 12 each. There are two main waggon roads, one 330 yards and the other 150 yards, one drawn by horses the other by men. The empty waggons are drawn by an ass driven by a boy 11 years old. They are pushed by boys and men to the banks. The pits are winded down the engine shaft with the assistance of a furnace. There is a little wildfire but no blackdamp. The works are rather wet under and over. There are six under 13 years of age, three of whom open and shut and are not more than eight years old. The others are driving asses and one assists to hang on. They use a flat rope and let down up to seven at a time. They work from six to six with one hour allowed for dinner when the engine stops. Half days are from six to twelve or after. Sometimes the children work by night and never on a Sunday. Two months since George Goodhill aged 14, fell down the shaft and was killed. He was in a hurry to go down and in some way or other fell. He frequently would come up by merely hanging to the chain without getting in. George Higginbotham, 10 years of age, a fortnight since had his leg broken by the bind falling.

his
RICHARD >< KING
mark.

[There is a cabin and the shaft is laid in lime and well finished. There are also seven good cottages with gardens for the use of the colliers.]

No.400. Esther Ellis.

She has two sons in the pits, one is 14 years of age and he pushes the waggons and does not know what his wages are. The other is just 10 and he opens and shuts the door. The one at 14 has worked for Mr. Chambers at Tibshelf since he was five years old. He used to go down at six to eight or nine and often 10 but since he has been here he has worked only 12 hours. The neither of them go to school. There is neither church, school nor chapel within two miles.

No.401. Richard King, under-ground bailiff.

He has a boy of 10 years old who drives an ass and has 1s. 3d. per day and one seven years old who opens and shuts the door and has 8d. per day. They work 12 hours. Sometimes it is by the day and sometimes by the night but never both in the 24 hours. He wishes he could send them to school but there is neither school, church nor chapel within reach. None of these boys know anything.

No.402. Charles Nixon.

He is 15 years of age and has worked only a short time where he sorts the coke. Before he came here he worked at Wright's Pottery at Brampton. His proper time for work is from six to six and one hour allowed for dinner, but on alternate nights he works day and night. On Sunday he comes to work at 10 o'clock in the evening and does not leave until six p.m. on Monday. This he does three times a week. He works by the ton under a man and never gets more than 4s. per week. He has dry bread and coffee without sugar or milk, for his breakfast, bread and sometimes a little fat with it, for dinner and coffee and potatoes at supper. When he worked at Brampton he carried pots to the oven and had 3s. a week. When he worked all night he had 6d. a night more. He used to attend the Brampton Church Sunday School. He reads in the Testament and cannot spell church or chapel.

[This evidence was corroborated by his mother.]

BRAMPTON. (J.G. Baines, Esq.)

No. 403. John Wright.

He works at Mr. Baines's pits which have now only two gin shafts at work, 32 yards deep. The seam at both is 20 inches and the headways 2 feet. At No.1 they have one bank 28 yards and a barrow road 30 yards. They are not laid with iron. The corves or barrows are dragged by the boys of about 12 years old. The corves have about one and three quarters cwt. on them. They go on all fours and work from seven to five with one hour allowed for dinner. The four boys have to get 40 corves of coal and 20 of slack for a day's work. The youngest is only eight years of age and draws the empty corves. If they did not begin by this time they could not work these narrow seams. Their limbs could not get used to it. He thinks they like it as well as where there is more room. He knows he did. The pit is quite dry or else, "it's nasty work". The pit would not pay to work in any other way.

No.404. John Wright, jun.

He is 10 years old and drives the gin horse for his father. He has not done so for long. He attends the Methodist Sunday School and has been to day school six years. He is in Reduction and writes well and appears a sharp boy.

[There are three or 4 wallow pits in the same neighbourhood I did not visit but Wright said the seams and method of working were the same as his.]

BRAMPTON. (Jonathan Bennett.)

No.405. Jonathan Bennett.

He has four shafts at work, two by gin and two by wallow. No.1 gin shaft is 29 yards deep, the seam two feet, headways on both banks and waggon roads the same. The corves have one and three quarter cwt. on each. They are drawn, without wheels or rails by boys 12 to 15 years old on all fours, with a belt. The roads in this pit are wet, in the others dry. There are four banks, one 50 yards, the others 45. The coals are holed, the waggons loaded and most of the work of the pit done by children and young men. The pits are well winded from old shafts and are not now subject to wildfire but they are frequently obliged to use a fire basket at other shafts to draw away the blackdamp. At this pit they have had no accident. He has sent a number of children and young men in his return. The butties engage and pay the children by the day. The youngest in this pit is 11 years old. He draws by the belt. He thinks it might be possible to heighten the headways, but it then would not pay, the seams are so thin. The workpeople on a Friday come at one o'clock p.m. and work until one o'clock on Saturday.

No.406.

He is nephew to Jonathan Bennett and is banksman to No.2 gin pit and he says it is 20 yards deep. There are two seams one 11 inches and the other 16 inches. When all is cleared it leaves the headways five feet six inches. There are two banks, six feet each and a waggon way or, as they call it, barrow road, about 50 yards. The barrows are drawn with a hook by men. There are neither children nor young men in the pit. It is wet both under and over. There is no wildfire but there is blackdamp. The pit is winded from an old shaft in which last year, a man lost his life by the coal falling. The headway was not much more than two feet and he was buried before relief could be had.

No.407. George Lee.

He is 12 years old and has driven the gin horse for a year. He works from half past six to half past four and has 7d. per day. He went to the National School three years and now goes to the Methodist Sunday School and reads in the Bible. He used to write and got as far as short division. He does not know how many six times eight or five time six are or can spell horse or gin.

No.1 Wallow Pit is 20 yards deep with a two feet seam. There are two banks and two barrow or waggon roads with only two feet headways. Both men and boys lay down to work and creep to draw the corves.

The roads are one 60 the other 40 yards long. The youngest in the pit is 14. There is no wildfire but they are plagued with blackdamp. They work from seven to seven with one hour allowed for dinner. One or two at a time are let down and up. The rope is not thicker than a good well rope. A few months since a boy had his leg broken by an empty corve falling down the shaft. There is no protection to the shaft mouth.

[I had this information from the wallow men.]

No.408. Edward Brown.

He is 10 years old and has worked a year for 5d. per day. He works from seven to seven with three quarters of an hour allowed for dinner. He drives the gin horse. Neither he nor his parents go to church or chapel or does he go to school. He was about a year at the National School. He can spell dog and cat but not horse. His father is a labourer.

No.409. Samuel Hoskin.

He is 14 years old and has worked for five years. He now holes and is paid by the stint. He also fills. He used to draw by the belt on all fours. It is sore work and much harder than what he now does. He is too big for that work now. His father is a small farmer. Neither he nor any of the family go to church or chapel. He went to the National School and a year to the Methodist Sunday School and reads in the Testament, "but he has forgotten all but his a b c."

No.2 Wallow Pit works the same method as No.1. A boy was killed at it nearly a year since. He was the gin horse driver at a pit close by and was playing at dinner time when he fell down the shaft and was killed on the spot. He was nine years old.

[Barrow Esq., of Staveley and Appleby and Co. have several iron pits worked by wallow, 14 yards deep, but neither children nor young people are employed.]

TAPTON. (Mr. John Limb.)

No.410.

There are two shafts each worked by a horse. The Lower Pit is 35 yards deep with one bank, 50 yards and a waggon road 200 yards. The waggons are drawn by men. The works are dry. This and the Upper Pit are winded from each other. There is no wildfire but a little blackdamp. There are no children under 13 years of age and but one under 18.

No.411. John Kidger.

He is 80 years of age and has worked in the pit since he was nine years old. He now does odd jobs on the bank. He is asthmatic and full of pain. He is sure it sorely injures a boy working in the pits under 13 and at that age nine hours is enough to work in a day.

The Upper Pit is 31 yards deep, the seam three feet and the headways four feet. The shaft is not laid in lime. A round rope is used and is worked by a horse. There is one bank 70 yards and a waggon road of ten. There are none in the pit under 18 years old.

