

S E C O N D
R E P O R T

..
FROM THE

SELECT COMMITTEE

ON

BLEACHING AND DYEING WORKS;

TOGETHER WITH THE

PROCEEDINGS OF THE COMMITTEE,

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE,

APPENDIX AND INDEX.

Ordered, by The House of Commons, to be Printed,
28 July 1857.

Veneris, 15^o die Maii, 1857.

Ordered, THAT a Select Committee be appointed to inquire into the circumstances connected with the Employment of Women and Young Persons in the Bleaching and Dyeing Establishments in England, Scotland and Ireland; and to consider how far it may be necessary or expedient to extend to those Establishments Provisions regulating such Employment; and to report their Observations thereupon to The House.

Lunæ, 18^o die Maii, 1857.

Committee nominated of—

Mr. Butt.	Mr. Clark.
Lord John Manners.	Mr. Cheetham.
Viscount Goderich.	Lord Naas.
Mr. Kirk.	Mr. Cobbett.
Mr. Baxter.	Mr. Wise.
Mr. Massey.	Mr. Turner.
Mr. Fergus.	Mr. Packe.

Ordered, THAT the Committee have Power to send for Persons, Papers and Records.

Ordered, THAT Five be the Quorum of the Committee.

Mercurii, 20^o die Maii, 1857.

Ordered, THAT Mr. Davison be added to the Committee.

Jovis, 25^o die Junii, 1857.

Ordered, THAT Viscount Goderich be discharged from further attendance on the Committee, and that Mr. Crook be added thereto.

Ordered, THAT Mr. Fergus be discharged from further attendance on the Committee, and that Mr. Dalgleish be added thereto.

Lunæ, 6^o die Julii, 1857.

Ordered, THAT the Committee have power to report the Minutes of Evidence taken before them from time to time to The House.

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SECOND REPORT.

THE SELECT COMMITTEE appointed to inquire into the circumstances connected with the Employment of Women and Young Persons in the **BLEACHING and DYEING ESTABLISHMENTS** in England, Scotland and Ireland; and to consider how far it may be necessary or expedient to extend to these Establishments Provisions regulating such Employment; and to Report their Observations thereupon to The House; and who were empowered to Report the **MINUTES OF EVIDENCE** taken before them from time to time to The House :—

HAVE agreed to make a Second Report to the House of the Minutes of Evidence taken before them; and, finding themselves unable to complete the inquiry committed to them, to recommend that the Committee be re-appointed at the commencement of the next Session of Parliament.

28 July 1857.

 PROCEEDINGS OF THE COMMITTEE.

Jocis, 28^o die Maii, 1857.

The Committee met.

Mr. Butt.
 Lord J. Manners.
 Lord Naas.
 Mr. Davison.
 Mr. Packe.
 Mr. Cobbett.

Viscount Goderich.
 Mr. Baxter.
 Mr. Wise.
 Mr. Clark.
 Mr. Kirk.

Mr. Butt was called to the Chair.

~~Days of~~ Meeting Tuesdays and Fridays, at Twelve.

[Adjourned to Friday, 5th June, at Twelve o'clock.]

Veneris, 5^o die Junii, 1857.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Lord John Manners.
 Lord Goderich.
 Mr. Cobbett.
 Mr. Packe.

Mr. Turner.
 Mr. Davison.
 Mr. Massey.
 Mr. Wise.

A letter was read from the Chairman, stating that he was unavoidably detained in Dublin.

Lord John Manners was called to the Chair.

The Committee examined Mr. Tremenheere.

[Adjourned to Tuesday next, at Twelve o'clock.]

Martis, 9^o die Junii, 1857.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. BUTT, in the Chair.

Lord John Manners.
 Mr. Cobbett.
 Mr. Kirk.
 Mr. Davison.

Mr. Wise (Ayshford).
 Mr. Baxter.
 Mr. Turner.
 Mr. Packe.

Mr. John Marshall Robinson, F. R. S., Mr. Thomas Blackledge Garstang, and Mr. John Warring, examined.

Veneris, 12^o die Junii, 1857.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Lord John Manners.
 Mr. Cobbett.
 Mr. Wise.
 Mr. Turner.

Mr. Davison.
 Mr. Kirk.
 Mr. Clark.
 Mr. Butt.

Lord John Manners was called to the Chair.

The Committee examined Mr. Haywood, Mr. H. Waring, Mr. T. Miller and Mr. Wright Mather.

[Adjourned to Tuesday, at Twelve o'clock.]

ON BLEACHING AND DYEING WORKS.

Martis, 15^o die Junii, 1857.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. BUTT, in the Chair.

Lord John Manners.
Mr. Turner.
Lord Naas.
Mr. Wise.
Mr. Baxter.
Mr. Davison.
Mr. Kirk.

Mr. Cobbett.
Mr. Packe.
Mr. Clark.
Lord Goderich.
Mr. Massey.
Mr. Cheetham.

The Committee deliberated.

The Committee examined the Rev. W. Milton, Mr. Stewart Fletcher, and Mr. Samuel Price.

[Adjourned to Friday, at Twelve o'clock.]

Veneris, 19^o die Junii, 1857.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Lord John Manners.
Mr. Kirk.
Mr. Cheetham.
Mr. Packe.
Mr. Clark.

Mr. Wise.
Mr. Butt.
Mr. Davison.
Mr. Baxter.

Lord John Manners was called to the Chair.

The Committee examined Mr. Barbour, Mr. W. Scott, Mr. Slagg, Mr. Sagur, and Mr. Crook, a Member of the House.

[Adjourned to Tuesday, at Twelve o'clock.]

Martis, 23^o die Junii, 1857.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Lord John Manners.
Mr. Kirk.
Mr. Cobbett.
Mr. Cheetham.
Mr. Davison.

Mr. Turner.
Mr. Baxter.
Mr. Packe.
Mr. Fergus.

In the absence of Mr. Butt, Lord John Manners was called to the Chair.

Mr. Bowley, Mr. T. Betts, Mr. John Shelbourne, Mr. T. F. Brownbill, and Mr. James Gilbroy, examined.

Room cleared, and Committee deliberated as to what evidence it might be advisable to take in the present state of the Question.

Resolved, That the Evidence in favour of the Bill is concluded as regards England, but the Committee are prepared to hear further evidence from Scotland.

The Committee deliberated as to their next day of meeting.

[Adjourned till Monday, at Twelve o'clock.]

Lunæ, 29^o die Junii, 1857.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Lord John Manners.
Mr. Turner.
Mr. Davison.
Mr. Kirk.

Mr. Dalgleish.
Mr. Wise.
Mr. Cobbett.
Mr. Baxter.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE

Lord John Manners was called to the Chair.

The Committee examined Mr. *Richmond*, the Rev. *J. Lockure*, Mr. *Leck*, Mr. *Thompson*, Mr. *Drimminie*, Mr. *H. Boase*, and Mr. *James Robertson*.

[Adjourned to To-morrow, at Twelve o'clock.]

Martis, 30^o die Junii, 1857.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Lord JOHN MANNERS in the Chair.

Mr. Baxter.
Mr. Wise.
Mr. Kirk.
Mr. Clark.
Mr. Davison.

Mr. Dalglish.
Lord Naas.
Mr. Cobbett.
Mr. Crook.

The Committee examined Mr. *Richardson*, a Member of the House, Mr. *M'Comb*, Mr. *T. O'Brien*, Mr. *Kelso*, Mr. *Keeper*, Mr. *Bell*, Mr. *Mackinley*, and Mr. *Henchy*.

[Adjourned to Friday, at Twelve o'clock.]

Veneris, 3^o die Julii, 1857.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Lord JOHN MANNERS in the Chair.

Mr. Crook.
Mr. Clark.
Mr. Turner.
Mr. Baxter.

Mr. Davison.
Mr. Kirk.
Mr. Massey.
Mr. Dalglish.

The Committee examined Mr. *Kirk*, a Member of the House, and Mr. *Tremenheere*.

[Adjourned to Monday, at Twelve o'clock.]

Lunæ, 6^o die Julii, 1857.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Lord JOHN MANNERS in the Chair.

Mr. Clark.
Mr. Cobbett.
Mr. Crook.
Mr. Turner.

Mr. Cheetham.
Mr. Dalglish.
Mr. Kirk.

The Committee examined Mr. *Harrison*, Mr. *Barton*, Mr. *Alcock*, Mr. *Keely*, and Mr. *Hardcastle*.

[Adjourned to To-morrow, at Twelve o'clock.]

Martis, 7^o die Julii, 1857.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Lord JOHN MANNERS in the Chair; and,

Mr. PACKE in the Chair.

Mr. Turner.
Mr. Clark.
Mr. Davison.
Lord Naas.
Mr. Crook.

Mr. Packe.
Mr. Kirk.
Mr. Cobbett.
Mr. Cheetham.

The Committee examined Mr. *Hardcastle* and Mr. *Blair*.

[Adjourned to Monday, at Twelve o'clock.]

Veneris, 10^o die Julii, 1857.

MEMBERS PRESENT :

Lord JOHN MANNERS, in the Chair.

Mr. Crook.
Mr. Wise.
Mr. Clark.
Mr. Cobbett.
Mr. Turner.

Mr. Davison.
Mr. Kirk.
Mr. Packe.
Lord Naas.

The Committee examined *Mr. H. Ripley*.

[Adjourned to Tuesday 21st, at Twelve o'clock.]

Martis, 21^o die Julii, 1857.

MEMBERS PRESENT :

Lord JOHN MANNERS, in the Chair.

Mr. Crook.
Mr. Cheetham.
Mr. Turner.
Mr. Butt.
Mr. Wise.

Mr. Cobbett.
Mr. Dalgleish.
Lord Naas,
Mr. Baxter.

