

CHILDREN'S EMPLOYMENT COMMISSION 1842.

**REPORT by JOSEPH FLETCHER, Esq.,
on the Employment of Children and
Young Persons in the Lead-Mines of the
Counties of Lanark and Dumfries; 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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REPORT by JOSEPH FLETCHER, Esq., on the Employment of Children and Young Persons in the Lead-Mines of the Counties of Lanark and Dumfries; and on the State, Condition, and Treatment of such Children and Young Persons.

TO HER MAJESTY'S COMMISSIONERS.

GENTLEMEN,

October 12th - 14th, 1841.

Situation of the Leadhills mines in the parish of Crawford.

THE lead-mines which give name and support to the contiguous little post-town of Leadhills are situated in the parish of Crawford, which forms the southern extremity of the county of Lanark and comprises the most elevated of the southern moorlands of Scotland, which, in one of their ranges, called the Louthers, here attain a height of upwards of 3000 feet above the level of the sea. The Tweed, the Clyde, the Annan, and a branch of the Nith, all rise on its borders and the whole surrounding region consists of vast clay-slate undulations of green, black, and brown mountains, dotted with flocks of hardy sheep, fed by packs of grouse, and for ever re-enveloped in cold storms of wind, rain, and snow, which seem to rush to these hills from every quarter of the sky.

Present state of village and works.

At the top of the pass of Glengonner, at an elevation of about 1400 feet, and in the in a shelterless vale surrounded by summits of black heath, stands the village of Leadhills, or Hopetoun, which comprises a population of nearly 1000 souls, inhabiting mean-looking little cottages with whitewashed walls and moss-grown roofs thatched with heath. The mining works have torn the surface of all the neighbouring lands and are now carried on a few hundred yards below the village. These appear to have been commenced early in the seventeenth century, after the search for gold, found in small grains in the neighbouring hills, had become unprofitable and they have been carried on by the Scots Mining Company, a chartered body, having their office in London, for upwards of 120 years, under leases from the Hopetoun family. The 'Company's House,' which is occupied by W. G. Borron, Esq., the resident proprietor, has around it a screen of trees, which contributes somewhat towards that 'rich appearance,' which one of the inhabitants, born among still bleaker neighbouring hills, assured me he had never seen equalled.

Partial decline.

Notwithstanding the charms which it presented to such eyes, it will readily be imagined that this is a place in which no one stays who is not retained by his avocations and a touch of misery even is now added to its original poverty of appearance, by the number of cottages which here and there have been abandoned to ruin. At the time of my visit, too, there were remaining in the village a number of families, the heads of which, to the number perhaps of 80, had gone to work at the newly opened mine at Carsephairn, in Galloway, about 60 miles distant, where there is as yet no permanent home for those dependent on them. The mines of Leadhills now employ only 188 hands, all men and boys, of whom 152 are adults, 18 are above 13 and under 18 years of age, and 18 are under 13.

Branches into which the mining labour is divided.

The mining labours divide themselves into three branches - the underground task of getting the ores, the breaking and washing of them in the open and the smelting of them in the furnaces or mills. I visited the scene of each operation and conversed with the people engaged in it, whose testimony, where

I did not note it, was entirely corroborative of that which is subjoined.

State of the miners and character of under-ground labour.

The entrance to the mines is in the side of the mountain, on the north-western side of the glen, by a low adit, in which the water is up to the ankles in a running stream for a great part of the way. After penetrating for some distance on a level the descent is by a series of wet, dirty, rude and almost perpendicular ladders, with long steps, in climbing which, with lights, tools and stores, it is not surprising that the men meet occasionally with fatal accidents, notwithstanding the cautious character of the instructed Leadhills miners, as compared with the foolhardy coal-miners in the lower parts of the county (No.46).

Dressing the ores an earlier employment.

Part of the way down are two water-pressure engines, one pumping water from the bottom of the mine to a level which runs hence to a lower part of the glen, and the other drawing the ores up a shaft, the gearing and construction of which are not such as to make it safe for the ascent and descent of the men. The evidence of the superintendent of the underground works (No.46) will, however, best describe the system of work underground, to which the occupation of washing the ore at the surface serves to introduce the young people, who, however, seldom enter the mine itself under the age of 18. The evidence of Dr. James Martin (No.47) describes the influence of the underground labour on health and longevity.

Character of the employment in the smelting-mills.

Employment in the smelting-mills is likewise obtained through previous occupation in the washing department and is entered upon about the same employment age. Formerly, when the chimneys or vents were merely short upright stacks, the imperfect draught, by exposing the men to the deleterious fumes from the ores caused serious injury to their health; but the vents are now carried several hundred yards up the mountain side, an improvement for which the quantity of lead deposited in them is an ample reward; 10 per cent. of the produce of the ores smelted being procurable out of the deposits in a long chimney. The evidence of the overseer of the smelting-works (No.45) and of the physic (No.47) contains all that will be required concerning this branch of the labour.

Employment of children and young persons almost exclusively in dressing ores in the open air.

It is the 'dressing,' or breaking and washing of the ores, in the open air in which the young people are almost exclusively employed and the number so employed is returned as 35, or less than one-fifth of the total number of hands in the works. Their ages, together with the degree of instruction which they possess will be gathered from the following abstract from the return made by their employers:-

Number, ages, and education of those employed.

ABSTRACT from the RETURNS made by the SCOTS MINING COMPANY.

Age.	No.	EDUCATION.				
		Attend Sunday-school.	Attend Day-school during the Winter.	Regularly attend public worship.	Can read an easy book.	Can write.
8 to 9	1	..	1	1	1	1
9 to 10	3	..	3	3	3	3
10 to 11	6	..	6	6	6	5
11 to 12	8	..	8	8	8	8
12 to 13	3	..	3	3	3	3
13 to 14	3	..	3	3	3	3
14 to 15	5	1	5	5	5	5
15 to 16	5	2	5	5	5	5
16 to 17	..	..	..	..	..	..
17 to 18	1	..	1	1	1	1
	35	3	35	35	35	31

Place and instruments of work.

These young washers pursue their labours in the bleak vale below the village, near the mouth of the mine, where there is an unroofed crushing-machine worked by a water-wheel, which also gives a jerking motion to the rows of sieves immersed in water, at which part of the boys are employed in 'skumming' ore, or separating the bits of stone which rise to the top, from the lumps of heavier lead ore which fall to the bottom of the sieve.

Method pursued.

The method of breaking, washing, and separating the ores is precisely the same as that pursued in Northumberland, from which district the overseer this department was brought and its processes will be described in detail by Dr. Mitchell, the Sub-Commissioner visiting that district, in which it is practised on so much larger a scale. The adult miners who raise the ore, first sort out the pieces, containing metal from the stony refuse which is unavoidably brought up with it and those pieces are next put through the crushing-mill, fed by a boy sitting in a little box, assisted by several others bringing the ore in little waggons. The broken materials are then put in the sieves, jolted in a long trough of water at which a number of boys stand in a row, attending the sieves and 'skumming' away the lighter matter, while the very smallest particles escape with the water. The bits of metallic ore left in the bottom of the sieves being thus separated are placed in distinct heaps ready for smelting and according to the smelted produce the several sets of men who raised each heap are paid.

Washing of the refuse.

The refuse materials put aside by the men themselves as waste are subjected to the same process as the rough ores, since they are found to contain a proportion of lead sufficient to pay the proprietors for this labour and the water which brings away all the smallest particles from the sieves is made to deposit, in a succession of little wooden troughs on the ground, all that portion of them which is marked as lead ore by its greater specific gravity, while the rest flows away in a poisonous impurity of the water.

Disadvantages of the employment.

The great disadvantages of this employment to the young people engaged in it are the constant dabbling in the cold water, from which the feet are not always protected and the exposure to the mountain storms and pitiless winds without any shelter whatever. The detail of hours, meals, accidents, holidays, hiring and wages and treatment, will appear from the evidence of the superintendent of the washing department (No.43) and that of one of the washers (No.44), whose evidence was so precisely corroborated by that of others that I found it unnecessary to make further minutes. The inclemency of the climate and its effects on the young workers, and on the population generally, are described by Dr. Martin (No.47).

Exposure to accident less than to the weather.

The rolling-mill has two bevelled wheels, working into each other with cogs, without sufficient fence but Mr. Borron the resident proprietor, volunteered to erect a proper guard and he has likewise proposed to erect sheds for the protection of the washers but the overseer of this department objects that they will so much obstruct the light that, although they may be used in Northumberland, they would here prevent the separation from the refuse matter of the 'grey' ores, which are there unknown. This objection, however, where health is so materially concerned, should be directed to procuring some portion of glass in the roof, rather than to the denial of all shelter, which it is painful to witness and injurious to endure.. It is to be hoped, too, that some better expedient can be found than the employment of children to clear the smelting-house chimneys of their valuable but deleterious deposits. (No.44.)

Employment of women and girls in embroidery.

While the men and boys are employed in the mines, the young unmarried women from eight years of age upward, are occupied at home, chiefly in the embroidery of muslin for the agents of Glasgow houses (Nos.43,45,47), at embroidery. which they work very long hours, though girls of full ability will earn, on an average, only 2s. 6d. or 3s. per week, which, however, is a great assistance to the family of the parent or relative of which they form part. Formerly, the employment of these persons was spinning, for the market as well as for home use but about 40 years ago it was superseded by tambouring, to which the embroidering of muslin, held in the hand, has now succeeded. Dr. Martin describes the injurious effects on health of the close confinement in this employment. (No.47.)

Houses of the miners.

