

## **NEIMME/For/1/18**

[For 1-18 Front Cover]

[For 1-18 p0a]

[blank]

[For 1-18 p0b Index]

A few facts--- 64

Address to the public from the delicate meeting 71

Appeal to the public 75-86

Do to the people of England 770

Chester le Street Association 102

Coals from Berwick to Newcastle 93

Coal Trade regulations 17

Coal owners and Pitmen 75- 83

Caution to Pitmen and others 73

Dialogue restrictions at the colliery of Burdon Sanderson 72

Differences between pitmen and owners 95

Extract taken from the Tyne Mercury 1831 relating to the pitmen 60

First dressed man of Leghill 76

Felling colliery terms for 1831 89-101

From the pitmen of the Tyne and Wear 74

Grievances of the pitmen 94

Hellon colliery 68

List of collieries at the River Tyne 21b

Lord Londonderry to the pitmen 84-90

Meeting of the coal owners 80

Meeting of the pitmen Tyne and Wear 94

Magistrates' advertisements 61-62

New colliery 94

Oppressions of the pitmen 77

Pitmen of the Tyne and Wear 66, 68,100

Pitmen in the neighbourhood of Houghton 69

Pitmen ditto 70

Pitmen's complaints 100

Pitmen wanted 102

Report on Hetton colliery 37

Do Rainton Do 40

Regulations for binding 1831 55

[?] between [?] and pitmen 70

Rewards from Cramlington colliery 81

Do Do 96

Do Benwell Do 98

Do Hetton No 67

[For-1-18-p0c]

Section of coal Hetton colliery 1  
 To the pitmen Newcastle and Durham 82  
 Terms offered to the pitmen from Jarrow colliery 85  
 To be at Woodland colliery 97  
 To the public 99  
 Union rules 87, 88  
 Vend of collieries on the River Wear 1827 23-43-47-1829 54  
 Voice from the coal mines 79  
 Waldrige colliery 103

[For-1-18-p1]

9<sup>th</sup> May 1829

Section of Hutton Coal Seam under the 5 fathom dyke to the north in the minor pit Hetton Colliery at the north east extremity of that district being in the barrier of Partnership Coal & to the north is the upcast of 17 feet.

	Ft	in
Good coal-----	4	3
A black parting-----	0	0 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>
Good coal-----	0	6 4 9 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>
Grey thill stone-----	0	10 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>
Brassy coal-----	0	4 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>
White stone-----	0	2
Bottom coal-----	0	9 <sup>5</sup> / <sub>8</sub>
Black splint-----	0	5 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>4</sub>

Section of the Hutton Seam in the Minor Pit in the east north headways in Mr Shepperston's coal, this being the east extremity of the workings and eastern boundary of the coal taken by the Hetton Coal Company.

	Ft	in
Good coal-----	4	4
Black band-----	0	1 <sup>5</sup> / <sub>8</sub>
Foul coal-----	0	5 4 10 <sup>5</sup> / <sub>8</sub>
Grey thill-----	1	6
Brassy coal-----	0	4 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>4</sub>
Grey stone (band) -----	0	2
Bottom coal-----	0	8 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>
Black splint-----	0	2 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>4</sub>

Section of Hutton Coal Seam in the Minor Pit Hetton Colliery in the lowest south board in Mr Shepperston's coal in the 8<sup>th</sup> pillar south from Mothergate

	Ft	in
Good coal-----	4	4
Black band-----	0	1

Foul coal knived out-----	0	5	4	10
Grey thill-----	1	0	1/2	
Brassy coal-----	0	4	1/4	
Band-----	0	1	1/4	
Bottom coal-----	0	10		
Black splint-----	0	2	1/2	

[For-1-18-p2]

Section of the Hutton Coal Seam in the Crane Board in the west boards in Mr Mascall's property at 11 w from winning headways being the southernmost board but two

	Ft	in		
Good coal-----	4	1		
Band-----	0	1/2		
Coal not so good as the above-----	0	5 1/2	4	7
Grey thill-----	0	9 1/2		
Brassy coal-----	0	5 1/2		
Band-----	0	1 3/4		
Bottom coal-----	1	0 5/8		
Black splint-----	0	7		

Section of Hutton Coal Seam in the east north headways in Mr Mascall's property in the 3<sup>rd</sup> winning over the second dip trouble to north of feet supposed to be the 5 fathom dyke that was met with straight north from shaft

	Ft	in		
Good coal-----	3	11		
Black band-----	0	1 1/2		
Foul coal-----	0	5	4	5 1/2
Thill stone-----	1	2 1/4		
Brassy coal-----	0	4 1/4		
Band of stone-----	0	1 1/2		
Bottom coal-----	0	10 1/2		
Black splint-----	0	4 1/2		

Section of Hutton Seam in the Minor Pit in the 8<sup>th</sup> south east board in Mr Mascall's property at 5 pillars south from the east north.

	Ft	in		
Good coal-----	4	0		
Black band-----	0	1 1/2		
Foul coal-----	0	5	4	6 1/2
Grey thill-----	1	13/8		
Brassy coal-----	0	3 1/2		
Band of stone-----	0	1 1/8		
Bottom coal-----	0	11		
Black splint-----	0	4		

For-1-18-p3

June 8<sup>th</sup> 1829

Section of the Hutton Coal Seam in the Minor pit upon the 7 fathom dyke to the south of shaft to the east of winning headways and in Mr Fox's coal where the pillars are now working off, at 4 pillars south of back drift in the south north board.

	Ft	in
Good coal-----	4	6 $\frac{1}{2}$
Grey thill-----	0	6 $\frac{1}{4}$
Brassy coal-----	0	4
Bottom coal-----	0	11
Black splint-----	0	5
White stone-----	0	3

Section of Hutton Coal Seam in the 7<sup>th</sup> pillar upon the New incline & in the Mothergate Board, Mr Lawson's Coal,

Good coal-----	4	5
Thill (rather loose) -----	0	3 $\frac{1}{2}$
Brassy coal-----	0	3 $\frac{1}{4}$
Bottom coal-----	0	9 $\frac{1}{2}$
Black splint-----	0	5 $\frac{3}{4}$
White stone-----	0	1 $\frac{7}{8}$

Section of the Hutton seam to the north of the straight up Moth: over the 4 $\frac{1}{2}$  fathom trouble upon the south dyke and to the north of said Moth: 8 boards and 6 pillars west of the headways put over to the N dyke where the 5 boards were got (when this section was taken is the new w Moth: ) ( Mr Lyon's coal)

	Ft	in
Good coal-----	4	6
Thill (very firm) -----	0	2 $\frac{1}{4}$
Brassy coal-----	0	4 $\frac{1}{8}$
Bottom coal-----	0	9 $\frac{3}{4}$
Black splint -----	0	5
White stone -----	0	9 $\frac{3}{4}$

For-1-18-p4

Section of the Hutton Coal Seam in the Mothergate north of the shaft, upon what is called the west inclined plane and to the north of the said Moth: 12 pillars in the east headways which is about 11 winnings east of the western boundary of the coal belonging to the Hutton Coal Company & of course the western extremity of their workings adjoining Mr Russell's colliery & in the coal belonging Messrs. Lyon & Musgrave.