Mr. *Stephen Blair*, Mr. *John Slater* and Mr. *Charles Morris* examined.

[Adjourned till Twelve o'clock on Friday.]

Veneris, 24^o die Julii, 1857.

MEMBERS PRESENT :

Lord JOHN MANNERS, in the Chair.

Mr. Turner.
Mr. Cobbett.
Mr. Kirk.

Mr. Cheetham.
Mr. Dalgleish.

The Committee examined Mr. *Blair*, Mr. *Rylands*, Rev. *Thomas Packer*, Mr. *Bancroft*, Mr. *Marstrand* and Mr. *Southworth*.

[Adjourned to Tuesday, at Twelve o'clock.]

Martis, 28^o die Julii, 1857.

MEMBERS PRESENT :

Lord JOHN MANNERS, in the Chair.

Mr. Baxter.
Mr. Dalgleish.
Mr. Cheetham.
Mr. Kirk.

Mr. Turner.
Mr. Butt.
Mr. Crook.
Mr. Wise.

The Committee examined Mr. *M'Adam*, Mr. *Pender*, Mr. *Barton* and Mr. *Slater*.

The Committee at the close of the Evidence deliberated, and agreed to Report the Evidence to The House ; and further to inform The House, That being unable to complete the inquiry committed to them, they had to recommend to the House, that the Committee be re-appointed at the commencement of the next Session.

To Report.

EXPENSES OF WITNESSES.

NAME OF WITNESS.	Profession or Condition.	From whence Summoned.	Number of Days absent from Home, under Orders of Committee.	Expenses of Journey to London and back.			Allowance during absence from Home.			TOTAL Expenses allowed to Witness.			
				£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.	
John Marshall Robinson	Surgeon	Bolton	3	4	10	-	6	6	-	10	16	-	
T. B. Garstang	ditto	ditto	3	4	10	-	6	6	-	10	16	-	
John Waring	Artisan	ditto	6	4	10	-	4	10	-	9	-	-	
H. Waring	ditto	ditto	3	4	10	-	2	5	-	6	15	-	
Thomas Miller	ditto	ditto	6	4	10	-	4	10	-	9	-	-	
Wright Mather	ditto	ditto	6	4	10	-	4	10	-	9	-	-	
Rev. W. Milton	Clergyman	Marlow	1	1	-	-	1	1	-	2	1	-	
S. Fletcher	Artisan	Manchester	3	2	15	-	2	5	-	5	-	-	
S. Price	ditto	Bolton	3	4	10	-	2	5	-	6	15	-	
R. Heywood	Bleacher, &c.	ditto	3	4	10	-	3	3	-	7	13	-	
W. Scott	ditto	Manchester	3	4	10	-	3	3	-	7	13	-	
H. Sagur	ditto	ditto	3	4	10	-	3	3	-	7	13	-	
A. Bowley	ditto	Nottingham	3	4	12	-	3	3	-	7	15	-	
T. Betts	ditto	ditto	3	4	12	-	3	3	-	7	15	-	
J. Shelbourne	ditto	ditto	3	4	12	-	3	3	-	7	15	-	
T. F. Brownhill	ditto	Salford	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10	10	-	
J. Gilbroy	ditto	ditto	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	11	3	-	
A. Brown	Artisan	Dundee	5	6	6	-	3	15	-	10	1	-	
J. Robertson	ditto	ditto	5	6	6	-	3	15	-	10	1	-	
D. Richmond	Surgeon	Paisley	5	8	-	-	10	10	-	18	10	-	
Rev. J. Lockure	Clergyman	ditto	5	8	-	-	5	5	-	13	5	-	
J. Thompson	Manager of Works	ditto	6	8	-	-	6	6	-	14	6	-	
J. Leck	Bleacher	Glasgow	5	9	-	-	5	5	-	14	5	-	
J. Kelso	Surgeon	Liburn	6	8	-	-	12	12	-	20	12	-	
J. O'Brien	Bleacher	ditto	6	8	-	-	6	6	-	14	6	-	
J. Leifer	Physician	Armagh	6	8	-	-	18	18	-	26	18	-	
W. M'Kinley	Artisan	Liburn	6	8	-	-	4	10	-	12	10	-	
J. Henchy	ditto	Belfast	6	8	-	-	4	10	-	12	10	-	
J. Bell	Bleacher	ditto	6	8	-	-	6	6	-	14	6	-	
G. M'Comb	ditto	ditto	6	8	-	-	6	6	-	14	6	-	
J. Ferguson	ditto	ditto	9	8	-	-	9	9	-	17	9	-	
J. Barton	ditto	Nottingham	5	2	15	-	5	5	-	8	-	-	
W. Allcock	ditto	ditto	5	2	15	-	5	5	-	8	-	-	
John Keely	ditto	ditto	5	2	15	-	5	5	-	8	-	-	
E. Harrison	ditto	ditto	5	2	15	-	5	5	-	8	-	-	
J. Hardcastle	ditto	Bolton	7	4	10	-	7	7	-	11	17	-	
Stephen Blair	ditto	ditto	3	4	10	-	3	3	-	7	13	-	
Stephen Blair	ditto	ditto	8	4	10	-	8	8	-	12	18	-	
Charles Morris	ditto	ditto	3	4	10	-	3	3	-	7	13	-	
John Slater	ditto	ditto	3	4	10	-	3	3	-	7	13	-	
John Rylands	ditto	Manchester	3	4	10	-	3	3	-	7	13	-	
H. Marsland	ditto	Stockport	3	4	10	-	3	3	-	7	13	-	
J. Southworth	ditto	ditto	3	4	10	-	3	3	-	7	13	-	
Rev. W. Packer	Clergyman	near Bolton	4	5	-	-	4	4	-	9	4	-	
S. Bancroft	Surgeon	ditto	3	4	10	-	6	6	-	10	16	-	
J. Pender	Merchant	Manchester	3	4	10	-	3	3	-	7	13	-	
J. N. Selater	Bleacher	Bolton	3	4	10	-	3	3	-	7	13	-	
R. Brideson	ditto	ditto	3	4	10	-	3	3	-	7	13	-	
J. Burton	ditto	ditto	3	4	10	-	3	3	-	7	13	-	
C. Haworth	ditto	ditto	10	4	10	-	10	10	-	15	-	-	
J. Conolly	Artisan	Belfast	6	8	-	-	4	10	-	12	10	-	
J. M'Callagh	ditto	ditto	6	8	-	-	4	10	-	12	10	-	
J. M'Adam	Bleacher, &c.	ditto	8	8	-	-	8	8	-	16	8	-	
										£.	559	18	-

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE.

LIST OF WITNESSES.

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MINUTES OF EVIDENCE.

Lunæ, 6^o die Julii, 1857.

MEMBERS PRESENT.

Mr. Baxter.
Mr. Cheetham.
Mr. Clark.
Mr. Cobbett.
Mr. Crook.
Mr. Davison.

Mr. Kirk.
Lord John Manners.
Lord Naas.
Mr. Packe.
Mr. Turner.

THE RIGHT HON. LORD JOHN MANNERS, IN THE CHAIR.

Edwin Harrison, Esq., called in; and Examined.

4950. *Chairman.*] WILL you state to the Committee your occupation?—I am *E. Harrison, Esq.*
a Lace Dresser at Nottingham.

4951. How long have you been engaged in that employment?—Twenty-one or *6 July 1857.*
22 years on my own account, with a partner 11 years.

4952. *Mr. Turner.*] A man I think worked at your premises of the name of
Bowley?—Yes.

4953. You know that man?—Yes.

4954. He is a respectable man, I suppose, in his occupation?—Yes.

4955. He has given us a sad account of the heat of your works; he says that
the heat in your dressing room varies from 80 to 110 degrees, and that he has not
known it under 80 degrees; do you confirm that fact?—The heat varies from
65 to 84 degrees; upon the average, it will be about 75.

4956. That I suppose is not, in summer-time at all events, a very oppressive
heat?—In summer-time we are often cooler than the external atmosphere; we
open the windows, and are very cool.

4957. We are told that you work very long hours at your place; that the
usual hours are 15 per day, and that they are sometimes much longer; is that the
fact?—About now we begin at six in the morning, and work till eight or half-
past eight, Saturday excepted, when we close at six; we did so on Saturday last.

4958. How many working hours do you make that?—The total number is
about 14 or 15 hours during the day.

4959. How many hours do you allow out?—Two.

4960. For meals?—Yes.

4961. Then the working hours amount to about 12 or 13?—Yes.

4962. Then you differ from Bowley in his statement; he says that 15 hours
a day are the usual number?—No, it is not so.

4963. You say 12 to 13?—Yes.

4964. Working hours?—Yes.

4965. Since you heard of the probability of legislation on this subject, have
you shortened your hours?—No. Bowley states that we have worked fewer
hours during the past 12 months; but our books show that we have worked more
the last 12 months than in the previous 12 months.

4966. Can you give me the figures as to that?—I have the books with me.

4967. Is that fact correct, that you have shortened your hours in consequence
of the expectation of legislation?—No, we have not.

4968. We have always understood that the young women of Nottingham cut
a very respectable figure when they make their appearance, and we were very
o.37—Sess. 2. much

E. Harrison, Esq.

6 July 1857.

much surprised to hear what miserable wages you pay them at Nottingham ; and we could not account for the fact of their being so well dressed generally. Mr. Bowley has told us that the females earn from 2 s. 6 d. to 3 s. 6 d. a week, including overtime ; what is your statement as to that. He was speaking of children, I think, there up to a certain age ; up to about 17, I think he said ; and his statement was, that they made from 2 s. 6 d. to 3 s. 6 d. a week, and that the women earned from 4 s. to 5 s. or 6 s. per week. Can you give the Committee any details from your books as to the earnings of the women ?—The women will earn from 8 s. or 7 s. 6 d., I am not certain which, to 10 s. and 12 s.

