

NEIMME/BROWN/2

NEIMME BROWN/2 [Front  
Cover]



NEIMME BROWN/2 [1]

NEIMME BROWN/2[1A]

NEIMME BROWN/2[1B]

Throckley 3 January 1765

Dear Douglas

I received your letter of the 30 Ulto myself having got from London on the 24, will see Mr. Graham on Satterday [Saturday] next and fix with him about a ship to bring to bring your lead. I have nothing yet in forward note to send to Berwick for the but in a little more will have many ready. I am glad you have got some cribbe moved and will send over a man to assist in the sinking and to casing the Engine Pitt to the stonehead as soon as Christmas is out of their heads. I find the house is up and hope it will be covered in. I am afraid Redpath will not be able to inch the Engine Pitt, that will give me trouble and no gain to the watter but much loss of time will be the case.

NEIMME BROWN/2[1]

NEIMME BROWN/2[1 C]

Throckley 3rd January 1765

Mr. Barclay, Sir, your favour of the 25 Ulto came to me in due course. You may be assured all despatch possible shall be given Captain Thinlock as soon as he arrives. Tho' cannot yett say what sort of coales he will be loaded with. The idleness of the collieries pitman at this time generally make coales more than ordinarily scarce and it is at this time the waggonman that leads the coals are hired which add to the scarcity. Yesterday I saw Mr. Humble the gentleman the load is for have assured him it shall be either at Shields or Sunderland in one month at therefore must desire you';I loss no time in sending it. From Yours etc, William Brown.

To Mr Alex Barclay at Steelyard Moor Coal London.

NEIMME BROWN/2 [2]

Throckley 5th January 1765

Mr Errington , Sir, I understand John Ursop one of my bound servants is employed by you and now working in some of your Collieries contrary to his agreement with me and the laws of this country. You'll be so obliging as discharge ~~him~~ the man and prevent my commencing an action against him in order to compell him to do what every honest man ought to do without compulsion. I heartily wish you many returns of the season and am Your Most Humble Servant, William Brown.

To Wm Errington Esq at Sandhoe

Throckley January 17th of 1765

Dear Sir Charles, The moment I arrived at Newcastle from your place I sent for Mr Barnes who I found was set out for Nuthall and who I presumed I had passed by in the road however as he is with you hopes he will take all or most of the anxiety [anxiety] and trouble of you. I have no doubt but by this time you are getting coales and must desire as a hint to yourself that you will express by order sufficient quantity of coal be left unwrot [unwrought] about the Engine pit bottom to support that erection not that I doubt Barnes but a hint from you may not be amiss. I was with your friend Fenwick on the 4 Inst. and told him how poorly I left you and almost assured him you would be well by that time which I hope is the case you cannot perceive how pleased he was to hear of coming into this country. My next will probably bring you an account of the sum due and to whome and then you'll please to give such orders for payment as most convenient and as you may think proper. I am Dear Sir Your Humble Servant, William Brown.

NEIMME BROWN/2[3]

Throckley 17th of January 1765

Dear Barnes, When I got to Newcastle in my return from London I without loss of time sent to Sunderland to desire you would meet me before you set out for Nuthall however found you were gone and I presume I had passed you in the Fly twixt Durham and Darlington. I must confess I was glad to hear you were gone as I left Sir Charles very ill as to health and I think his Colliery affairs as bad as he was himself. I chiefly want to acquaint you with my notion of the people there who I well know you'll have your hands fully employed with, and perhaps your head too for sometime you'll find them very ignorant and what is worse very positive and designing your own prudence must

direct you in the management of them. I believe you'll find their method of working right but you'll excuse me in defining sufficient quantities of coal be left to support the Engine. I had two proposals for keeping the Engine when at Nuthall one from Dryden and the other from a little fellow whose name I have not intended to show them to you when I got down but as that cannot be must acquaint you Drydens proposal per week to find 3 men, leather, oyle [oil] , candles lapping cleaning the boylers [boilers] cisterns leathering the buckets clacks and cleaning the flews for £2.14s.10d per week which I am sure you'll think far to much the other says thus literally the charge of attending the Engine 2 men a week at the Engine at 12s per per week which is £1.4s.0d and for leather and oyle and candles 7s makes £1.4s.0d which I presume you'll think rather two little but as you are well acquainted with these matters can better judge when get a little opened out. I will be glad to hear from you and am Dear Sir Yours Most sincerely, William Brown.

NEIMME BROWN/2 [4]

Throckley 7th of January 1765

Sir As I had not the pleasure of seeing you in Town nor in the road am much at a loss to know if anything has been done to Saint Anthoneys since I last saw you or if there is any thing that I can do here in that affair while you are in Town. Your people at Byker has behaved as most of there neighbours these Holidays and are now at work currently. It seems a struggle whether the Engine or water beats there. Plessey people presented 16 1/2 tons from 19 December to and with 2nd January which considering the season is great work. Tanfield Moor Edge was not begun to work last Thursday since Xmas am forcing the stone drift forward there to win the Hard Coal you have doubtless heard of sundry meetings of the Gentlemen in the Coal Trade in the rivers Wear & Tyne in order to reduce the extravagant binding money of employing each others men and I have enclosed you a copey of the resolutions at each meeting you'll observe Mr. Gamuel & Hudson only engaged till your pleasure and Mr. Silvertop should be made known. I wish we could know that gentleman's real sentiments. It has already had a sollitary effect with the waggonmen. I presume Mr. Bell will have left the Town before this reach you but if not please to shew him the enclosed Resolution and acquaint him that nothing new has happened since I last wrote to him. I am Sir Your Most Humble Servant, William Brown.

From Mr Brown to Matthew Ridley Esquire, London.

NEIMME BROWN/2 [5]

At Newcastle 2 Jan 1765

Mr Bell, Dear Sir, Your favour of the 30th Ulto I received with pleasure. I find you have the same notion of the affair with the pitmen and waggonmen as every man that is a friend to liberty but says something must be done to bring things to a proper consistance, more of that when you return from London. Mr. Bell, Mr. Percival and I are just come from Mr. Gibson who is at much at a loss what to advise as we are the only thing we could think of is that you may leave Maxwell in the appearance of agent, Ward & Harison in suspence and let the lightermen take their own way which they will certainly do say or do what we can. I will be very agreeable to know a little of the sentiments of the eight people that had the two ship sold when I was in Town, but is perhaps hard to do. I was proposed to abate the shilling castaways but that is referred till you return. We will be able to start Throckley Engine in 8 days and I hope she will be able to sett us to the coal. Last years vend is 23680 chaldrons as I remember landsale 16000 fothers T. S. Moor 3600 or thereabouts we are very buisier [busier]in writing the accounts fitted for your examination and I hope they will please you,

things in general pleases me and I hope they will please you. I was at Westgate house last night and nothing was wanted to make us compleatly merry but your company and your letter almost compleated what we wanted.

William Brown

NEIMME BROWN/2 [6]

Throckley 13th of January 1765

Mr Tulip, I have your favour of yesterday relating to Alset (?Alsop] am sorry I cannot oblige you with him; as in the first place am in want of hands and in the next place have made it a fixed rule never to let such fellows slip through my hands unpunished be the extent of doing it ever so great. Your servant have paid me £7.13s.21/2d the bail due on account of the for which I have sent you a receipt. I am Sir, Your Most Humble Servant, William Brown.

Throckley 17th of January 1765

Mr. Barclay. Captain Kinlock was load with Greenwich Moor Coals on the Inst and will I hope come to a good market as these sort of coals generally sells at or about as good a price as Pontop, neither Tanfield Moor nor Pontop waggons have been on since Xmas & the turns is very long at these places as well as Longbenton, below you have the charge of the cargo and please to advise Mr. Goldney that I have drawn on him as you directed for the amount at 40 days payable to Matthew Bell Esq of Newcastle. If the cylinder for Mr Geo Humble does not come in less than 20 days he will take one of the Scotch ones now here in sale and am Sir Your Most Humble Servant, William Brown.

January 14th 1765.

D<sup>r</sup> Mr William Brown

Shipped in the Prince William of London Draw

Kinlock, Master

To	72 Chaldrons	Greenwich Moor Coales at 15s.	£54. 0. 0.
	9	Keel dues	£6. 0. 0.
		Clearing	£13. 6. 11.
			<hr/>
			£74. 6. 11.

NEIMME BROWN/2 [7]

Throckley 17th of January 1765

Mr. Barnes, Dear Sir, I have yours of the 8th Inst in due course and observes what you say about the waggons without doubt there will be an inconvenience with the convoy if the bottom be made to project over the wheels and how to remeady that I don't yett see unless that corner be made narrow so as to admit the convoy which I think may be done and the breadth before and on the far side behind I presume will with care contain 50 cwt. of coals along waggon may do but doubtless her turning when so very long a crane can be of no service but to what's within its sweep of that perhaps may do unless Sir Charles mean to have large stocks at Cinder Hill if he design to have great stocks there they must certainly be handed out a grain to shift from place to place and will I dare say not

answer any good purpose. I am afraid I shall meet with difficulty in getting you two waggonmen however will do my endeavour. I don't find the Duke of Northumberland will begin his colliery immediately therefore would have you lay the ground ropes into a house to keep dry and the wood pumps may be laid wet till they be wanted. Toward may perhaps finish the iron work for an engine here before he be wanted at the Duke of Northumberland so he may come home when you can spare him. I am drove to the necessity of sinking with an 18 inch working piece at Throckley. Mr. Turton and Miss Hunter of Byker your sister was married Sunday gone a week. PS: to make my best compliments to Sir Charles I am very uneasie to hear how he does. I am your Humble Servant, William Brown.