	Ft	in
Good coal-----	4	3 $\frac{1}{2}$
Thill-----	0	5

Brassy coal-----	0	4 <sup>5</sup> / <sub>8</sub>
Bottom coal-----	0	8
Black splint-----	0	5
White stone-----	0	5 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>8</sub>

For-1-18-p17

December 30<sup>th</sup> 1826

General Regulations Drawn up by the Committee of the Coal Trades

1<sup>st</sup> A representative shall be nominated by the proprietors of each colliery with full powers to act for that colliery for one twelve month from 1<sup>st</sup> January 1827 and in case the owners wish at any time to change their representative they shall give notice of their intention to the secretary and send their nomination to him in writing.

2<sup>nd</sup> That the whole body of representatives shall constitute a general board of appeal in which all questions shall be decided by a majority the votes to be taken by ballot not less than thirteen members to be present when any question is decided and no representative to have more than one vote.

3<sup>rd</sup> That the committee shall decide all questions submitted to them in the same way by a majority not less than three shall be quoram.

4<sup>th</sup> That the chairman, secretary, and assistant secretary be appointed to act for the twelve months.

5<sup>th</sup> That a suitable house be taken for the accommodation of the Trade & be under the management of the committee.

6<sup>th</sup> The general court to be a court of final appeal in all cases and to have the power of laying a rate of so much per chaldron upon each colliery for the.....

For-1-18-p18

.... general purposes of the Trade which levy shall be at the disposal of the committee.

7<sup>th</sup> That the committee apportion the basis of 800,000 chaldrons agreed upon at a general meeting any party discontented having an appeal to the general court.

8<sup>th</sup> The committee to distribute the monthly quantities and any colliery exceeding the quantity allowed by the committee be forfeit the full value of the coals so over vend at the current selling price of such coals.

9<sup>th</sup> That all collieries from their peculiar situations or nature of their Trade cannot come into the general monthly regulations for the year be required to specify the particular months during which they shall require the indulgence of an increased vend the extent of which shall be settled between them and the committee from time to time.

10<sup>th</sup> That the selling price for all the collieries shall be fixed for one year by the general court, a scale of prices to be drawn up by the committee for their approbation and when fixed not to be deviated from under a penalty of £50.

11<sup>th</sup> That no colliery under any account shall exceed the statute measure for chaldron and that in order to ascertain whether or not this resolution is strictly complied with, that a list shall be returned on every Monday before 12 o' clock of the quantities vended during the preceding week with the names of the ships and Masters places to which they belong and destination and that any colliery failing to make such return shall be subject to a penalty of £5.

12<sup>th</sup> That the assisting secretary keep a book for the inspection of the representative of each colliery.

For-1-18-p19

13<sup>th</sup> That the Staithman of each Colliery on the first Tuesday of each month make a return signed by him of the quantities of the quantities of coals vended in the preceding month and shall attend the committee if required and should the committee decide he has wilfully made a false return the owner of such colliery shall be subject to a penalty of £10.

14<sup>th</sup> That freighting be abstained from as much as possible but that any colliery which may be obliged to resort to this mode of vending, shall specify in their weekly returns the names of the ships so freighted under a penalty of £50. No other indirect mode of vending to be permitted.

For-1-18-p20

12<sup>th</sup> January 1827

Gentlemen,

You will please to examine the basis of the several collieries on the River Wear as they stood during the last regulation.

You will then proceed to investigate the situation of the several collieries on the river as to their respective powers of working, and the quality of the coals they are severally capable of producing.

You will also inform yourselves as to the declining or increasing powers of the several collieries the wearing out of Old Pits or the opening of new ones, and also as to any changes for the better or worse in the quality of coals they produce.

Having informed yourselves competently in al, these points through such channels as you deem requisite and having also duly weighed the means and powers which the Coal Owners possess of vending their coals you will please to apportion the whole basis of the river viz. amongst the several collieries on what you may consider to be an equitable scale according to their respective powers and merits deduced from the information to be obtained as above stated.

In apportioning the basis amongst the collieries at present working you will please to make provision for such new collieries as will come into the trade in the course of the current year, in such manner as you may deem most expedient.

The local Viewers and Agents at the several collieries will be instructed to give you such information as you may require in the course of your investigation.

That Mr Geo. Johnson & Mr Geo. Hill be empowered to take a view, or to adopt other means to take information of the state of any collieries where the referees shall deem the information obtained from the resident Viewer whether incomplete or unsatisfactory, and that such power be exercised at their own discretion without being called upon to give the reasons or state the grounds which have led them to such a measure.

For-1-18-p21

27<sup>th</sup> January 1827

List of Collieries on the River Tyne

Collieries	Selling prices as fixed		Their Representatives
	London	Coastwise	
Wallsend	33/-		*Mr Buddle
Percy Main	34/-		Mr John Walker
Bell & Browns Wallsend	31/-		*Mr Dinon
Willington	30/-		-----
Killingworth	29/-		Mr Lambert
Burradon	27/-		-----
Heaton	31/-		*Mr James Potts
Walker Wallsend	31/-		Mr Rich Lambert
Old Walker	24/-		-----
Hebburn	---		Mr PG Ellison
Jarrow	---		Mr Buddle
Conlodge	32/-		*Mr RH Brandling
Newmarch Wallsend	31/-		-----
Fawdon	28/-		Mr R Newmarch
Backworth	29/-		Mr Taylor
Hotspur	28/-		Mr Clark
Burdon Main	28/-	24/-	Mr M Robson
Manor Wallsend	27/-	24/-	Mr J Brandling
Whitley	21/-		*Mr Clark
Springwell	---	---	Mr Wood
Henworth	24/-	22/-	Mr John Brandling
Pelau Main	---	---	*Mr B Thompson
Unsworth	22/-	---	Mr Buddle
Sherrif Hill	----	----	Mr James Atkinson
Tyne Main Woodside	----	----	Mr Losh
Felling	20/-		Mr John Grace
Team	---	----	Mr M Atkinson
Low Moor & South Moor	20/-		Mr Lambert
Tanfield Moor	25/-		Mr Buddle
Pontop & Garesfield			Mr W Armstrong
Townley			Mr GJ Dunns
Wylam	23/-		Mr G Blackett
Holywell	24/-		Mr Joseph Lamb
Benwell	24/-		Mr A Surtees
Elswick	22/-		*Mr Lamb
Wortley	18/-		-----

Those marked thus \* are the Gentlemen who form the committee

For-1-18-p24

This contains a copy of page 20 above, with names of Messrs. Stobart, Thompson and Plummer to whom the correspondence was directed.

For-1-18-p25

12<sup>th</sup> July 1827

Mr Morris for Mr Washington

Says he expects their Colliery to be put upon the same basis as before viz. 22,000 chaldrons basis for the best coals, small coals are not put into the quantity of vend on this river. The consumption of them about 1,000 chaldrons . Has two working pits one working out of Maudlin and one out of Hutton seam.