I entered many of the miners' cottages, in which the principal apartment serves for both bedroom, sitting-room, and kitchen, an arrangement inimical to neatness and cleanliness and the advantages of which can be appreciated only by bearing in mind the wretched climate and the cost of fuel. The entrance to these cottages is generally by narrow folding-doors opening into a little sunken porch, communicating with an outer chamber of varying size, used generally for stores of turf, potatoes, &c. Two contiguous beds, sunk into closets, usually occupy the side of the living-room opposite the fire and in the most comfortable of these rooms are respectable presses, tables, shelves, &c. But others exhibited the extreme of destitution, with floors of earth, beds of heath, and an utter destitution of bed-clothes. Scarcely any were without books, of which the most modern were productions of the Scottish popular press and the older, the Scriptures, and some books of divinity of the past century.

Food.

So small is the consumption of animal food at Leadhills, that the butcher who used to be in the place has left it and when a sheep is killed it falls by a general conspiracy of the principal inhabitants, who bespeak the several portions of it from the man who kills, and who, I was told, might otherwise 'eat it himself'. The old men complain that advanced prices, with which their wages have by no means kept pace, prevent their getting meat and butter as they did when a sheep sold for 4s. and butter for 4d. per lb. Scots. But for this deprivation they have been partly compensated by the increased use of milk, as they have reclaimed additional meadow plots for their cows from the sides of the hills around them. Mr. Weir, overseer of the underground works, describes their principal food to be oatmeal (No.46), and his account of the prevalent mode of living was confirmed by other witnesses, part of whose testimony on this subject is annexed (Nos.43,44). It is the habit to dress very decently on holidays.

Physical condition.

With such employment and such homes the children generally present an appearance of robust health. For their work they are fairly clad in coarse white woollen garments, yet the effects resulting to health from mining labour as here conducted, are by no means favourable. The results are summed up in Dr. Martin's Medico-Statistical Report (No.47), with which the common opinion of the older inhabitants agrees (No.46). The children are cleanly for the style of cottage life which prevails generally in North Britain.

Decline from past superiority of moral condition, and its causes.

The inhabitants of this remote village were formerly as pre-eminent for their moral worth as for their acquired intelligence but the testimony to a modern decline in the former characteristic, accompanied perhaps by one not so easily perceived in the latter, is universal and it is variously attributed to want of ability in a recent master of the village school, to a past inefficient ministrations, to bad example on the part of inhabitants who were in a position expressly demanding a better, to increased poverty reducing the tone of independence, to a strike which took place in 1836, when labour was suspended for four months and to the system of payment by a credit score at 'the shop.' (Nos.46,48,&c.) From the great hope expressed of the good to be derived from the restored efficiency of the school, I conclude that the past defects in the intellectual and moral training of the young are the causes most dwelt upon. (Nos. 43-46.)

Means of improvement provided by the Miners' Library founded a century ago.

The valuable evidence of the Rev. John Hope, the minister, describes both the former and the present moral character of the villagers and the means of moral improvement, in addition to the ministry and the school, provided by the voluntary association of the labouring miners, precisely a century ago, to found the 'Miners' Library of Leadhills,' perhaps the earliest mechanics' institution in the realm. Its articles and laws are annexed (No.50), as being those of an institution which has prospered in their observance, so as now to contain more than 1800 volumes.

Some of the miners are not satisfied with a late law, which admits to its management persons who are not of the class of miners. The centenary of the Miners' Library or Reading Society was celebrated on Tuesday the 23rd of November, 1841, by a procession, by dinners at the library house (a plain spacious room), and at the inn, and by a ball in the school-room. Even the absent villagers at the Woodhead Mines of Carsephairn, in Galloway, did not fail to make this a day of festival. Allan Ramsay was a native of Leadhills, and a distinguished patron of its library. Messrs. Synnington and Taylor, who first successfully

applied the powers of steam to navigation, likewise derived their origin from this place.

The number in 1835, when a catalogue of them was printed, was 1633, of which 471 were of divinity, 177 travels and voyages, 324 history, 177 arts and sciences, 87 philosophy and letters, 47 poetry, 212 novels, romances, &c. and 138 miscellaneous.

Moral character of the place still above the average.

The present moral character of the inhabitants, lowered as it may be, still appears from this evidence to be 'decidedly superior to that of manufacturing mining labourers generally, employed together at large public works' (No.48) and the evidence of the present schoolmaster (No.49) shows that this diminutive city of the desert has long been a chief source of such education as could be procured the wild districts around, through the agency of boys hired from it to teach in farmers' families.

Improvement taking place in schools.

The whole of this evidence of the schoolmaster (No.49) is, in fact, worthy of perusal, as a description of the education of a teacher common in this district and of the free competition among teachers and improving demand for higher qualifications on the part of patrons, which promise to keep popular instruction in Scotland as much in advance of that which prevails in England as ever it has been. The schoolmaster is a young, active, and intelligent person, eminently qualified, under good moral and religious superintendence, to advance his pupils in letters and in knowledge.

Improved state of that at Leadhills.

In the school I found about 80 children of both sexes, chiefly from 4 to 12 years of age, under his sole tuition, with both boys and girls in the same classes, the sole distinction being according to proficiency and these classes, which were not very large, seemed to work excellently. Although in clothing and cleanliness this little crowd was far below that of the national schools in the rural districts of England, yet here the quickness and alertness everywhere exhibited formed a remarkable contrast to the drowsy appearance there too often witnessed. And when the whole were seated in lines down each side of the room for a lesson in the rudiments of natural philosophy (the subject being the formation of ice and snow), first their silent attention and then their excitement - an excitement still amenable to discipline - was very remarkable. As scattered groups, or the whole school, arose to offer their answers to the questions proposed by the master.

Affording, with other advantages, an education equal to that of the middle classes in South Britain.

Examinations on the Catechism and in 'mental arithmetic,' a term which the boys in the village are perfectly familiar, then succeeded and, combined with the recent progress in reading and writing and the ready access of the scholars to the valuable little school published by the Irish Society, as well as to the books of the miners' library in their parents' houses, convinced me that the children of the poor labourers of Leadhills are under as good, or perhaps under a better, system of intellectual culture than even the middle-class children of South Britain generally. And the minister of Leadhills expressed great satisfaction with the moral aid promised by this school, the interests of which he has not spared efforts to advance.

Anxiety of parents for education and progress of children.

The testimony is universal to the anxiety of the parents to have their children instructed (Nos.43,44,48.) and the evidence of the boy Aitchison (No.44) affords an evidence of intellectual activity which is here usual but which it would be nearly impossible to find in the same class in England. The progress of the children generally is indicated by the figures given in the preceding table, showing the state of instruction among the children employed in the washing department, together with their age and number.

Superiority of instruction and in this poor and remote village as compared to that which prevails in rich manufacturing districts of England.

Of the whole 35, only three attend a Sunday-school, while Sunday-schools are almost the only source of instruction in the ignorant manufacturing districts of the North of England. The whole attend day-school during winter and sometimes evening-school at other times. The whole regularly attend public

worship the whole can read (and generally do read expressly for their own amusement and instruction) and all, except four of the youngest, can write (and well, too, as their signatures testify), an accomplishment which is the best test of their school progress and one of which so general an acquisition is not likely to be shown by any return from the most populous and wealthy of the manufacturing or mining districts of South Britain, where the earnings of a family will generally be double what can be obtained at Leadhills.

Consequent superiority in intellectual character.

As compared to the lumpishness which prevails among the children of the mining and manufacturing populations of Lancashire and Yorkshire, the intelligence of the children of this poor and remote village is most remarkable and by their hardy yet domestic nurture and superior instruction, the emigrants from it are well qualified to compete with the children of a higher class in the towns to which they resort for employment, in England as well as in Scotland.

Exact resemblance between Leadhills and the neighbouring mining village of Wanlock Head.

About a mile and a half westward of Leadhills is the mining village of Wanlock Head, in a vale at the source of the Wanlock stream, containing about 700 inhabitants and situated in the parish of Sanquhar, in the county of Dumfries. It is supported by some mines in the same tract with those of Leadhills, the working of which was commenced about 1680. The present lessees are the Marquis of Bute, who has three shares, and Mr. M'Leod, who has one and the lease being near its termination, these works are not carried on to their former extent. In 1835 they employed a rather greater number of hands than those of Leadhills now employ. This village resembling that of Leadhills in every particular, of situation, the employment of its inhabitants, their means of instruction and their mode of life, it was needless to make express investigations in it. The miners there have their own minister and school and a library of upwards of 1300 volumes, founded in 1756, and supported by subscriptions of 2s. annually and 5s. on admission, yielding annually about £10. There is likewise a Sunday-school conducted by three young men educated in the place and one conducted by the minister, the Rev. Thomas Hastings, for the more advanced youth, held in the chapel, for three months in spring. Sunday-schools he considers of great value but not sufficient to make up for the loss resulting from the prevailing early removal of children from school. In the (lay-school, which is open from 10a.m. to 4p.m., are taught reading, writing, arithmetic, book-keeping, mensuration, Latin, Greek, and French and the master is reported by the minister to be a person of good school and college education, trained to be a teacher and quite qualified for his situation. The children are generally taken away about twelve years of age but as they cannot work during frost, they attend school during the winter quarter and improve themselves. They would otherwise soon forget what they had learned, owing to the early age at which they leave. For in the opinion of the minister they ought not to be removed until fourteen or fifteen years of age. 'As the miners are an intelligent body of men,' he continues, 'they wish to give their children a good religious and intellectual education.' Besides the public library they have also a juvenile library.

Comparison between miners' and farm-labourers' children.

The only children in this mountainous region, besides those of the lead-miners, are the offspring of the labourers employed on the sheep-farms, whose employment must be about as early and full as severe, without the advantages of education which the former so eminently possess. Comparatively. therefore, the condition of the miners' children is greatly superior.