NEIMME BROWN/2 [8]

Throckley 21st of January 1765

Dear Sir, I was favoured with yours of the 12th Inst in due course I had no opportunity of seeing the partnership agents till last Saturday and then had a deal of talk with Mr. Shafto only he says some doubts had arisen how far they could assign or transfer their right in St. Anthony's Colliery that he had Lord Chief Barron Ords sentiments who has satisfied him they can either assign or let to any body that Lord Ravensworth knows nothing of this taking the Lord Chief Barron's opinion. That it was agreed to have Mr. Williams opinion which if it corresponds with Mr. Ords which he (Shafto) has no doubt but it will he says in that case there will be no objection to your having that colliery for the term the partnership have he further says he would by all means have you waite on Lord Bute and talk to him of that matter and also of that of that part of Heaton which lately was mentioned to Mr. Seaton and Walton the of which two gentlemen to lett that coale he says he thinks may be removed he further says he thinks all the partnership interest in Heaton may be had at a reasonable rate. The stone drift at Tanfield Moor Edge goes very slow having got a very hard stone in her pray would it not be worth your while to secure the remainder of colliery to keep you in proportion of the Hutton seam if Tanfield Moor Edge fails before the hard coal be won and after to mix with that coal. I was at Plessey last Wednesday and find a great heap of coals at the Boundary Pit not many at the other pittes the men weren't poorly the week before last and last week presented 13 tons; was down in Byker last Friday the Engine had lowered the water about 3 inch the last 4 days I find with good hands to keep her she will do well but am afraid Stawport & I will disagree on account of some neglects I have discovered; am making a horse way towards some whole coal in your estate north east from Byker town and north west from the Mary Pit and finds many pillars will be got; the Delight works well and so does the Endeavour am scarce of places there tell [till] get some drifts forward. Mr. Peareth and

NEIMME BROWN/2 [9]

Mr Reay understands the Walker lease as we did and acknowledges then understands it so I do not yet know Mr. Ords sentiments, Mr. Gamul is still poorley but thinks him is in a way of recovery. I am Sir, Your Most Humble Servant, William Brown.  
Matthew Ridley, Esquire, London.

Throckley 21st January 1765

Dear Sir, I have the pleasure to tell you Mr. Rawlings has finished the hole which I sett out about 400 yards south east from the farm house and the nighest to the Common, the Craw coal as they call it

lies there at about 151/2 fathoms from the surface of the earth and the Main coal is found regular at about 151/2 fathoms below the Crow coal and is 5 feet thick clean and fine and the level as intended will run 3 or 4 fathoms below the Main coal there. Rawling is now at work with the hole to the west or south west from the farm house nearer on the Bank side which hopes he will not be long in finishing you shall hear from time to time how they go on. From your Most Humble Servant, William Brown.

To William Cuthberts, Esq, London.

Throckley 21st of January 1765

Mr. Elderton, Sir, I have your favour of the 15th Inst as also yours acknowledging the receipt of the cash for payment of the timber. I really do not know what you mean by raising 15d. per piece for sleepers in your first or 13d P in your last. If you mean they are so much better then the 9d ones please to say so, but the 9d ones such as I saw will do for my present purpose and if you have many or few of these sort cut out please to send them by Captain Jno. Snowden of the Henry & Mary of Shields who will call on you to know what you have; I never knew 12d per piece paid for sleepers in my time therefore to think of 13, 14 or 15d P is extra and out of any persons power to give it I will run the resque [risk] of

NEIMME BROWN/2 [10]

of one hundred at 12d P by way of tryal [trial] and they must be very great squares and not less in length than 5ft 8ins or 5 ft 10 ins and also desire you'll cut me out one hundred or two such as you can afford for 7d P the length as above so will be able to judge whether your high priced [price] or low priced ones answer my purpose best, the within mentioned Mr. Snowden will bring me any thing you have to send and you'll have little trouble with him. I am Sir, Your Humble Servant, William Brown.

Throckley, 21st of January 1765

My Lord, I find Mr. Curry got the Engine Pit sunk to the intended deepness about the close of the year and that the water is now very easier and circumstance pleases me much and I hope it will be of singular advantage to your Lordship (viz) they meet with an exceeding good seam of coal as to quality about 2 feet thick at the bottom of the Engine that was never mentioned by anybody or taken notice of in the Plan this seam I am in hopes is whole from the lowest Engine level to the surface of the earth. They are now preparing to work it and also mining to the splenty coal and towards the peacock tail so that in a few weeks will at least have three workable seams (viz) the Corby Cragg New Little coal and splenty coal nothing seams to be so much wanted as men and I find they are picking some up daily. I have wrote to Curry to give me an account of what cash is due from the colliery as also what he expects the disbursement will be each 14 days and what the receipt for coals will be. I am afraid while they are in the infancy of working and vending and while they are minding considerable they will not be able to stand on their own leggs, as soon as I receive his answer will communicate it to your Lordship. My credit is out with your Lordship's bankers and Mr. Hamilton is not one hundred pounds strong so have [asked] Curry to be expeditious in his answer to my request of his state.

NEIMME BROWN/2 [11]

I presume in two or three months time the mines of extra expence will be at an end and the colliery in a fair way to work coals and then if your Lordship happens to be in the north will if your Lordships agreeable do myself the pleasure of seeing you there and trying if possible to reduce the extravagant

expenche of working at least it will endeavour to do it and hopes if it cannot be done altogether at first yet by degrees to bring it about, have wrote to Curry also to try to find people that will take the keeping of the Engine find leather and all other things necessary together with attendance in order to reduce things to a state of certainty in short have endeavoured to roose [rouse] him and to make him do his duty. I am Your Lordships Most Obedient Humble Servant, William Brown.

To the Honourable Lord Abercorn, London.

Throckley 21st January 1765

Mr. Curry, I received your favour of the 16th in due course am glad to hear from Renwicks as well as from your letter you had got to the intended deepness. I think the little coal you speak of is not mentioned in any of the Plan I had from my Lord nor by any person whatever therefore hopes it is whole to the surface of the earth, pray could not you drive to the coal pit inn its cheaper than any other way. I do not know but your resting the coal pit where she is may be cheaper for the present but am afraid you must her down to the Engine level at last as the water from the stairhead and great seam and all these to the east of you must come that way at last and it will not do well to have it come into the Engine sumps till it come over the dregg sumps but by no means to go to the eastward till you have try'd how the coals to the west proves. Renwicks tells me you have room enough to draw coals at your Engine Pit, but that's a thing I am not very desired of doing as there will be in a little have more loss in leathers and cleaning the sumps etc then will sink the coal pit from where she now stands to the Engine level. I make no doubt but you'll do your best to work the coals to the most advantage for my Lord, yet must

NEIMME BROWN/2 [12]

observe to you that it may certainly be contrived by proper drifts or mines to putt the coals from 3 or 4 seams worked at one time by horses and you are very sensible of the cheapness these creatures puts coals compared to men our way and from what I can see your bearers comes much dearer then with trams. I must desire you'll give me an estimate of all the expence you are at in working and laying on the bank as a quantity of your coals equals to one score of our 20 peck corves. Please to give Mr. Hamilton your opinion what your disbursements will be per fortnight for the next 6 months, and how the apparent receipt for coals may stand compared with the disbursements also let me know what debts your colliery owes in order that I may acquaint his Lordship with what's need full to be done. I am Your Humble Servant, William Brown.

PS: try if you cannot get people to take your engine to help with attendance leather, oyl [oil] and lapping, etc.

Throckley 24th of January 1765

Dear Sir, I hope by this time the cribbs are ready for the Engine Pitt, and therefore have sent to Scotland to Lord Abercorn for the man that has sunk that Engine Pitt, to come to Murton to take the conduct of sinking and securing that Engine Pitt through the sand and to the stone head. You'll be so good as order one hundred course deals 10 or 12 feel long each and 1/4 inch or 1/2 inch thick to be got laid down at the Pitt as well as the cribbs one thousand double tack nails might also begot ready the Pitts must be carried down the size of the larger cribbs mentioned in my last till she comes to the top of the sand on the outside of the smaller cribbs by which means hopes to secure the top of the Engine Pitt to the stone head the moment the man comes to you whose name is Robert Cargie please to give me a line saying he is comed please to give S. Ridpeth notice to provide hands to go on with the sinking for no time

NEIMME BROWN/2 [13]

must be lost when we are begun. I am your Humble Servant, William Brown.

PS: pray how does your town relish Sir John Delaval. I saw Mr. Graham last Saturday who told me he was busy shipping your lead.