Each pit draws from a Maudlin and Hutton seam and can work with ease 40 a day at each pit to the supply of both rivers. Work the Maudlin with a 20 peck corf and Hutton seam with a 16 peck. Has about 4 years whole coal in the Hutton seam sells all the coal by (?) and rises and falls with the trade sells the small at 67. Russell's High Main both Maudlin and Hutton seams are mixed price at staith 19/- and without abatement.

North Sutton, Mr Morris for Mr Russell Esq. and manager at the colliery Thomas Hall under viewer.

Claims for vend 40,000 chaldrons as a basis. Has 2 pits working in Hutton seam which is 108 fathoms deep. Can with ease draw 45 (?) per day each of 20 peck corves. Principal part of coal to get is to dip of colliery working places between 4 and 500 yards of the shaft with 2/8<sup>th</sup> screens. Hutton seam is 4ft 3in. clean coal and good in quality. Are sinking a new pit. Had about 500 acres of whole coal in 1825 and 33 acres of High Main vends the coals by (?) entirely. Hutton seam 30/- but Russell's Wallsend at staith and for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Russell's at 23/- per chaldron (?) small and sells them at 6/- but has no arrangement for the sale of small either here nor at Washington . Leaves about 1 corf in a score underground.

For-118-p26

Marquis of Londonderry, Mr Geo. Hunter Viewer

Read a letter from the Marquis where he demands 125,000 chaldrons for Rainton Colliery and 25,000 for Penshaw Colliery. When the basis was fixed previously the 125,000 it included both Rainton and Penshaw Pits, which latter pit wrought about 12,000 chaldrons.

Rainton Colliery entirely belongs Dean and Chapter leasehold, Penshaw it is Marquis's own leasehold .

Rainton has six working pits and a machine upon each of where in complete use except one which wants a little reparation. Had them all at work last year first and last. Not all at once and the same time. Are all working Hutton seam of the first quality.

In 1825 sold off two of the pits with their establishments to Mr Russell to work the Hutton coals and about 100 acres of his Dean and Chapter.

The Marquis is now in as good a situation for working more coals and of equal good quality as immediately prior to the disposal of the two pits to Mr Russell. Is now working 4 pits having 2 others to begin in 3 weeks time . Works and (?) 220 scores of 20 peck corves from the 4 pits, and the other two if set to work would work with ease 80 score a day ; working together 300 score a day if all work has excepting men everything in readiness to get and vend that quantity. Has men to raise 66,000 scores a year . At the present the number agreed for this is 570. About one corf in a score is cast back and left underground. Has screens on bank of 3/8<sup>th</sup> of an inch in wideness and 1/2 inch , 3/8<sup>th</sup> s of 1/2 inch and the remainder of the other. Makes about 1 3/4 chaldrons 175/100 of the best coals in every score. The selling price at staith is 32/- per chaldron. Neither freighter upheld or reduced in price in any way from the

nominal one . Sells small coals at 6/- per chaldron. The actual quantity sold is between 8 and 10,000 chaldrons last year. Has a bargain for small coals to go coastwise for about 10,000 chaldrons for the year. Does not know the price. The Eden Main at the staith is 23/-. Vend last year of best coals 128,132, coastwise included.

Penshaw. All whole coal. Has 2 pits at (?) work in Hutton Seam and one in Main Coal in pillars, and a third ready to commence in Maudlin. Can raise from the Hutton Seam 43 or 44 score a day of 16 peck

For-1-18-p27

...corves. And of Main Coal 40 a day easily with 20 peck corves. And from the Maudlin pit 30 score a day with 20 peck corves—can supply this and one pit with the other about 3 years. And sells at Eden Main price when fixed: but what Maudlin cannot be mixed off with the Hutton and Main Seam is sold at vains main for 16/- per chaldron and think that the mixture the Maudlin or the whole will make about 20/- per chaldron—Mr Hunter will give us a vend from Penshaw on a future day. Mr Hunter states that a new winning is in forwardness at Pittington have two pits already sunk to the High Main coal 45 fathoms and will be ready by the 30<sup>th</sup> of June to work and lead coals from, to the extent of 60 score a day each from that time but Mr Hunter thinks they may only work one of them in Main Coal at that time but sink down to the Hutton Seam with the other.

Hetton Colliery Mr. Thos. Forster resident Viewer

These concerns are divided into 2 distinct parts—Lyons Main Elsmore are quite separate winning but occupy the same wayleaves and (?) whose rents are certain from an unlimited quantity . Hetton Colliery has 4 working coal pits or shafts, 2 of them draw from the Hutton Seam and 2 from the Upper Main Coal—able to produce 120 score a day from the Hutton and 126 from the Upper Main.

Mr Forster states that he would deem it proper to allow 4 score to each pit daily to be deducted from the above quantities, as an allowance for the breakages and stops so as to allow for a certain production which would have for a certainty of 230 score of 20 pecks daily. The produce in a score of (?) merchantable in the average is 15/8 of a chaldron the main coal 109 fathoms the Hutton seam, the Main Coal about the same distance . The winnings at Hutton Seam 22 yards taking 4 and leaving 18 in Main Coal 16 and 4 this is (?) the deep of Colliery.

The winnings to the rise of Colliery. Main Coal at 12 yards Pillars and 4 yards Board. And in Hutton Seam 13 yard pillars and 4 yard Boards,

For-1-18-p28

The 4 pits will serve their lease an area fixed term of 37 years. The quality to the east is not quite so good as to the west. The Hutton Seam is 4ft 8in thickness. The Upper Main Coal is much the same as formerly and is 5ft 8 in and down to 4ft 7in in the

east in thickness. The vend of last year was Hetton Wallsend 35,842 at 36/6 per chaldron

Lyons.....	35,522	at 30/6
Lyons Main.....	9,093	@ 29/6
.....	78.457	
The (?) Main (Lyons unscreened) 8 chaldrons.....		25/6
High Main with a mixture of Low Main & other inferiors 3014.....		21/6
(? ) Main	616.....	15/6
Nutts and small	799.....	12/6
Small	8176.....	8/6
Dust	2762.....	8/6
Splint small	122.....	16/6
		15497
Total		93954

The company fits their own coals exclusively and intends to send under the names of these sorts this year at the above prices. Small coals going coastwise don't come into this vend.

#### Elsmore Colliery

Has 2 pits and 3 shafts for raising coals. Has only 2 machines at present working of 30 horse power each. Depth of pits, Main Coal 95 fathoms to Hutton Seam 125 fathoms. One pit which is the Engine Pit is only sunk to the Hutton Seam. The other is opened out in the Main Coal and is working from 40 to 50 score a day from that seam if wanted. The pit is 12ft 6in in diameter the other 8ft 9in and is the Hutton Seam pit.

The pits are intended to be fit up by the 5<sup>th</sup> of April to work 80 score a day from the High Main {20 peck corves} and from the Hutton Seam by about the beginning of June 70 score a day.