I have the honour to be. Gentlemen,

Your most obedient servant,

JOSEPH FLETCHER,
Secretary.

EVIDENCE COLLECTED BY JOSEPH FLETCHER, ESQ.

LEADHILLS MINES.

No.43 Mr. Harrison Bell. October 12, 1841.

He is superintendent of the washing department of the Scottish Mining Company's Works at Leadhills, which office he will have held for four years next March, after being engaged for all his working life in mining and tried once coal-mining in that county but was so apprehensive, the danger, that he retired from pursuing it, notwithstanding the better pay. The pit in which he was at work, at South Shields, took fire twice.

Besides the washing of the ore there are two other processes which are here performed - the getting of the raw ore out of the mines and the smelting of it at the furnaces but it is in the washing department that almost all the children and young persons employed about these works are engaged. It is as washers that the youths are employed, who, at 16 or 18 enter the mines, for their work in which they are paid at so much in the shilling, as compared to the men. Has never worked in the mine here himself. In the smelting department the youngest people employed are youths of 16 or 18, taken in like manner from among employed at the washing, or in carting ore about the works. In the smelting works small ore is roasted and then smelted. The large ore is smelted at once without roasting and none is subjected to the process of extracting the silver, which amounts only to one ounce a half per ton and would not therefore pay for extracting.

No women or girls whatever are employed in the works, nor in any department employed in and department connected with them, except occasionally a woman to help in drying the peats, with which the furnaces are lighted. The young women and girls in the village are, in fact, chiefly employed in embroidering on muslin and on lace, delivered to them by agents for Glasgow houses, who receive for their agency 1s. in the pound on the wages paid besides some profit from the custom which they contrive to bring to their shops in the village through this influence. They work at this embroidering or sewing from about eight years of age to 23 or 24, when they go out to service, being tired of the sewing and very commonly not able to marry. They work at home, unless when a child is learning at a neighbour's. Their hours are from six and seven in the morning to nine and ten at night and in this time they will earn perhaps 8d. or 9d. a-day. These long hours 'sicken them a bit.'

Of the washers, who are all boys, the youngest are about nine years of age, and they are of all ages, from this up to 18. The system of breaking and washing is precisely the same as that of the Derwent Company in Northumberland. Their total number is about 40. They commence work at seven in the morning and leave work at six at night with one, two, or three days a-week an extra hour, sometimes an hour and a half, and on occasions as much as three hours, - once a-month perhaps, hardly that. For this overwork they are paid extra. time during which, however, the works are suspended by severe weather - by the freezing of the water, which alone stops them - is sometimes three or four months in the year. On the average the time of work is 42 weeks in the year. The regular number of hours work per day is 10, except on Saturday, when it is only five, the work being closed at 12 o'clock. Over-work may extend the time three or four hours per week more.

The employment is in breaking, washing, and 'scumming' the ore, with the assistance of a crushing-mill. The work is easy and healthy in itself but the exposure to weather is sometimes very severe. There is no overhead shelter whatever and the obstacle against providing it is, that the consequent obstruction of the light would prevent a ready distinction between the ore and the material of the matrix from which it is broken. The *grey* ores being here very common. Mr. Borron, the resident proprietor, was himself the first to propose a shelter for the washers, on making a new arrangement as to the system of payment. The objection above stated was made by the overlooker, who erected only a line of upright boards which were disapproved. There is therefore still no shelter, except

in the case of a few who have some upright boards to break the wind and the feeder of the crushing-mill, who has a little box. There seems to be no objection to providing each worker with a sort of upright box, with a roof slanting backward, such as the stonemasons use and which would exclude no light. This objection to sufficient shelter on the score of want of light cannot be urged in the North of England lead-mines, since the materials combined in the lead veins with the ore are so clearly characterised by different colours as to be easily separable. Assuredly some shelter is required in this high and mountainous region, in which the work people are exposed equally to the storms of the east and of the west.

The only place where there is exposure to accident is in feeding the crushing-mill, into which the feeder has been drawn in several instances in the North of England, where Mr. Bell has chiefly worked but no accident, except the hurting of two fingers by a cogwheel shaking one of the troughs, has occurred here.

Besides the blank days of bad weather, the holidays are the day before and part of the day after the sacrament day, Christmas and New Year's days, and those of the two fairs.

The wages are, according to their ages and qualifications, 16d., 10d., 9d., 7d., 6d., 5d, 4d., and 3d. per day, to which a trifle for overwork has to be added at the end of the week.

The children are kept to their work but are never punished injuriously. Sometimes he has given them a 'bit bat with his hand' but commonly punishes misbehaviour by setting them aside from their work for a day, which does for a long time, 'before ye have anything to do again with that yane,' but they are in general 'peaceable laddies.'

The parents do what they can for the children but all here are very poor and some of the children are poorly clad for their exposed labour, with their clothes and clogs worn out and too often with bare feet. They are all the children of miners, who get on an average about 13s. per week. Some get 30s. for a while; others at this moment are making only 4s. 6d. or 6s., upon which they must live with family charges as they can. Besides their wages they have, however, cottages built by themselves on plots, having little gardens attached, given by Lord Hopetoun. Among them the township pay £70 for the pasturage of their cows on the mountains and under this contract the miners share in that pasturage and the principal part of them have each a cow. On the common mountains too they may enclose as much as they like so that they cultivate it, and may hold it rent free. Altogether the condition of the colliers is decidedly superior to that of the agricultural labourers around. The children get a sufficiency of food of the kind which other witnesses will describe. Brought up hardily, the whole of these children are generally healthy.

The children are civil and obedient, though when exasperated they are almost ferocious. Their education is better than that of the children in Northumberland and Durham, aided especially by the efforts of the parents to instruct them themselves but in natural talents they have no superiority, but rather the contrary. The parents here are so anxious to have their children educated, that with all their caution there are here at this moment instances of their running the chances of execution for petty debts while they are paying for superior instruction to their children. This they expect ultimately to compensate for all indeed they know it will. The education makes the Scottish youth more obedient, while the English are more headstrong and therefore as work people he would prefer the Scotch youth to the English, if compelled to choose. The lads here will do and do to the time, what is required of them in their labour, even when the master is out of the way, a virtue which those of England do not equally possess, for it is one resulting entirely from instruction, an instruction quite as much got from the hearth as in the school. In this village there is the one parish: school. The children are taken so early as four years of age. Great emulation exists in the whole school. His 'little lassie' commits to memory more in one evening than he could in a week.

(Signed). HARRISON BELL.

No.44 James Aitchison, washer. October 12, 1841.

Will be 15 years of age on the 2nd of December, and has been four years a washer. Goes to work at seven in the morning. Leaves at 12 for breakfast although he takes with him something in his hand to eat as he goes and then he finally leaves at six for dinner. Sometimes the hours are lengthened by overwork, generally twice a-week, when he stays till seven, or half-past and besides once a-month, when he is kept till half-past eight or nine. The work is very nice in summer, but in cold and rough weather it is very bad. Was wet through to his shoulders to-day. Most of them were as wet as himself.

There is no shelter, except for the one little boy who feeds the grinding-rollers, who has a little cover. No others have any shelter overhead; nor any other shelter, except a board or two set upright to break the wind. He is himself employed in skimming, which is in separating the broken sandstone from the broken ores of lead. Before he came to this, he worked at other departments of the washing. Was once employed with three others in cleaning the chimneys of the smelting-mill for which they had £4 amongst them. It occupied them three weeks to clean four chimneys and made them sometimes very sick. Wears coarse woollen clothes and wooden clogs, which, with woollen stockings, keep his feet both dry and warm, except in bad, wet, and frosty weather. Is often wet through, generally when it comes on wet about noon. Sometimes gets cold, so that once, for three weeks, he could not work. Some of the other boys also suffer from cold. They are generally stout and well. Is employed by Mr. Harrison Bell, the company's overlooker of the washing and paid by Mr. Mitchell, their cashier. Has 9d. a-day for all the days actually at work, and about 4d. a-week for overwork. The regular hours of work are 10 on every day in the week, except Saturday, when it is only five, the work being left at noon. Mr. Bell is very good as a master to us. He sometimes pushes the little ones to work, but never to hurt them. Is strong and stout now, though not formerly. Takes a piece of oatmeal-cake with him for breakfast in a morning. At breakfast has oatmeal-porridge and buttermilk, and at dinner, potatoes and a little butter very often, and a little milk. Scarcely ever flesh meat. Sometimes has a supper of buttermilk and oat-cakes. Goes to no school but the minister catechises the children at home. Was at a night-school for six weeks a year and a half ago. Many of the boys during winter go to evening-school. Has not been to any school during the day since he began work. Reads to amuse himself. Has read Andrew Wylie, Tales of a Grand-father, Tales of a Landlord, the Persecutions and other books. There is nothing for the boys to do besides the washing, except to herd the cows to which he prefers his present occupation.

(Signed) JAMES AITCHISON.

No.45 Mr. George Russell. October 13, 1841.

Is overseer of the smelting-works at the Leadhills Mines, which office he has held for two years. The youngest persons employed are now 20, though he has seen them as young as 18 years of age. The work is hard but the men have good health. They work generally five days a-week, averaging six hours and a half per day. The fumes from the furnace are carried off by four vents, one to each smelting-hearth and one to the slag-hearth, carried up the mountain side about 300 yards. This greatly improves the draught and takes away the fumes more readily from the men working at the furnaces. These fumes are of sulphurous acid, together with a little lead, and are entirely destructive to the mountain vegetation near the top of the vent. The men seldom complain of it and only when the wind acts so as to prevent a free rise of the vapour. One man has been employed in these smelting-mills 37 years. The ordinary hours of working the hearths are 12 daily, from 12 o'clock at night to 12 in the day, during which time the bands are shifted once. It has been contemplated to lengthen the chimney or vents, not expressly for the relief of the men but for the advantage of the lead deposited in the vents. They have no such vents up the hill-side at the Wanlock Head Works, because the lease the company to which they belong [the Marquis of Bute and Mr. M'Leod] will expire in next year and there are doubts about its renewal. The shorter the chimneys the greater annoyance and danger from the fumes.