To Mr Douglas Plummer [?] at Berwick

Throckley February 11th 1765

Sir, I was at Heworth on Saturday morning and found the water was above the tubb head in the new Engine Pit occasioned as I suppose by some stop of the engine, I had both Mr. Lee and Milburn and gave them the necessary directions also ordered the carpenters to get the low set of pumps as soon as the water is got down and in the mean time if they do not get to the bottom ordered then to get in the cistern and the jack head cistern and pumps so far as they can the dam for the bottom is not yet in or the place made for it they are very slow therefore could wish you would send George Drydon down to make all the dispatch possible. The borers are in strong stone or whin about 66 fathoms down. I mean to write to Lord Northumberland tomorrow and to tell him you cannot resolve what to say to his Lordship as to the rental of your Wayleave Lease till you have tried the other people you go through that you are endeavouring to come at their sentiments as soon as may be and which when got will give his Lordship your answer. I am your Most Humble Servant, William Brown.

To John Blakett, Esquire, at Wylam.

NEIMME BROWN/2 [14]

Throckley 7th of February, 1765.

My Lord, I hinted to your Lordship in my last that my credit with your Lordships Bankers was out and the other day had a line from Mr. Hamilton saying he is out of cash which upon the receipt of Mr. Currys last pay I find to be case. If it be your Lordships pleasure the cash should be paid as heretofore please to favour me with a further credit. Mr. Curry writes me he is minding very briskly the Coal Pitt and also to the plenty coal and Peacock Tail till they get one or both of these seams of coal am afraid they will not be able to stand upon their own legs. I saw Mr. Warkhope [Wauchope?] of Niddrie the other day at Newcastle who tells me he has a power to prevent a drift or drain being cut thro' his estate into that adjoining and consequently preventing and the collierys westward from being benefited by your Lordships drain; if so I beg your Lordship will give it a thought whether or no it may not be with your Lordships while to have a treaty with Warkhope [Wauchope?] on this head. I am Your Lordships Most Humble Servant, William Brown.

To The Earl of Abercorn at London.

Throckley 7th of February 1765

I paid Mr. John Nesbitt £8.19s.0d. for freight of Sir Charles Sedleys goods on the 19th of January ulto and am Your Humble Servant, William Brown.

NEIMME BROWN/2 [15]

Throckley 7th of February 1765

My Lord, I have at last got your Lordships papers from the Trustees to the will of the late Mr. William Newton. I find they are those your Lordship spoke of when I last had the honour of seeing you at Northumberland House as I find most or all of them are originals have taken copies of them and will either deliver the originals to your Lordships Auditors at the audit or to your Lordship when in this country and hopes I am able to explain them so to your Lordship as am sure you will have a clear and

just notion of the collierys to which they respectively relate you have herewith a schedule how they are titled and what they are. As soon as I got down to this country I shewed Mr. Blackett the terms on which your Lordship would renew his wayleave lease etc and wove the canal he desires your Lordship will give him time to treat and try on what terms he can renew with the several other gentlemen whose lands his way goes thro' and when he has done that he will return your Lordship his answer. As two or three or perhaps more boreholes are absolutely necessary in the estates of Newburn and Walbottle to ascertain the true deepness and thickness of the respective seams of coal in the grounds therefore could wish if Mr. Beaumont has given up his lease of these collierys your Lordship would be pleased to order such boreholes to be made and if possible before the usual time you come into this country when these collierys may be well considered with your Lordship when in the north and no time lost to make the most of them. We now work about 30 tons per week at T. S. Moor Colliery and am going down with all speed with the boreholes to ascertain the deepness and propriety of the place where that colliery must be new won at. The Billingate people do not treat

NEIMME BROWN/2 [16]

us well in the sale of these coals. Mr Wrightson is going on with his drain at Rise Moor or Hedley Fell and one to win Mickley Moor I think he will be able to load coals by easter twelve months from Mickley Moor. The affairs of the hoppers or vessels for conveying of ballast is renewed and has much alarmed the magistrates of Newcastle as its believed that affair will be powerfully supported there has been very large sums made by conveying ballast from the respective wharfs on both sides of the river to the grounds backwards from the ferries and I don't see a more proper piece of ground any where for such a purpose than your Lordship has adjoining north east end of our new staith now building for Shiremoor the ground is of little value for any other purpose but would I dare say let a considerable rent for . If this hint is worth your Lordships notice will give you a plan of it together with the situation of the river adjoining it. I hope to lead coals from Throckley new winning before the 1st of May thro' Newburn grounds to joyn [join] Mr. Blacketts way west of Newburn. I have been with Sir Ralph Milbanke and finds he will not sell the grounds I named to your Lordship adjoining T.S. Moor. I think its under settlement have also desired he will look into his papers to find if such a place is named in them as West Chirton which he has promised. I beg leave to subscribe myself Your Lordships Most Obedient Humble Servant, William Brown.

To: Lord Northumberland.

NEIMME BROWN/2 [17]

Throckley 7th of February 1765

Sir, I have yours of the 25th Ulto the other day I had a meeting with Mr. Walton, Leaton and Shafto they at last told me that if you would give the partnership 600£ a year certain rent and 30s per ton the ten 418 bolls and perform the covenants in their Lease of St Anthony's they would reconsider it to their principals to let you their term in that colliery and that they viz Lord Bute, Lord Ravensworth, and Mrs. Bowes were acquainted with their sentiments as above that they recommend your applying to them in London. I think they said the term they have is 14 years. I presume the above term is full as good as these you have of Walker considering the leading way and way leave; the alteration of your engine will perhaps cost 800£ exclusive of the value of the materials you'll take out of her. I have no doubt of getting you coal from your present engine to last 14 years. I think its soon enough to treat with the Bishop as there is no fear of any body interfering with you their but by all means would have you take Collierley Colliery as I plainly see you'll want Hutton seam at Tanfield

Moor Edge and perhaps hard coal as from the hardness of the stone the drift goes slowly. The sooner you agree for Collierley the better for I am afraid you'll have hard coming at your quantity at Bushblades it appears there will be a want of coals there this year. The Dyke Pit at Tanfield Moor Edge works very good coals and I would I dare say mix well with hard coal that I could work at the success pray will you allow me to make that tryal [trial]. Plessey presented 20 tons last week and Byker of the last weeks work for some time past. Its hard to say whether the engine or the water there gets the better. No time must be lost in altering the engine if you agree for St Anthony's for working towards the downward waste and the strata being broke to the surface of the earth set in much more water than we used to have. William Brown.

To: Matthew Ridley, Esquire at London.

NEIMME BROWN/2 [18]

Throckley 7th of February 1765

Mr. Cleaver, Sir, I have (with Mr Potts) had several meetings with Thomas Gowens and Mr. Crawfoot of Morpeth the former at last proposes to accept of the late Mr. Weatherheads lease of Shadfen Colliery and to perform the covenants in its to sink in a proper place to the 45 yard coal and work her as far to the dip as the water will let him while his engine keeps down the water to supply Lord Carlisles tenants and the town of Morpeth with coals and the same measure as have been common there these 2 or 3 years past and at the advance price of 2s. per fother for what coals is sold per wains or carts and 1/2 per load for what coals is sold per loads the reason for such advance price is the extra wages and earnest paid the workmen at binding which I must confess is very considerable and last hiring at martinmas exceed all former bindings. I think the 2d. per fother reasonable but would had the advance on the loads only 1/4 farthing but Gowens argued and perhaps with some reason that there is much trouble with them and that they pick and gets the best of the coals. If you think well on his having the Lease on these terms please to say so to Sir, Your Most Humble Servant, William Brown.

PS I have settled Longbenton leadings and believes the cash will be paid on Saturday as also Mr. Blacketts way leave rent. On Saturday gone a week I paid Mr. Potts the rent and over leadings for Heddon as to Beaumont am a stranger. I was down in New Benton yesterday and cannot say much in her favour.

NEIMME BROWN/2 [19]

Throckley 11th of February 1765

Dear Sir, I will take it kind if you'll call at Mr. Coxs and Mr. Trinders Ship Breakers at Cuckolds Point and find if they have any sleepers to send to your most obedient. Desire Mr. Slemaker Trinders clark there to send me his charge for these he has sent me. Last Friday Mr. Bell, Gibson and I bought all Mr. Humbles share and interest in Shire Moor so now hopes we will have it more in our power to serve our friends the uncountable at your end of the trade we find are playing at cups and balls with us but we may perhaps have our turn at that sort of play. Mr. Bell and friend Percivell are very well. Poor Bill may son is lying very ill in a fever and am sorry to say is not out of danger. Please to call at Mr. Coales for a seat and some other things he will give you for me. Compliments to all things and am Your Humble Servant, William Brown.

To Captain Snowden.

Throckley 13th February 1765

Sir, I presume you want to know how much you ought to ask Mr. Humble per hundred yards for keeping the way in repair exclusive of wayleave rents which he must take upon himself and also exclusive of keeping the waggons. I find its cost in sundry places near 2d. per hundred yards per ton and some cost more than 2d per. I really don't know whether the boring irons is gone or not will satisfy you about them on Saturday next. The Mickley Moor drift is better half way already, but the stone drift in Hedley Fell goes very slowly forward and Rawlings is forced to bore another hole in the Venture pit for near 10 fathoms the old hole was lost near the bottom by the boxes going crooked in January. I am Sir, Your Most Humble Servant, William Brown.  
To John Wrightson, Esquire, at Newcastle.