4969. At what age ?—Above 17, I think.

4970. Mr. Bowley has stated, that in consequence of the long hours which he has had to work at your place, whereas he was a very religious man, and attended the Baptist chapel regularly, since working at your place, in consequence of the long hours, he has not been able to do so ; that is rather a sad account to give of it ?—It is.

4971. Have you any knowledge on that subject ?—I know for a fact that he went regularly to chapel for 12 or 18 months after he worked for us ; and the fact of his discontinuing to do so was from some irregularity—getting intoxicated, I believe—and his principles have been since then, so far as morality is concerned, rather loose.

4972. He was a Sunday-school teacher ?—He was a Sunday-school teacher and superintendent of a school.

4973. For a long time ?—For a long time after being with us.

4974. Then the cessation of his religious and praiseworthy duties did not occur immediately on his coming to you ?—No ; a considerable time afterwards.

4975. From some other cause, as you imagine ?—Yes.

4976. He has told us that there are many persons out of work, and that when they are out of work they often go so for a long time ; what is your experience as to that ; are you short of hands, or could you get any quantity you liked ?—No, we cannot ; we are frequently short of hands, and that is one cause why we have had to work more hours than we otherwise should have done. Last summer, during the whole of the summer, we were six or eight hands short, and could not get them.

4977. Then is it a fact, or otherwise, that there is a superabundance of unemployed labour ?—No ; hands are very scarce through our trade generally ; I know one or two in the same business who are short of hands.

4978. Have your hands ever worked so late that they have not gone home at night, and have so remained several nights together, and have rested on the pieces for a few hours, and have gone to work again ?—No, not to my knowledge ; no girls have done so ; I believe Mr. Bowley did, but it was because he lived three miles and a half away from the works.

4979. Then do you think that this information which he has given the Committee applies only to his own experience ?—I think so.

4980. That he himself has rested on the pieces at night, occasionally, without going home ?—Yes, I believe three or four nights.

4981. Have the hands generally done so ?—No, decidedly not.

4982. *Chairman.*] You have told us that your young women, above the age of 17, earn from 7 s. 6 d. to 10 s. or 12 s. a week ?—Yes.

4983. Will you have the goodness to tell the Committee what wages those who are of a younger age than 17 earn ?—They begin with 3 s., when they first come ; they will have that for a few weeks, and then they are raised gradually, as they improve, 6 d. per week.

4984. Then Bowley's evidence, to the effect that the younger females earn about 3 s. a week, is not an incorrect statement ?—No ; they will have overtime besides, at once ; and for the first few weeks they can scarcely do anything.

4985. How many hours have those younger females to work in order to earn this 3 s. a week ?—Nine hours and a half.

4986. Then are we to understand you, that in your establishment you have different hours of work, according to the age of the work people ?—No.

4987. I understood you to say that your ordinary hours of work were about 13 ?—Yes, but that includes overtime ; that is the real time that is worked ; but the nine hours and a half is the day.

4988. Will you have the goodness to tell the Committee what you regard as your ordinary day's work ?—Nine hours and a half.

4989. Whenever

4989. Whenever more hours than those nine hours and a half are worked, that is owing to overtime, is it?—Yes.

4990. What extra pay will these young females earn by overtime?—They will get 4s. 4d. and 4s. 6d. per week, including the overtime.

4991. Mr. *Packe*.] Have parents ever complained of their children being too hardly worked in your establishment?—Not to my knowledge.

4992. About how many children under 16 are there in your establishment?—I think we have eight under 17.

4993. Not more than eight?—No.

4994. Have any of the parents ever been threatened with the loss of their employment if they took their children away from your works?—Never.

4995. *Chairman*.] I think you have told the Committee that no girls ever remain all the night in your establishment?—Never.

4996. But that you believe that Bowley occasionally has done so?—I think only three nights, and it was without our knowledge; directly we knew of it we sent for him, and told him that it must be discontinued; it was not needful.

4997. Then are the Committee to understand, that when you say that no females ever remain in your works during the night, none of your workpeople do, unless it be an exceptional case like that of Bowley?—They never have stayed to sleep all night; if they have stayed all night it has been a separate set of hands that have worked in the night, different from the hands that have worked in the day.

4998. Is that your custom now?—No; I think that has occurred four or five or six times only during the last two years.

4999. Can you tell the Committee how late during the last twelve months your works have been kept open at night?—In the winter-time we have begun at eight in the morning, and concluded at about nine and half-past nine at night.

5000. In the summer what would be the longest hours which you have worked?—From six in the morning until half-past eight at night.

5001. To your knowledge have those hours never been exceeded during the last few years?—Occasionally they have; I think five or six times we have exceeded that.

5002. Can you tell the Committee, when you have exceeded those hours, at what hour your establishment has been closed?—I think we have worked until 11, or half-past.

5003. Is that in the winter or in the summer?—That would be in the winter.

5004. Did you begin at eight o'clock, or sooner?—During this time it was an exception; we began at six.

5005. You began at six, and continued till 11 or half-past 11?—Yes; but that was occasioned by our leaving some old premises, and going to new ones, which were unfit for business, and we were compelled to work longer to get through the same amount of business which we otherwise should have done in a shorter time.

5006. Did you employ the same hands all that time, or had you a shift?—We had a shift.

5007. Are the Committee to understand that no people in your employment worked the whole of that time, from six in the morning till half-past 11 at night?—They did it one day, but not the next; we had another set for the next day.

5008. How many hours would be allowed during that time for meals or resting?—Two hours.

5009. Mr. *Packe*.] Have you any child under eight years of age in the works in your establishment?—No.

5010. Mr. Bowley has stated that you have?—We have none under 13.

5011. Mr. *Cheetham*.] Then the class of young people who Bowley stated earned only 2s. 6d. or 3s. per week refer to those of 13 years of age?—Yes; they will only have that for three or four weeks, and then they are raised.

5012. The statement which Bowley has made to the Committee, that hands at 17 years of age earn 5s. or 6s. a week, is not the fact?—No.

5013. Are you compelled to work these children 13 hours a day; is there something in the nature of the trade which requires it?—They are generally absent two or three hours in the morning two or three times a week; we allow them to be so; and I may further state, that when we were working the greatest number of hours, we allowed one or two hands to give over at dinner-time; to take it in turns.

5014. Does the trade which you carry on confine them within doors?—Yes.

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5015. Altogether?—Yes.

5016. What is the temperature?—It averages 75°.

5017. You have stated to the Committee that there is abundant employment in the town of Nottingham for all classes of workpeople?—Yes.

5018. Bowley has stated that on some occasions you would compel the attendance of these children to work for you through a threat to their parents?—I know nothing of such a thing.

5019. It is a voluntary act on the part of the parents seeking employment for them?—Yes.

5020. Have they ever complained to you of these long hours, this overtime?—No.

5021. Have you known any instance in which these young people have left your employment on that account?—Several have left because they were unwell.

5022. Do you know what occupations they went to?—Some have gone to the same, and some have gone to the lace warehouses.

5023. Do you know, as a fact, what is the length of time which they have to attend in the lace warehouse?—I think from eight in the morning until seven, as a rule; they exceed that sometimes.

5024. I think it was Bowley who stated to us that the education of the young people in Nottingham was very much neglected; is it not the fact that there are a considerable number of schools, both day-schools and Sunday-schools, in that town?—Yes, there are.

5025. And that education is a subject which has attracted the attention of many of the benevolent people of Nottingham?—Yes.

5026. If these people, then, to whom Bowley referred are in the state that he informed the Committee, is it from their own negligence, or to whom would you attribute the fact that they are not educated?—I should think it must be the fault of the parents.

5027. Are there facilities in the town, if they think fit to avail themselves of them?—Yes.

5028. And those facilities they have up to the age of 13?—Yes; and they can attend Sunday-school after that.

5029. So that the absence of this education is not attributable to the nature of their employment?—No, not at all.

5030. *Mr. Davison.*] Do these overhours which you state that they work arise from pressure from the warehouses?—Yes, they do.

5031. *Mr. Baxter.*] Is it the practice in Nottingham not to employ children until they are 13 years of age?—Not that I know of.

5032. Is it the general practice to employ no children until they are 13?—I am not aware of it.

5033. Do you suppose that there are many children employed in other works (they are not in your own, you say) of an earlier age?—I cannot say.

5034. *Mr. Cheetham.*] Would children under 13 be of no service to you?—They would not be of service to us.

5035. Not if employed half the day?—No.

5036. *Mr. Pecke.*] I understand you to say that several have left your establishment because they were unwell, and have gone into lace-works?—Yes.

5037. Has that sickness arisen from the employment at all?—No.

5038. Then they were not too unwell to go into some employment?—They would have very likely to remain at home some little time, and then they would be able to go out again.

5039. They did not return to you?—Some have returned again, and some have gone elsewhere; perhaps we have not wanted any at the time they were ready to come back.

5040. *Mr. Davison.*] Can you give any statement or any idea of the number of children in your employment who can read and write?—Yes; amongst the females altogether we have eight able to read and write well; five able to read and write moderately; 11 able to read only; four able to read moderately, and seven able neither to read nor write.

5041. *Mr. Cheetham.*] Did you see anything of Mr. Trembleton when he was in Nottingham?—No.

5042. He did not visit your establishment?—No.

5043. Information was given to the Committee by a witness previously that for a certain period the bleachers in Nottingham had agreed to work a less number

number of hours ; were you one of the parties to that agreement ?—No, I do not know anything of it. *E. Harrison, Esq.*

5044. *Chairman.*] Do you apprehend that if a Ten-and-a-half Hours' Bill were passed to regulate the hours in your trade evil results would ensue to your business from it ?—Yes. 6 July 1857.