Hutton Seam 4ft 6in in thickness

Low Main 3ft 11in

Upper Main 4ft 7in

For-1-18-p29

The winnings in Main Coal here are at 12yards and 4

Elmore Estate.....contains 1610 acres

Lyons Hutton including Shepherdsons 1 contains 2472 acres

Great Eppleton 526 exclusive of the above

576{Have led in 15 hours 72 keels down the waggonway which is the greatest quantity {ever led since this the machines have been improved.

Since the machines have been improved Mr Forster says that in one day by an account taken in 15 hours 50 keels passed the first engine during which time that said engine stood 6 1/2 hours ( waiting for others coming).

The claim is the same as the basis viz. for Lyons 90,000 chaldrons and for the Elmore 30,000.

And they possess the means for delivery at the river for more than the collective quantities when Elemore gets to full coal work. Has bound coal hewers 560 at present and boys in proportion. Sends all the coals that are wrought to bank except about 2 corves to the score which the men are bound to have. Believes in the disposal of the coals that there were coals freighted. Thinks they can work and lead this year of merchantable coals round and small 150,000 even with the Elemore pits to begin work as above stated.

The Eppleton pits are still sinking but are not likely to produce coals this year. One is sinking 12ft 6in in diameter and the other 8ft 9in in diameter,

JG Lambton Esq. Colliery

Mr Thomas Smith Resident Viewer

States that 7 pits are now at work and capable of producing daily the quantities annexed as follows viz.

Cocken pit Hutton Seam.... 70 scores daily 20 peck corves

Charles pit in Lumley..... 55 intended only

Murton pit..... 40 Do.

Harraton pit Main Coal..... 34

Do. Hutton Seam..... 32

Penshaw (?) pit..... 35

..... 336 the above quantities are Mr Lambton's forecast rate of working but which....

For-1-18-p30

...Mr Smith states they could considerably augment and, they did exceed (?) laterally. Besides the above there are pits lying off work, but are ready for immediate resumption and capable of yielding 120 score a day viz.—

Lumley pit Hutton Seam 60

George pit do. Pillars 30

D Pit Bourn Moor low main 30

120 score a day 20 peck corves

Pell's (?) can also be set to work in the pillars of the Hutton Seam by the 30<sup>th</sup> June next .

See Mr Crowdace's letter for Mr Lambton's claims.

Newbottle Colliery last year wrought 5 pits

The Dorothea Pit in Hutton Seam pillars 40 a day

Margaret pit ditto-----28 a day

Dorothea Pit High Main in whole coal—40

108 Mr Huish observes they could exceed this

quantity if necessary. There are also 2 pits standing but ready for coal working if useful viz.

Success Pit Maudlin Seam-----25

Elizabeth Pit ditto-----25

Houghton New Pit will be ready for working by the 1<sup>st</sup> of June with 2 drawing pits & may in the Hutton Seam per day draw 50}

And in the High Main .....50 } 20 peck corves

The coals were all vended by Mr Lambton during the last year and at the regular stated prices.

The price of small coal is now 8/- per chaldron\_

For-1-18-p31

Mr William Stobart Rickleton & Carraton Outside Collieries

Mr Thomas Crawford Viewer

Has two pits working one working the Low Main and Hutton Seam. The other the High Main Maudlin and Hutton Seam; both pits are working in the whole mine and pillars of about equal quantities. The Catherine Pit is drawing from the Low Main and Hutton Seam at 50 score a day of 16 peck corves. The Hall Pit is working the High Main and Maudlin 30 score a day of 16 peck corves.

The Hutton Seam and Low Main seams mixed is called Stobart's Wallsend and is sold at staith the others are called and sold for ...For vend and claims see Mr Stobart's letters now delivered.

Harraton Outside

One pit working in 5/4 Coal with 70 or 80 acres of whole coal and about 30 or 40 acres of Pillars. The Maudlin Coal seams are whole. The Pillars in Hutton Seam and Upper Main throughout the estate nearly entired. Can draw at the Hayton Pit which is now at work 60 score a day of 16 peck corves. And when the other pit is set to work can draw the same quantity vended by Fitters (?)

Lord Ravensworth and Partners

Mr John Wood resident viewer

Is working one Pit with 2 working sides drawing at present, one from High Main and Maudlin the other the Low Main and Hutton Seam. One half of the whole workings are made from the Hutton Seam. Can draw of Maudlin and High Main 25 score and 20 peck corves and from 45 to 50 score the other Pit side of 16 peck corves working wholly to the deep at present but has coal to serve several years. Coals are sold to filters (?) neither freighted or sold by indirect means. Makes 2 sorts of coals the Springwell Hutton Seam and High Main. The others Liddell's Wallsend is Maudlin and the smaller part of the other two seams.

Uses screens 3/8<sup>th</sup> of an inch and sells the best @ 19/- per chaldron and Liddell's Wallsend 18/- ditto.

Sells small coals at 6/- per chaldron.

For-1-18-p32

Mr Thomas Elliot states that the vend comprises all coals delivered into Croft on the river except those used by Potteries, Glass Houses, Copper works, Lime burning and Brick and Tile burnings such generally have amounted to 24,000 chaldrons annually.

Morton. John Davidson Esq. Beamish Colliery

Mr Thomas Fenwick Principal Viewer

States W Smith's claim 24,000 chaldron's on the Bank. Has 2 pits working the second pit only opened out lately, is drawing coals from the Hutton Seam and can draw 50 score of coals per day 16 peck corves. Also they have High Main which lies 7 fathoms above the Hutton Seam.

The Air pit drawing from the Shield Row or Wear ¾ Coal or Tyne High Main in whole mine taking the pillars after and only about 25 fathoms from the surface and can

draw any quantity 50 or 60 score a day. The next is called the Oval Pit is working pillars in Wear Water High Main about 41 fathoms from surface and can work from 45 to 50 score per day of 16 peck corves very easy. Beamish south moor Park Moor.

For-1-18-p37

Houghton le Spring

March 2<sup>nd</sup> 1827

Gentlemen

In pursuant of the instructions communicated to in your letter of the 23<sup>rd</sup> ultimo, we proceeded to an examination of the Hutton and Rainton Collieries; but as it would be tedious to enter into a detailed account of the means we adopted, in order to carry into effect the object of your instructions, we shall endeavour in as brief a manner as possible, to lay before you the substance of the information which we have obtained ; mixed with such observations as seem fairly to present themselves, upon an impartial and disinterested view of the subject; and first with regards to

Hetton Colliery

We have found 2 pits sunk within Mr Lyon's property; the one 14 feet in diameter and divided into 3 equal parts, whereof 2 are appropriated to the drawing of coals, and the other one to the pumping of the mine water . The second one is smaller and is formed into 2 divisions only both of which are used for drawing coals; thus 4 coal shafts were obtained, each provided with a winding engine of sufficient power.

With respect to the state of the underground works we have to report that 2 seams of coal have been opened both very intensively; namely the Hutton Seam and the Main Coal.