No.412. Thomas Turner.

He is 17 years old and is the gin horse driver. He neither goes to church, school or chapel. He cannot read or write. His father was killed at the pit six years since when, in ascending the rope broke.

No.413. Samuel Cooper.

He is 12 years old and is the gin horse driver at the Upper Pit. He has worked five years and comes to work at six until five o'clock with no time allowed for meals, "he and the horse take them as they can". He can write his name and he now goes to the Chesterfield Church Sunday School. He has a short time been at the National School. He does not now learn to write. He reads in the Bible and spells pretty well.

TAPTON. (Appleby and Co.)

They have eight bell ironstone pits worked by wallow and six by engine. The eight wallow are all of them 22 yards deep and neither laid in lime or bricks but about six feet secured by timber. There are no children under 13 and but two or three under 18. The pits are well wended from each other. There is no wildfire but a little blackdamp. The six worked by an engine are 22¹/₂ yards deep and none under 18 years old in them.

STAVELEY. Netherthorp Free School.

The school was founded by Francis Rodes and others. It appears from the Report of the Charity Commissioners that the schoolmaster then received from the Rev. C.R. Rodes, of Barlbrough Hall, lord of the manor of Elmton, as the gift of Francis Rodes, a rent charge of £5 per annum. From W.A. Ashby, Esq., as agent to the Duke of Devonshire, the owner of the lands supposed to be charged with, £8 per annum, the gift of Margaret Frescheville, and £6 per annum, the gift of Lord James Cavendish. From E.S.C. Pole, Esq., £3 6s. 8d, George Hutchinson of Wales Wood, £2, the Rev. Jonathan Alderson of Harthill, 13s. 4d, owners of different parts of the Gannow Hall estate in Killamarch, the benefaction of Robert Sitwell, Esq. and from Mr. John Slagg, the interest on an Indian bond of £100, given by the late Rev. Francis Gisborne, £4 per annum.

The school premises contain about an acre of land, an old school room and two chambers formerly occupied by the master. In 1804 a new school room was built by subscription on part of the garden.

All the sons of parishioners of Staveley are considered as entitled to the freedom of this school for classical instruction but for reading, writing and arithmetic, the master may make his own charges.

No.414. Squire Butterfield, Master.

He continues to receive the rent charges and other emoluments, excepting £3 6s. 8d. which Mr. Pole has withheld since Ladyday, 1840. He is not aware of the reason but understands it is that Mr. Pole fancies the estate is not liable. Mr. Butterfield occupies the new house and has underlet the old house which is adjoining. The school room, a fine old building with desks, master's seat, &c., the whole in solid oak, still exists. He cannot recollect how long it has been since he had a scholar. It is many years. "They dropped off one after another". He has no memorandum that he can refer to say how many years it is since he had a scholar. He cannot recollect how long it is since anyone applied. He cannot account for this further than that a school has been instituted in Staveley which they prefer although they are there. They all left without assigning any reason. He thinks he scarcely misses a day but he goes into the school but it is years since he found any one there. He has had between 30 and 40 at a time. He taught them Latin free and charged 7s. 7d per quarter for reading, writing and accounts. If he taught them book keeping, 2s. 6d. per quarter more. He thinks out of the 30 or 40 not fewer than three learnt Latin. He never had a scholar who went further than Virgil.

SQUIRE BUTTERFIELD.

STAVELEY IRON WORKS.

No.415. George Hodkinson Barrow, Esq.

I should think nearly 40 children and young persons are employed at these works, either in trimming or fettling the castings by rubbing them with a sandstone and occasionally using a chisel. Others assist the moulders in carrying, sifting or wetting the sand and "fettling" the moulds and a proportion in the coke yard. Only two work on a Sunday by assisting their fathers in feeding the cupola waggons. None work by night. Their eyes appear rather inflamed and I understand most of the men complain of their eyes failing them at 50 years old.

No.416. Mr. Abbot Bradshaw, under clerk.

He does not know how many are employed under 13 or 18 years old at the iron works. Their coal fields are at Netherthorp, Button Field, Handley Wood and Black Shale. They have no rules as to punishment or anything else. They have a medical fund for which they deduct 1¹/₂d. in the

pound. The workpeople have their medical bills paid and may employ their own doctor. Mr. B. does not contribute to it but in case of accidental death Mr. B. finds coffins. A regular account of the fund is kept. There is neither school nor reading room. Indeed Mr. Barrow lets all his work possible by the job and does not consider himself answerable for anything. The undertakers employ whom they think proper and neither he nor any of his people ever interfere as to punishments or anything else.

(Signed) ABBOT BRADSHAW.

No.417. The Rev. --- Moor, Rector from home. The Curate the Rev. --- Macfarlane.

He has resided here only half a year. He came from Tunbridge Wells, he considers the working people in Sussex better behaved but not better informed than here. The children are mostly employed in the pits and at the ironworks. Those who attend the school he thinks far from dull but is sorry there are not many attend.

No.418. Edward France, Esq., surgeon.

He attends most of the colliers, coke burners and the iron workers in this neighbourhood and has done so for 21 years. He is not aware that asthma prevails more amongst these people than others or does he think he has met with more cases of hernia or rheumatism or has he perceived symptoms of premature old age, or does think their eye sight injured by the heat of the furnace. In the pit men he has had cases of an inflammatory state of the membrane of the eye but it has not been prominent. He thinks if any disease prevails it is consumption amongst the colliers prior to 36 years of age. He has scarcely had any cases of the eye from those employed at the coke ovens and generally speaking, he considers all those employed as above a stout, robust set of men. He thinks few children are employed less than ten years of age under ground and has not observed that the colliers are deformed or bow legged. As a medical man he thinks they ought not to do the general work of a pit before they are 15 years old and then not more than seven or eight hours a day and in that period ought to have meal.

EDWARD FRANCE.

[Mr. France wishes to state that the above opinion only alludes to the colliers. In general he thinks they are more predisposed to all the above diseases than other labourers.]

No.419. Frederick Mottishall.

He is 11 years old and has not worked quite a year. He fettles and has 6d. per day. He comes to work at six to half past five with half an hour allowed for breakfast and half an hour for dinner. He neither goes to school, church or chapel. He reads a writes a little but cannot spell words of two syllables.

No.420. James Twiton.

He is 10 years old and has worked half a years and has 6d. a day. He fettles and attends the same hours as the others. He goes to the Methodist Sunday School and is in the spelling book. He spells horse and house.

No.421. Thomas Pollard.

He is 11 years old and has worked for two years. He fettles and has 7d. per day. He goes to the Methodist Sunday School. He cannot spell either church or furnace.

No.422. Abraham Mosley.

He is 10 years old and has worked for three years. He fettles and has 7d. per day. He goes to the Church Sunday School but cannot spell a word. He says he reads in the Testament.

No.423. George Hawkins.

He is 12 years old and has worked at fettling for two years but he does not know what wage he has as he helps his father. He attend the Ranters' Sunday School and spells decently.

No.424. Sampson Bower.

He is 12 years old and has worked two and a half years. He has 1s. per day and assists in moulding. He works from six to four and stops a short time for breakfast and dinner. He goes to the Brimington Church Sunday School and was at a day school. He can write his name. He works neither Sundays nor nights.

No.425. Edward Woodward.

He is 12 years old and has worked for two years and has 6d. per day. He works from six to half past five and has one hour for meals.

No.426. Edward Mellows.

He is 11 years old and worked for only two months. He has 6d. per day. He attends the Brimington Church Sunday School and can spell horse and church but not his name. He has 6d. per day,

No.428. Thomas Wilson.

He is 13 years old and has worked as assistant moulder for four months. He has 10d. per day. He neither goes to church, chapel nor school. His father makes him go to load the waggons for the furnace on Sundays. He cannot spell cow or cat.

No.429. William Chambers.

He is 11 years old and has worked for two years. He assists his father to mould and has no wages. He works from six to half past five and attends the Staveley Church Sunday School. He reads in the Bible but cannot write.