5045. Will you state to the Committee why you come to that opinion ?—We should not be able to complete orders which were delivered to us for completion ; at other times we might not be able to commence early in the morning, and during the day orders might come in which we could not complete by the time of giving over.

5046. Have you discussed this matter at all with those employers of labour in Nottingham who agreed to diminish the hours of labour among themselves ?—No, I have not heard of anything of the sort.

5047. You give that opinion as your own opinion, without consultation with the other employers in the same line of business as yourself ?—Yes.

5048. *Mr. Packe.*] Are there establishments in the same line of business in Nottingham which have diminished their hours ?—I am not aware of it ; I think they work according to orders ; we all try to give over as early as possible.

5049. *Mr. Davison.*] Is any steam employed in the process of your manufacture ?—The rooms are warmed by steam.

5050. You say they are at about 75° of heat on the average ?—Yes.

5051. There is no steam machinery employed in the process of your manufacture ?—No.

5052. *Mr. Turner.*] Is not your trade, namely, the lace trade of Nottingham, one which depends very much upon seasons ?—Yes.

5053. You are busy at certain seasons, and slack at others ?—Yes.

5054. Would it be practicable to finish the lace much before the time when it is wanted, or would it be deteriorated in the value put upon it by the buyer by having been finished a long time beforehand ?—It would be impossible, I think, for a lace manufacturer to finish a very large stock. The buyer gives his orders, and the manufacturer may not have anything on hand suitable for his orders, and therefore he has to get it bleached and dressed in a certain time.

5055. Is not a considerable deduction from the value of the lace made if it has the appearance of an old finish upon it ?—Yes.

5056. Is not lace valued in the market very much by its freshness and brightness and cleanness, from recent finish ?—Yes.

5057. Then it would be impossible to finish lace a very long period before the time at which the buyers would require it ?—Quite so.

5058. *Mr. Clark.*] Have your people ever refused to work extra time ?—No.

5059. Your long hours then, in fact, are perfectly voluntary ?—Quite so.

5060. If the workpeople refused to work extra time, should you consider it necessary for your own protection to hold out any threat ?—If they do not attend for the time that the hands have to work, and if they do so frequently, we threaten them then with dismissal, because it stops the business, and those hands who come regularly are detained longer at work in consequence than they would otherwise be ; and that is one cause why we have had to work more hours than we otherwise should have done.

5061. That answer I understand is more with regard to irregularity in attendance, than to refusal to work such long hours ?—Yes.

5062. But the question which I wished to put to you was whether they refused to work over the usual day's work ?—Such a thing has never happened.

5063. What number of hours do your workpeople work in a week ?—I think it is 70 on the average.

5064. *Mr. Davison.*] Suppose the Factory Act were applied to the process of the lace manufacture, would it be practicable to commence your work in winter before eight o'clock in the morning ?—No, quite impracticable.

5065. For what reason ?—We require a certain colour for the lace, and it would be impossible to get that colour exact before we had good daylight.

5066. *Mr. Cheetham.*] Then do you never work by gas or candle light in your finishing ?—Yes ; when we have once got the colour, we may proceed with the gas light.

5067. *Mr. Packe.*] Is there generally good employment for all the operatives in Nottingham ?—Yes, there is.

5068. *Mr. Clark.*] I see that the following question was put to Mr. Bowley :

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“ Did I rightly understand you to state, that you have known an instance, in your own establishment, where the workpeople have been threatened with dismissal if they did not work extra hours?” His reply was, “ Yes, in our own place.” Do you think that that witness was mistaken?—It refers to the irregularity of the hands.

5069. No—“ if they did not work extra hours”?—I know of no such instance.

5070. Not in your establishment?—No; they have been threatened if they did not come regularly.

5071. *Mr. Crook.*] What sort of bleaching is yours?—Lace-dressing.

5072. Does that include bleaching?—No.

5073. Simply the dressing of lace?—The dressing of lace.

5074. For that purpose you require steam heat?—Yes.

5075. Have you any stove?—No.

5076. Then when you were speaking of the temperature of 75 or 80 degrees, it was not in a stove?—No.

5077. *Mr. Packe.*] Is your establishment well ventilated?—Yes, we have the windows constantly open.

5078. *Mr. Crook.*] How many young females do you employ under the age of 18?—I think we have eight.

5079. Have you any boys under 18?—Two.

5080. Ten people?—Yes.

5081. And how many women have you besides these?—I think about 28.

5082. As regards the limitation of the hours of labour, these 38 people would be directly affected by it if this Bill were passed?—Yes.

5083. It would affect all young people under 18, and women over that age?—Yes.

5084. These work-rooms of yours require artificial heat?—Yes.

5085. To a temperature, you say, averaging 75 degrees?—Yes.

5086. Has it never come to your knowledge that it has been higher than that?—Eighty-four degrees I have seen it at when we have been at work.

5087. Not higher?—I have seen it higher, but not when we have been at work.

5088. What is the nature of the work which these people have to do?—The stiffening of lace, and the clearing of it.

5089. *Mr. Cheetham.*] Have they to stand to do it?—They do it walking, chiefly.

5090. *Mr. Crook.*] Then they work in an upright position?—Yes.

5091. You state that occasionally you do not commence work until eight o'clock in the morning?—Yes.

5092. Are you aware what hours your people are working now, take the last week?—From six in the morning until half-past eight, and on Saturday they give over at six.

5093. *Chairman.*] We understood you to say that you could not commence your work before daylight at any time in the year, and that therefore you could not commence your work in the winter before eight o'clock; is that so?—We could not.

5094. We have had it stated in evidence, that for four or five years altogether, all the lace bleaching establishments in Basford only worked from six in the morning till a certain hour of the night; that they began work at six in the morning?—I do not know anything of the bleachers' works.

5095. Can you explain how the bleachers do work from six in the morning during the winter?—I do not know anything of the bleaching department.

5096. Then your observation as to the impossibility of working before daylight, in the winter, applies solely to the lace-finishing?—Yes.

5097. *Mr. Crook.*] You have eight girls under 18 years of age; are there none of those girls who have but 3 s. a week?—One.

5098. Is there any girl who has less than 3 s. a week?—No.

5099. Have you any at 3 s. 6 d.?—One.

5100. Any at 4 s.?—Yes, we have two or three at 4 s.; but I cannot recollect the exact number.

5101. Then these eight girls do not average much more than 3 s. a week?—Yes, from 4 s. 4 d.

5102. You say one has 3 s.?—That is without overtime; they will only have that sum for three or four weeks at the utmost.

5103. Three shillings?—Yes; then they are advanced.

5104. Three

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5104. Three shillings or 4s. is when they first begin?—Yes.

5105. You have only one learner at 3s.?—Yes.

5106. We have it in evidence that there are girls only receiving 2s. 6d., 3s., and 3s. 6d. a week; that statement it appears is correct so far as regards 3s. and 3s. 6d. a week?—Yes, for one girl.

5107. One girl at 3s. and one at 3s. 6d.?—Yes.

5108. You find some difficulty in getting the workpeople to attend early in the morning?—It is only a few.

5109. But there is some difficulty in getting them earlier than eight o'clock?—One part of the hands will be always there, and the other part will be occasionally absent.

5110. Some particular individuals?—Yes, according to dispositions and temperaments.

5111. And it obliges you to work longer hours in consequence?—Yes.

5112. The real necessity for working late at night is the scarcity of hands, you say?—Yes.

5113. And you say that you are not aware that there has been any number of people out of work at Nottingham?—No; we are now wanting two or three hands, and cannot get them.

5114. Mr. Davison.] Are those girls who have the low wages in the instance or two which you have spoken of, learners or experienced hands?—Learners; they have only been with us a few weeks.

5115. And of course as they become experienced and fit for work, you then apportion their wages?—Yes; for a few weeks at lace-dressing they cannot earn anything.

5116. With regard to these irregular attenders, do you know any establishment where a number of hands are employed in which you will not find some few persons who are irregular in their attendance?—It is so.

5117. And it is necessary to say, that unless they conform to the hours, it is impossible for you to carry on the business?—Yes, quite so.

5118. With regard to these dressing-rooms, are the people employed in them at work the whole year round, or is there any interruption?—In our establishment they have 9 or 10 days' holiday during the year.

5119. Independently of those 9 or 10 days' holidays, are you at full work during the year in those rooms?—We are; but ours is a department which is tolerably regular; there are other departments in the lace trade which are very irregular.

5120. Irregular from what cause, depending on orders?—Depending upon orders, and the seasons of the year.

5121. Taking the other houses where that regularity exists, how many months in the year will the people probably be employed in those dressing-rooms, on an average?—I cannot say that exactly; there are three or four months in the year when they work very short time, much under the nine hours and a half.

5122. Mr. Packe.] Are there any particular periods in the year when you expect this pressure of work?—Yes; the spring will be busy, and the autumn.

5123. Mr. Davison.] When the girls have learnt their business, and become good workwomen, what is the amount of wages which they receive?—Nine shillings and sixpence a week for the nine hours and a half per day.

5124. Mr. Cheetham.] And what do you pay them for overtime?—According to the wages they have for work; so much per hour; those at 9s. 6d. a week would have 2½d. an hour over.

5125. Mr. Packe.] Is not that a higher rate of wages for women in Nottingham than they can get in other employments?—I think they get as good in the lace warehouses.

5126. Mr. Cheetham.] Do not they earn even higher wages than that in the lace warehouses?—I cannot say.

5127. What do the men in your establishment earn?—Is theirs piecework?—No, so much per day.

5128. What is their wage?—Fourteen shillings, 16s., 18s., 21s. and 25s. per week.

5129. I think there has been a little confusion in the minds of some of the Committee as to your precise occupation; Bowley states that he is a bleacher in your employment, and that you bleach cotton goods; that, I think, is not the fact?—No, we are only lace-dressers; we have nothing to do with the bleaching.