(Signed) GEORGE RUSSELL.

No.46 Thomas Weir. October 12, 1841.

Is superintendent of the underground works at the Leadhills Mines of the Scottish Mining Company, which office he has held four years, having been in the service of the company during his whole working life, for 42 years. For 38 of these underground, for 20 of these with a charge underground, though not to the same extent as at present. Is a native of this village, as also were both his parents. The employment below is an alternation of picking and blasting and shovelling, and barrowing but the youngest of the people employed underground is 16 or 17 of age. The total number now at work underground is about 120 and the whole population of the village, amounting to about 1000 inhabitants, are dependent on the company's works. There is no other employment, except for a

very few in cotton-weaving brought from Glasgow and in embroidering, resorted to by the girls.

Almost all the hands employed in the mines are natives of the place, except 10 Northcountrymen [Highlanders] from Argyleshire, who have come only recently, since there was a dispute between the company and their men about wages and about the dismissal of a manager, in 1835. After which there was some coldness between a part of the men and the employers. The men struck but were obliged to return to their work without wholly gaining their point. The mines have been in operation for at least 300 years. The present lessees have had them for 105 years and the workers in them have long been born and bred in the place. The occupation has been so long established, and on the whole so constant, as to have bred hands for some generations. This permanency of employment is a peculiar feature of this place, and of Wanlock Head, a neighbouring mining village. Knows in Scotland of no polation employed off the soil in mines or manufactures where the employment has been so constant as to breed its own succession of workers. For a long time back it has been "miners' sons miners", except those who turned their attention to other things, and went away from the place, chiefly getting into clerks' situations in Edinburgh, Glasgow, and in England, while some have gone into the Scottish church. Two sons of one miner in this place in the church. Some go away also as labourers, more of late than in former times.

The miners work day and night, in shifts of six or eight hours, during which they make no meal. The usual breakfast hour for the people about home is from 9 to 10 o'clock, the dinner hour from two to three, and the supper hour about 9 or 10 o'clock. The men generally work two together, picking and blasting and convey the ores which they extract in narrow little waggons to the bottom of the shaft, which serves both for drawing and pumping.

The waggons run on a way of flat iron rails, on which they are kept by flanges on the wheel. The depth of the pit, from the adit of entrance to the bottom, is 108 fathoms and the depth of the adit end, from the surface of the mountain, is near 80 fathoms. The ores are filled from the waggons into buckets of moderate size, drawn up by a small water-pressure engine placed about 30 fathoms below the adit, at a place where there is also a larger engine on the same principle for pumping water to that point, from which another draiaing adit conveys it out at the base of the mountain. The pump gearing and other conveniences so encumber this pit that the buckets of ore are necessarily small. After the ore is raised in these, it is put imnto other waggons, which convey it down the adit of entrance to the mountain side where it is subjected to the processes of sorting and washing. The workers are now 100 fathoms to the south and 40 fathoms to the north of the bottom of the pit. The veins generally running from north to south and forming nearly perpendicular strata, varying in thickness from less than half an inch to 14 feet, as it is traditionally stated they have once been found. This vein lies in between the strata of greywacke, which are about 25 degrees from the perpendicular in their position. Where the men are working is not very wet, but the entrance to the mine forms the bed of a stream formed by the springs in the mountain, in some places raining from the roof. This would wet their feet but for the thick clogs which protect them. Of course, the whole is damp and the ground wet and the air is always loaded more or less with more or smoky vapour from the blasting but fire-damp was never heard of and choke-damp has never to such a degree as to endanger life. Whenever a valuable working has been pushed so far that the common atmospheric pressure of the colder air to substitute itself for the air heated by the miners and their lights will not suffice to oppose this enemy. Means are taken, by opening new communication with old shafts, or by applying a water-blast through pipes, to render the ventilation better.

Single individuals have, from time to time, lost their lives by falling down pits in the mine, through a false or incautious step, others by the roof or sides crushing in at the place of their work and others by the explosion of their charges when inserting them into the rock for blasting, ramming them down, or drawing the needle. In 1816 six men lost their lives by the smoke of a steam-engine fire descending into workings and stifling them. This engine was in a position similar to the present water-engines and some obstruction occurred in the vent. This vent was afterwards put in order, throughout its extent, through several stages or passages - the engine being at a depth of 90 fathoms from the surface but the men had got alarmed - they were constantly smelling something of the same kind which was then experienced and that working never went on with spirit again. When an accident takes place there is no public inquiry whatever, indeed, if the case be not very suspicious, there is no inquiry anywhere in Scotland. In some cases of death in these mines, culpable negligence has undoubtedly occasioned the disaster but no public inquiry but never any known malicious purpose, nor is it at all probable that such could exist. Some public inquiry would give satisfaction. The workers here are a much more cautious people than the colliers down by Glasgow, among whom he has seen the most hazardous folly, in overloading the ropes, descending incautiously, and otherwise risking their lives.

Was 16 months engaged in overlooking at the Shottss Iron-works, in Lanarkshire, in 1837-8, where Mr. Baird, the agent, was cautious to discourage any foolhardiness and to keep the mines in the most excellent order, as to materials for drawing, &c. so that the character of this place was not such as he has described but near to Glasgow, in the neighbourhood of Airdrie, miners, he has seen much more careless conduct. Here there was much less defect in the gearing than in the caution of the men, as in overloading the ropes. Mr. Baird would not, at the Shott's Works, allow any descending into the pits by the ropes but only by the turnpike stairs provided on purpose. There is just a kind of system a man gets into which makes him less cautious and use a foolhardiness which is unknown here. They were new works about Airdrie, with men recently collected from all quarters and including some Irish and it is not the steadiest men that flit from place to place. Each one, too, was careless enough about the fate as compared with of his neighbour, however anxious he might be about his own which carelessness would often occasion a risk which would not occur among such men as those working steadily at Leadhills. Exposure to danger makes thoughtful men more cautious but thoughtless fellows foolhardy by familiarity with it and the Leadhills people are comparatively a thoughtful people.

The miners have one day's holiday at each of two sacrament days in the year with one fast day, which they regularly observe. They have New Year's Day and two fair days but otherwise they generally work six days a-week.

The work they take in year's bargains, or in three months' bargains, to work at a particular part of the mine and to receive so much per ton for the smelted metal produced from the ore which they extract, the price varying with the difficulty of the working and the richness of the ore. When it is brought to the mouth of the pit it is sorted over by the men themselves and then it is washed by the washers employed by the company. The miner's account is paid only once a year, but he has always been accustomed to receive from the company his meal and barley on account, together with trifling advances in cash, called peat-money and meat-money, for his winter fuel and beet and other advances should anything particular occur in the family.

Now there is established 'the shop,' which is a general store for food, spirits, groceries, clothing, &c., kept by Mr. Borron, the resident proprietor and from which they may have whatever they want on account, so long as they have money due to them. This store is not kept on the company's account, in like manner, as the supply of meal was made, without profit but a profit is charged on the things, while five per cent. discount is allowed to those purchasing with ready money. When their accounts come to be balanced, their weekly earnings will be found to average, at various rates, from £1. a-week down to 8s. the greater number will be getting only 12s, while some of the youths receiving less than a man's share will have less. Out of these earnings they have to find their own candles and their own gunpowder, which may average 1s. a-week each. The contracts under which the men work are written and signed, the copy being kept by the master, while the worker has no duplicate. The men make these bargains in companies usually of six, though sometimes of eight and sometimes four, according to the circumstances of the place of work. The gangs of course vary in strength and ability. The most vigorous uniting together, while the old will be found working together, or sometimes with the youngest.

The miners enjoy the ground of their cottages, kail yards, potato patches, and cows' hay-fields, which they have reclaimed by spade labour from the mountain wastes, free of rent but build their own cottages. The keeping of cows has rather increased, with a resort to more of milk diet, in lieu of some of the animal food, which formerly they got. There have been upwards of a hundred cows kept in the village but with the decrease in the number of miners there has been some decrease in that of the cows.

Their food is a lunch of oatmeal-cake and buttermilk early in the morning; a breakfast of oatmeal porridge and oatcake; a dinner of potatoes and sweet milk, with a herring, when they can get it and a bit of beef as a holiday treat. For supper they will have some similar food. This is not a very strong diet and it is thought that they do not work very hard but they yield all their strength.

They dress very decently on Sundays and are pretty well clad for their work, better than any colliers he has seen in Scotland. They have good coarse clothes expressly for the purpose, made of the coarsest white woollen cloth. For the country the people are, in cleanliness, above the average, though this is greatly below what prevails in South Britain.

A considerable number of the older men drop off about 55 or 60, but if they live above 60 they continue till about 70. There is one recorded in the churchyard, who lived to be 136, and various have exceeded 80. From 50 to 60 the men are generally complaining of debility and seem to be suffering from a general decay but asthma is not so prevalent as people would be generally led to suppose. The light mountain air tends much to counteract the vapour of the mines, and the effects of the broken particles, which are inhaled in working at the hard rocks, and would otherwise seriously affect the

lungs. The men bred in Leadhills are sharp and active but they are considerably lighter in body than the rural population around. The work may have some tendency to produce this and the miners have for a long time intermarried exclusively among each other's families. This produces a clannishness, which is evinced in the keeping out of the rural population from any share in the library.