NEIMME BROWN/2[20]

Throckley 16th of February 1765

Dear Sir, You'll perhaps think me unkind in not answering yours of the 19 Ulto sooner but begs hurry of business may plead for me. I was in London 9 days in December and had the pleasure of being twice with my Lord. A D Holmes was very hearty as also was his wife whose cheek I had a kiss of. I had a hurrying time on't so was only 15 days from home and stopped a day and a half at Sir Charles Sedleys of the Duke of Portlands in Nottinghamshire. My family and self are very well except my son Bill who is very ill in a fever but thank God is now we think in a way of recovery. The fame of your House has reached the metropolis of England and some very ingenious acquaintances of mine speaks well of it. I hope to see it by the time I am two months older. You have herewith Mr. Andersons rent for the lime etc. You'll please to pay the amount to Mr. Hamilton and I am Dear Sir, Your Humble Servant, William Brown.  
To Mr Key.

Throckley 16th February 1765

Mr. Hamilton, I had your favour of the 26th Ulto and also that of the 8th Inst. it gave me much concern to find you were out of cash but could not help you my credit with his Lordships Bankers being out, yesterdays post brought me a further credit and have taken the first opportunity to put you in cash. I do think Currys bill comes very high and I have told him so by the enclosed. I find its necessary for me to be at Duddingston to inspect there bills and other matters and the moment his Lordship comes down will endeavour to be with you at the same time you have herewith a draft for 200 pounds from Your Most Humble Servant, William Brown.  
I am obliged to you for the hint you give me about the abuse of the colliers stealing coals that must be set right when I come into the country and prevented as much as possible in the meantime.

NEIMME BROWN/2 [21]

Throckley 16th of February 1765

Sir, Yesterday I was with the partnership agent who told me they have received full instructions to treat and lett to you or any in trust for you their colliery at St. Anthonys and that the sooner its sett about the better as it will be making the most out in the time for them as well as you. They repeated their willingness to lett you Heaton likewise. On Friday last S Newton and I met Mr. Bonner and Hepple and Mr Smith Viewer to Mr. Swinburn and company they agreed to let you their 5/8th of Collierley Colliery for the term of 7 years at 300£ a year certain rent and 20£ per ton for the Hutton seam and 10s. per for the hard coal to work 1/3 out of the latter for 2/3 out of the former seams the rent to commence at midsummer first and to grant you all other usual and necessary covenants they desire your answer as soon as convenient. I was at Tanfield Moor Edge last Thursday finds the

stone drift goes very slowly forward but the Dike Pitt is working the best coals I ever saw thinks we will get 400 tons of coals out of that pit. Last week at Plessey they presented 16 1/2 tons and at Byker to the best of my memory 15 1/2 tons the engine as much about the same state with the water as mentioned in my last. I believe the partnership have only 11 years in St. Anthonys lease on the 12 of May next. I am Sir, Your Humble Servant, William Brown.

To M. Ridley, Esquire, at London.

Throckley 16th of February 1765

Mr. Brougham, I am not a little surprised to find you are employing [employing] a bound servant of mine knowing him to be so and contrary to the laws of the country. If the fellow do not come immediately to his work and make me full satisfaction for the penalty of his bond and bring an against you for employing him agreeable to the statute of the 9 of Queen Ann of take the notice from Your Humble Servant, William Brown.

NEIMME BROWN/2 [22]

Throckley February 16th 1765

Mr. Curry, I only received a copy of your Bill ending the 2nd of this Inst yesterday which really surprises [surprises] me. I think I had said enough in a former letter about the neglect of your sending the bills. I find also they come full as high as ever and few coals worked pray when do you think you will be able to work coals to be equal to your expence. I would certainly give the preference to Moffit to keep the engine I mean with wright work all attendance, oil [oil], paper leather and leathering buckets and clacks I cannot help shewing my resentment at Cargie for not coming to Berwick as I desired and I desire you may turn him of immediately and let him go hang himself if he chooses. Ile [I'll] get my work done without him I find he has been encouraged to stay. I design to be at Duddingston latter end of March to enquire into and settle all matters relating the Colliery and must desire every matter and thing may be prepared against I come and am Your Honorable Servant, William Brown.

Throckley 21st February, 1765

Mr. Murray, I should have answered your favour of the 15th Inst or this but have been more than ordinary hurried by my eldest sons being laid up in a fever of which he is not yet quietened. I have no doubt of Mr. Barnes answering Sir Charles expectations tho you as well as I know he will have a hard task with the various people he has to deal with. I observe what you say about your relation; I am not at this time in want of such as person but if he calls on me in his way southward its probable something may happen in his favour twixt this and this time he may be here and if not shall advise him the best in my power.

NEIMME BROWN/2 [23]

My best compliments to Mr. Greaves and please to ask him whether I must write to Sir Charles who I understand is in London as for the cash to pay of need full here, the people now I find expects to be paid their respective sums due from St Charles. You'll be enough to make my compliments to Mr. Barnes and desire he will give me a line saying how he gets forward. A line from your self will very much oblige. Your most Humble Servant, William Brown.

Throckley 21st February 1765

Mr. Douglas, I have your favour of the 18th Inst and am glad to find you have got the cribbs ready. I expect Mr. Cargie from Lord Abercorn's at your place before the time but understands he has had a lame and that he is not with you you may depend I'll send one to take the charge of putting thro' the

sand in a few days. I have the pumps for the engine all ready both wood and iron. I shall send over a blacksmith in 10 days time to begin the iron work one of my own and also engine wrights and will be glad you work along with him as being present at the building and following up one engine may make you compleat in that branch if you are not already master of it. I will take one thousand sleepers delivered at Shields providing they are one foot in measure one with another and sound oake and will give 9d. per piece for them my best complements to Mr. Geo tell him I received his and observe the contents and believe me to be your friend. William Brown.

NEIMME BROWN/2 [24]

Throckley 23rd of February 1765

Sir Ralph, I am favoured with yours of the 17th Inst have given my Lord Northumberland to understand your resolution in being determined not to sell your colliery at Willington as to letting its. I don't see any body that it can suite so well before as either that Nobleman or Lord Carlisle their estates lays on 3 sides of it, the first time I have the pleasure of seeing Lord Northumberland will name it to him in the way you mention. I am sorry to tell you that coal grows worse in the Tryal Drift to the north from the plain pit at Fatfield. She is now 150 yards north from the pit and has not yet got the expected dyke. I mean to take a a survey of the works now going at Ouston next week and will take the first opportunity of acquainting you of their state and of the proceedings at Fatfield. I am Sir your Most Humble Servant, William Brown.

To Sir R Milbanke

Throckley 23rd of February 1765

Sir, This day Mr. Rawling brought me the agreeable news of his having found the coal at the hole wast from the farm, house or lodge; she lays there at 26 fathoms deep and in great perfection and is 6 feet thick. You may now with great propriety either advertise or take any other method of meeting as you think fits the borings now will any person that understanding in that way the colliery lays regular and as to the goodness of the coal there is none better. Mr. Rawling is now in hands with the hole near the place where the drift must be begun but you need not waite advertising or letting till that hole is finished as it only relates the course the stone drift is to go. I shall write you further instructions and am your Humble Servant, William Brown.

To: John Cuthberts, Esquire, at London.

NEIMME BROWN/2 [25]

Throckley February 27th 1765

Dear Sir, I have yours of yesterday before me, any resolution from Miss Lee gives me no sort of concern. If I can be of service to my good friend Mr. Smith it will give me pleasure. I know of no body so proper to serve him as a Viewer as Mr. Edward Smith of Collier Rowe near Houton le Spring [Houghton le Spring]. He has both judgement resolution and honesty therefore must endeavour to get him my young man Bedlington shall give him all the leights into the affair in his power. I hope you get the old partnership dead. From Your Most Humble Servant, William Brown.

To: Mr. C. Swainston

Throckley 27th February 1765

Dear Sir, I find by a letter I had yesterday from Mr. Swainston there is a likelihood of Miss Lees referring the affair twixt you and she and that she objects your most obedient. I don't mind that, have named Mr. Edward Smith of Collier Rowe as a man very proper for you (to Mr. Swainston your plans are in hands and will be done soon). I find by our present workings in the Dyke Pit at Tanfield

Moor Edge that the workings have been drove out of Bushblades in some places upwards of 20 yards into that colliery and robbed Tanfield Moor Edge of a great deal of coal; now as I left more coal in that colliery to be taken by Bushblades owners then then our people had got out of Bushblades. I hope you will have no objection to Mr. Ridley taking as much out of Bushblades as the owners thereof have been paid for and as has been got by the Lessees out Tanfield Moor Edge Colliery. I could wish to see you on the spot in order to our talking that matter over. I am Your Humble Servant, William Brown.