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5130. Simply dressing and finishing lace?—Yes.
5131. *Mr. Packe.*] You are of the firm of Messrs. Spencer & Harrison, are you not?—Yes.
5132. *Mr. Cheetham.*] So that if the question was put to Bowley, “What class of goods do they bleach?” referring to you, it ought to have been, “Do they finish,” and not “bleach”?—Yes.
5133. *Mr. Crook.*] Is Bowley in your employment yet?—Yes.
5134. How do you describe his department of business?—He works in the dressing department.
5135. *Mr. Cheetham.*] If the question is put to him, “Will you state to the Committee what occupation you follow?” and he says, “I am a bleacher,” that is an incorrect description of himself?—Yes; a lace-dresser.
5136. *Mr. Crook.*] It is cotton lace?—Cotton lace and silk.
5137. Is what you call dressing lace the finishing of it?—Yes, previously to its going to the manufacturer who sells it.
5138. Preparing it for sale?—Yes.
5139. Do you not technically call it finishing?—No; it is usually called lace-dressing or stiffening.
5140. Is it washed at all in the process after you get it?—No; we stiffen it; we starch it.
5141. Do you know the firm of Burton & Eames, of Basford, in your neighbourhood?—Yes.
5142. They are bleachers, are they not?—Yes.
5143. And *Mr. Tebbutt*, of Basford?—Yes.
5144. Are you aware that the workpeople in their establishments work regular hours?—I am not.
5145. You are not aware that the workpeople have made an arrangement there by which they limit their hours from six to six?—I am not.
5146. You are not aware whether those firms work overtime or not?—I am not.
5147. You have not had occasion to go and see anything of their operations?—No; our establishment is in Nottingham.
5148. *Mr. Packe.*] Are the greater number of those who work in your establishment females?—Yes.
5149. What proportion are the females to the males?—We have 36 or 38 females, and about a dozen men and boys.

John Burton, Esq., called in; and Examined.

John Burton, Esq.

5150. *Chairman.*] WILL you tell the Committee what your occupation is?—Gasser, Bleacher and Trimmer, or Finisher.
5151. In the town of Nottingham, or the neighbourhood?—In the neighbourhood of Nottingham.
5152. How many people do you employ?—Three hundred and sixty.
5153. Will you divide them into the three classifications which you have mentioned, and state how many you employ in the gassing, how many in the bleaching, and how many in the finishing?—I have not that distinction; I have given the Committee the gross numbers.
5154. Of those how many would be men, how many would be women, and how many young persons under the age of 18?—One hundred and twenty-six men, 115 women, and 119 young persons.
5155. At what age do those young persons generally enter your establishment?—Those young persons would be under about 17.
5156. At what age do they enter generally; what would be the youngest?—It would include from 9 to 17 years of age.
5157. Will you tell the Committee what your usual hours of labour are?—The women work from seven to seven and the men from six to six.
5158. How long do you allow for meals and resting?—Two hours out of that.
5159. That is to say, your people work ten hours a day?—Yes.
5160. Those are your ordinary hours of labour?—Yes.
5161. Are they ever exceeded?—What they exceed we pay as overhours.
5162. Will you tell the Committee what the excess is; what your custom is in that respect?—Until nine in the evening is the longest time that we allow them to work.
5163. They sometimes work until nine in the evening?—Yes.

5164. Do

5164. Do the young persons from 9 to 17 occasionally work those overhours? —It is very rarely that they do it; it is the adults who work those overhours generally, and that is not all the year round. *John Burton, Esq.*

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5165. For how long a period of time would those overhours be continued?—We are busier in one part of the year than in the other; we are busier, say, six or seven months in the year, more especially in the hosiery department.

5166. Do you alter the hours in summer and winter, or do you keep to the same time all the year round?—The trade alters it; we have not the same pressure of business in one part of the year that we have in the other, therefore the hours are arranged in accordance with what we have to do.

5167. Is there anything in the nature of your business which compels you to work only during daylight?—Nothing.

5168. Will you explain to the Committee the nature of the gassing business?—That applies to lace; the lace is passed by the machine through a flame which burns off the fibre and leaves the hole clear; there are very few employed in that; we have not more than eight at any time employed in that department.

5169. Is the temperature in that room higher than it is in the other rooms in your establishment?—No, the temperature of that room is not more than that of the other rooms.

5170. Can you tell the Committee what the temperature in your rooms generally is?—In this part of the year it would be about 70°.

5171. Do you employ machinery?—Yes.

5172. In all the branches?—In bleaching, but not in finishing; not for the trimming; that is done by hand labour.

5173. I think you gave evidence before Mr. Tremenheere, did you not?—Yes.

5174. I think at that time you were working from seven till seven, in consequence of some arrangement which you had entered into with your workpeople?—The workpeople formed a union; that was their own doing; but we considered that the arrangements which they had entered into, as far as their hours were concerned, were fair. I looked at the matter myself, and we acceded to the terms at once.

5175. Does that arrangement continue now?—There is no compact as far as the men are concerned, nor is there any compact as far as the employers are concerned; the arrangement which we now enter into is entirely voluntary on the part of each firm.

5176. And it is therefore of course liable to be put an end to at any moment?—Just so.

5177. Is it, in point of fact, in operation now or not?—It is not in operation, any further than each employer makes an arrangement with his own men.

5178. With respect to your own works, is that regulation which was in force when Mr. Tremenheere was in Nottingham in force now, or not?—We are abiding by very nearly the same time; I may say that we are abiding by the same hours.

5179. Practically, do you find any insuperable difficulty in the way of abiding by an arrangement of that nature?—I do not know that we do.

5180. Are the Committee to understand that all the employers of labour in your branch of business endeavour to adhere to that regulation, or are some of them working an unlimited number of hours, while others are working a limited number of hours?—I do not precisely understand the question.

5181. We understand from what you have told us that, speaking generally, you do not work more than 10 hours a day yourself?—No; I have not made that statement.

5182. What was the nature of the arrangement which you described to Mr. Tremenheere when he was in Nottingham?—The arrangement which the men made was this; that the bleachers, which is one part of the business, might work from six in the morning until eight in the evening; that was their proposition; and the trimmers from six in the morning until nine in the evening.

5183. Take the finishing department?—The trimming is the finishing; that is the finishing of hosiery.

5184. In the statement made, apparently on your authority, by Mr. Tremenheere, it is stated that your regulation was from six to six from April to September?—Yes; that was for the day.

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5185. And from seven to seven in winter?—That was for the day; but it did not include the overhours.

5186. At the time when you gave this evidence to Mr. Tremenheere, what were your overhours in the finishing department?—At that time the bleachers confined their hours of labour to from six till eight; that was when we were busy. When we were slack they gave over again at six in the evening. When they worked till eight at the time Mr. Tremenheere was there, we were on piecework, and now, in one part of the business, we pay by the day; that difference is to be remarked. They arranged their hours of labour, and they also fixed the price which we were to pay for that labour, and to pay for it by the piece.

5187. Then the Committee understand that your overhours never exceeded two hours at that time; I am now speaking of the time when you gave evidence to Mr. Tremenheere?—That requires a distinction; we had a certain number of hands who took the work by the piece, and they had a certain number under them; all those employed under those who took it by the piece, if they worked till eight o'clock, would be paid by the men who took it by the piece for two hours' overwork; that would be the extent to which the men taking it by the piece would allow those under them to work. Now, supposing I was the employer, it made no difference to me, because I paid them so much for the hundred dozens of hose bleached.

5188. *Mr. Cheetham.*] You paid that to the undertakers in the first instance?—Yes, and they would pay those working under them at so much per week, and then two hours each day for overhours if they worked till eight o'clock in the evening.

5189. *Chairman.*] When you first came into that arrangement with your workpeople, did the manufacturers, who may be looked upon, I suppose, as your employers in a certain sense, make any objection or difficulty to your entering into that arrangement?—We got through the business during that arrangement, and I think to their satisfaction.

5190. *Mr. Packe.*] Your rule is to leave off work in the bleaching department, as I understand you, at eight in the evening, and in the trimming department at nine?—Yes.

5191. Are there not some establishments which do not agree to that rule, and which work on to 11 or 12?—I have been informed that there are some which do so.

5192. I think you are at Basford, are you not?—I have two places, one at Lenton and the other at Basford.

5193. Is it at Lenton or Basford that these establishments exist?—Mine at Lenton is the only one in that locality; the others are in the other locality where I have works.

5194. Then you do not know whether there are other establishments which keep their workpeople up later than you do, namely, till 11 or 12 o'clock at night?—They may do so occasionally.

5195. Are there any children under 10 years of age in your establishment?—There are.

5196. How many are there under that age?—At the works where I have been residing for some years, that is, at Basford, I have kept a register; I have always entered in that register their age, when I received them, and whether they were able to read and write, or what they could do; at the other place, Lenton, where I have been residing the last four months, there has not been any register kept, therefore I am not able to speak to that so accurately. I see from the register, that at Basford we have six under nine years of age, then from nine to eleven we have 17.

5197. Have you any under eight years of age?—I can scarcely speak to that; there may be one or two, but if there are any they do nothing but turn hose; they are not employed in either bleaching or finishing; it is merely putting in their hand and turning the stocking.

5198. Do they work the same number of hours as the others whom you have been speaking of?—No, they are a little more irregular; they do not work the same number of hours; I object to it.

5199. What number of hours do those young children work?—We do not let them work overhours; their hours are fixed to the day.