STAVELEY. (G.H. Barrow, Esq.)

No.430. Jonathan Longden, ground bailiff to Mr. Barrow.

He has four coal shafts and one nearly ready for work. He has not been in Mr. B's employ many weeks. The pit at Netherthorp is 90 yards deep, with a five feet seam and the headways at the lowest place, four feet six inches. There are three banks about 50 one 40 and the other 30 yards and three waggon roads about 60 yards each. The waggons are drawn by a man and a boy to each waggon in the waggon ways and by a pony in the banks. The boys are 10 to 12 years old and they push. The pit is winded from the engine shaft and it is well winded. There is a little wildfire but no blackdamp. A man was killed in sinking owing to the rope breaking. At another time the rope got out of gear by which two of them were very much hurt but he thinks none of them died. The works rain in two of the waggon roads. He does not know how many there are under 13 and 18 but of those under 13 one opens and shuts, the other pushes. One shaft in Staveley upper ground is worked by two gin horses and is 46 yards deep, seam 4 feet 6 inches, the headways four feet at the lowest places. One bank is 100 yards, waggon road 200 and the waggons are drawn by horses. The pit is winded by the windshaft and it is well ventilated. The works are nearly dry and there is no wildfire but a little blackdamp. There has been no accident and he thinks they have none under 13 years of age.

Handley Wood, Waterloo, is 70 yards deep and the seam 4 feet 10 inches. The headways are four feet and there are two banks, 50 yards each, two waggon roads one 400 and one 60 yards. It is winded by a draft pit and worked by an engine. The waggon ways are wet under. The waggons are drawn by horses. They have not any under 13. There has been no accident.

Middle Pit is 45 yards deep and worked by an engine. The seam and headways are the same as the Waterloo. There is one bank of 90 yards and a waggonway of 200. In every respect it is worked the same as the Waterloo and winded from it. The waggonways are wet under. He thinks the door boy who is nine years old is the only one under 13. There has been no accident.

Mr. B. has at Handley Woods and other places, several iron pits but he has nothing to do with them. They are chiefly worked by wallows and gins.

Mr. B's pits are all worked by butties per ton and they engage the other colliers and children. There is no club but medical advice as stated in the Foundry Report. There are no rules or regulations of any description as he has ever heard of. He worked for Mr. Moorwood at Summercotes before he came to Mr. B. He considers the children work fewer hours but in other respects he finds no difference than at Summercotes. He has been a collier since he was 12 or 13 years old. His opinion is that, if his parents could afford it, a child ought not work in a pit before 12 years old and then 10 hours is enough and in that time he ought to have one hour for meals and thinks that ought to be 20 minutes lunch and 40 minutes dinner.

JONATHAN LONGDEN.

No.431. George Whittle, agent to the Netherthorp pits.

There is only one at work at present and it and others now sinking are winded from each other and the engine shaft. He cannot say they are well winded. They are very subject to wildfire but, thank God! no very serious accident has occurred. One of the banks rains.

No.432. George Jarvis.

He is 11 years old and has worked only half a year. He carries garlands on the bank and has 8d. per day. He works one week at night, the other by day. He has two miles to walk to the pit and works from seven to five with 40 minutes allowed for dinner. He did nothing before he worked in the pit and never went to either church, chapel or school. His mother says she could not make him. He does not know what bread is made of.

No.433. William Marson.

He is 10 years old and has not worked a half year. He opens and shuts the door and has 8d. per day. He goes to the Methodist Sunday School and has been for one year at a day school. He cannot spell but says he can write. He cannot spell Staveley or school.

No.434. Edmund Williamson.

He is 15 years old and has had sole care of the engine since he was 10 years old. At first for a month or so, his father came to him twice a day. The engine is 12 horse power and there is flat rope and no chain. There is a cabin but no Davy lamp or bonnet. They are let down and up two at once. They go down at seven to five. He stops the engine 40 minutes for dinner.

No.435. John Woodcock.

He is 12 years old and has worked a year assisting the banksman. He works from six to six and has 40 minutes allowed for dinner. He sometimes drives on the railroad and has 8d. per day. He goes to the Brimington Church Sunday School and was one year at a day school. He is in the spelling book but cannot spell his name.

No.436. Joshua Hayne.

He is 13 years old and is the bank lad. He goes to the Methodist Sunday School and was two years at a day school. He is in easy lesson but cannot spell a single word.

No.437. Samuel Orwin.

He is nine years old and has driven the gin horse at Hanley Wood iron pits for a year. He has 6d. a day and works from seven to half past four. He attends the Brimington Church Sunday School and was at day school for two years. He writes his name but cannot spell church and spells horse, hos.

No.438. James Furnace.

He is 11 years old and has driven a gin horse for year. He works from seven to half past four and has 40 minutes allowed for dinner. He attends the Brimington Church Sunday School and was one and a half years at a day school. He now reads in the Bible. They do not teach writing but he can write his name and spells well.

No.439. William Scarston, butty.

There are two gin pits here and three at Dawson Hall all worked by wallow. They are only 16 yards deep. These are 30 yards. There are no children excepting the above and but one or two young men and they are 17 years old. Mr. Barrow's pits lay very wide but thinks he has not one, except the gin horse driver under 13 years of age.

No.440. John Hayne.

He is a collier in Middle Pit, Hanley Wood. They have five in it under 13 years of age, the youngest is the door lad. The others drive the pony. They go down at seven to five and have 40 minutes allowed for dinner. They do not work at nights or on Sundays. He has a boy of his on the bank and he is 10 years old. He has worked for eight months and has 10d. per day. He gathers the empty corves and garlands for the banksman. They use the belts in Mr. Barrow's fields and both men and children are treated as well as at any field. He used to work at Heanor, there and at Shipley and that neighbourhood they are worked and used shamefully. "There's as much difference as heaven and earth," between there and here. They have had not wildfire lately but a little

blackdamp. He is sure a child ought not to work in the pit until he is 13 and nor more than 10 hours, including 20 minutes lunch and 40 minutes for dinner.

No.441. William Hudson.

He is 11 years old and has worked in the pit for two years. He does not know how much a day he gets but he drives a pony. He works two or three nights a week. He then goes down at seven a.m. and does not come up again until three the next morning. The other days he works from seven to five and has 40 minutes dinner time. He attends the Church Sunday School at Middle Handley and was two or three years at a day school he is in easy lessons but can neither spell coal or dog.

No.442. Aaron Hatfield.

He is 13 years old and has worked one year and three quarters in the pits. He assists the banksman and does not know what he gets per day as his father receives his wages. He goes to the Methodist Sunday School at Middle Handley and was two years at a day school. He can write his name and is in accounts.

[Spells well.]

No.443. Henry Allen.

He is 13 years old and he worked in the pit for a year. He used to work the railway before. He is now heading the sinking shaft and he draws by the belt and has 1s. per day. He works from seven to five with 40 minutes allowed for dinner, half days from 7 to 12. He went to a day school at Staveley two years and can write his name. He goes to the Church Sunday School and has been as far in arithmetic as division. He spells pretty well but does not appear to know much about accounts.

No.444. Thomas Gee.

He is 13 years of age and has worked for three years or more. He helps the banksman and has 8d. per day. He goes neither to church, school or chapel. He went to School once but cannot say his a b c.

No.445. George Gee.

He is 13 years old and has worked 6 years. He is the brother of Thomas and assists the banksman. He has 10d. per day. Neither he nor his father (who is a collier) or any of the family go to church, school or chapel, nor does he or his brother know what leather is made of.

No.446. George Stones, corporal in Mr. Barrow's pit at Newthorp.

The pit is 95 yards deep with the seam of coal and rubbish, with headways the same. There are three banks, one 17 one 50 and the other 36 yards and three waggonways one 130, one 150 the other more than 200 yards. Two of the banks are ironed and the waggons are drawn by men. On the other the corves are drawn by horses. There are only two in the pit under 13 years of age, one nine, the other ten. They both open and shut doors. There are two assisting the banksman under 13 and eight under 18. Three hang on, some holes and others drive the horses. They go down at seven to five with 40 minutes for dinner. When the engine stops they all go together. They never work on Sundays nor does he beat the boys.