Is one of the elders of the church. There are in the village, besides the members of the Established Church, some members of the Reformed Presbytery, or Covenanters and one of the Secession Church. The moral character of the place has decidedly declined from what it was 30 years ago, probably through inefficient schooling, a former not very efficient ministration and other peculiar circumstances. The decline, in strictness of principle and conduct is not to be doubted, whatever be its cause but it is hoped, with the great improvement effected in the school by the recent masters, that this decline will be retrieved in the rising generation. At present, in perhaps two cases out of three, the women are in the family way before marriage and the same occurs to an equal extent in the surrounding population. Nearly two years ago several men were sentenced to imprisonment in Lanark gaol for fraud upon their employers, in representing as ore got in a difficult part of the mine (and for getting which they were paid highly) some which had really been procured from the easier workings and for which their pay ought to have been proportionately less. But this is the first and only known instance of punishment for crime inflicted judicially on any inhabitant of this place.

(Signed) THOMAS WEIR.

No.47 James Martin, Esq., M.D., October 14, 1841.

Is a native of and resident at Leadhills, where he has resided more or less from 1825 and has been practising since 1835. Finds that the people generally, through exposure to the winds and rains of the mountains, are liable to rheumatism and to inflammatory affections of the throat and chest, perhaps in the same degree as the shepherds on the hills. The children employed in the washing are peculiarly exposed to colds and one is now occasionally spitting blood. The miners too, though no deleterious gases are generated in the mines, or escape into them from natural passages, as in Durham and Northumberland, yet by long continuance underground in galleries damp, ill-ventilated and loaded with the fumes of the gunpowder and the bad air and the broken particles of stone, become liable, towards the decline of life, to difficulty of breathing arising from chronic affections of the chest, which would generally be called *dyspnoea*. In the last six years and a half there have also been five deaths in the mines by accidents of falling down pits and the falling in of the roof. As a general rule, the difficulty of breathing creeps upon a miner towards the close of life and helps to break him up sooner than occurs population generally. From 50 to 60 this form of disease is active in shortening the duration of life and the general effect is exhibited in the much greater number of widows than widowers, the women living perhaps to the full average. Even in their case an injurious influence arises from the sedentary employment at the sewing, which now occupies and has for a considerable time occupied, the great body of the females from childhood upwards, notwithstanding they may be married. The effect of this occupation is well known in the country, since those girls who have long pursued it would have less chance of being hired into service because of the greater delicacy of habit which they would have acquired. All these influences tend to make diseases of the lungs the prevalent cause of hastening death. The influenza which in 1836 was very severe and caused some deaths, so seriously shook the health of the older people as to have been for two or three years afterwards a continued and serious cause of an augmented rate of mortality. The men at the smelting-mills suffer a little from colic pains from the fumes of the lead ores, comprising sulphur, lead and occasionally small portions of antimony and arsenic. A shot manufactory was carried on here for a short time, when the effects of arsenic were clearly discernible in the illnesses of several of the men. But all serious effects from these fumes are now obviated by the lengthened vents up the mountain side. The village cows were formerly lost in considerable numbers from the deposition of the particles from the short chimneys formerly used at a spot immediately at the bottom of the village but now is declining and the men working at the smelting-mills are no longer affected to the extent of paralysis of the muscles, generally those of the arm, which formerly was common. At Wanlock Head the short chimneys still used leave the draught imperfect and cause the fumes to affect the men working to a greater degree than at Leadhills, besides very commonly filling the whole village with clouds of the deleterious fumes. Has a private record of all the deaths in the village during the time of his practice in it, an abstract of which is subjoined.

(Signed) JAMES MARTIN.

Medico-statistical REPORT on the Mining Village of LEADHILLS, from

In the Years	Population.	Annal Deaths	Yearly Average of Deaths for Six Years.
1835-6	1260	21	22.6 or 1 to 50.
1836-7	1238	25	
1837-8	1104	23	
1839-40	980	19	
1838-9	1091	34	
1840-1	970	10	
General Total	6643	133	

IMMEDIATE CAUSE OF DEATH.

	Males.	Females.	Total.		Males.	Females.	Total.
Colic	1	..	1	Rheumatism . . . . .	..	1	1
Disease of rectum	1	..	1	Rheumatic gout	1	..	1
Mesenteric disease	1	2	3	Scarlet fever	2	2	4
Croup	3	1	4	Decay of old age	5	4	9
Asthma	1	2	3	Consumption	5	6	11
Dyspnœa	3	..	3	Lues (from Edinburgh)	1	..	1
Remittent fever	1	1	2	Aneurism . . . . .	..	1	1
Continued fever . . . . .	..	1	1	Convulsions	3	..	3
Typhus fever	2	3	5	Apoplexy	1	2	3
Psoas abscess . . . . .	..	2	2	Paralysis	3	..	3
Inflammation of brain	1	2	3	Childbed . . . . .	..	1	1
Inflammatory affections of chest	7	2	9	Disease of spine . . . . .	..	1	1
Chronic affections of chest	9	11	20	Dropsy of chest . . . . .	..	1	1
Inflammatory affections of stomach and bowels	2	3	5	General dropsy	1	3	4
Inflammation of liver	3	1	4	Cutaneous disease	1	1	2
Inflammation of kidney	1	..	1	Fungus hematodes . . . . .	..	1	1
Dysentery . . . . .	..	4	4	Killed in the mines	5	..	5
Influenza	4	3	7				
				Total	68	62	130

AGES OF DEATH.

	Males.	Females.	Total.	Remarks.
Under 1 year	10	4	14	<p>Nine of these deaths were persons-brought sick from the country to the village.</p> <p>There are at present 46 widows and 16 widowers in the villages.</p>
1 and under 2 years	4	7	11	
2 " 5 "	5	2	7	
5 " 10 "	2	1	3	
10 " 20 "	3	7	10	
20 " 30 "	4	6	10	
30 " 40 "	2	5	7	
40 " 50 "	3	2	5	
50 " 60 "	7	3	10	
60 " 70 "	10	17	27	
70 " 80 "	13	8	21	
80 " 90 "	4	..	4	
90 " 100 "	1	..	1	
Add 3 deaths I did not attend . . . . .	..	..	3
General Total	68	62	130	

No.48 The Rev. John Hope. October 13, 1841.

Has been minister of Leadhills, in the parish of Crawford and county of Lanark, for 12 years.

The village of Leadhills is remarkable for the institution, by its mining workpeople, in 1741, of a library of circulation, the first established by mechanics in Scotland, and apparently the first in the whole kingdom. It was instituted entirely by the miners themselves and wholly at their own suggestion, although of course the Hopetoun family, to whom the place belongs, gave the project encouragement. From their situation among the mountains and from the badness of the roads, the miners found themselves separated from all ready communication with the rest of the world and this library was the only means of learning anything about it. They then worked only six hours a-day, had much spare time on their hands, were much superior in moral feeling to the people employed in other public works and possessed of the pecuniary means of supplying the want of mental occupation which they thus found. The rural population, not engaged in mines or manufactures, are here, as elsewhere, a well-conducted, orderly people, some of whom are earnest readers of such books as come in their way, and all can read and write.

Indeed the desire on the part of parents to have their children well instructed is perhaps as remarkable now as ever, an instruction which they have pride in giving to them, not less on religious and moral than on worldly grounds, though undoubtedly the latter have great influence. This desire was perhaps stronger here many years ago than it is now, a result partly brought about by the poverty of the parents, which compels them to take their children away from school much earlier than they did 30 years ago. This deficiency is partly supplied by the improvement in the parish-school itself, for instruction in which the children are themselves exceedingly eager. The increased exertions of the clergy and the schoolmaster seem rather to deaden the exertions of the parents in this department, by rendering them unnecessary, than to foster them by encouraging their co-operation.

For the management of the affairs of the library the subscribers (who are limited to the people of the village, and to the mining people of the neighbouring village of Wanlock Head, to the express exclusion of farmers and rural labourers) appoint a committee of 15 members annually, including a chairman, a treasurer and a precis, or clerk. There are also three librarians. All these officers act gratuitously, except the clerk, who has a small allow (7s. 6d. per annum and the use of the library), and the librarians, members of the society, for the year of their office are exempt from making their contributions. The subscription is 2s. per year and when a new member is admitted he pays 5s. entrance but the eldest son of a subscriber succeeds to his share and freedom without this payment. It is not within the regulations to admit females but a widow is sometimes allowed to read upon her deceased husband's right. The library consists of above 1800 volumes. The large room in which the books are kept is reserved solely and exclusively for the keeping of the books and the institution is purely and simply a circulating library, without any lectures or discussions whatever. The members meet once a-month for bringing in and taking out books, which they required to return monthly and there are quarterly meetings for transacting the ordinary business of the society, besides the yearly meetings for the elections. The printed rules and the catalogue of books will show more in detail the constitution of the society and the character of the library. This library has not only fostered but has caused a superiority of intelligence among the miners decidedly above that of Scottish artisans generally. Though not superior to the rural population in moral character, they are decidedly superior in conduct to manufacturing and mining labourers generally, employed together at large public works such as collieries, iron-works and factories. They are superior in intelligence, but not in moral character, to the artisans of the country, with whom, however, a fair comparison cannot be made, their circumstances demanding rather a comparison with the labourers as at other public works.