5200. Then they would work from seven to seven, or from six to six?—From seven to seven.

5201. *Chairman.*]

5201. *Chairman.*] Are the Committee to understand that you think that children under the age of 11 ought not to work more than 10 hours a day?—I have taken on a certain number in order that we may prevent, as much as possible, there being a necessity for working overhours.

5202. Do you think that it is advisable that young children should not work those long hours which you have described?—There is a very great difference in children; some we have noticed are much stronger than others.

5203. You have stated to the Committee your own practice; will you have the goodness to tell the Committee upon what principle that practice is founded?—When they have been of such a tender age as under nine years, I have endeavoured, as far as possible, to limit the number of hours for them.

5204. *Mr. Packe.*] Is it necessary to have those young children in your establishment for any particular sort of work?—Some of the parents are very anxious to get them in; it has often been the case that the father of the family has been taken away, and the parents have been dependent upon these children, to some extent, for their subsistence, and they are very anxious to get them employed earlier sometimes, perhaps, than it is desirable they should be.

5205. Have you ever heard of parents complaining of their children being too hardly worked?—I have not heard of it.

5206. *Mr. Cheetham.*] Is your establishment now working according to the regulation which was adopted between the masters and the men some years ago?—Very nearly so; we have deviated from it very little.

5207. The workman, Shelbourne, whom we had before the Committee, stated that that regulation was broken by the great mass of the masters; is that the fact, that it no longer exists to the extent that it did?—It does not exist to the extent that it did, that is certain.

5208. Are there some establishments working considerably longer hours than your own?—I think there are.

5209. Do you experience any result from that, in the fact of your workpeople leaving you to go to establishments with these longer hours?—I have only had one or two cases where they have wished to remove, for the purpose of working more hours.

5210. In order to get a higher rate of wages?—Yes; I have had one or two cases of that sort.

5211. Have you had any the other way, in which those working at these establishments where long hours prevail have left to come to your shorter hours?—I do not recollect any.

5212. I think you stated to Mr. Tremenheere that, as regards the boys in your employment, their occupation is very much in the nature of mere domestic work?—It is so, very much.

5213. Mr. Tremenheere called upon you when he was in Nottingham?—He did.

5214. Did he examine any of your workpeople?—I sent for some of them, in order that he might have from them answers to any questions which he chose to put, rather than taking the answers from me; especially in reference to them, and what they were doing.

5215. *Mr. Davison.*] Does the employment of these very young children arise from the demand of the master, or the desire of the parent?—I think it is mutual.

5216. You think they both wish it?—I think so.

5217. *Mr. Turner.*] I think you mentioned that the trade in Nottingham is rather irregular; that at some seasons you are busy and at others very slack?—Yes, it is so.

5218. It is at the busy seasons, of course, that you work these long hours?—Yes.

5219. Supposing the same quantity of work was pressed upon you, and a Bill was also passed that you could only work 12 hours, taking two off for meals, how would you get through that press of work at those busy seasons; would it be necessary for you to extend your premises, and the number of your workpeople?—I apprehend that it would operate in that way; then it would be a question whether we could obtain the number at a given period. We should have to multiply the hands very much, supposing we could obtain them; and then when the flat season arrived we should have to discharge them.

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5220. Would it be necessary to extend your premises?—We must extend our means in some way or other to facilitate the doing of the work.

5221. Then it comes to this, that you would have, in order to get through the requisite quantity of work in a shorter time, to extend your premises, and to extend the number of your workpeople?—It must be so.

5222. When the slack time came, how would you deal with your premises and your workpeople?—The workpeople we should have to diminish. I do not know how we should manage with the premises; we should manage as well as we could.

5223. You would have to work very short hours if you kept your workpeople together, I suppose?—Yes.

5224. And of course their wages would be diminished accordingly?—Just so.

5225. *Chairman.*] I understand you to have told Mr. Tremenheere that before you entered into this arrangement which you made, you used to be pressed to work nearly all through the night by the manufacturers?—Occasionally they would, for instance, send lace down in the evening to bleach, and want it back the next morning white.

5226. After you entered into this arrangement with your workpeople, did you find that you had to enlarge very greatly your premises, and increase the number of your workpeople, for the purpose of meeting the orders which came to you?—I apprehend that we did not feel it quite so much when the arrangement was general.

5227. Are the Committee to understand that if a Ten Hours' Bill was passed which was general in its application to all the employers of labour in your business, you do not think that you would be compelled to enlarge your premises and increase the number of your workpeople to the degree which you have stated in answer to the question of the Honourable Member?—We should have to do something of the sort, unless an Act could be passed so that we should have the work regular all the year round; then, perhaps, if we could get the two things together, we should do.

5228. Practically, when you entered into the arrangement with your workpeople for the regulation of the hours of their labour, did you find yourself compelled to increase the number of the workpeople, or to enlarge greatly your premises?—Your Lordship will bear in mind that the workpeople did not confine it to 10 hours; they allowed two hours beyond; so that there was that elasticity about it; on the one side there were two hours, and on the other three. I apprehend that if an Act of Parliament were passed it would be stereotyped; it would not say that we could vary the labour according to circumstances, but we must go all the year round the same.

5229. I understand you to say that there was an elasticity, as far as two hours were concerned?—Three hours really, in one part of the business, which is that where we have the most difficulty in getting the labour.

5230. *Mr. Cheetham.*] That is in the trimming?—Yes; I do not know whether the Legislature would allow us that elasticity of three hours so as to regulate it in that way; still I think that we can manage it better ourselves than the Legislature can do it for us.

5231. *Chairman.*] I understood you to say, that you thought that the difficulty would be diminished in proportion as the regulation of hours was general?—If a manufacturer can send his work down to a certain place, and get it done during the night, it gives him an advantage over another place; but if he knows that he cannot get it done during the night, we are all in the same boat.

5232. Are the Committee to understand that you think that the system of sending orders in the evening to be finished by the following morning is an objectionable system?—I think so; but such things as those are very occasional.

5233. *Mr. Cheetham.*] Can you inform me how the arrangement was brought about between the workmen and the masters, as to the reduction of the time?—The business was increasing very much, and there was a great deal of agitation, both as to whether the work should be done by the piece or by the day, and also as to the price paid; there were a variety of circumstances; it could not be attributed to any one circumstance.

5234. Which led to a discussion between the two parties?—Yes.

5235. Then the question of these long hours was also introduced into that discussion?—Yes.

5236. And

5236. And both parties came voluntarily to an arrangement to reduce them? —We did not see that there was any particular objection to the hours specified.

5237. That arrangement continued for four or five years; I think we have it in evidence?—It continued perhaps for four years.

5238. Then it was broken through?—Yes.

5239. Do you see any difficulty in that arrangement being brought about again in the same way?—Very considerable difficulty; the hours were regulated, and also the price paid for the labour; the two went together.

5240. So that the longer hours led to higher wages?—Not so. Shorter hours led to higher wages; the men under those who were working by the piece got their wages raised for working shorter hours.

5241. Mr. *Packe*.] Do you think it would be better for the operatives if other establishments were restricted to the hours adopted in your establishment?—I am not able to answer that question.

5242. What is your reason for limiting the hours, which I think you do in your establishment, if I understand you, to not later than nine in the evening?—I have very great doubt in my mind as to whether any employer derives any advantage from the people in his employ working more hours; I think that nature becomes, to a great extent, exhausted by those hours of labour, and wants recruiting, and, really, if you exact any more you are trenching upon a resource which recoils upon yourself eventually in one form or another.

5243. Then would it not be better for the operatives that they should be universally limited to the hours which are adopted in your establishment?—I entertain that opinion, as far as I am concerned, that it would be best for the masters and for the men if they could enter into an arrangement of that sort; I think they would not experience any detriment by it.

5244. *Chairman*.] In answer to a question put by Mr. Cheetham, I think you told the Committee that you saw very great difficulties, if not insuperable difficulties, in the way of such an arrangement being made again?—I think there would be great difficulties for it to be universal.

5245. Will you tell the Committee, if you can, whether those who have left your works in order to go into the establishments where the longer hours prevail are adults or young people?—In the case that I have in my mind it was an adult.

5246. Mr. *Davison*.] To enable the arrangement which you speak of to be carried into effect again, am I to understand you to say that it would require an arrangement, not only with respect to hours, but also with respect to price?—The two at the time were taken together.

5247. And that you consider gave a facility to the arrangement?—That, along with a pressure of business.

5248. Mr. *Crook*.] Did you hear that manufacturers were put to any great inconvenience after you declined to undertake to finish their lace in the night and deliver it the next morning?—I do not recollect hearing of any particular inconvenience.

5249. I think you expressed an opinion to the Committee that you thought that ten hours and a half a day was long enough for these girls to be employed?—For young children.

5250. For young people under 18?—Yes.

5251. I think you say that you have occasionally taken on an additional number in order to prevent working overhours?—I have done so.

5252. Supposing this Bill passed, what number of additional workpeople would be required to do the same work?—Of course that would apply to the women more particularly.

5253. To the women and boys exclusively?—As far as the women were concerned, it would affect our whole operations in the finishing of hosiery.

5254. What would be the difference in the number of hours between a fixed day and the greatest length to which you work overtime; I think you say it is only occasionally that you work till nine o'clock?—The trimmers work till nine o'clock in the busy part of the year.

5255. And that extends to six or seven months in the year?—Certainly; it would do that at least.

5256. What is the quantity of time per day that these women work exceeding ten hours and a half; they work sometimes, you say, overhours?—Yes.

5257. Will you make a calculation of what number of additional workpeople you would require provided this Act passed, and limited you to six o'clock;

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supposing you were tied from employing women and young people after six o'clock, what number of additional women and children would you require?—I can scarcely answer that question.

5258. Would it not be in proportion to the hours employed?—I have been wanting more menders for the last six months, and have not been able to obtain them.