COAL ASTON. (Rhodes and Co.)

No.447. Mr. Rhodes.

He has only one shaft which is 73 yards deep, the seam 4 feet and there are six banks from 17 to 18 yards each. There are no corves but the coal is shoved in boxes with wheels by children and young men from 10 to 17 years old. The boxes are drawn up the shaft in a cradle. They have only three under 13 in the pit, two to open and shut the doors, the other pushes. They are let down two at a time, never more than three. The works are dry but the shaft is rather wet. The pit is well winded from the engine shaft. They have no wildfire but a good deal of blackdamp. No accident has happened since the pit was in work. They have a flat rope, no Davy lamp or bonnet. The shaft is not laid in lime. The boys are neither rewarded nor punished. There is a very poor cabin but the smith's shop and other buildings are near for the people to shelter. They have several coke ovens but employ no children and very few young men.

No.448. Mark Edwards.

He is nine years old and has worked at the pits above three years. He drives the pony from the pit mouth and has 3s. a week the first year. He used to open and shut. He always works from seven to five and has 20 minutes for dinner, three-quarter days from seven to three and half days from seven to 12. He has been to the Ranters' Sunday School at Aston. He cannot say his a b c or does he know what bread is made of.

No.449. John Edwards.

He is 11 years old and has had care of the engine a year and a half. His father is mostly within call and he works from six to nine and has 1s. per day. He often lets the people down. Sometimes his father will be with him but not often. He has a brother in the pit who opens and closes the door and he is not six years old. The engine is 11 horse power.

No.450. George Bellamy.

He is 16 years old and he pushes the waggon and has 2s. 6d. per day. He works from four to five with no time allowed for dinner. He goes to the Church Sunday School at Aston. His father put him to an evening school but did not like it. He does not know the alphabet or what CAT spells.

No.451. John Bowler.

He is 13 years old and worked from six to seven, three-quarters from seven to three with no dinner time allowed. He goes to the Church Sunday School at Ridgeway and has been four years at day school. He can write his name, spells pretty well. He does not know how to write but reads in the Testament.

DUCKMANTON. (Benjamin Smith and Co.)

No.452. Mr. B. Smith.

They have two furnaces and 20 ironstone pits as well as three coal pits. He has not yet made a list of the children or young men. They are employed in the usual avocations at the pits and at the furnaces, two moulding and three assisting their father in loading the furnace. The company does not directly employ the children but let the work per job and in most cases the men they let employ the children. He considers they have no control over these children. They do not recognise them nor do they regulate the hours they work. They have neither school, club or reading room but Mr. Smith is the superintendent of the Independent Sunday School at Calow where many of the children attend. They work one coal pit with three sets the whole of the 24 hours. None of the children work on a Sunday. The company sink the coal shafts and prepare the headings and the pit by tender at per ton. It is then underlet in the usual way to holers, loaders &c., and the children are by day work. The ironstone shafts are mostly sunk by the butties themselves.

(Signed) BENJAMIN SMITH.

No.453. Henry Cooper.

He is 13 years old and has worked for a year and a half. He went two years to a day school, he now works on Sundays and can neither attend church, school or chapel and has 8d. per day. He assists the loader to supply the cupola.

No.454. Abraham Gaité.

He is 13 years old and has worked for two years. He has 8d. per day and worked from seven to four and has one hour for dinner. He moulds. He went for two years to a day school where he learnt to write. He now attends the Calvinist Sunday School and reads in the Bible but does not write.

[This boy spells well.]

No.455. Thomas Bennett.

He is 17 years old and assists his father to load iron and has 1s. 2d. per day. He has he been to day school five or six years. He can write but never has learnt accounts. He now neither goes to church, chapel or school.

No.456. Matthew Evans.

He is 14 years old and has worked nine months and before that he went to a day school. He now goes to the Calvinist Sunday School at Calow. He reads the Scripture History. He can write a little but spells badly.

No.457. William Platts.

He is 16 years old and has worked since he was nine. He assists his father to load and sometimes waggons. He works from six to six or seven and has one hour for meals. He works on Sundays and does not go to school and seldom to church or chapel. He went four or five years to a day school but cannot spell either church or dog.

No.458. George Shaw.

He is 11 years old and has not quite worked a year. He works from six to six or seven. He helps to load the furnace and works on a Sunday. He gets to the Calvinist Sunday School when he can. He is in the spelling book but cannot spell a word.

No.459. Jane Platts.

She is 13 years old and has worked for three months. She assists to load the furnace but has no wages but helps her father. She works on a Sunday and used to attend the Duckmanton Church Sunday School as well as day school. She reads and spells badly.

No.460. Matthew Brett.

He is 13 years old and helps to load. He works on Sundays and neither attends church, chapel or school. He cannot read or write.

No.461. John Unwin, engineman.

The engine is 10 horse power and he lets down and up two and three at a time with a round rope. There are three sets that work the pit, eight hours each set. The engine stops half an hour for each set at meal times. The pit is 82 yards deep, seam five feet and headways full as much. One bank is 100 yards and one waggon road 300 yards. Neither bank nor waggon road is railed nor are the corves on wheels. They are drawn by horses. The youngest in the pit is 12 years old and he drives a horse. There are only four under 13 in the three sets. The pit is winded from a shaft three quarters of mile off and he considers it well ventilated. They have no wildfire and but little blackdamp. The workings are not to be called wet. About half a year since, George Allen, who had worked upwards of 30 years on the field, fell out of the chains when he was about 60 yards off the bottom and was killed. Another man, a holer, had his leg broken a few weeks since by the coal falling. They use a bonnet but no Davy.

[There are three other pits I did not visit. They are worked only by the day. They are most of them worked on wallows. Two worked by gin horses and one by an engine.

The ironstone pits are all near each other and several communicate. They are, most of them worked by wallows, the others by a four horse power engine and are about 20 yards deep. Messrs. Smiths have an under ground bailiff who frequently visits the pit and attends to the windways, ropes, &c. There are but three besides one gin horse driver under 13 on the whole field.]

No.462. John Bacon, jun.

He is 13 years old and has worked in coal pits for four years. He drives the horse in the pit. The banks or the waggonway are not laid with iron, or the corves on wheels. He works eight hours and has 1s. He goes down at two p.m. and works until 10. The youngest in the pit is 12 and he works on the second shift from ten to four a.m. There is 40 minutes allowed on each shift for meals. He has tea and bread and butter before he goes down and bread and cheese in the pit. He has no other meal and never has meat but on a Sunday. He attends the Calvinist Sunday School. He reads but he has never learnt to write. They do not teach writing and he was never at a day school.

[Spells pretty well.]

No.464. Lewis Ashmore.

He is 17 years old and does not look to be 15. His uncle says he began work sadly too soon and is stopped in growth. He went a year to the National School and now goes to the Ranters' Sunday School. He can write a little and reads in the Testament. He spells badly. He draws the waggon in the ironstone pits.

No.465. Samuel Ashmore.

He is 11 years old and has worked a year under his father. He pushes the wagons. He works from six to half past three. Sometimes he works all night when the stone is wanted. He attends the Methodist Sunday School at Brimington. He used to go to the National School. He can write, and has been through the first rules of arithmetic.

[The boy appears sharp and clever.]

No.466. Samuel Bacon.

He is 57 years old and has worked as a collier since he was nine year old. He was born and first worked in Warwickshire. He first headed or assisted an elder brother and had 8d. per day and he has since worked at everything belonging to a pit. For the last nine months he has been quite unable to work owing to asthma. He has had it for two years and attributes it to the "sweet damp" and gunpowder smoke settling in his lungs. He never used his time regularly to work more than 10 hours a day and considers that it is a long time to be underground. He thinks a child ought not to work in a pit before he is 12 years of age. When he was about 24 he was burnt by the wildfire and was blinded for a month and he lost his nails. About three years since the roof fell in and broke his breast bone. He has two sons now working in the pits. The eldest is 24 and is a hammerer and has not been a collier more than three years. He does not consider him so good a collier as he would have been if he had begun earlier.

his
(Signed) SAMUEL  BACON
mark.