We first proceeded to examine the former towards the east, the mine has been explored to the distance of 2000 yards from the shaft; towards the west it has been opened all the way to the boundary northward then exploring drifts have proceeded 700 yards; and in a south direction similar drifts have been advanced for 600 yards. The intermediate spaces are occupied by various ranges of Bords a great part of which is now in working, and the rest we consider may be put into a working state at short notice.

The coal itself is totally free from....

For-1-18-p38

...extraneous matter, and its quality: the accompanying strata are favoured. The fall dip of the seam is nearly due east and a ratio except where its uniformity is disturbed by dykes of about one in twenty. The coals are brought up from Dip working by means of a steam engine of ample power which acts for 1200 yards.

Upon the rest of the way upon the dip side of the pit, this business is done by horses, where for the most part one horse is capable of dragging six corves each of 20 pecks at a time. From the rise workings the carriage of the coals is effected by horses partly by a self acting incline plane.

We next took a survey of the workings opened in the Main Coal Seam paying particular attention to the state of the coal at the extremity of the different exploring drifts. This seam has been opened to as great an extent, taking one part with another, as has the Hutton Seam: and except that the roof is tender in some parts, especially near the face of the east workings we noticed little variation in the

state of the coal or the concomitant strata throughout the whole extent of the mine. We take it that the quality of the coal is quite as good here as the main coal south of the River Wear is generally found. As was to be expected the position of the seam and the arrangement for carrying the coals to the bottom of the Pit are also similar in every respect.

We likewise visited the pits lately sunk in the Elemore property, where are two shafts the one down to the Hutton Seam, and the other to the Main Coal. The former being only 8ft 9in in diameter is not probably intended for more than a drawing shaft. The other is of larger dimensions and is divided by means of a brattice into equal parts both of which may be applied to the drawing of coals. In the smaller pit the Hutton Seam thus far remarkably promising, but none of the opening Drifts have as yet been advanced more than 25 or 26 yards from the pit. The coal however is very fine in appearance and is covered by a strong bed of post from which it is separated by a free parting (?).

The east drift prevails here....

For-1-18-p39

Likewise but is very (?). In the (?) the Main Coal has been tried towards the north to the distance of 300 yards. The seam here presents the same aspect in most respects that it does in the Lyons Pits, the only difference that we observed being the state of the bands which is rather thicker here but the difference is not material. To the south of this pit nothing has been done nor have any workings of consequence been opened on the east or on the west side. In short both these pits are in an infant state, and until some progress is made southwards it is impossible to say how the coal may turn out; at present the prospect is flattering so far as regards the Hutton Seam.

We next come to the arrangements above ground for surveying the coals from the Colliery at Sunderland; and upon this branch of the subject we have to state that not having sufficient time to take a view of the line of Waggonway we were obliged to resort to information of the engineer to the Colliery who furnished us with an account of the nature and powers of the machinery employed upon the line; and giving this part of the subject due consideration; we do not hesitate to say we have full confidence even after allowance is made for casualties that 140 or 150 thousand chaldrons of coals may be led in the course of a year; from the same authority we concluded that the arrangements at the staith for shipping the coals are quite sufficient ;as those for loading them.

The staiths of which there are two we calculate to hold 9000 chaldrons of coal.

As the Royalty taken is intensive taking nearly 5000 acres, we have not thought it necessary to enter into any calculation relative to the duration of the Colliery. And on the whole we are persuaded that if a sufficient number of Workmen can be procured, the owner possesses the means great exertions being used of realising the statement given by W Forster.

For-1-18-p40

#### Rainton Colliery

Upon a view of the Colliery we found 4 shafts in actual operation, and 2 others which though at present idle, may soon be put into the same situation.

The 4 working pits are named the Alendrina; the Adventure east and west sides and the Resolution.

All these pits are affording Hutton and Seam. In the Alendrina and in the east side (as it is called) of the Adventure pit ; the coals are raised from the whole mine. In the Resolution and the west side of the Adventure pit they are (?) from the pillars. The Alendrina having been lately sunk has a large field of coal attached to it.

In the east side of the Adventure pit the tract of coal is likewise extensive. The pillars remaining in the west side of the Adventure pit are rather limited but it is intended to add to this pit a further tract of pillars which property belong to the Plane pit. In the Resolution pit the pillars yet untouched extend over a considerable space. The Alendrina pit was only opened about 2 years since; nevertheless the exploring drifts have been pushed westwards as far as 1000 yards and without meeting any obstructions. To the south the coal has been explored for 700 yards. To the north little has been done but there can be no uncertainty as to the existence and favourable state of the coal in this quarter, since both have in a great measure been ascertained by the workings of an adjacent pit. The whole mine belonging to the Adventure pit east side is between 2 considerable dykes the state of the coal has been ascertained nearly as far as the Boundary. The pillars in the other pit are all open to examination, and the two idle pits referred to is capable of being prepared for work at a short notice, are the Plane pit and the Meadow: and we have been able to satisfy ourselves that such is their state.....

For-1-18-p41

The coal is of a superior quality throughout and owing to its hardness admits to being raised from the mine in a large state. The coals raised from the pillars are inferior in point of size to those raised from the whole mine but as in working those pillars the roof falls fairly as soon as the timber is struck out, the incumbent weight is relieved and the coal is less affected by pressure than would be the case were the roof not to give way so readily.

The average thickness of the seam is full 4 feet it is covered by a bed of grey metal mixed with post girdles which forms a firm and durable roof ; the full rise of the seam is nearly due west but inclines little from the horizontal and the Mine is not means subject to Troubles but on the contrary is particularly free from interruptions of that nature, especially those small Hitches which are so apt to depreciate the value of the coal. The depth of the pits is inconsiderable and each of the shafts is furnished with a winding engine of abundant power.

We were informed by the agent of the Colliery that 4/5ths of the coal being brought are merchantable coals, fit for sale as Wallsend or Eden Main, and have no reason for what we observed to question the truth of the assertions; but we find that the quantity of Wallsend coals sold last year was not  $\frac{1}{4}$  part of the aggregate amount of the Wallsend and the Eden Main. The quantity of small coals left underground is inconsiderable.

Undoubtedly this Colliery is possessed in a remarkable degree of all the means which usually facilitate the raising of coal, and as the field yet unopened appears to be very extensive we suppose that a succession of new pits may be sunk capable of supplying the present vend for a great number of years, the very extensive opening of the mine entirely effected by the means of the Alendrina pit makes it not probable that the colliery really is at present in as good a state for affording quantity, as it was immediately previous to the period of Mr Russell's purchase....

For-1-18-p42

...should say that it is of rather a superior quality. The thickness of good coal is 3ft 7in and there is some other coal attached to it both at top and bottom of a very coarse kind we fear that (?) will hardly be able to verify his statement as to the capacity of this colliery to afford 60 scores a day from each of those pits by the 30<sup>th</sup> of June next, if difficulties fall in the way this is allowing but a short time to overcome them; nevertheless we entertain no doubt that in every other respect his statement is well grounded, and that the expectations it holds out may be confirmed to the fullest extent; and indeed it is evident from the Powers possessed at Rainton Colliery that any deficiency of quantity which may take place at Pittington may be made good by an excess there.