5259. You say that you could not get an additional number of women if you wanted them?—No.

5260. Will you be kind enough to make a calculation what number of additional people would be required as a substitute for these additional number of hours, supposing you were limited?—I am not in a position to answer that question; it would require a little more time to make the calculation.

5261. Supposing the additional number required to be four women and two girls, if you could get those four women and two girls during the six or seven months, the Act would not affect you beyond that?—Yes, it would, very considerably.

5262. In what way?—I should want many more.

5263. Would you want a greater number than in proportion to the difference in the hours?—Three hours would be one-fourth part of the day.

5264. You say that you think that nature becomes exhausted after long hours; do not you think that the nature of women becomes exhausted after being employed from six o'clock to six?—The work of our women is not very laborious.

5265. Is it sitting or standing?—It is sitting, using the needle; it is not laborious work.

5266. Do you employ any steam power?—We do not employ any women in connexion with steam power.

5267. You were asked whether there would be great difficulty in regulating the hours of labour by a voluntary arrangement; do you think that there would be great difficulty in it?—I do not see how it could be done, unless the employers themselves would enter into a mutual arrangement with reference to it.

5268. The employers generally, you mean?—Yes.

5269. Do you think that at all probable?—I think it rather improbable.

5270. *Mr. Davison.*] Was the trade in a good and prosperous state at the time when this agreement was entered into?—In a very good state.

5271. Provided a prosperous and regular state of trade continued, would there be less difficulty in carrying out that agreement?—There would be less difficulty supposing they all took the same view of it.

5272. But taking into account a bad trade, or the fluctuations in trade, that would increase the difficulty of carrying out the agreement; goods coming in upon you at one time which did not exist at another?—True.

5273. That would very much affect the fixing of a certain number of hours to work?—Different employers take different views of these matters; some do not, perhaps, precisely see the evil arising from working all night; others do see it; we cannot get them all to see in the same way.

5274. Do you find any difficulty in getting a sufficient number of women to work?—We find a difficulty, at certain times, in getting a sufficient number to do the work, inasmuch as in the neighbourhood of Nottingham there has been a great demand for the labour of women.

5275. Does that apply particularly to the making of hosiery?—It does not apply particularly to the hosiery, because there has been a great demand for the labour of women in connexion with the lace.

5276. *Mr. Turner.*] Do you not think it probable that if you were limited in your hours, and could not ever allow these women to work overhours, their wages by that means being reduced, they would seek other occupations, which are abundant in Nottingham?—I think it is very likely they would. I may state, that before coming here, I went into a room where we have about 30 women, and I told them that I was coming to London, and that I should like to hear from them whether they wished the Legislature to pass an Act that they should not be allowed to work after six o'clock in the evening; I wished them to state it unreservedly, without any reference to my being present; merely as their opinion; they are all adults; I said, "You can work now to the utmost, according to my wish, till nine in the evening; should you like the Legislature to pass an Act not allowing you to work after six in the evening?" They universally said that they would rather

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rather be as they were; they prefer, when we are busy, working an hour or two over.

5277. They like to get a little additional wages occasionally?—They get a little more money, and that enables them to dress a little better, and appear a little more respectable.

5278. We have heard that they do dress very well in Nottingham?—Yes, they do generally.

5279. Mr. *Clark*.] If there was a law passed limiting the working hours of women and boys under 18 years of age to 10 hours, would it materially interfere with the working of men?—It would interfere with the working of men, inasmuch as we could not get the work back again; it would retard the getting that back which the men are obliged to do.

5280. Mr. *Cheetham*.] Then any limitation by Act of Parliament as regards the labour of the young people, would limit also that of the adults?—It would, in one branch of business connected with the hosiery, most decidedly.

5281. So that, in point of fact, it would practically be a legislation as to the whole of the hands that you employ?—It would not be a legislation for that part of the business connected with lace; it would not affect that at all; but it would affect that part connected with the hosiery, where we employ by far the larger number of hands.

5282. Mr. *Clark*.] How, then, do you propose supplying the place of boys and women, so as to prevent the necessity of grown-up persons also being obliged to give up work at the end of 10 hours?—I cannot see the way out of that difficulty; I do not know how we should supply the need.

5283. Mr. *Cobbett*.] That was the argument which was always used against the Factory Act, was it not, that the restriction of the work of the women and children to 10 hours would necessarily stop the work of the men? Do you remember any of the discussions which took place upon the Factory Act, the Ten Hours' Act?—I do not know, I am sure, how far that would operate there.

5284. What is the earliest age at which you have known children taken into the lace factories?—Our children have nothing to do with lace in any way; where we employ the children, it is only in turning the stockings, and stitching two together.

5285. What is the very earliest age at which you have known children work?—The greatest proportion of our women whom we employ to mend, very rarely begin to do anything before 15 or 16.

5286. What other employment do you give to young children? In your own business are there any children employed?—None, with the exception of those employed in turning and stitching.

5287. How young do you take those?—We have some at eight, nine, and ten years old.

5288. Do you know whether children are taken as early as five?—I have not known such an instance.

5289. Mr. *Crook*.] Have you any of these children, young girls or boys, working now after six o'clock?—We are rather flat just now; we have not got full employment.

5290. You told the Committee that you endeavoured to prevent their working after six o'clock by taking on an additional number?—Not after six; at least I have tried to keep it down to that, but sometimes we have worked till eight.

5291. You have tried to keep the employment of children down to six o'clock?—Yes, of the young children.

5292. Have you never succeeded in confining their employment to six o'clock?—When we have been busy I have not succeeded in doing it for a month together.

5293. When you have been slack you have had no occasion to employ them after six; you have therefore made no effort to stop them at six, because they were stopping at five, I suppose?—We have let them give over at six.

5294. When you have been busy, you say you have taken on additional children and boys to prevent working these children after six o'clock?—To keep to it as near as we could; sometimes we have diverged an hour, and sometimes two hours.

5295. Then your impression at that time was, that stopping these children at six o'clock would not stop the men or the women at six o'clock?—I have been better able to obtain young persons, say of nine, ten, and eleven, at

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Basford, than I have been able to obtain them at Lenton; I have found that difference; there seems to be a greater abundance of labour in the one place than in the other.

5296. You can get a sufficient number of girls and boys at Basford to prevent them working after six o'clock?—We have found it easier to obtain labour in one place than in the other.

5297. As far as you have succeeded in doing that, it has not interfered with the labour of the other part of the workpeople; they have been able to work for the usual time after these children have given over?—They have gone on after the children have given over. There is one matter which you will excuse my referring to; I heard it stated here by Mr. Tremenheere that bleaching was considered an unhealthy business. It is the first time I ever heard it, and that statement astonished me more than anything I heard in reference to his evidence. Bleaching is not an unhealthy business, but a very healthy business; I have no hesitation in affirming that, and that it is well understood in our locality that it is a healthy business.

5298. *Chairman.*] Will you explain to the Committee whether, in speaking of bleaching, you include all the bleaching processes, or only the processes with which you are most familiar; do you include cotton bleaching?—The bleaching of cotton, hosiery and lace.

William Allcock, Esq., called in; and Examined.

W. Allcock, Esq.

5299. *Chairman.*] WHAT is the nature of your employment?—The bleaching and finishing of cotton and merino hosiery.

5300. Where do you reside?—At Bulwell, near Nottingham.

5301. How many people do you employ?—About 70 in that business.

5302. How many are women and how many children?—There are about 21 women over 18 years of age, and eight between 13 and 18; there is only one under 13 years of age.

5303. Have you any boys?—Yes; four boys under 13, and nine between 13 and 18.

5304. Will you tell the Committee what the hours of labour are in your establishment?—From six till seven in summer, and in the winter from seven till seven.

5305. Are those hours ever exceeded?—Occasionally, in the busy time.

5306. Will you tell the Committee when they are exceeded what is the amount of overtime worked?—Two hours, not more.

5307. Do the boys under the age of 18 work overhours when they are worked?—Yes.

5308. Is steam machinery employed in your establishment?—Not where the boys work.

5309. Do the women work where there is steam machinery?—Not at all.

5310. Neither the women nor the boys?—Neither the women nor the boys.

5311. Only the adult men?—Only the adult men; there are two strong lads of about 16 or 17 who occasionally go in, but not regularly.

5312. What is the heat of the rooms in which the women and the boys generally work?—Merely a comfortable heat; they can regulate it as they choose by opening the windows or making a fire in winter.

5313. Has your attention been called to the subject-matter before the consideration of the Committee?—Yes.

5314. Do you wish to state to the Committee your views upon the proposed Bill?—I think that it would be injurious to the workpeople in our establishment.

5315. Will you tell the Committee the reasons which you have for coming to that opinion?—Because the amount of work required to be done fluctuates very much; at certain times of the year, for instance now, we are frequently obliged to leave off work at four in the afternoon; if the workpeople were unable to make an hour or two in busy time their average must be less than 10 hours a day.

5316. Do you apprehend that any prejudicial effects would follow to your own business?—Yes; we should be obliged either to do a less quantity of work or to increase our premises.

5317. Did you hear the evidence given by Mr. Burton?—Yes.

5318. Are you one of the employers who entered into that arrangement spoken of by him?—Yes.

5319. Do you still continue it?—As closely as possible; I may say strictly.

5320. Have

5320. Have you found that you have had to enlarge your premises or increase the number of your workpeople in consequence of your having entered into that arrangement?—No, not in consequence of that arrangement, because it was merely a formal arrangement entered into which did not affect our business at all. We had been previously carrying it on in about the same manner.

5321. Previously to your entering into that arrangement, you had not been in the habit of working those very long hours of which we have heard?—Not at all.

5322. Are you aware whether any of the employers of labour in your business still work those very long hours?—I cannot answer for them all. I know that my two next neighbours in the same business do not; I was at their places last week; at eight in the evening they were both shut.