RENISHAW IRON WORKS. (Messrs. Appleby and Co.)

No.467. Mr. James Appleby.

They employ very few children in the foundry. They assist the moulders but they have 19 apprentices. They do not pay them a premium, they are bound to the firm and are paid 3s. per week for the first year, raised 1s. a week, second, third, and fourth and fifth years, 1s. 6d., the sixth and 2s. the seventh, making 10s. 6d. per week the last. They work for the firm from six to four including an hour for breakfast and an hour for dinner. They frequently nearly double their earnings by overworking. They never work either nights or Sundays. They have neither school nor reading room. They have a club to which the men only pay. There is also a fund arising from fines from both men and boys for non-attendance and as respects the apprentices, for drunkenness, swearing or bad conduct, the product of which is expended in various sums during the illness caused by accidents. They have no rules either printed or put up on any part of the works.

For APPLEBY, WALKER & Co.,
JAS. APPLEBY.

No.468. Anthony Ludlam, ground bailiff.

The company have two shafts at Cottam and two at Comber. No.1 is 68 yards deep, the seam five feet and the headways and waggonways, four feet six inches. There are two banks 35 and 25 yards and the waggon roads are together 400 yards. The waggons are worked by means of men and ponies. There are no boys. These two pits are winded from each other by the assistance of a furnace occasionally. In general the works are dry but it rains a little in one of the banks. There is a little wildfire and more blackdamp. No.2 is 73 yards deep. seam five feet and the headways four feet six inches. There are two banks, one 96 and one 20 yards, two waggonways, 600 yards together worked by men and ponies. Much the same as No.1 to wildfire and blackdamp as well as to the wet. They have only one under 13 who is employed hurrying the coals on. He does not know exactly how many under 18. There have been no accidents within two years at either pit.

At Comber they have two shafts, Nos.4 and 5. No.4 is 112 yards deep and the seam five feet, headways 4 feet 6 inches. There are three banks, one 80, one 65 and one 20 yards. They have nearly 1500 yards of waggon roads. The waggons are worked as Nos.1 and 2. The pits are winded down to No.4 and up to No.5 by assistance of a furnace. The workings are dry. No.5 is 96 yards deep, seam and method of working the same as No.4. There are two banks one 70 and one 80 yards and two waggon roads, one 350 and one 200 yards. They are both a little subject to wildfire and blackdamp. They have no boys under 13 and he does not know how many under 18. No accidents have occurred at either pit for years. Messrs. A sink the shafts, make the headings, waggon ways and find the tools. They then let it generally to their own butties by the ton. The butties then let it

by the yards to the holers and headers and employ the young people and others per day. They go down at seven to five with one hour for dinner when the engine stops. Half days are from seven to twelve. He superintends the windways himself and goes down once a week and considers all four pits particularly well winded. They now use a wire rope at No.4 and they have had it for only a fortnight. He does not like it. They used to use flat ropes. They let down four at a time. They have Davy lamps and use bonnets in winter but merely because the shaft is wet. They use board-gates which he considers a way of saving expense. The shafts are not laid in lime. All four are worked by steam. Cottam and Comber are both in the parish of Barlborough.

(Signed) ANTHONY LUDLAM.

[Board-gates is working the pit on new principle. The waggonways in this neighbourhood are called board-gates.]

No.469. James Gladwin.

He is 11 years old and has worked half a year. He assists in moulding, that is, carries sand, moulds and tools and works from six to half past three or four with half an hour for breakfast and one hour for dinner. He attends the Methodist Sunday School and has done for three or four years. He can write a little but not his name. He reads in the Testament.

[This was the only child at work it being Whitsun week. I understand there were only two others. Very few of the apprentices were at work from the same cause. They were employed in moulding and appeared healthy and contented.]

ECKINGTON. (Mr. George Wells.)

No.470.

He has two shafts at Mosborough and two at Eccington all worked by gin horses but not at work because the holiday week. The Mosbrough No.1 Pit is 50 yards deep and No.2 47. The seam in both is 3 feet 8 inches, headways 4 feet and waggon way 200 yards. The corves are drawn on the banks by a pony and guided behind by a boy with a hook. On the waggonway the boys are from 14 to 18. There are very few in the pits under 13 and he thinks none at Eccington. The works are dry and there is no wildfire but a little damp. At Eccington one shaft is 46 yards and the other 45, seam 3 feet 9 inches and headways 4 feet. Both these and those at Mosbrough are well winded from each other. They have no wildfire and but little blackdamp in them. They have not one boy under 13. They work from seven to five with one hour for dinner and are let up and down two or three at a time by a round rope. They have a Davy lamp but never use it. The shafts are not laid in lime but they have corbs of timber. There are no bonnets and have not had an accident at any of the pits for years.

No.471. Matthew White.

He is 12 years old and has worked three or four years. He used to work at Wingerworth and Clay Cross. He helps his father to push the waggon and has 1s. 3d. per day. He goes to work at half past four to five with an hour for dinner but he never goes to night or Sundays since he has been at Eccington. He never goes to school, church or chapel. He cannot write and can neither spell house, church or cow.

No.472. John White.

He is 11 years old and has worked in the pits for nearly two years in the pit where he helps his father and has 1s. 3d. per day. He goes at half past four to five with one hour for dinner, half days are half past four to twelve. He neither goes to church, school or chapel.

MOSBOROUGH. (Mr. Richard Swallow.)

No.473. Joseph French, woodman.

There is no one besides him in the pit owing to it being holiday week and the canal being drawn off. The shaft is 54 yards deep, the seam 4 feet with headways the same. There are four banks of 13 yards each and two waggon roads 200 yards each but one is not yet worked. The pit is well winded through the engine shaft and the works are dry. There is no wildfire and very little blackdamp. He thinks there is not one in the pit that is under 13 years old and there are six or seven under 18. The shaft is worked with rods to steady the boxes and when drawn up they catch a hook and by means

of machinery cover the middle of the pit by an open platform. Three or four are let down and up at a time. They have a flat rope and no chain. The engine is 25 horse power and works the pump. The young men go down at seven to five and have one hour for dinner.

UNSTONE. (Mr. W. Newbold.)

No.474. John Higginbottom, agent.

They have only one shaft at work by a two horse gin and it is 46 yards deep, seam 4 feet 4 inches and headways the same. There are three banks, 80, 100 and 120 yards and one waggon way of 300 yards. The waggons are pushed by children under 13, the youngest is 10. They employ about four or five under 13. They work from six to five with one hour for dinner. Sometimes children work all night but very seldom and not more than twice a year. They have 50 coke ovens and there are 5 children under 13. They are paid by the coke burners and are mostly their own children. There is no school, club or reading room. They do not allow the men to punish the children under a penalty of 10s. The pit is well winded from another shaft and there is no wildfire and but little blackdamp. There has been no accident and they let down and up only two at a time.

(Signed) JOHN HIGGINBOTTOM.

No.475. William Tomlinson.

He is 10 year old. He occasionally assists his father in picking cokes but generally goes to school. He pays 1½d. per week and has been six or seven years. He is now only in the spelling book. He also attends the Church Sunday School but can neither spell church or dog.

No.476. Thomas Platts.

He is 12 years old and has worked at the coke ovens for two years. He assists his father and works from four to five and has not always time allowed for dinner. He neither goes to school, church or chapel. He once attended for half a year but was only in a b c.

[He knows nothing.]

No.477. Joseph Hancocks.

He is 16 years old. He has worked six years at the coke ovens. He works from four to five and mostly has one hour for dinner. He goes to Church Sunday School and has been at a day school. He can write his name and spells decently.

DRONFIELD.

No.478. James Wright, Esq., Surgeon.