To Mr. Smith

NEIMME BROWN/2 [26]

Throckley February 27th 1765

Dear Sir, I do think our intended journey to the west country is somewhat unfortunate, my sinkers at Throckley have this week made some blunders in their sinking that I find it will be the latter end of this week or beginning of next week or they get the coal which I expected to have been gott this day, as our pumps are so very large and water so very much and almost at my wits end have to contrive to get the coals prevented from being drawn into the pumps and therefore must attend to do my best when sinking in the coal and to set the men right if the pumps happens to draw up so many coals as to stop them and therefore am afraid we must if convenient to you postpone our journey to Sunday next week. I am Your Humble Servant, William Brown.

To: Coulson, Esquire

Throckley 21st of February 1765

Dear Sir, You have herewith an old partnership Dead [Deed] made between Mr. William Barkas, Henrye Masterman Esquire and your most obedient when you have done with it please to return it to dear Sir. Your Most Humble Servant, William Brown.

To C Swainston at Durham.

NEIMME BROWN/2 [27]

Throckley March 3rd 1765

Sir, I am favoured with your 2 letters the one of the 14th and the other of the 20th Ulto. Last Thursday I had a meeting with the partnership agents and could not get them to make any alteration from their former proposal relating St. Anthony's Colliery only I find the term they have is 440 bolls, the term they have I find is 11 years. In talking matters over it became necessary that I should see their Lease or Article and I find they hold only 6 years by an Article which I find Mr. Wilbraham thinks may answer their purpose as good as a Lease. I also found they have no power to draw coals out of that colliery at any pit or pits in any adjoining colliery but they have power to drift over of neighbouring collierys underground which may be done at the Success Pitt but then it subjects you to sinking a pit and prevents you getting immediately to coal work and consequently binds you with an intolerable certain rent for at least 2 years that the pit will take to be sunk. I told them I did not know that you would submit to pay 300£ a year for the first 2 years (viz) the certain rent they pay but that I would desire to know your pleasure as to that. I find they and you will have a power to make up shorts from and after the colliery is begun to be won, the following particulars we in a great measure agreed on viz that you should not have a power to determine the Lease or Article with Bonner during the but the gentlemen. As your Lessors at the end of the 6 or any after on 12 months notice, to pay 30£ a year for staiths at St. Anthony's they being obliged to pay that sum. To be subject to the convenient of their Lease or Article. Certain Rent 600£ a year from 12th of May

next but as now it appears you will have a pit to sink that rent cannot be submitted to Tentale Rent 30s. for 440 Bolls. They recommended that you endeavour to take a further term after the expiration of the 11 years and thinks

NEIMME BROWN/2 [28]

that its probable the representatives of Mr. Bonner may give you liberty to draw coals at the Success Pit. If the rents named for Collierley Colliery be agreeable to you that affair concluded the 300£ a year is for the 5/8 and not just nowable to say whether going up the bank from the Colliery the short way to the pike way or going the late way is most advisable will be more particular as to that in my next. I have no doubt of getting you sufficiency of coal for your money in Tanfield Moor Edge the hardship is I cannot do it at this time. I am Sir, Your Most Humble Servant, William Brown.

To Matthew Ridley, Esquire, at London.

PS: Plessey in general works 15 tons per week and Byker from 15 to 17 Tons the water much as for these 2 months.

Throckley Tuesday morning 8 o'clock

Dear Sir, I had your favour last night and am glad to hear the cylinder is comed but as old Humble is a strange creature and probably may not take it as it is 4 inches larger then the order, however am not sure he will till I see him therefore thinks it may be landed on some of theys [theirs] and particularly on the Felton. Then my reason for landing it there is a probability of Mr. Hudson and he making an exchange as Hudson for Washington just suits him and the new cylinder suits Hudson. This I cannot know till I get to Town and to wear water to see the parties. I would have been in Town but am very busier taking up my coal in the Engine at Throckley but have ordered John Chicken Carpenter from Walker to attend now and assist in getting the cylinder he is one of the best hands I know of he will be with [you] tomorrow morning to take your directions and I intend you tomorrow morning or at night. I am Your Most Humble Servant, William Brown.

To John Thompson at Newcastle

NEIMME BROWN/2 [29]

Throckley 8 March 1765

Dear Sir, I had yours of yesterdays date late last night will have a pleasure in convincing you by the strongest proof my regard for you and your interest you are at liberty to name me your Arbitration in the fair twixt you and Miss Lee and I have by this post told Mr. Swainston the same. I am Your Sincerely William Brown.

To Mr. Smith at Witton Gilbert.

Throckley 8 March 1765

Dear Sir, You are at liberty to name me an Arbitrator in the affair twixt Miss Lee and Mr. Smith I am your Most Humble Servant, William Brown.

To Mr. Cuthberts, Swainston at Durham.

Throckley 10th of March 1765

Dear Sir, I am glad to hear you have got the skill of your 5/4 coal dry at North Biddick and that your pumps stands their ground, their ground the best way to secure your ingates which you say is much fallen, is first to lay a crib of oake or elm in or a little within the skill of about 4 inches thick and 12 or 14 inches breadth and as that crib may other build a brick wall to the fallen or broken place in the roof or else do it up one above the other till they fill it up with pieces of timber about 18 inches or 2 feet long and then be sure to face the whole with a dry tubb. I think bricks will be the best as you

leave a place for entrance into the waste by an arch for that purpose and may lay cribs at any distance above each other in your wall to nail or spike your planks to. I don't find any stopp taken in the river more than now when I last saw you in Town, but had great reason to believe their will be a General Enquiry into the trade; and assure you Mr. Montague, Lord Ravensworth and some other great personages was together the fore end of last week laying their heads together to stop the absurdity of prohibiting the exporting of coals or laying on an additional duty tax. I am Dear Sir, Your Most Humble Servant, William Brown.

NEIMME BROWN/2 [30]

Throckley 10th March 1765

Dear Sir, Since I had the pleasure of seeing you something now has occurred to me and if I am rightly instructed the Coppy hold Estate lately mentioned to me that lays twixt South Moor and Shield Row and mean the Colliery under that Estate is in the Lease that Mr. Ridley holds of the representatives of the late Dr. Sayers and of which there are about 4 years yet to go; I am likewise very certain that application has been lately made by your late Lessees to Mr. Ridley to take the Colliery under that Estate which plainly shows no stone is left unturned by them to come at a favour point. As Mr. Ridley for a sum of money has purchased the reversions [reservations] of that Lease it certainly behoves him to make the most of it but I have hinted to him not to make any agreement with those gentlemen or any other for that colliery on any account whatsoever till I see him, telling him at the same time my reasons are very strong for my saying so. I thought it my duty to give you this hint as early as I could and if you and our good friend at Durham is or can anyway be benifetted [benefited] by it will be a singular satisfaction. Your Most Humble Servant, William Brown.

To Mortain Davison, Esquire.

Throckley 14th of March 1765

Sir, I am favoured with yours of the 9th Inst. in due course and must confess the not having a power to draw St. Anthony's coals at the Success Pit makes a deal of difference to you but if can bring them (viz) the partnership to the 300£ a year certain rent for the first 2 years thinks that affair will do well for you if not will drop all treaty with them at least till you return to the North. Last Friday the Lessees of the 5/8 of Collierley Colliery, Sam Newton and I met and agreed upon the principal points necessary in the taking of that Colliery. I presume Mr. Gamel has sent you a copy of them; you can lead from that Colliery to Tanfield Moor with only coming over Emersons Estate. It was great pleasure for me to hear from Mr. Gamul that the coppyhold called North Thron [North Thorn] adjoining to South Moor is in your contract with the Sayer family. I find and know the partnership is pinched

NEIMME BROWN/2 [31]

and wants to win their Shield Row by South Moor drifts thro' that estate but happily it lays twixt these two places and they cannot make a communication twixt Shield Row and Davison but by a stone drift and a very awkward one, you cannot work North Thorerly your present nor any winning at Tanfield Moor Edge; and as to what it may be worth to the partnership is hard to say they don't watch the coal but the convenience of watercourse[?]. The coal is worth 15s or 16s per ton, by some boarings I have lately made near it find their is 4 seams (ie) the hard coal brass thills Hutton seam and low main coal the two latter is below any coal of that country. I do not know whither the Beamish family would give as much to prevent the Shield Row from being won by that means as the partnership will to win its that way; doubtful it will be best for you to dispose of your right in it for a

fix't sum. If I am not very much mistaken they have have in a strange manner apply'd to the Bishop for that piece coal but he will not be rash in treaty with them; this hint I give you by the by, people here seems anxious to hear the event of the Hoppers and particularly the enquiry about the river. I am sure let an enquiry into the coal trade happen ever so soon or with the utmost exactness the coal owners will be clear from anything oppressive in it, their profit is perhaps the least of any concerned in the trade and runs the greatest risque [risk] believe you have the names of the Tyne Water Colliery. From Your Humble Servant, William Brown.  
To Matthew Ridley, Esquire at London.