The school, which is the only one in the place, is connected with the parochial church establishment but is endowed by the proprietor of the place, Lord Hopetoun, with about £30 and a house rent-free; in addition to which, payments are made by the children, the lowest being 1s. 6d. a-quarter, and the highest 5s., for which latter instruction is given in Latin. The intermediate prices are 2s., 2s. 6d., 3s, and 3s. 6d. These further payments may average £40. a-year. There is no schoolmistress, but girls as well as boys go to the school, and are combined in the same classes and the total number is upwards of 130, the boys and girls being in nearly equal proportion. All the children of the village are sent to this school with a very few exceptions of families in such very reduced circumstances that they are not educate their children. Still some of the children of such parents even are brought to school by a charitable subscription for their education, the number being about six kept thus in the school. The system now pursued in this school, as in other parochial schools, is 'Intellectual System,' because it is endeavoured by explanation to make the children understand their tasks, a system of very recent date. In some of the parochial schools where the masters are very advanced in years, they have an utter abhorrence of this system, which in fact, would require them to be taught themselves to pursue it. The schoolmaster is appointed by Lord Hopetoun, or rather his agent,

who, on a vacancy, advertises for candidates, who are subjected to an examination by a committee of clergymen and others. The present master was brought up at his native village and is highly qualified for his task, which he has held scarcely a year, after being employed teaching elsewhere. Some of the village schoolmasters however, have been to college and others in the normal schools in Glasgow and Edinburgh, supported partly by subscriptions and partly by the payments of the pupils.

Lord Hopetoun's family early supplied the village with a place of worship, attached to his own small residence in the place, which was originally called Hopetoun, and from which he derives his title, though he now seldom visits it. The clergyman is paid by an allowance from Lord Hopetoun and partly by one contributed by the mining company. Compared with the total amount of the population, about 950, there so to speak, no Dissenters. There are, speak, a few not in connection with the church but it is very few.

The moral character of the place is respectable, at the same time that its intelligence superior and the library instituted here at so early a period undoubtedly contributed to make them for a long time as pre-eminent for moral worth as acquired intelligence. But this worth has now somewhat declined. Poverty has crept to their doors, and has perhaps made them less particular than once they were. Cases of bastardy do occur but the father almost invariably marries the mother of the child.

(Signed) JOHN HOPE.

No.49 Mr. Archibald Russell - October 13, 1841.

Master of the school at Leadhills, which office he has held for one year. Received his early education at the school at Wanlock Head, a mining village rather more than a mile distant, consisting of a community precisely like that of Leadhills, and numbering at the last census about 800. At Wanlock Head they have a library, like that of Leadhills established on the same principle at a date 15 years later.

Into this library the rural population of the neighbourhood are admitted, to the improvement of its funds and the increase of the library. There are about 1500 volumes in it and it is much to be regretted that the same liberality is not exhibited by the members of that at Leadhills, who refuse to admit the rural population, just in the pride of having it said that it is a miner's library.

The school at Wanlock Head has for its master Mr. Lorimer, a person about 45 years of age, who conducts it on the old plan. Mr. Russell received further instruction both in Glasgow and at the Moffat Academy, attending the normal school at the former, at the same time with his other studies, for two days a-week during two months, through the kindness of the teachers and at Moffat he learned the 'Intellectual System,' by which the understanding is cultivated along with the memory, to which latter the old system is wholly directed. Every teacher has his own system of drawing out the understanding of his pupils by questioning them upon the meaning of words and the subjects about which they are engaged. There is a remarkable distinction made in regard to the books by the teachers on the old system and those on the new system. On the old system they use, for reading books of Roman oratory in English and in Latin for the Latin scholars, together with the Books used in the Old and New Testaments and the three Catechisms, the Assembly's Shorter Catechism, old system of teaching the Proved Catechism (proved by extracts taken from the Bible), and the Mother's Shorter Catechism. In English grammar and practical arithmetic the children in the old schools are fairly instructed but they pursue their lessons only at their seats, and are not brought to receive their lessons from the master direct, as on the new system. There is no activity whatever called forth in the old system, in which a very general first prize is for the recital of the 119th Psalm, without error. Thus the memory alone is cultivated and that a memory altogether verbal.

In this school, under the new system, are used for the teaching of reading, first, a board with the alphabet and syllable lessons on sheets; the children are then put into Chamber's Second Reading Book, the first being superseded by the board. The third lesson-book is M'Culloch's third Reading Book; Chambers's Third and the Testament are then read alternately. Wier's Young Student's Preceptor and finally M'Culloch's Series of Lessons are then also used, while reading the Old Testament, of which only six or ten verses are read at a time. On the old system, on the other hand, the Testament is a Junior class-book after the children have been instructed in the common old lesson-books designated respectively the twopenny, the fourpenny and the tenpenny, of which the latter is far too difficult. Afterwards, in the forenoon, the First Collection, made by the parochial schoolmasters, with fresh editions, and Barry's Collection are used - the after-noon lesson-book, while reading these, being the Old Testament. None of these books, the Scriptures excepted, are used in the schools on the

new system, which is being rapidly introduced, because every new teacher is chosen according to his proficiency in that system.

Supplementary to the course of Scripture reading, are books of biographical questions for both the Old and the New Testament. In all the reading lessons, the teacher explains every subject to the scholars, and questions them under a system of competition, to be assured of their understanding the subjects about which they have been reading.

Besides this excitement through reading, he uses the Introduction to the Sciences, published by the Chambers, as part of their educational course, though he knows of only two other schools - the academies at Moffat and Caerlavelock - where it is used. Out of this he reads daily some portion in the afternoon, explains all its terms to the children of all the classes who can read and have any understanding of what is read to them. In fact, half the school now join in this exercise. After this explanation the children are examined and take places according to the accuracy and intelligence of their answers. In this exercise the children who have an answer to give rise up and throw up one hand. This rising up and sitting down give considerable exercise and excitement and in all the other classes where questioning is employed while the children are standing the hand is similarly thrown up and the teacher chooses which he will ask for an answer, according to his own discretion. This system of throwing up the hand is newly adopted also in the Caledonian Moffat Academy. If they throw up their hands without having some answer to give, they are subjected to moderate punishment and as they are sure to be detected some time, this is effectually prevented and those who have an answer are left for the teacher's choice. Sometimes the punishment is an affront rather than a whipping, which is nothing more than a whip across the fingers with the naked leather taws.

In teaching writing the only peculiarity is that dictation is used occasionally with the higher classes, as an exercise at once in writing and spelling. In arithmetic the system of practising by the ear and pursuing the sums given mentally, without writing, is much used, on a steadily progressive system and one in which, as in every other department of the tuition, the competition for advancement in the classes is kept at its highest pitch.

Mathematics is are taught, both pure and practical. Latin, Greek, and French, if required, and geography. English grammar is taught, commencing with an habitual distinction of the nouns, adjectives and verbs in their reading, after which they proceed with Lenny's grammar. None are learning Greek or French but two are learning Latin.

The youngest scholars pay 1s. 6d. per quarter for reading only; the next class 2s. for reading and writing; the third, 2s 6d. for reading, writing, and arithmetic; the fourth, 3s. for these and all the higher branches of instruction. These prices are lower than those of the parochial schools generally, because of the endowment of £25. per annum by Lord Hopetoun and £5. by the company. The young men who are being gradually brought in as masters of such schools as this, are all, however, introducing into them the same in kind, if not in degree, as that which is here exhibited. As for the detail of these systems, it is guided by their own judgement but they all adhere to the great principles of the 'Intellectual System,' to excite the attention and cultivate the understanding.

The children come to school so early as four years of age, sometimes younger and the boys who are going to the washing of the lead ores leave at about nine or ten. These will attend again during the winter months, when they will, with labour to the teacher, revive what they have already acquired, but seldom make much progress in learning anything more. Some of the miners, themselves better instructed and of a higher order of intellect, will not, however, take their boys away so early, but keep them until they are 14 or 15 years of age and fit for some junior situation as a clerk in Glasgow or Edinburgh. Some go out merely as shop-boys. Some of these lads will go out into the remote parts of the country, to the farmers' families and teach them during the winter, and get so much as will keep themselves at school for further instruction during the summer. Leadhills has long been noted as a place from which to get the best teachers of this sort and he has now applications for more than he has youths to recommend. Has himself educated several families in remote situations in this manner in his early youth and they had no other instruction than what he gave them. The general wages are £4 for the half-year's teaching, besides board and lodging but the payment is sometimes as low as 30s. in the shepherds' houses, where some of the young lads are engaged. He went out himself to this at 12 years of age and taught among the farmers for two several winters. Afterwards in a gentleman's family for two years and then at the Moffat academy, teaching and being taught alternately. It was a dull tiresome life among farmers, 'from all mutation free,' unless it were a lively conversation with a plough Of eight young men of his time, brought up in the same school at Wanlock Head, who went teaching to the farms, four went on to be schoolmasters, two to be clerks near Glasgow and two went ultimately into the mines.

Girls leave the Leadhills school at from 9 to 12 years of age, to be taken to the sewing and although, under the old system, they would leave without being able write, it is hoped that this evil will be remedied now.

(Signed) ARCHIBALD RUSSELL.

No.50 ARTICLES AND LAWS OF THE LEADHILLS' READING SOCIETY, Instituted
November 23, 1741.

Formation of the subscribers, having agreed to form ourselves into a Society, in order to purchase a collection of books for our mutual improvement, did, upon the twenty-third day of November one thousand seven hundred and forty-one, condescend upon certain articles and laws, to be observed by us, for the establishment and regulation of this our Society, which articles and laws been then subscribed by James Wells, preses, and William Wright, clerk* have hitherto been in force, and are still to continue but with the following alteration and amendments now found necessary and approved by the unanimous consent of our Society as now increased.

[*James Wells, village surgeon, and William Wright, schoolmaster, at that period, both men of distinguished ability and principally instrumental in drawing up the code of laws. About twenty years ago some slight alterations were made in the laws.]

ARTICLES.

I. It is hereby ordained, that every person becoming a member of this Society shall at his admission, pay seven shillings and sixpence sterling and 2s. 6d.annually.