He has been in practice at Dronfield near 30 years. He has attended those employed in the pits and spindle factories. In the latter he has met many cases where the boys have been obliged to leave because of grinding spindles on dry stones. It very soon brings on spitting of blood. The dust and metal from the stone get to the lungs and very soon produce ulceration. Another danger attending this employment is, the stone is extremely narrow and frequently breaks. The colliers are subject to asthma and if they reach 50 they all pant and thinks this would be the case if they did not begin so early, perhaps more so. In the spindle trade they now frequently employ adults at the grinding department. Medically speaking a child ought not to work regularly in the pits before 13 or 14 years old. The muscles before that, are not fit for laborious work. Eight to ten hours a day is enough and they ought not to be above five hours without meals.

(Signed) JAMES WRIGHT.

DRONFIELD OX CLOSE COAL FIELD. (Mr. William Booker and Co.)

No.479. Robert Gregory, head banksman.

The No.1 shaft is 53 yards deep and the seam with what they take out 7 feet, with the headways the same. It is worked, as well as No.2 on the new plan, much the same as the New Pits at Riddings. There are four banks or stints, six yards each and one waggon road about 200 yards. The waggons are on wheels and are drawn by men. The youngest in the pit is 17. They could not do without children. The rails are laid up by the loaders. The workings are middling dry. Nos.1 and 2 are winded from eachother and the engine shaft. There is no wildfire but blackdamp. When they

first worked with the cradle and self-closing cover, it rather affected the air in the works while it was closed. It is now grated so it does no harm. They let down four or five in the box. They have a round rope and guides down shaft. There has been no accident.

No.2 is 61 yards deep, seams and headways the same as No.1. The youngest in pit is 14 and no other under 18. There is no wildfire but there is blackdamp. A man got sadly crushed nine weeks since by the bind falling and has not worked since. They have neither club, school or reading room. They do not work under butties and they have never exceeded 12 hours including one for dinner.

Mr. B and Co. have two shafts at High Fields worked by a gin horse. Each way in the old way they are 47 yards deep, the seam is not four feet but the headways about that. They have only one under 13 in both pits and he is 12. He waggons. They lose a good deal of time in these pits with blackdamp. They used not to be well ventilated but no accident has occurred. They do not work more than 12 hours at Nos.1 and 2. He did not work in a pit until he was married and was 23 years old. He considers where he used to work there was not a better collier in pit but thinks in general, they should begin business at 13 and not before. He should not like a child of his to work in a pit more than 10 hours with an hour out of it for dinner but thinks one hour and a half in two meals would be much better. He thinks the new plan a good one and it might be practised with a three feet seam. He has heard it could not, but has never seen a roof himself but what would do. It ought to be four feet headway and that might be had either by lowering or raising.

STUBLEY DRONFIELD. (John Grey Waterfall.)

No.480. George Goodlad, banksman.

They have only two shafts worked by a gin horse each. Sommerwood is 50 yards deep, seam 7 feet and headways same. There are three banks of six yards each and a waggon road of 100 yards. The waggons are pulled by hook, by boys 14 to 17 years old. These and gin horse driver are all under 18. It is winded from an old shaft. There is no wildfire but blackdamp. There is no accident. Dronfield Woodhouse Pit is 50 yards and he thinks the seam is 7 feet and headway 8 feet. They are only working one bank of 6 yards. They employ none but men below and only one boy above. They work from five to four and there is not night or Sunday work.

GEORGE GOODLAD.

DRONFIELD. (Mr. Samuel Lucas.)

No.481.

He has two coal shafts, one worked by an engine, 45 yards deep and other by gin horse, 40 yards deep. The seams are 4 feet each and headways same. There are no children under 13 in Upper Pit and only two under 18, one 17, the other 16 years old. They both push the waggons and are let down at five to four with one hour allowed for dinner. I could not ascertain how many banks or waggon ways. In Lower Pit there are two banks and two waggon roads. The waggons are pushed and there is only one boy in the pit under 13. He is 12 and has worked two years and pushes the waggons.

[Besides these Mr. Lucas has 52 coke ovens.]

No.482. Charles Silcock.

He is 14 years old and assists his father to waggon. He has no wages and works from five to four with one hour for dinner. He went for two years to free school but he cannot spell church, school or cat. Neither he nor his father, go to church, chapel or school. He has no reason why he does not. He does not want to. He appears sulky and inclined to blackguardism.

No.483. John Wilburn.

He is 12 years old and has worked two years. He pushes the waggons and helps his father.

No.484. John Cartwright.

He is 12 years old and has worked in coke ovens one and half years. He helps his father. He comes at four and never goes home before six with one hour and a half allowed for meals. He goes to Methodist Sunday School and was three years at the free school. He can write his name and reads in Bible. He cannot spell very simple words.

No.485. James Hartley.

He is 12 years old and has only driven gin horse eight or nine weeks. He has 7d. per day. He used to go to the free school and was there one year and a half and now goes to the Methodist Sunday School. He can spell pretty well.

No.486. Mr. Lucas.

He is now sinking a shaft on the new plan.

HEATH. (Mr. Henry Goodwin.)

No.487. Charles John Goodwin.

He is the son of Mr. H. Goodwin. His father has two shafts both of them worked by gin horses and are 30 yards deep. They employ no children but the gin horse drivers. One is 10 years and the other 12 and only one young man who is 15 years old. They work from seven to six for whole days but seldom make them as the pits are very small and wholly dependent on landsale.

DENBY. (Messrs. Pattison and Co.)

No.488. Isaac Brown, banksman.

They have only one shaft. The engine is 8 horse power and the pit is 24 yards deep, laid with rough stone and bind. It is vented from a windshaft 100 yards off. There is no wildfire or blackdamp. There is no Davy lamp, rope or bonnet nor any boys employed under 13. The youngest is 16. The banks have just begun and the waggon road is 10 yards. The waggons are drawn by men or big boys. They work from six to six with no dinner hour.

ALDERWASLEY IRON WORKS. (John and Charles Mold.)

No.489. Mr. John Mold.

They employ at these works four children under 13 and four under 18. Two are employed as underhand millmen, that is, assist in drawing bars into rods. The other two are assistant sheet workers. Two of those under 18 are catches in the rolling mill. One of the others is an underhand puddler, the other a hammer lad. They seldom employ any under 11 year old. They are neither apprenticed or hired. They work from six to six with half an hour for breakfast and clocking and one hour for dinner. There is only one works at night, alternate weeks, and that only five nights. Neither rewards or punishments, club, reading room or school. The boys, most of them, attend the Methodist Sunday School at Toadmoor about half a mile off. He does not consider their employment affects either their health or eyesight.

(Signed) JOHN MOLD.

No.490. John Pyne.

He is 12 years old and has worked for three years. He as 5s. 6d. per week and works from six to six with half an hour allowed for breakfast and clocking and one hour for dinner. He assists at the furnace but it does not hurt his eyes. He worked at the factory at Belper before and he likes the forge best. He goes to the Toadmoor Methodist Sunday School and reads in the Bible and can write.

[He is rather ignorant.]

No.491. Benjamin Pyne.

He is nine years old and has worked four months and assists the shearer. He works from six to eight or half past. He has his meals as he can. He dare say he has two hours but not at regular periods. He went for a short time to the Belper Factory School and he now goes to the Toadmoor Methodist Sunday School. He reads in the Testament and cannot write.

[He appears quite as well informed as his brother.]

No.492. John Fox.

He is 12 years old and has worked for two years. He heaves the rods up from the rollers and works from half past five to half past six with two hours allowed for meals. The works do not injure his eyes or health. He does not know how much he gets per week as he works by the ton

under his father. He was a year at a day school and now goes to the Calvinist Sunday School at Heage. He reads in the Testament but does not write.

[This boy seems pretty well informed.]

No.493. Benjamin Abbott.

He is 13 years old and has worked half a year. Before that he helped his father as butcher. He likes the forge best. He works from five to five with two hours allowed for meals. He has 6s. per week and now makes one a quarter day. He works from five to nine but is paid overwork. He straightens rods. He went to a day school a year. He now goes to the Heage Sunday School and reads in the Bible but cannot write.