Geo Hill

Geo. Johnson

To

Messrs. Plummer

Thompson

Stobart

For-1-18-p43

Assembly Rooms

Newcastle

16<sup>th</sup> March 1827

The aftersigned appropriated by the Coal Owners of the Wear apportion a basis of 530,000 chaldrons among the several collieries of that river having agreeably to the directions contained in Mr Markindale's latter dated the 12<sup>th</sup> January and delivered to them on the ultimo carefully investigated their state and condition generally and severally with reference to the powers of production, qualities of coal, means of vending as also their merits with respect to improving or declining abilities, and weighing all these important considerations, fairly and impartially to the best of their judgement, they have agreed on the following apportionment of the sum referred to them, which embraces such new collieries as are likely to come into coal working within the present year.

Before they enter, however, on the statement, the Referees deem it proper to remark that their attention was drawn to an apparently new feature in the case, namely the claim of certain proprietors to a plurality of basis. This matter they judge it expedient to reduce to some rule or principle before they attempted the scale of division and upon the best information they could collect, it appeared to them, that the practice of allowing one basis only, to one and the same party delivering at the

same river, though embracing a multiplicity of concerns, has invariably prevailed on the Wear, excepting in the single instance of Newbottle Colliery which the trade has admitted to a separate basis from Mr Lambton's other concerns ever since he became proprietor of it. They have found it proper therefore to make the following award to be governed by this usage.

The River wear basis of 530,000 chaldrons, for the present year, 1827, is distributed as follows—

For-1-18-p44

To Lord Ravensworth & partners for Mountmoor Moor or Blackfell Colliery-----  
21,000 chaldrons  
To Moreton John Davidson Esq. -----21,000  
To John Geo. Lambton Esq. for Lambton Harraton, Burn Moor, Lumley, Pensher,  
Murton Cocken, & Hinchale Collieries-----128,000

and

For Newbottle Colliery inclusive of the new pit at Haughton-----50,000  
To the Marquis of Londonderry for Rainton, North Pittington & Pensher Collieries  
-----128,000  
To William Russell & partners for New Washington Colliery-----19,000  
To Mr William Stobart jnr. For Rickleton Caraton Outside Collieries-----30,000  
To the Hetton Coal Company for Lyons & Elesmore Collieries-----106,000  
To Mr William Russell Esq. for North Hetton Colliery-----30,000

Signed

B. Thompson  
Mattw. Stobart  
William Stobart

For-1-18-p47

16<sup>th</sup> April 1827

Sir,

At the request of the coal owners on the River Wear I beg on their side to transmit a copy of a resolution paper at a meeting held yesterday.

It appeared to the meeting that an irregularity had taken place in the instructions given by them to you date 12<sup>th</sup> January last as in referring to a letter dated 8<sup>th</sup> January from Lord Londonderry to Mr Buddle and sent by Mr Buddle to a meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> of January. His Lordship said he was willing to submit the matter in dispute respecting basis to three Gentlemen and two Viewers from the Tyne.

The coal owners of the Wear will therefore feel obliged if you will have the goodness to occasion the award in conjunction with Mr Johnson and Mr Hill in conformity with the resolution of the meeting of yesterday.

I am sir your obedient servant

John Martindale

To

Mr B Thompson  
Mr (?)  
Mr Stobart

For-1-18-p48  
Assembly Rooms Newcastle  
17<sup>th</sup> April 1827  
Meeting of the Coal Owners of the River Wear

It appearing that there has been an irregularity in the instructions given to the Referees appointed by the Coal Owners of the River Wear, in as much as Mr Geo. Johnson & Mr Geo. Hill have only acted in their professional capacity.  
Resolved, that a letter be written to the three gentlemen who have signed the award requesting them to reconsider the same in conjunction with Mr Geo. Johnson & Mr Geo. Hill, and to call for any evidence to enable them to come to a final decision they may deem necessary. And that notice be sent to each Colliery of the day they intend to meet in order to enable the agents of each colliery to attend should they think proper.

For-1-18-p49  
Assembly Rooms, Newcastle  
May 22<sup>nd</sup> 1827

In compliance with a resolution tabled at a meeting of the coal owners of the Wear on the 17<sup>th</sup> (?) and transmitted by Mr Martindale to Messrs Thompson, Plummer and Stobart in letters addressed to them on the 18<sup>th</sup> (of which copies are annexed). These gentlemen lost no time in seeking the assistance of Mr Geo Hill & Mr Johnson in conjunction with whom and after frequent deliberations the aftersigned have designed on the following divisions of the Wear—basis for the present year viz.

Lord Ravensworth for Mount Moor or Black Hall Colliery-----22,000 chaldrons  
John Davidson Esq. for Beamish Colliery-----21,000  
John Geo. Lambton Esq. for Lambton, Harraton, Burn Moor, Lumley, Pensher,  
Morton, Cocken Hinshale Collieries-----128.000

And for

Newbottle Colliery inclusive of the new pit at Haughton -----50,000  
The Marquis of Londonderry for Rainton North Pittington Pensher Collieries  
-----134,000  
William Russell Esq. and partners for New Washington Colliery—18,000  
Mr William Stobart for Rickleton & Harraton outside Collieries—28,000  
The Hetton Coal Company for Lyons & Elesmore Collieries-----106,000  
William Russell Esq. for North Hetton Colliery-----28,000

Signed for  
Benj. Thompson  
Matt. Plummer  
William Stobart  
Geo Hill

Geo Johnson

For-1-18-p50

Newcastle 7<sup>th</sup> September 1827

We the undersigned referees appointed to apportion the quantity of coals to be taken as the basis of each Colliery on the River Wear, having examined the principal agents employed in the different concerns, having also inspected the working plans and ascertained correctly the quality of coal and the number of pits at work as well as those at present unemployed but may be put to work at short notice, together with the quantity that could be raised from the different seams in each colliery, with the present establishment are, of opinion that the following quantities will give to each concern a just, fair, and reasonable proportion of the assumed basis of 533,000 chaldrons viz.

To Lord Ravensworth & partners for Mount Moor & Black Fell Colliery 20,000  
To Morton John Davidson Esq. for Beamish Colliery-----21,000  
For Lambton, Harraton, Burn moor, Lumley, Pensher, Murton, Cocken and Finchale Collieries and for Newbottle Colliery inclusive of the new pit at Houghton 155,000

For-1-18-p51

To the Marquis of Londonderry for Rainton North Pittington and Pensher Collieries---  
-----145,000  
To Wm. Russell and partners for New Washington Colliery-----18,000  
To Mr William Stobart jnr. For Rickleton, and Harraton outside Collieries 28,000  
To the Hetton Coal Company for Lyons & Elemore Collieries-----115,000  
To William Russell Esq. for North Hetton Colliery-----31,000  
Total-----533,000

Geo. Robinson  
RW Brandling  
Geo. Hill  
Geo. Johnson

For-1-18-p54

Coal Trade Office Newcastle 9<sup>th</sup> Nov 1829

Having taken into our consideration all the circumstances that we deem material in fixing the inspection basis of the Coal Owners of the River Wear our opinion is that the following portions are fair and equitable.