II. That the good we hereby intend may not be subverted by the fraudulent design or combination of one or more members of the Society, it is hereby agreed and ordained that whatever money or effects are once appropriated to the use of the Society, shall never afterwards be analysed or applied to any other use; and therefore, it is hereby provided and declared that neither the Society in general, nor any individual member thereof, shall ever have a right during his or their being a member or members, to embezzle any of the Society's effects or to apply them to their own private use and that every person who shall afterwards leave the Society shall not, at the time of his departure, or ever after, have a right to claim, as his property , any money, books, or any other effects whatever belonging to the Society.

III. Whatever acts and regulations the Society, since their commencement, have made or shall hereafter make, consistent with these subscribed articles, shall be registered in our Journal-book, according to the order of time in which they have been, or shall be, transacted and subscribed by our preses and clerk, after which they shall be binding on all the members of the Society; nor shall such acts or regulations be ever altered or abrogated, except by a majority of the house at two general meetings, and that only when there are at least forty members present.

IV. Once every year, in the month of December, five members being chosen by the general meeting immediately preceding, shall inquire into the state of the Society's accounts and make an estimate of their stock, annexing the present value of every article, which shall be balanced with their debt and their neat stock made appear, which being approved by the next general meeting, and subscribed by the five estimators, shall be inserted in the Society's Journals, nor shall fewer than live be capable of making such an estimate.

V. To prevent all extravagant debts and unnecessary charges upon this Society, it is hereby specially constituted and ordained, that neither the Society in general, nor any member thereof shall contract for books, or any effects whatever, in name of this Society, beyond the annual payments of the then current year.

VI. The members of the Society for the time being shall be obliged to expose to every entrant the whole series of their transactions at his demand, and be accountable for damages, if such, through their default, be found - just allowance being always made for common wear of books.

VII. If the Society shall at any time be reduced to seven members, or fewer, they shall be farther

obliged to give public intimation in this town, or any other mining town, within the distance of six computed miles hereof, inviting members to enter (even though no entry-money should be obtained), upon paying the then usual annual payments; and if this should not bring a sufficient sum for the support of the library, these remaining members may have and are hereby allowed to have, a power of inviting any person whatever, within the said distance, upon the same terms, or of lending the Society's books to any proper persons living within that distance, for such sums of money, and such spaces of time, as they shall judge most for the support and security of the Society; and for the more effectual binding the members of the Society, when so reduced, to observe the above regulations, it is hereby further enacted (with consent of the Right Honourable John, present Earl of Hopetoun), that the Earl of Hopetoun, or his successors, proprietors of Leadhills, for the time being, shall be empowered, as he and his aforesaid are hereby empowered, to examine the proceedings of the Society, when so reduced, to call the remaining members to account upon oath, as to their management of the library, and all the effects belonging to the Society, and their observation of the laws and regulations then in force, and to make them accountable for all intermissions and neglects. But it is hereby declared, that no right is hereby given, nor shall at any time after be given, to the said Earl, or his aforesaid, or to any person or persons whatever, of disposing of any books, or other effects whatever, belonging to the Society, nor of taking any concern with the Society's affairs, not specially provided for by this article - excepting only, that if at any time Leadhills being gone to decay, and by that means the members of the Society extinct, it may then be in the power of the said Earl, or his aforesaid, to transport the whole stock of the Society to any place within the barony of Hopetoun, or within the distance of six computed miles of Leadhills, where it shall appear to the said Earl, or his aforesaid, that the books of the Society may be of most public benefit (provided always, the preference be given to mining towns), there to remain, and to be directed by the established laws thereof, until either Leadhills itself may revive, or some other mining town be elected within the said barony, to which they are again to return, agreeably to the original intention of the Society, and to the express meaning of this, and of all the other laws thereof.

And, for confirmation of the above articles, we are contented, and consent, that these presents be insert and registrate in the books of Council and Session, or other judges' court-books competent, within this kingdom, that letters of horning, on six days' warning, and other excutorials needful, may pass thereon; and thereto constitute _____ our procurators. In witness whereof, we have subscribed these presents, written on vellum by James Wells, member of the Society, at Leadhills, this fifteenth day of April, one thousand seven hundred and forty-three years.

LAWS

I. The Society shall have four general meetings in the year: viz., on the second Tuesday of January (which shall be their anniversary meeting), and on the first Tuesdays of April, July and October, at each of which all the members shall attend, under penalty of sixpence sterling; and no excuses for absence to be sustained, unless signified in writing by the absent member, either to that meeting at which he is absent, or to the preses within a fortnight after said meeting. At these quarterly meetings, the Society may adjourn to any time they see convenient,

II. At every anniversary meeting, the Society shall by ballot elect a preses, a clerk, a treasurer, and three librarians, also an assistant librarian,

III. The preses shall preside at all meetings of the Society; keep regularity and decency; sum up all debates, and put all questions; call for all reports from committees, and accounts from the treasurer and others; summon all extraordinary meetings on any emergency; and take care that all the laws of the Society be strictly put in execution. In case of his absence at any meeting of the Society, the members then present shall, by a majority of votes, elect one of their number to preside for that time, with the same powers. But the preses shall not sit as a member of any committee.

IV. The clerk shall, by himself or sufficient deputy, attend all general and extraordinary meetings and committees of the Society; take down all minutes; read all letters and papers; and enter all proceedings of the Society at general meetings or committees into their journalbooks, which he shall keep in his custody. He shall also deliver to the officer written advertisements of all extraordinary meetings of the Society; copy and forward all letters written in their name; and keep an exact list of the names, times of admission, fines, forfeitures, and arrears of all the members; their deaths, or discussion from the Society, which he shall likewise enter into the Journal. Upon receipt of any parcel. of books, or other effects, for the use of the Society, he shall deliver them to the librarians, taking their receipt for the same. He shall keep an exact account of the books, to whom delivered, and when returned, which

he shall produce to the Society at general meetings, or to committees, when called for. As an acknowledgement for his trouble, he shall receive the sum of ten shillings sterling, yearly, and the use of the Society's books, free of the ordinary payment, while he continues in office.

V. The treasurer, immediately upon his election, shall take into his hands all the ready money, bills, or other securities, belonging to the Society, for which he shall give receipt, with sufficient security; as also, for what money, bills, &c., may come into his hands during his continuing in office. He shall (but not without a written order from the preses, or a special appointment of the Society) disburse all money payable by the Society, and keep regular accounts, and produce receipts for the same. He shall, by himself or deputy, attend every general meeting of the Society; and when summoned by the committee, shall lay before them all his accounts and vouchers to be examined.

VI. The librarians shall take into their custody all the books, and other effects belonging to Duties of librarian; the Society, for which they shall give receipt, with sufficient security for the value fixed on these books, &c., at the estimation immediately preceding; as also for what books or effects may come into their hands during their continuing in office. If they shall fail to give punctual attendance in the library, by themselves or deputies, every night appointed for exchanging books, shall incur a fine of sixpence for each offence. They may also have the liberty of exchanging a book for any member, betwixt ordinary meetings for that purpose. They shall keep an exact catalogue of every book, &c., belonging to the Society; and are to use their utmost endeavours that the library, presses, books, &c., be kept clean and in good order. As an acknowledgement for their trouble, they likewise shall have the free use of the Society's books, while they continue in office. The assistant-librarian's duty is to read the number of the books to the clerk when given out, and when returned.

VII. All the above office-bearers shall be chosen out of the standing committee mentioned below. Any member duly elected into any of the above offices, and refusing to act, shall forfeit the sum of one shilling sterling, and another shall be immediately chosen in his room; but no member shall be obliged to serve in any office more than two years together.

VIII. Six inspectors shall be chosen immediately after the office-bearers: three of the inspectors, at least, shall attend in the library, under penalty of sixpence, every meeting, for exchanging books, and are to adjudge and estimate the damage done to books by the members, and the better to detect and prevent the lending or spoiling the Society's books while in the hands of the members, these inspectors, or any two of them, may, at any reasonable hour, on any lawful day, go to any member's house, who shall be obliged to show all his books to them in order to their inspection. If any member shall refuse to show his books, or to inspectors, he shall incur a fine of five shillings sterling; and they shall be obliged to report general meetings and committees of their having thus gone to members' houses and inspected the books in their hands, in several instances, every month; and, for the particular discharge of their office, they shall be furnished with written instructions from the preses the time of their election, in which the fines for their neglects shall be ascertained.

IX. An officer shall be chosen every quarter: he shall attend all general meetings and committees of the Society, and execute all summonses and other orders given by the preses or committees, for which purpose he shall be furnished with lists of the members, or advertisements, to be fixed on the public places in this town, when necessary. If he shall absent from the meeting of the Society at which his office shall expire, he shall be obliged to serve another quarter.

X. If the preses die, or leave the place, the Society shall, at their next general meeting elect another for the remainder of the year; but in case of the death, resignation, or recess of the clerk, treasurer, or librarians, betwixt general meetings, the preses or committee shall immediately cause summon all the members in Leadhills to meet in three days after such summons, when they shall elect another officer in his room, for the remainder of the year.

XI. This Society shall always have a committee of eighteen members; nine new members of committee shall be named by the preses after the office-bearers are chosen; and the old members or committee shall go out by rotation. This committee shall meet on the first Wednesday of every month, or oftener, if the business of the Society shall require. They are to see that all orders given by the Society be put in execution. To them shall be referred all matters left undetermined at any of the Society's meetings, to consider and report on the same at the next general meeting. They shall prepare all matters to be laid before these meetings and are to collect and examine all lists of books, &c., proposed by any of the members, and cause commission such of them as they shall judge most for the benefit of the Society. At their meeting immediately preceding the Society's quarterly meeting, they are to inspect the treasurer's accounts, and report on the same; and at proper times they are to examine and correct the minutes of the Society before they are entered into the Journal. They may also, upon any urgent occasion, cause summon a meeting of the Society in absence of the preses. They may

adjourn to any time they see proper; and any eight of them shall have power to do business. Any member may attend their meetings, though not named thereto, and assist with his opinion, but is to have no vote on putting the question.