[This boy can scarcely spell.]

BELPER. (Messrs W.G. and J. Strutt.)

No.494. Richard Hodgkiss, overlooker of the iron works.

They do not now employ any children or young persons. The youngest is 21 years. They have taken no apprentices or have employed children for five years past.

(Signed) RICHARD HODGKISS.

CRICH. (Allsop's Lead Mines.)

No.494. William Frost.

He is the agent to Mr. Wass, Mr. Allsop and Mr. Cox. They now have five shafts or mines at work. Wakebridge is 184 yards deep. It is worked by an engine. They have three waggon ways, one is between 400 and 500 yards, the other two much less. The waggons are pushed by young men 17 or 18 year old. They have no younger in the pit. They are paid by the shift and only work six hours a day and earns about 12s. per week. The lead is let to the whole body of miners, say 45 or 50 who find the young men and pay them their wages. They descend and ascend by ladders, never by the main shaft. He frequently goes down the mines and windways. Wakebridge is well winded from various old shafts. They have no wildfire and but little sulphur. Glory is 60 yards deep. There are six or eight waggon ways from 100 to 500 yards long. The waggons are drawn by young men 17 or 18 year old. The mine is ventilated from an old shaft and cupola. It is well winded and they have no wildfire or sulphur.

Plaistow Field Lead mine is 124 yards deep, There are two waggon roads, one 50 and one 150 yards. They have no children and at this time, only two men at work. It is winded from a cupola and it is well winded and neither subject to wildfire or sulphur. Bacchus Pit Lead Mine is worked by one gin horse. It is 130 yards deep with one waggon road of 500 yards. The waggons are worked by three men and one boy who shoves. It has communication with Wakebridge and Glory and is well winded and neither subject to wildfire or sulphur. The mines are all entered by circuitous passages and ladders, that is, staves fastened in the sides of the shafts. They all have at the entrances convenient cabins with stoves and everything necessary for the miners to dry and change their clothes.

Ridgeway Sough is not at work but is not worked out. His employers do not as a body contribute to any school but Mr. Wass has built a school room at Lea and assists it with his and Mrs. W's personal services on a Sunday. There is neither school nor reading room but the proprietors, in case of accident, mostly pay for medical assistance. The boys are not allowed to be struck. If they misbehave they are turned away. They are very much checked if they used bad language and are in other respects kept in good order. They are neither hired nor apprenticed. The companies since they have crushed the ore by steam, have employed no women.

WILLIAM FROST.

At the Glory Mine they employ boys to wash and dress the ore. Amongst others are:-

No.496. Thomas Peach.

He is 12 years old and has worked for three years. He comes to work at half past six to half past five and has half an hour allowed for breakfast and half an hour for dinner. He has 4s. per week and he never works nights or Sundays. He goes to the Holloway Methodist Sunday School and was one year at a day school. Spells very badly.

No.497. Enos Harrison.

He is nine year old and has not worked for many weeks. He attends the Crich Methodist Sunday School and has done so for more than two years. He cannot spell his name.

No.498. Samuel Wortley.

He is 16 years old and has worked eight months. Formerly he was a penknife grinder at Sheffield. He likes his present work best. He went for five years to a day school at Lea and he now goes to the Methodist Sunday School. He learns to write on a Saturday evening and earns 6s. per week.

No.499. Henry Poyser.

He is 13 years old and has worked a year. He worked at the hat factory before and he liked it best but he had not so much wage. He has 5s. per week and writes.

No.500. Thomas Else.

He is 15 years old and has worked for six years and has 6s. per week. He goes to the Wirksworth Church Sunday School and has been for six years. He writes and reads in the Bible.

Wakebridge Lead Mine. The following dressers:-

No.501. George Woolley.

He is 17 years old and has worked at the mines five years. He has 7s. per week and did nothing before he came to the mines. He begins at half past six to half past five with half an hour for breakfast and half an hour for dinner. He never works nights or Sundays. Sometimes he works two hours a day overwork for which he is paid. He attends the Lea Unitarian Sunday School and he is taught reading, writing and accounts. He is in multiplication.

[An intelligent youth.]

No.502. William Pearson.

He is 12 years old and has worked half a year and earns 3s. 6d. per week. He was one year at a day school and now goes to the Wirksworth Baptist Sunday School. He cannot write his name but reads in the Testament. Cannot spell bread.

No.504. William Else.

He is 13 years old and has worked for four years and has 5s. 6d. per week. He goes to the Wirksworth Church Sunday School and has been for four years. He is only in the spelling book and cannot spell church or chapel but knows what c o w spells.

No.505. George Walker.

He is 14 years old and has worked for three years and earns 7s. per week. He has been five years to a day school and now goes to the Crich Baptist Sunday School. He is in long division, writes and reads in the Testament.

[Appears intelligent.]

No.506. Andrew Blackwell.

He is 12 years old and has worked for three years. He has 4s. per week and goes to the Lea Methodist Sunday School and has been two years to a day school. He cannot write but reads in the Bible.

[Very moderate speller.]

No.507. William Wortley.

He is 12 years old and has worked at the mines only half a year. He was a wood turner but likes his present work best. He has been one year at the Lea Unitarian Sunday School. He writes and reads in the Bible.

[Very intelligent.]

No.508. William Walton.

He is 14 years old and has worked for four years and has 5s. per week. He attends the Crich Baptist Sunday School and has been at day school a year. He can write his name and learns to write and reads in the Testament.

[Spells middling.]

No.509. Mr. Joseph Mather, Barmaster for the Manor of Crich.

The principle worker of the mines are the Glory Company, Mr. Jos. Wass and Co., Bacchus Pipe Company, Jos. Wass and Co., Pearson's Venture, John Allsop and Co., Old End Mine or Crich Old Sough, Francis Hurt, Esq., Under Town Mine, the Butterley Company. He considers they all employ children and young people. He has been barmaster 11 years. He believes neither young nor old work more than six hours a day in the mines. The dressers never more than 12 hours in summer and not so much in winter. He considers the mining children better off than others so much so that they are willing, when wanted, to come six or seven miles to work. He is also the agent for the Butterley Company. In these mines they have none under 13 and only one under 18 years old.

(Signed) JOSEPH MATHER.

No.510. Edward Brown, Surgeon.

He is in the habit of attending the miners. He considers they are more subject to diseases of the lungs from working in the damp and confines air, than other labourers as well as rheumatism from the same cause but not to a very great extent. He is only surprised to find they are not more so. He does not think they are over worked. He considers, mentally, they are a very superior set to the colliers.

(Signed) EDWARD BROWN.

BUCKLAND HOLLOW STONE AND MARBLE SAWING MILL.

These works are propelled by a steam engine. There are only four children and young men. They appear quite healthy and the employment is no way arduous. The works are carried on by Messrs. David Alexander and Abraham Wheatcroft.

No.511. Matthew Martin.

He is 16 years of age and works from six to six with half an hour for breakfast and one hour for dinner. He goes to the Heage Methodist Sunday School and is taught both reading, writing and accounts. He reads in the Bible and can write his name. He has 5s. per week.

No.512. John Wilson.

He is 13 years old and has worked for two years. He wets the saw and has 4s. per week and works from six to six with half an hour allowed for breakfast and one for dinner with quarter of an hour for clocking. He has been both to day and boarding school. He is in mensuration. His books do him very great credit. His father has him at the works until he can apprentice him.

No.513. John Calton.

He is 13 years old and has worked there three years. He attends the saw and has 5s. per week and works from six to six with one hour allowed for dinner but no breakfast time. He has been five years to a day school and reads well, writes and is in compound multiplication.

MEERBROOK LEAD WORKS. (Hurt, Esq., M.P.)

At the smelting mill no children or young people are employed. At the red-lead, one boy, who assists his father. At the coal pit, which is worked merely to supply the works, only three men and one boy under 15 years of age are employed. The shaft is longitudinal and about 600 yards long. The coals are drawn by asses.

No.514. Henry Barber.