The Marquis of Londonderry-----138,000 chaldrons  
Lord Durham-----138,000  
Hetton Company-----138,000  
North Hetton----- 40,000  
Beamish----- 24,000  
Harraton Outside----- 23,000  
Mount Moor----- 17,000  
Washington----- 15,000  
Total----- 533,000

Chas. Wm Bigge  
James Losh

Robt. Wm Brandling

For-1-18-p55

Coal Trade office

50 Westgate St.

Newcastle

March 12<sup>th</sup> 1831

At a general meeting of the coal owners of the Rivers Tyne and Wear held this day (Robert William Brandling in the chair)

1<sup>st</sup> resolved that the Bindings for 1831 beholden on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> inst.

2<sup>nd</sup> Resolved that on no pretence shall bindings money be allowed by any colliery.

3<sup>rd</sup> Resolved that the 2<sup>nd</sup> clause in the printed bond be adopted.

4<sup>th</sup> That to prevent any inconvenience to the pitmen from a change of residence at the time of binding: Resolved. That in future the binding shall take place at the Saturday which shall fall next after the 21<sup>st</sup> February.

5<sup>th</sup> Resolved, That the single shift pits shall continue to work fourteen hours per day as heretofore.

That the driver's wages shall be advanced to 18.32 p day and that the general price for putting be 11.20 p score of 20 peck corves for 80 yards & one penny per score for every 20 yards further viz. the penny not to be payable until the distance is 100 yards: That....

For-1-18-p56

...the Trappers wages continue 10d per day as at present

6<sup>th</sup> Resolved. That no general advance be made on the hewing prices but the managers of each colliery to exercise a discretion in making such advances as particular cases may require.

7<sup>th</sup> Resolved. That the fines for bad separation continue the same as last year.

8<sup>th</sup> Resolved. That each colliery be required to send into this office not later than Wednesday next by ten o' clock in the forenoon, an account of the average weekly earnings of their pitmen during the year ending 28<sup>th</sup> February last, distinguishing the earnings of the first second and third class of men, and stating the number of days the colliery has wrought during this period.

NB the printed bonds will be sent to you on Tuesday next.

For-1-18-p57

Coal Trade Office

50 Westgate St.

Newcastle

March 28<sup>th</sup> 1831

At a general meeting of the coal owners of Rivers Tyne and Wear held here this day (Robert William Brandling Esq. in the chair) the following final resolutions of the coal owners as to the general terms to be offered to their pitmen for the ensuing twelve months.

That each able bodied Hewer be supplied with work to enable him to earn 28/- per fortnight at the least; the fortnight to consist of eleven working days; subject nevertheless to the power retained by the coal owners in the second article of the

bond of dividing the work so as to enable the men to earn the 28/- in not less than nine working days.

That the wages of the Drivers be the same as last year viz. 1/2d per day; and the day's work at the crane to be twelve hours.

That, in future the binding shall be held on the first Saturday in the month of January; this ensuring an interval of three months between the publishing of the New and the Expiration of the Old bonds thereby lessening the difficulty and inconvenience of the pitmen providing themselves with dwelling houses in case of changing their situation.

Resolved. That no alteration is necessary as to the size of the corves and that the measure tub which is placed at the top of each pit, must continue to be the standard...

[For-1-18-p58]

...by which contents of the corves must be regulated as hitherto and that the fines must remain as at present, being a necessary protection against negligence or fraud. That the workmen be paid their wages in money as has hitherto been the custom, and remain at liberty to supply themselves with candles, gunpowder and (?) goods wherever they think proper.

That no coal owner may carry on his colliery after 5<sup>th</sup> April next with unbound men. That these Resolutions be printed and a copy sent to the representatives of each colliery on the two rivers.

[For-1-18-p59]

[printed page]

LIST OF COLLIERIES  
In the Port of Newcastle  
MARCH 17, 1831.

Net Average Weekly Earnings of the Pitmen on the Tyne for the Year  
ending 28th February 1831.

	1st Class.	2d Class.	3d Class.	Number of Working Days.
Backworth	17s. 7d.	15s 3 ¼d.	13s. 4 ½ d.	221
Burradon and Killingworth	17 6 17 2	16 8		237
Coxlodge	22 1 ¾	18 9	17 0	224
Fawdon	17 1	14 0		255

Gosforth	19 6 ½	17 9	13 6 ½	243
Heaton	17 1¼			256
Hebburn	18 3	17 2	16 0	241
Holywell	19 8	16 5	14 1 ½	239
Hotspur	19 8	17 2	14 4	250
Jarrow	18 6 18 9 ½	18 8 ½ 15 1 ½		250 242
Percy Main	15 5 ½ 17 0			254 250
Walker	19 4 ¼	18 4 ½	17 4 ½	256
Wideopen	18 3 19 3	16 10 ½ 14 1 ½		265
Willington	17 9 ¾			251
Benwell	15 10 ½			253
Callerton	19 9	13 6 ½		247
Collingwood Main	18 5 ½			282
Cramlington	22 9	18 3	16 3	256
Elswick	16 6			262
Felling	17 5			164
Heworth	17 0	16 0		251
Low Moor and South Moor	14 9			264
Manor Wallsend	19 6	17 0	14 9	247
Mount Moor	24 9	20 7	17 10	286
Pelaw Main	16 3 17 4 ½	15 6 ½ 19 4		268

Pontop and Garesfield	15 0	12 4	11 0	286
Seghill	21 0	16 6	14 0	271
Sheriff-Hill	18 10 ½	16 8 ¾	14 4 ¼	279
Springwell	17 1 ¼			248
Tanfield Moor	16 0	14 0		260
Team	17 1	14 2		249
Townley Main	15 5 ½	16 9		260
Tyne Main	20 0	17 0	14 0	250
Walbottle	15 6	14 6	13 0	247
Whitley	21 8	18 0	14 4	269
Wylam	18 8	16 2 ½	12 6 ½	253
Hartley	24 8 ½	22 2 ¼	19 10 ½	277
Mesne [sic] average	18 4½	15 4	14 10½	252

Those Men who earn the lowest Wages are generally old Men, who have large Families that are earning great Wages in the Colliery besides. That is, Boys from 7 to 12 Years of Age are employed to shut and open the Doors in the Mine, under the Denomination of Trappers, at 10d per Day; from 12 to 16 Years they become Waggon-drivers at 14d per Day; or Putters, two Boys to a Tram : after the Age of 16, if Putters are able to put a Tram alone, they earn fully as great Wages as the Hewers themselves.

They have Medical Attendance, a House, Garden, Coals, gratis, except the Payment of IS per Month towards the Expense of leading the latter.