XII. Any member chosen into the committee, and refusing or neglecting to attend their meetings, shall forfeit a sum not exceeding sixpence for each transgression, to be adjudged of by a majority of said committee.

XIII. Any person desirous of becoming a member of this Society shall signify the same by a letter directed to the preses, at least six weeks before the general meeting at which he desires to be admitted, which shall be communicated to all the members; and they, at their next general meeting, shall receive or reject such candidate as they see cause, which shall be down by the ballot; but no admission except at general meetings.

XIV. Every person admitted a member of this Society shall immediately upon his admission subscribe the articles of the Society, and pay into the Society's treasurer seven shillings and sixpence sterling, without being liable to any farther payment for the quarter in which he is admitted.

XV. Every person who now is, or hereafter shall become, a member of this Society, shall have a certificate of his admission, under the hand of the preses for the time being, and the seal of the Society, and counter-signed by the clerk, in the following form:-

No. _____ Leadhills,
These are to certify, that _____ was admitted a member of the Society for purchasing books, at Leadhills, the _____ day of _____ A.D. _____, and is entitled to all the rights and privileges of the same.

Given under my hand, and the seal of the Society, day and year above written.

Clerk. Preses.

Every member shall likewise be obliged to take a printed copy of the Society's Laws, at such a price as the Society shall determine, that there may be no excuse for ignorance of said laws.

XVI. Every member of this Society shall pay into the hands of the treasurer the sum of two shillings and sixpence yearly, and that in equal divisions, at the beginning of every quarter. But if a rigorous insisting on paying quarterly be found inconvenient for any member, the Society may grant what indulgence they shall see necessary; but it is specially provided, that all arrears be paid before or at every anniversary meeting; and that if any member fail here-in, he shall be deprived of the use of the Society's books till payment be made; with certification, that if he doth not pay up said arrears before or at the next general meeting in April, he shall be debarred from the Society, and from any privilege, right, or title to the same.

XVII. The Society may elect, as honorary members, such gentlemen as are concerned in and frequent this place; or others, though at a distance, who, by any good offices done the Society, or otherwise, may be thought deserving that honour: to whom it shall be allowed to read the Society's books, while in Leadhills, without payment, but not to have any vote in any of the Society's affairs, unless they enter as other members. When elected, shall be presented in a copy of the Society's Laws, a Catalogue of their books, and a certificate of his election in the following form:-

No. _____ Leadhills,
These are to certify, that _____ was elected an honorary member of the Society for purchasing books, at Leadhills, the _____ day of _____, A.D. _____, and is entitled to the free use of the Society's books while residing in Leadhills.

Given under my hand, and the seal of the Society, day and year above written.

Preses. Clerk.

XVIII. If any member absent himself from the Society's meetings for three months together, without previous notice given, the officer shall be ordered to summon him to the next general meeting, at which, if he do not appear, nor any satisfactory reason be given for his absence, he shall be excluded from the Society, and never afterwards be received but as a new entrant.

XIX. The second lawful day of every month, at six in the evening, is appointed for exchanging books, which shall be done in the manner following:-

1st. The books which have been in the hands of the members during the preceding month, shall be delivered into the hands of the assistant-librarian; and being marked as received by the clerk, and inspected by the inspectors, shall be committed to their places.

2nd. The members being all seated, shall then receive books for the ensuing month, the privilege of the first choice, as also every succeeding choice, devolving upon every member in his turn, according as he stands in the clerk's list, so that he who chooses first this night shall choose last the next. New members shall always be allowed the first choice at the exchange after admission. If more new members than one, they shall choose according to the order of their admission their admission being always according to the order of their intimation to the Society.

3rd. Any member who cannot attend in person may be allowed to employ a proxy, to whom he must give a written list of the books he wants, signed with his own hand.

4th. No member shall receive at one time more than six volumes, and not more than one of them a new book; a book to be accounted new till it has been one whole year in the library, till all the members are first supplied; then it may be allowed him to have as many as he may choose, taking care that they be always marked by the clerk, and inspected as the other books which he may take out. And it may also be allowed any of the members to exchange books among themselves during the course of the month, providing always that the member receiving them in the library shall be accountable for any damage they may sustain.

5th. Members reading a book of more volumes than one shall not be deprived of the next succeeding volume by members choosing before him. Any member choosing a second or succeeding volume, not having had out the preceding one, before all the members are first supplied, shall be liable to a fine of sixpence; and any member detected taking from the presses, without permission, any book, or carrying it out of the library without being marked by the clerk, shall incur a fine of five shillings sterling for the first offence, and shall be deprived of the privileges of the Society for the second offence

XX. No member shall be allowed to keep any book more than one month; and every member neglecting to bring in his books at the time appointed for that purposes shall pay a fine of one penny sterling, and no excuse for negligence to be admitted. He shall likewise be obliged to deliver all, or any of the books thus neglected to be brought, into any member choosing them, which delivery shall be in presence of any two members, who may judge of the condition of said Books when thus delivered, if the parties concerned think it necessary.

XXI. If any member lose any of the Society's books, he shall pay double the value affixed thereon, at the estimation immediately preceding; or furnish another book of the same kind to books. the Society, in such condition, and in such a space of time, as they shall determine.

XXIII. No member shall lend any of the Society's books to any person not a member of the same, under the penalty of one shilling sterling for every volume so lent; and if he convicted a second time of such a practice, he shall be liable to such additional punishment as the Society think fit. To the same law also shall be liable every member who shall be convicted of making a practice of allowing his neighbours or lodgers to read. the Society's books, though it should be in the member's own house.

XXIII. Every member, not residing in Leadhills, shall be provided with a bag sufficient to keep out rain (without which no books will be given), in which he shall receive his books sealed by the librarian, and return them sealed by himself, under penalty of one shilling sterling for each neglect. But as the Society's books have been greatly abused by members residing at a distance, it is hereby enacted, that no person whatever, in all time coming, so long as the Society consists of seven or more members, who doth not live in this town, or Wanlockhead, shall be capable of being admitted a member of this Society; excepting only, that in case of any mines being discovered within six computed miles of Leadhills, the miners there employed shall have a liberty of being received members.

XXIV. Any member of this Society dying, his heir, legatee, or assignee, shall have a right to his place and privileges in the same, without entry-money, upon paying the arrears due by the deceased member, if he owed any, and the usual quarterly payments for the time being when he chooses to claim said right, if he be found agreeable to the Society; but if the heir of the said deceased member shall be in such circumstances as to prevent him from taking up his right, he may, by a letter to the Society, empower a brother or a son to enjoy his privilege.

XXV. Any member of this Society removing to any distance from Leadhills, not exceeding six computed miles, may have the use of the Society's books as a country member. But if any member whatever shall find it inconvenient to attend the Society's meetings, and peruse their books for any certain time, the Society shall dispense with his attendance and quarterly payments, while he chooses to be absent, provided he inform the Society of his design at general meeting at which he intends to demit. But any member going beyond the distance of six computed miles, may make a final deposition of his right to a son or a brother, if a the said persons shall be found agreeable to the Society.

XXVI. No person, who either is at present, or may hereafter become a member of this Society, by a temporary translation of right as above, shall ever have a power to vote or intermeddle, in any way, with the business or determinations of the Society, because of the uncertainty of his continuing therein, and the indifference about the interest of the Society, which is the natural and known consequence of such uncertainty. But such members shall have all equity, and every privilege with any other member, in choosing and reading the said books, upon their signing an obligation to submit to all the regulations enacted, concerning choosing and using said books, and to pay the quarterly payments for the time being.

XXVII. At every general meeting of the Society, the preses, having taken the chair shall order the members to be called by name, and the absents marked; and the whole present being seated and composed, the articles and laws of the Society, and the minutes of the meeting being read, the reports of committees shall first be called for and considered, and then the Society shall proceed to ballot for any candidates regularly proposed, and afterwards upon all matters which maybe offered by any members present. Every member shall deliver what he hath to say on any subject standing, and directed to the preses; none shall interrupt the speaking member, unless the preses see cause so to do; and if two or more members attempt to speak at a time, the preses shall determine who shall speak first. When votes are collected, if the Society be equally divided on any question, the preses shall have the vote, besides his former vote as a member.

XXVIII. Members guilty of any indecency, or unruly, obstinate behaviour, at any of the Society's meetings, or who shall, on any occasion, offer any indignity to the Society shall be punished by fine, suspension, or exclusion, as the Society shall judge the nature of the transgression to require.

XXIX. If at any time the Society shall have money in their hands for which they have not immediate use, the same may be let out at interest, but not without consent and advice of the preses and committee.

XXX. Upon each volume belonging to this Society shall be pasted one of the copperplate devices, already engraved for that purpose, annexing the number of said volume as it stands in the Catalogue.

XXXI. All benefactors to the Society shall be honourably mentioned in our Journal and proper letters of thanks drawn up by the committee for any donations received.

XXXII. None of the foregoing rules shall be repealed, nor any new ones made until the same have been proposed and agreed to twice, and that at two general meetings of the Society and if; at any time, any doubt shall arise concerning the meaning of any of them, the same shall be adjusted by a majority of the members present at any general meeting.

Leadhills, 13th April;

The above articles and laws having been agreed to, the 3rd day of November 1742, and amended, this 13th day of April, 1821, are appointed and observed, in place of all other laws made by this Society, from and after this date and are now ordered to be printed for the information of all concerned.

ADAM M'KENDRICK Preses.
JOHN M'KENDRICK, Clerk.