	Lessor	Lessees
Wylam	Mr. Blckett	
Greenwick Moor	Greenwick Hospital	Mr. Bell and Self
Newwbegin Moor	Lord Carlisle	Beaumont & Company
Longbenton	- ditto -	Lord Ravensworth & Company
Byker	Sir H. Lawson & Company	Matthew Ridley Esquire
Walker	Corporation [of Newcastle upon Tyne]	Mr. Ord & Company
Shiremoor	Lord Northumberland	Mr. Bell & Company
Chirton	Mr. Collingwood & Company	Mr Shafto & Company
Heworth	Dean & Chapter	Mr. Blckett
Toft Moor	Mrs. Carrick	Mr. Peareth

NEIMME BROWN/2 [32]

	Lessor	Lessees
Buisy Burn	Mr. Lamb & Company	Mr. Huntley & Company
Main Seam	Lord Ravensworth	
Norwood	Mr. Harvey	
Tanfield Moor	Mr. Pitt	
South Moor	Lord Widdrington & Company	Lord Ravensworth
Marley Hill	Mrs. Bowes	Mr. Ord & Company
Tanfield Moor Edge	Dr. Sayer & Company	Mr. Ridley
Neat Pontop alias Bushblades	Mr. Swimburn	Mr. Silvertop

Pontop	Mr. Smith	Lady Windsor & Company
Lands	Lords of Winlaton	Mr. Silvertop & Company
Barleyfield	- ditto -	- ditto -
Whittfield	Mr. Clavering	- ditto -
Greenside	Grane Lease	- ditto -

Throckley March 14th 1765

Mr. Turton, Please to deliver to the bearer 2 of your large pieces of Fir timber about 26 or 28 feet long and 18 or 20 inches square and 4 short pieces of the same square and 10 feet long each if your long pieces will answer; for a long and short piece will do the same for me. I am Your Humble Servant, William Brown.

NEIMME BROWN/2 [33]

Throckley 4th of April 1765

Dear Douglas, I had your favour of the 30th Ulto in due course; I am sensible of your good offices and will name them to Sir Walter; the ship master behaved very ill in leaving the 2 large balks they are absolutely necessary and must be sent as soon as I can, the smith Toward knows best what goods he put into the same ship except the 4 short balks. I think he shipped them all. You must pay the master what he is entitled to you'll be kind enough to pay the respective people there subsistence money till I see Sir Walter who will be next week and then he and I will settle how the money is to be paid for the future and I'll tell you how and to whom it must be paid. I am sure Redpath will plague us but will put an end to that when see Sir Walter; please to send some person to take an account of the work done till you hear further from me and you shall have the dimensions of all the pipes in due time pray can you furnish the braser work as to the sinkers they must be paid if they do their duty. I hope in a month time to see you and will then fix matters on such a footing as will then fix matters on such a footing as will make you ease. I blush to give you so much trouble with the greatest concern I tell you the last Tuesday poor Renwick and another man was terribly burnt at Walker and whether they will recover or not god knows; 8 men were killed and all at the same time is not yet found and 14 horses were also killed at the same time the dismal scene the poor wifes loss makes is not to be expressed it happened by what is commonly called a blast of inflamable air. Robson was in town but I did not see him everything is endeavouring to get the dead bodies of the men and other matters disagreeable to men. I am Sir, William Brown.

Mr. George Douglas, at Berwick.

NEIMME BROWN/2 [34]

Throckley 31st of March 1765

Sir, I received yours of the 27 and have a pleasure in telling you of the way over the moor is levelled and condiths lett and making I have not seen Ramsey since in your presence, the weather has been so intolerably bad for time past that I could not have said much to him for neglecting if I had seen but you may depend if he does not exert himself when the season permits endeavour to lett the work to other undertakers. Last Thursday I left the taking down of the old trunk to what I am told

are good people for £12. 12s. They so soon lay the materials where directed and I have some thoughts to ask Mr. Kell to take care of the execution of that job. The Mickley Drift goes way on, but as to the rise Moor Drift cannot say so much they still are slow and I intend making some alterations there in a very little time, I have lett the at the Gards Burn for 30 guineas for 26 yards in Length the undertaker who think a good man to find and do all but the frame at bottom as to the plank he leaves the price of them to myself as the dementions of them cannot now fixed. I cannot help telling you that by taking the levels at the heath last I think a very compleat trunk be made; and find two offgates will be necessary the one of which will be very short, the old leggs is short compared with what myst be done. Now that none of the principal uprights will do again but the timber at Shields will answer that purpose well and am sure all the old timber will be of singular service. I am Your Most Honorable Servant, William Brown.

To John Wrightson, Esquire.

NEIMME BROWN/2 [35]

Throckley 31st March 1765

Mr. Murray, I had your favour of the 11 Inst in due course and presumes by that time Mr. Greaves is returned from London as the people here to whom Sir Charles is indebted (and the Colebrockedale money must be paid to the agent here also) is now in expectation of payment, must desire Mr. Greaves to remit me as soon as convenient about 750£ which will within a trifle discharge all the demands here. I have not mett with any thing for some time past that has given me so much concern as the news of Lord Middleton having bought Brockstone Estate it destroys our scheme of a waggonway to Nottingham and makes that overgrown B— far too powerfull. I find Mr. Barnes will be able to reduce your unaccountables and that he must have a terrible time on't with them till he is absolute master. Your friend has not yet called on me. Shall be glad to see him when ever he comes. George Rawling has got a young boy Thomas seems not to answer the end of his creation unless by stealth. We have had the worst weather these 30 days past I ever knew. I am Your Most Honorable Servant, William Brown.

Throckley 31 March 1765

Dear Sir, Your favour of the 11 Inst came safe to hand. I am glad you have thought of a waggon to answer the purpose; I could not get a waggonman to go from hence on any moderate terms therefore its lucky you have made your people tractable. The people with you in general cannot be worse than expected, I had a sample of them, have no sort of doubt of your reducing them in time. I have named the bad pump to Mr. Isace [?Isaac] Thompson who is the Colebrockedale agent here and you may depend Ile take care to make him come down before he be fully paid. In a letter I had a few days ago from Mr. Murray I had the mortification to find Lord Middleton has bought Brockstone Estate which Sir Charles told me he would certainly buy, this step has in a great measure prevented the scheme of a Waggon Way to Nottingham. Pray your thoughts about it be kind enough to tell me what you work and how you feel and how your water is. We are alarmed here and the people of Sunderland more so at an additional duty going to be laid on all coals exported to foreign markets.

NEIMME BROWN/2 [36]

The trade here does not look with so good as aspect as last year at this time. In Wear, River Blackfell will be leading there in a few months quantity 24 chaldron, Washington is sinking a pace and is 24 fathoms down already the built, cylinder 60 inches wants 44 fathoms to the main coal -

south going to Wear, the partnerships term are expired there and Mr. Davison turned. In Tinmouth [Tynemouth] Moor an additional quantity of perhaps 30000 chaldron. Both Gibson and self have bought all Humbles share, the coal fine and round, but will not sell at London without a P-M-. East Denton just starting by Mr. Montague to Esquire Rogers. I shall put up a 76 inch cylinder there. I think Rise Moor and Mickley Moor wining a race by stone drifts; the remains of Andrews house starting by Sir Thomas Clavering; I dined yesterday with Joseph Hunter who is well, as is Turton and in general your friend. Fat Mary Hunter is dead and some disappointments by her. I am Dear Barnes, your most assured friend, William Brown.  
To Mr. John Barnes at Nuthall.

Throckley 31 March 1765

Dear Sir, I was very unlucky in not meeting with you when last in Town the fate seems to prevent our seeing each other; as to the Grange please do send me an abstract of your account since our last settling or if you please from the beginning if I approve of them which have no doubt but I will you shall have no further trouble as to me, however lett me have them at all events and when have digested them a little will will do the rest. I do not yet find a place for our friend George that he is fit for and is fit for him hopes I soon shall. Murton Engine Pitt is now a sinking having sent people over weeks to putt thro' the land, have also sent over smiths and plates to make the boiler on the spot, as the season advances and will admit of business being depend it shall be pushed by Dr. Robson. Your mMost Honorable Servant, William Brown.  
To Mr. Robson at Wallington.

NEIMME BROWN/2 [37]

Throckley 31 March 1765

Sir, Yesterday I mett the partnership agents; who at last agreed to take St. Anthonys Colliery for 300£ a year Certain Rent for the first two years, 750£ a year for the next 4 years and 600£ a year for the remainder of the term and 30s per ton for overpass working and the other forms as mentioned in my former letters. You'll please to say by return of posts whether or no I must confirm the bergin [bargain] with them or not. The water increases so much at Byker Engine that whether or no you agree with the partnership people believes you will be forced to inlarge [enlarge] your powers there or will be beat out in spite of all that can be done. The people there works very well. I am forced to alter my plan in winning the hard coals in the Dipside of the Dyke and Fortune Pitts at Tanfield Moor Edge. The stone came in so hard in the drift that the people refused to drive it at three pound a yard, so have sett away a drift in the brass that will by a little contrivance and less coal answer the same end and save time compared with the other drift. I am to meet the partnership agents on Thursday next to talk over the affair of Wrays Coppinghold at North Thorn. They don't want coal so much as a water course for there Shield Row. If I am rightly instructed there is about 20 acres of that coal and the brass shill and hard coal is easy got which will afford together when 1/4 is sett of for waste in pillars 3600 tons and at 14 per ton the South Rent will be worth 2520£ but am afraid they will not give that sum however will endeavour to bring them to a Certain sum at once for your term, they must be subject to your covenants and what they are I know not, they seem to be in a hurry to have an end of that affair. We had have bad weather for the month past. Great snow then rains and floods. Mr. Smeaton intended to have been down receiving the rents last Friday but was prevented by a flood happening at that time. I am Sir Your Most Humble Servant, William Brown.  
P.S. The Article for Collierley is not yet signed. Mr. Stewart who had the doing of it is in London but yesterday was told it should be ready in a few days by his people. Mr. Simpson came to me on

yesterday asking if I had instructions to talk or treat with him and Lady Winsor [Windsor] about the % and told him I had something to do before I could treat with them but hoped to be prepared to speak with them in a few days. I think he may be dealt with.