Preston & Heaton, Printers, 96, Side.

[NEIMME/For/1/18/60]  
[printed page]

## THE PITMEN OF THE TYNE AND WEAR

(Extracted from the Tyne Mercury of April 5,1831)

WE are rejoiced to find that the Coal Owners of the Tyne and Wear have adopted the course which we recommended in the Tyne Mercury of last week. They resolved, on the 28th ult., that the boys should henceforth work in the collieries only 12 hours a day, and that the Workmen should be paid their wages in money, having full liberty to buy their goods where they please. The system of obliging the pitmen to get goods of the agents and agents' friends, at extra prices, obtained chiefly among the collieries on the Wear: it was very little acted upon on the Tyne : it is now to be wholly abolished. They resolved further, that "each able-bodied hewer be supplied with work to enable him to earn twenty-eight shillings per fortnight at least." But they say "the fines must remain as at present, being a necessary protection to the Owner against negligence and fraud." And they add, in conclusion, that "no Coal Owner carry on his colliery, after the 5th of April next, with unbound men." These they call their final resolutions. The Tyne Mercury has never advocated the cause of the strong against the weak, the rich against the poor, and it never will.— What we urged last week we repeat—there should be mutual concession between the pitmen and their employers. We have shewn that the Coal Owners have evinced a disposition to accede to such demands as were reasonable.

Let us see that their servants display a like spirit. At present, the workmen are paid half-a-crown a day, for every day they are idle at their employer's will, after being three days off work: they require that they should be paid for every day, the three days included. This is plainly, in other words, requiring constant work or constant pay. Looking at the immense number there are of pitmen, we have no hesitation in saying that it is impossible the Coal Owners could engage to give them constant employment: if they did, they would produce coals which they could not sell, and must be utterly ruined. The men have an undoubted right to sell their labour as dear as they can, and the masters have the same right to buy the labour they require as cheap as they can.—The Coal Owners have stated their final resolution not to give constant employment or constant pay. What follows? If the pitmen, as it appears to us, do not chuse [sic] to accept the terms offered, they will ruin themselves and their families : they will be obliged to quit the houses they occupy : their places will be occupied by strangers.

The time has arrived when they must decide for themselves. Their engagements expire this day, the 5th of April. Will they enter into fresh agreements? If their situation was tolerable before, when they were obliged to buy goods of agents at high prices, and their sons were overworked, their condition must be better now, when these grievances are at an end. It is a mistake to suppose that they can obtain pecuniary assistance from the parishes or the magistrates. It is idle to think that they can, by meeting nightly in large bodies, by acts of violence or intimidation, deter the well-disposed pitmen, who have renewed their engagements, from going to work, and thus make it necessary for the Coal Owners to employ them on their own terms, whatever those terms are. They are, by, such proceedings, only exposing themselves to punishment. That they committed such acts of violence in two instances, we noticed in our last publication and we have heard of a third case on the Wear, a few days ago, where a man underwent such a chastisement from them, that we understand he has since expired.

A knowledge of these outrages having reached the government, the War Office has ordered a military station to be established at Houghton-le-Spring, in the county of Durham, in aid of civil power, and on Friday last, a troop of the 3rd regiment of Light Dragoons marched into that place, under the command of Capt. Mcqueen. From violence, therefore, nothing can be hoped. From the necessities of the Coal Owners as little can be expected. They are free as well as the pitmen, and if they cannot engage their workmen here on reasonable terms, what is to prevent them getting workmen elsewhere? Nothing is more clear than that they have the power of doing so.

What we conceived to be the principal and the well-grounded complaints of the pitmen have been listened to and redressed. If they still continue out of employment—if they still refuse to be bound, they will act as their own enemies, and they will cease to have the sympathy of the public in their favour. If, by the present system of working 3 or 4 days a week, they can earn more than ordinary labourers who work 6 days a week, have they any just reason to complain? We have made particular inquiry as to the wages of the men at Hetton colliery, on the Wear, as we understood they were most discontented.

We find that the average wages of the first class of hewers there, for the year now ending, have been 21s. 3d. per week, besides their having house-rent, coals and medical assistance, for themselves and families, gratis; and this earning has been made on 260 working days, leaving them 104 days in the year for recreation and instruction. The putter boys' wages also, from 15 to 18 years of age, in the same period average about 20s. a week each.

Looking at all the circumstances, then, observing what the Coal Owners have pledged themselves to do, seeing how the pitmen are treated here, and knowing how labourers are paid elsewhere, we think that none but their enemies will advise them to hold out in the hope of further concessions. By entering at once into their engagements, they will put an end to the present misunderstandings: by holding out, they will throw the trade of the port into confusion, oblige the Coal Owners to get men elsewhere, and reduce themselves and their families to misery and want.

R. Stobbs, Printer, Durham.

[NEIMME/For/1/18/61]

[printed page]

#### WHEREAS

IT hath been represented upon Oath, to Us, the under-signed Magistrates, acting for the County of Durham. That divers large bodies of men have lately illegally Assembled within the said County, against the peace of our Lord the King; and that various acts of violence and outrage have, in many instances, been committed; and

that they have also combined by threats and intimidation to force or prevent other persons from being hired and following their lawful Work or Employment:

WE, the said Magistrates, do therefore hereby caution and warn ALL PERSONS, to desist from so Assembling, and from the commission of such illegal acts. And we do further give Notice, that the most decisive and effective Measures will be taken to Apprehend and bring to punishment, all Persons so offending as aforesaid; and further, that the most ample protection will be afforded to all Persons peaceably disposed, and willing to follow their lawful Occupations.

Justice Room,

Houghton-Le-Spring  
7th April, 1831

Vane Londonderry.

R. Burdon

G. Robinson

J. BECKWITH, PRINTER, HOUGHTON-LE-SPRING.

[NEIMME/For/1/18/62]

[printed page]

WE, the Undersigned, Magistrates of the County of Northumberland, are sorry to learn, that a large Body of Pitmen are now unemployed, in Consequence of a Misunderstanding between them and the Coal-owners. As such a State of Things cannot remain long without bringing the greatest Distress upon a large Body of Men, many of them having large Families, and will, consequently, lead to Mischief, We, not being Coal-owners, or in any Way connected with the Coal Trade, offer ourselves as Mediators between the Parties; and are ready to meet the Coal-owners and the Delegates from each of the Collieries, in the Hope of settling the Differences between them.

We shall be ready to meet the Parties at the Moot Hall, in Newcastle, on Monday next, the 11th instant, at Eleven o'Clock in the Forenoon.---Morpeth, April 7th, 1831.

C.J. Clavering.

WILLIAM BURRELL.

A.J. CRESSWELL BAKER.

M. DE C. LAWSON.

WILLIAM ORDE.

A. ATKINSON, Jun.

THOMAS RIDDELL.

CHARLES J. BRIDGE.

E. COLLINGWOOD.

ROBERT HEDLEY.

BERTRAM MITFORD.

EDWARD WALKER, PRINTER, NEWCASTLE.