He is 12 years old and has worked half a year at the red-lead works and assists his father to grind. He has no regular hours nor does he work constantly as it would injure his health if he was to stick to it. He does not go to school, church or chapel. He can read a little but not write.

WIRKSWORTH FREE SCHOOL.

It appears from the Report of the Charity Commissioners that Agnes Fearn, in 1574, devised the house she dwelt in, and all her other houses and property in Wirksworth, to trustees for the support of a free school if ever there should be one in Wirksworth.

By letter patent, dated 27th. October, 26th. Eliz. her Majesty granted there should be a free school in Wirksworth called "The Free Grammar School of Anthony Gell Esq". for the education, institution and instruction of boys in *grammar and other literature*.

It appears that the above mentioned Anthony Gell by his will, dated 29th. February, 1579, devised a school house which he had lately built and lands in Wirksworth then let for £6 13s. 4d.

In August 1828, the property consisted of a farm house at Kirk Ireton and 80A. 3R. 33P. of land, three meadow sand a barn at Kniveton consisting of 13A. 2R. 10P and land let to various tennants, besides rent charges in Wirksworth containing 59A. 2R. 19P. The whole of these produced £198 8s. 1d. per annum but were estimated by a regular surveyor at £259 11s. 6d. per annum. For this and the irregularity which had taken place and the total want of superintendence of the part of the trustees over the receiver and the concerns of the charity, the Charity Commissioners considered it their duty to place this charity in the Court of Chancery where it now remains.

In 1827 a new school was erected, a highly decorative Gothic building, consisting of two rooms but there is no schoolmaster's residence. The present master receives a stated salary for which he conducts the school. There are now 21 boys on the charity who are taught writing, arithmetic, geography, history and a useful education. Very few of the miner's children take advantage of this school owing to the extreme depression of the mining business. The children are admitted as soon as they can read and may stay as long as they please. The parents of the present pupils are principally small farmers and tradesmen.

(Signed) N. HUBBERTY, Head Master.

No.515. Thomas Poyser, Esq., Surgeon.

He has attended the miners in this neighbourhood for several years. He has not found them more subject to asthma, rheumatism or hernia than those working above ground nor does he consider their general health worse. He thinks a child should not work more than 11 or 12 hours a day and not until they are 12 or 13 years old. He also considers they ought to have regular meals during that period.

(Signed) THOS. POYSER.

No.516. William Cantrill, Esq., Surgeon.

He is in the habit of attending the miners in this neighbourhood. He thinks generally they are a very healthy body but those who have worked in the mines that are not well ventilated are subject to asthmatic symptoms but generally recover if they leave the mines. He has not found them more subject to rheumatism than other labourers but they have many cases of hernia. This he attributes to their always working in bent posture. Children should not be allowed to work in a mine before 15 year old and then he thinks, six hours would not hurt them. He thinks the children at the mouth are not hard worked but that nine years old is quite soon enough for a child to be confined for a whole day to any occupation.

(Signed) W. CANTRILL.

No.517. Francis Hursthouse, Barmaster for Wirksworth, Cromford and Hopton.

He thinks there are between 70 and 80 small lead mines in Wirksworth and Hopton but they are all, or nearly so, worked by their owners, who are miners and now and then employ their children at the mouth of the mine. The two or three which are not worked by the miners themselves, he believes, employ no children whatever. The case is, the mining business at these places is very difficult to what it used to be. The trade is bad and the mines nearly exhausted.

(Signed) FRAS. HURSTHOUSE.

BONSALL FREE SCHOOL.

The school was founded by William and Elizabeth Cragge in 1704 for the instruction of poor children in learning as the minister, churchwarden and overseer should think the most convenient and in 1763, Elizabeth Turnor by deed added freehold and copyhold lands then worth £40 per annum, £20 of such rents to be paid to the schoolmaster for teaching 25 boys to read, write and cast accounts and instructing them in the principles of the Church of England. £10 for placing two of the scholars apprentice and residue to be expanded by the trustees in repairing the school house and buildings, purchasing Bibles and the "Whole Duty of Man," for the said 25 boys.

The property now consists of a school house and 3A. 29P. of land in Bonsall occupied by the schoolmaster. Also 19A. 2R. 27P. in Bonsall occupied by various tenants and producing £22 14s., house and 21A. at Matlock let for £32, house and cornmill at Matlock let for £25, land at Tansley, 15A. let for £12. The present schoolmaster was appointed in 1821. He receives the rents from the premises derived from Cragge's charity, £7 13s. 6d and £40 per annum from Turnor's charity. His poor and other rates are also paid for him out of the funds of the charity.

No.518. Abraham Frost, Masters of Ferne's Free School.

The children are all boys, 50 in number. They are taught reading, writing and accounts and are admitted at five years old. The school is open to all boys living in the parish. He is not allowed to take private pupils. The children are expected to know their letters and read a little before they are admitted. Children of all denominations are admitted by merely paying 1s. each winter for fire. In accounts they principally only go through the first four rules of arithmetic. There are some few in fractions. The trustees seldom interfere.

(Signed) ABRAHAM FROST.

BONSALL.

At this place there are many lead mines but worked by poor people and very few employ children or young persons. The bulk of the children work at Mr. Arkwright's mills at Cromford. Those working in mines are very badly off. For instance, Job Bunting, a miner, works himself with his two sons and they scarcely have a rag to cover them. Job Bunting jun., is 11 year old and has worked four years. He works from seven to six with half an hour allowed for breakfast and one hour for dinner. He comes home to his meals. He went three years to the free school and now neither goes to church, chapel or school. He says he can write but he can scarcely spell.

No.519. Benjamin Bunting.

He is 14 years old and has worked three years at the mine. Before that he worked at the factory and he likes the factory best. He was three or four years at the free school and now goes to neither church, school or chapel. He can write and spells middling.

[At the smelting works neither children nor young persons are employed.]

No.520. William Fearn.

He is 13 years old and has worked a year in the mine. Before that he was in a farmer's service which he prefers because "you are then sure of something to eat". As it is he is all in rags and cannot get anything to put on his back. He mostly goes to work at five to one and has half an hour allowed for breakfast. He hangs on in the mine and sometimes works all night from 7 p.m. to 6 a.m. He gets according to what he earns, that is, what the lead is sold for. There are four men, another boy, and himself work the mine. They the last weighing began at Christmas and weighed on the 1st. April. They had 2 loads and 9 bowls, that is 12 bowls to the load. They get £2 per load and have been obliged to buy everything on credit for upwards of three months. He went to the free school for a year and a half. He now goes to neither school, chapel nor church. He should like to go to the Ranters' chapel but he has no clothes.

CRICH, the DUKE'S QUARRIES. (Mr. Simms.)

No.521. George Bowner.

He is 10 years old and has worked half a year. He wheels a barrow about 150 yards from six to six with two hours allowed for meals. He was one year at a day school and neither goes to church, school or chapel.

[Both he and his uncle were extremely saucy. The latter told the boy to answer no questions]

No.522. Jos. Peach.

He is 12 years old and has worked for two months. He assists his father. He does not keep hours but comes with his father and goes back with him. He barrows about 200 yards. He attends the Methodist Sunday School at Holloway and has been there for three years. He reads in the Bible, writes and has been in subtraction.

No.523. Thomas Barnes.

Barrows.

No.524. Samuel Spencer.

He is 13 years old and he breaks stone and has 1s. per day. He has been one year at the day school. Now he goes to the Alderwasley Church Sunday School. He reads in the Bible. Writes and is in simple interest.

[A well informed boy but cannot spell.]

No.525. Richard Stone.

Barrows.

No.526. Henry Cowlshaw.

He is 14 years old and he has worked for four years. He helps his father and breaks stones at a day wage. He works from six to six with one hour allowed for dinner. He goes to Crich Baptist Sunday School. He was at a day school at Crich two years. He reads in the Testament, writes a little. He had worked in the lead mines before and has 1s. per day. He likes the quarry better than the mine.

No.527. John Ward.

He is 14 years old and has worked for four years. He drives a cart and works 12 hours.