To M. Ridley, Esquire, M.P. in Burlington Street, London.

NEIMME BROWN/2 [38]

Throckley 7 April 1765

Mr. Hamilton Sir, You must imagine the advice of your getting the splint coal gives me pleasure. I hope as soon as she is got currently to work the scale will turn and the colliery bring in money instead of a great outlay every fourteen days you have enclosed a draft for one hundred pounds. To Mr. Hamilton from Sir Your Most Humble Servant, William Brown.

Throckley 7 of April 1765

Mr. Curry, Your letter of the 3rd Inst gives me pleasure to find you have got the splint coal you now will be able work a good quantity and I beg you'll do your utmost to raise coals, you see the expence is very great and unless a quantity be raised to defray it and make a profit my Lord had ~~the~~ better have the sea in the colliery than the engine working. I plainly see if we cannot find better methods of working than heretofore practice she will be a loosing bargain. I did not expect the splinty coale thicker than you have found her same commonly magnified things; am sorry to tell you that last Tuesday we had eight men killed and two sore burnt at Walker, poor Henry Renwick was one of those burnt and is very ill but the doctor says will recover. The horses also were killed. Happy are those who have not to do with fiery collierys. I am Sir Your Most Humble Servant, William Brown. To Mr. Curry

Throckley 7 of April 1765

Dear Sir, You have herewith a Coppy of a Wayleave Contract twixt Mr. Bigg and your Most Obedient, if it answers your purpose its well if not I can send you some more extensive. I am Your Most Obedient Humble Servant, William Brown. To Henry Wilson, Esquire at Durham.

NEIMME BROWN/2 [39]

Throckley 7 of April 1765

Sir, Yesterday I waited on the partnership agents who according to custom I found playing their old game of pretences suspicion etc. and saying they thought they could only work the hard coal and that they could not by any means work the quantity out of North Thorn that I calculated they might work, yet proposing at the same time their great regard for Mr. Ridley etc. I plainly told them I saw the game they were playing and that it was lost upon me; that I both know what they wanted and in a great measure what they could work, upon which they told me they would write to their principals in London acquainting them with the affair and desire you and they may see one another in Town and make an agreement yourselves - at the same time desiring to know the powers of working you have from Dr. Sayers, I told them I apprehended the powers you now have by your purchase of Dr. Sayers interest from the Bishop and much more than those you in Dr. Sayers first grant to you and I find North Thorn is not so much as mentioned in the Lease you have of Sayers but that they might see the powers the Dr had by the Lease of Tanfield Moor Edge granted you etc. I would really have you see the principals unless you have particular reasons to the contrary. I am

also pretty sure they mean to purchase that piece of coal only, they must according to custom appear very wise in making the contract to the great hurt of their principals as has been often experienced - we have got seven of the people killed at Walker the eight man is thought to be under a fall of stones. I am Sir Your Most Humble Servant, William Brown.

To Matthew Ridley, Esquire.

NEIMME BROWN/2 [40]

Throckley 12 of April 1765

Dear Sir, The bearer Mr. James Brack who is concerned for Sir Gulilfraid I[?Gilfrid] Lawson in his affair in this country brings you the melancholy account of an explosion of inflammable air that happened at Walker Colliery the 2nd April. There was a man and two lads burnt a little and the 1st and several partitions [and] stoppings thrown down; on the 3rd in the morning and very improvidently and contrary to directions all the overmen and deputies belonging to the colliery went down to repair the damage and notwithstanding my express orders was to go in with the steel mills and not to take candles till all was made up and the air had its current course they took in candles and left the mills at the bottom of the Pitt; they had been long in the Pitt till the blast came of with great violence the flame came to bank and brought up large quantities of small coals, dirt and splinting of coals etc. there was three horsekeepers down at the same time and same Pitt the horsekeepers and they came to the shaft bottom immediately after the blast and says they left the horses (viz) 4 a live at the same time they together with one man who was sore burnt was soon got to bank. I find the Pitt took the downcast in 3 minutes after the blast she used to be the downcast in 10 minutes another man much burnt came to the shaft and called and was drawn to bank. Eight other was missing and 7 of them was found by the help of the steel mills 2 days after much burnt the eight man is still missing and we think is under some falls, in about 4 hours after the blast some men ventured down and the 14 horses all dead as is supposed by the sulphur and stythe that succeed the blasts; but what adds to the misfortune above all their is not an overman or deputy belonging to the colliery but what is either dead or burnt so that we have no body left that can take the direction of any thing, the men was sought for and got out by some skilful people from a neighbouring colliery. If therefore my Dear Sir you can assist us with one 2 over skilful men that would stay with us for 2 or 3 months till we get underway again or would stay with us longer if you could spare them would be of the greatest assistance to the owners of that colliery. Should refer their wages to yourself to settle and the sooner the better we have such man or men. Will dwell no longer on this disagreeable subject, but will show you how I have been hold my self this winter, in the spring last year I begun to win Throckley Colliery at the extreme deep and built an engine whose cylinder was 48 inches, I got sunk with trouble only 10 fathoms, and the above cylinder set me down to 20 fathoms; I had in a working piece to sink with but it could not contend with feaders further than the above deepness so fixed a curtain there and sett the 14 inch bore in it and one of 11 inch diameter. I then put in an 18 inch working piece to sink with - by which with great difficulty I have got down to the coal at 30 fathoms deep but was to take out my 48 inch and put in a 60 inch cylinder and two boilers of 13 foot diameter

NEIMME BROWN/2 [41]

each. I am now drifting and since I got down my water abates, by this I shall get 300 acres of 4 foot coal 500 acres of 40 inch coal and 550 acres of a yard coal all clear and good in quality. I have much to say to you my Dear Sir but that in my next. You'll find Mr. Brack a worthy fine fellow; my best

compliments to your family the Parson etc and believe me to be Dear Sir Your Most Humble Servant,  
William Brown.

To Mr. James Spedding at Whitehaven

Throckley 12 of April 1765

Dear Sir, The bearer John Chicken is a carpenter I have sent over to do and compleat the carpenter work of the Engine at Murton. He I believe is very honest and as he can write pretty well will I hope be able to take an account of the work and pay the respective people concerned their wages. He likewise will take care to see the Pitts be properly sunk and timbered; he has the dimensions of the pipes which he brings you. I was with Sir Walter last Wednesday and told him your good offices am to be with him on Monday morning to settle how the cash is to be remitted to you for the payment necessary till the colliery be won. I hope to be with you the week after the next and in the meantime I am, Dear Sir Your Most Humble Servant, William Brown.

To Mr. Douglas at Berwick.

NEIMME BROWN/2 [42]

Throckley April 14th 1765

Sir, I had yours of the 9th in due course. The more I have thought of it the more eligible I thought it for you and especially as your Walker is much worst and in a ticklish way and as you deject from working there in a few months if you see it proper and good policy so to do; Lawson Byker does not load you much with Certain Rent can take that coal sooner or later as you please. Sir it will be a colliery for you and yours if you can agree with the Leasors for a term to succeed the term the Partnership gentlemen have. Upon weighing these matters together from yesterday and made the enclosed agreement with there agents at Dobsons Office and I hope it will be for your advantage they have sent one exact copy of the enclosed copy to there principals having no sort of doubt of there approbation as they were prepared before. You'll please to signifie your approbation if agreeable by return of post and then we will enter into some sort of Article till the proper instruments [?instructions] be ready to execute by your principals. You'll now please to apply to the representatives of Mr. Bonner for a further to commence at the expiration of the present one to the partnerships, one of liberty to draw these coals at your Pitts. I have no doubt of working more than 1000 tons a year for 11 years by your present Engine and could begin to work the coals (viz) 10 acres on the north side of the Jane Dyke immediately if had liberty that coal must be wrought by your present winning. As to the bulk of the coals to the south of the said Dyke it must be well considered whether to take apart, perhaps 14 or 15000 tons the same way (viz by your engine); or to at the Nightingale Dean where the water will be 20 fathoms less to drawn than by your present engine more of that when I have the pleasure of seeing you. I was at Tanfield Moor Edge and Collierley Wednesday last and have the pleasure to tell you the Hard Coal looks well in the Success Pitt Tanfield Moor Edge. The drift goes well towards the pretended wining of the Hard Coale from the Venture; the Bushblades workings have robbed the Dyke Pitts of a great deal of coal at Collierley Gill and John Hall showed me a way and not a bad one whereby Collierley coals may be brought upon their way by crossing a corner Lanchester for to the east of Collierley and so to Tanfield Moor without touching Emerson or any of the others to the east. The way will not be to lay 500 yards from Collierley Pitts to the Lanchester Fell way on Tanfield Moor, its pittie the stewart

want a way to            the article for that Colliery was executed, till that be done I can do nothing more. Simpson or Gill, S Warston has wrote to Lord Carry about his 1/8 but has not

NEIMME BROWN/2 [43]

an answer yett. We had some talk about North Thorn yesterday and pushed the agents to name a sum they would give they waved that by saying they had wrote to there Principals about it and as soon as they received their direction would lett me know and hoped we would close matters to the satisfaction of both parties; pray must I accept of 800£ if no better can be done or insist on 1000 or no bargain. We gott badly forwarded at Walker your fears of the            backwardness or pretending so are but too well grounded, have got the Steady Pitt at Plessey coaled and holed in the Low Seam am preparing a land sale pitt there; coals do not go off so well as Hartley tho' they in fact are better coals. I am Sir, Your Most Humble Servant, William Brown.

To Matthew Ridley, Esquire.

Throckley 14 April 1765

Dear Sir, I had your favour of the 30 in due course and now can inform you the tryal hole to the east of the first is finished and answers to expectation so what remains now is for you to determine whether you'll win the colliery your self or you'll advertize it to be lett and the undertaker to win it without dispute you'll make most out by working it your self if you can get an honest and understanding man to conduct it, but really such a one is hard to be met with, and for the present would advise you to advertize the colliery to be lett which will try the sentiments of the country, no boring that ever was made can be more satisfactory you need not scrouple showing to any person that means to take or indeed any person whatever; I think it will be right to begin the open cast immediately and to proceed with the Close Drift when that is done those matters is best done in the summer. If you resolve on that that say so by return of post and Ile go over and sort out the whole and can then to a trifle say what sum will win the colliery and also with more propriety what an annual worth may be. The trade of that country depend much on the roads being good, but as the other collierys thereabouts is under the same dependency thinks your chance of vend as good as any. We have had a terrible explosion at Walker and eight men killed and two burnt, poor Renwick who I designed to drive your stone drift is one of those burnt but he is in a fair way of recovery and getting matters put to right again as fast as we can, but have

NEIMME BROWN/2 [44]

some difficulty as all our Overmen and agents are killed and burnt, the sooner I hear from you the more agreeable to Dear Sir, Your Most Obedient Servant, William Brown.

To John Cuthbert, Esquire.

Throckley 16 April 1765

Dear Sir, You'll receive my letter from John Chicken to which I refer you for the matters therein contain; I had yours of the 13 in due course and the pleasure to acquaint you Renwick is in a fair way of recovery I think out of danger; I was with Sir Walter Mr. Robson and Richmond yesterday morning have settled our plan as to the payments for the colliery which will commence at mooting; I have wrote for Mr Cargie this post to come from Scotland and to me on Friday the 26th Inst at Berwick to take the charge and conduct of sinking the Engine and first coal Pitt, as I find Redpath has neither money or skill to do that work. I shall not send the smith any coals from hence till I see how your country answers his purpose; The moment I got your letter I sent down to Graham Broker who assures there is no ship from Berwick now in our power may depend on haveing your load by the

first that comes; Chicken will give you the dimensions of the pipes if not satisfactory will give them myself when with you. I observe what you say about the pilfering from the engine could not some honest person be got to live in one of the rooms till she start and gott conveniently to work; you and will settle as to the cash for the time past and that to come when I am with you. I am Dear Sir Your Most Humble Servant, William Brown.

To Mr. George Douglas at Berwick.

NEIMME BROWN/2 [45]

Throckley 16 of April 1765

Mr. Curry, I find by your bills you still have Cargie employed contrary to my express order your reason for doing so I cannot understand If he was really lamed even that was not a justification to employ him but more of that when I see you. The Engine Pitt at Murton near Berwick belongs to Sir Walter Blackett is now sinking by hands that knows nothing of the matter and if your friend Cargie can travle [travel] so far I desire he may be at Berwick or however at Humphreys at Tweedmouth on Fryday night this 26 Instant in order to take the charge of direction of sinking the Pitt. I am glad to hear your splinty coale proves so very well, and hopes the Peacock Tail will be better, it had really been an expensive affair and full time to expect profit instead which the bills still runs high; Henry Renwicks was at Berwick and has secured the Engine Pitt thro' the land, he only got home from thence on March the 31 and on the 2nd of this Instant he and another was terribly burnt; eight men (all overmen and deputy) were killed and 14 horses also was killed at the same time it is a severe stroke as not one man is left to direct the common people how to get things put to right again. I have got the charge the Carron people has on you and will settle it when I come over. I am Your Most Humble Servant, William Brown.

To Mr. Curry

NEIMME BROWN/2 [46]

Throckley 16 April 1765

Gentlemen, I had yours of the 11th in due course together with your account with Lord Abercorn, his Lordship and I have fixed matters so that when he comes to Duddingston I am to come their also and every matter and the relating the Colliery at that time which will not be long your account shall be examined and settled depend on't and to do it sooner I do not know how to go about it as I have not so much of his Lordships looked at my directions and time; your 66 inch cylinder is not yet sold, but believes she will before many weeks expire, as to the 60 inch cylinder which I got I must confess she pleases me and you shall be paid for her whenever your people to send me your charge for her and also what other cash you want of me. I have great to say I think I can see where your 72 inch cylinder your speak of will be and that very soon. I hope your Kainard Colliery begins now to turn the scale in your favour shall be glad to hear she does. Will give your the most early intelligence of the time I am to be in Scotland and am Your Most Humble Servant, William Brown.

To Messrs Roebuck & Company, Carron.

Throckley 17 April 1765

Mr. Lisle, I presume you may remember the Colliery at Shadfen was some time since in the possession of the late Mr. Weatherhead upon whose death the Trustee or Trustees to his daughter made Mr. Thomas Gowans an offer of the colliery upon Certain Terms upon which governs apply to Mr. Oliver to know if he would excep him for a Tennent for the remainder of the Lease; Mr. Cleaver referred him to me and we have agreed on Certain Terms first that he pay the same rents that Mr.

Weatherhead did and pay the other covenants of his Lease, That he with all speed sink a convenient pitt to the south east of Shadfen Pitt house to the 5 yards coale and endeavour to work her out while his engine at Choppington keeps down the water the Pitt to be sunk where he and I agrees on, That he deliver the same of coals as had been common at those Pitts for these 2 or 8 years past

NEIMME BROWN/2 [47]

That he don't in the time of Weatherheads Lease advance the price of coals from that colliery to Lord Carlisles tenants and the inhabitants of the town of Morpeth more than 2d per fother and to those that carry loads one halfpenny per load. Those are the heads of the agreement I have made with him, and he and I have agreed to desire you to reduce the above into writing, you'll please to see Gowans when in town and show him this and if you'll have an instrument drawn by Thursday the 25th inst, I call in may way to the north and have it for my Lord; I am Sir, Your Most Humble Servant, William brown.

To Mr. Lisle, Attorney at Loans, Morpeth.

Throckley April 21st 1765

Dear Sir, I have the pleasure to acquaint you that yesterday I met with several of the coale trade people who now begins to think seriously on Herveys behaviour in general and more particularly to you and Mr. Blackett it is resolved that Mr. Gibson state the case and lay it before some of the most able counsell [counsel] in order to proceed properly against that incendiary; and it is also resolved that all persons concerned meet at the usual place on Setterday [Saturday] the 4 of next month in order to consult about and give directions for such proceedings. I am desired to give such notice to such as is in my neighbourhood etc and its hoped you'll do the same in yours; I have proposed that a subscription be first begun by each owner paying and advancing one pound for every thousand chaldrons of coals he she or they vended last year in order to carry on such necessary persecution [?prosecution] and to make it more or less as occasions require; I think you'll be safe as to your monthly or longer pays and have lent you our Abstract of the Act of the 9 of Queen Ann and made perpetual in the 1st of G the 1st, which does not mention the people being paid every 14 days; I am with best compliments to Miss Hudson Dear Sir Your Most Humble Servant, William Brown.

To Mr. Newark Hudson at Fatfield Heaths.

NEIMME BROWN/2 [48]

Throckley 3rd May 1765

Dear Sir, I had your favour of the 18 Ulto safely to hand I observe your intention of wining and working your colliery your self, the first of which you must certainly do and as to letting may do that when you have tried the coal and vend a year or two; I have no doubt of Greenwells management as he appears sober, diligent and honest and I think has the affair much at heart. Next Wednesday I intend being at Witton in order to test out and if possible contract for the open cast and close drift you may well assure I shall at al times take care to assure you to the outmost of my power when any difficulty happens, but I think (as you) that when the drift or drain is got finished and a pit or two work there will be little call for me there. Walker got to coal work yesterday to the no small satisfaction of a friend of yours and mine and his partners. I am Dear Sir, Your Most Humble Servant, William Brown.