5323. *Mr. Turner.*] I think you are a farmer as well as a bleacher, are you not?—Yes.

5324. You have a quantity of land in occupation?—Yes.

5325. Do you consider that the boys and young women employed in your bleach-works are more unhealthy, as a class, than those whom you employ on your land?—I have known the case of a man applying to me to have his boy taken off agricultural work and put to work in the bleach-yard, as he considered that the employment was more healthy: the lad was weakly.

5326. What was his reason for coming to that conclusion; was the boy exposed to inclement weather?—The boy of course was exposed to the weather when employed in the fields.

5327. The father considered it rather a luxury for the boy to come under cover in the bleach-works?—Yes; he thought the boy would be more comfortable.

5328. Have you ever had the reverse case?—Not at all.

5329. You have not been asked that the boys employed in your bleach-works should be allowed to go and farm?—No; they can get more money in the bleach-works.

5330. What are the wages of the boys employed in the bleach-works as compared with those on the farm?—Nearly half as much again.

5331. In favour of the bleach-works?—Yes.

5332. *Mr. Cheetham.*] You say that you have not departed from the arrangement which was agreed upon some time ago between the masters and the men?—No.

5333. Have you heard that it has been broken through in other instances?—I have heard it so reported; I have heard it so stated in this room; but I cannot speak to it of my own knowledge.

5334. Do you see any difficulty in resuming that arrangement between the parties?—I cannot answer for other people's business.

5335. But in your own you have not deviated from it?—Not at all.

5336. *Mr. Packe.*] Is there not considerably more work for the boys in the bleach-works; are there not longer hours in the day than in the work upon the farm?—Not on the average.

5337. I presume that you do not work longer on the farm than from six to six at any time?—That is the usual time, excepting harvest, of course.

5338. Do not they work longer than that in the bleach-works?—On the average they do not, but there are times when they do; in times of pressure they work till eight or nine o'clock.

5339. Not later?—Not later.

5340. *Mr. Crook.*] You say that you are not working even your ordinary regular hours at present?—Not quite; on some days we leave off at four.

5341. Have you exceeded those hours at any time during the month of June?—No, I think not.

5342. You call this the summer season?—Yes.

5343. Supposing that this Bill passed, and limited the hours for which women could be employed, what number of women should you have to employ additionally?—I should have to employ one-fifth more.

5344. What number would that be?—It would be about half a dozen.

5345. Then the difference which this Bill would make to you would be the six additional women?—Six additional women; then there would be the boys, which would make it up to 10 or 12 altogether.

5346. *Mr. Turner.*] In answer to *Mr. Crook*, you said that you would require about one-fifth more to get through the work if this Bill passed?—Yes.

5347. If you and all the bleachers in your district were to require 20 per cent.

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more of hands to get through the work, and you had a slack time when you could not employ that number of hands, would they be likely to come in that quantity to these works, or would they not seek employment elsewhere?—I think they would seek other employment.

5348. *Mr. Cheetham.*] Your difficulty of finding hands when you wanted them would be increased?—No doubt of it, because the additional hands would know perfectly well that in the flat time they would be discharged; they must be discharged, or else only earn very small wages.

John Keely, Esq., called in; and Examined.

John Keely, Esq.

5349. *Chairman.*] WILL you state to the Committee the nature of your occupation?—We are dyers of silk, cotton, cotton lace, cotton stockings, and various articles, a mixture of both cotton and silk, and we are also finishers of the stockings.

5350. How many people do you employ?—Sometimes we employ as many as 100, and they again drop down to 80; now we are employing about 85.

5351. Can you classify them?—Yes. The majority are men. We have 57 men out of the number, whose wages run from 14 s. to 35 s., the great majority of them having 18 s., 20 s., and 25 s. Then we have eight youths above 16, and not 18; their average wages are from 10 s. to 13 s. We have three boys, 13 and not 16; their wages are from 5 s. to 7 s. Three boys above 12, and not above 13, 4 s. 6 d. to 5 s. 6 d. Three boys 10, and not over 12, from 3 s. to 4 s. 6 d. Three boys above 9 and under 10, which is the youngest we take, 2 s. to 2 s. 6 d. Those young boys are employed merely in turning and tacking stockings. We employ two grown women; that is to say, above 18, at 9 s. and 10 s. per week, and one girl at 5 s. per week. That is the number of hands we employ.

5352. Is there any steam machinery employed in your establishment?—Not in connexion with the boys; none of our hands under 18 work at machinery.

5353. Do any of the women work at machinery?—We have only two women, and they sit in a room mending stockings. They heat it at their own pleasure; they have a fireplace.

5354. Will you tell the Committee what your usual hours of labour are?—The standard hours are as follow: in summer from six to six, with two hours for meals; in autumn from seven to seven, with two hours for meals; in winter from eight to seven, with one hour for meals; that is a provision in consequence of the weather. Our business requires daylight, and we cannot begin till daylight appears. In dyeing, when we have to match the pattern, which is now the usual practice, for we can scarcely do anything without matching, we are obliged to let the men get their breakfast before they come. Therefore they come at eight and give over at seven, for their day.

5355. Therefore, in point of fact, you adopt at present a ten hours' system?—Yes; that is excepting occasional occurrences. In the spring, we go from seven to seven, the same as in the autumn, until the days get long. But our business requires daylight, and therefore in winter it is useless for us to attempt to begin before eight, or sometimes nine o'clock. If the men get there at eight, they can seldom begin until nine, because we must see the colour. Then again, we have to leave off sometimes at three, and sometimes at four; the days are exceedingly short. We cannot dye anything after daylight, excepting black; black we can proceed with, but not in colours. If this Bill were to pass, compelling us to restrict our hours, it would be quite impossible to carry on the business.

5356. You therefore wish the Committee to understand that it is the opinion of the employers in your business that a Bill preventing their working after six o'clock at night, all through the year, would be very injurious to their business?—Yes, decidedly, because in the middle of the day we are obliged to collect all the hands we have, in order to get rid of the dyeing while the daylight continues, and then after daylight has gone we have to get up the stove, and prepare again for the next morning. And it would be impossible for us to adopt a regular system of business, in two or three months of the year, particularly in the autumn and early in the spring. In the summer season, as we are now, the men are losing time.

5357. Do you ever exceed your usual hours?—Yes, very frequently; we go to eight or nine o'clock at night with the adult labour, but we employ so very few juveniles that they generally give over, and sometimes do not work more than half

half a day. But they frequently have to wait till the evening till the van comes in, to see what there is to prepare for the next morning; when the van comes in, if there is nothing very important, they can give over; sometimes they have to wait three or four hours till the van comes.

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5358. Then are the Committee to understand that in your branch of business it is not necessary that all your hands should be employed simultaneously?—It is necessary that the boys whom we keep to prepare these goods for the men should attend to them after the van comes in, or otherwise the men would have nothing to go on with the next morning.

5359. *Mr. Kirk.*] By the van coming in, do you mean goods coming from Nottingham to your works?—I mean the van with the goods from the different warehouses, to see what orders there are.

5360. You send in a van in the morning to collect goods from the warehouses, and bring them to your works?—Yes.

5361. And a portion of the hands have to wait until that van comes?—Yes; the van comes in about five or six o'clock; five o'clock generally; and if anything wants preparing we are obliged to set on the hands to do it.

5362. *Chairman.*] We understood you to say that your overhours never exceeded from eight to nine o'clock at night?—Those have been the average times last year and this; before that they did not average three hours a week during the year through; but in some periods of the year, I believe, as at the present period, some of the hands lose two days; if the men had not an opportunity at another part of the year to make that up, they would be in a very bad position; in fact, our people generally prefer working a few hours over. If our men were asked the question (which I have frequently done), they would say that they prefer rather a limited number of hands; they do not like too many hands; so that what they lose in the flat time they shall have an opportunity of gaining again.

5363. Have you had any conversation with those whom you employ upon the subject of this Bill?—Nothing more than that I made some inquiries amongst them before I came. Their universal opinion is, that it would be impossible to adopt the system of rigid hours; because, if so, we must employ a very much larger number of hands, and then, as soon as the push is over, they must go away. It would be a very great inconvenience, not only to the men but to us, because we should have to take incompetent persons in who had not been trained to the business.

5364. *Mr. Davison.*] The lace business may be termed fancy work or fancy business?—Quite so.

5365. Do you believe, from your experience in the trade, that it would be advantageous to that trade, or, indeed, I should say possible, to extend the factory system to a fancy trade?—Decidedly not; I told Mr. Tremenheere so when he was in Nottingham, and took him into our works, and showed him the work which the boys had to do, and showed him the atmosphere which they had to sit in; and he said that he should himself consider that any Act of that sort should not apply to the lace or hosiery trades of Nottingham; and when I came to London last Session, I saw Mr. Butt, and upon referring Mr. Butt to the report of Mr. Tremenheere, he said, "I had no idea of its at all affecting Nottingham—the lace trade and hosiery trade."

5366. In the factories which are subject to the Ten Hours' Act, they have a stock of materials always on hand?—Yes.

5367. Then they can go on manufacturing that stock, and selling it?—Certainly.

5368. In your department you are making fancy goods, which require, as I understand it, to be disposed of immediately upon being manufactured, or as early as possible?—The case is even worse than that.

5369. In what respect?—For this reason: it did not use to be so in my experience; I have been in the business 30 years, and about 20 or 25 years ago there was no difficulty in manufacturing stock, but there is an impossibility of manufacturing stock now, for the following reasons: the majority of the American buyers, as well as the foreign buyers, when they come into the market, not only come to buy certain goods, but they bring certain colours, and they order goods of certain colours, and they must have them and no others; of course the manufacturer gets the colours; he has not them in stock; very frequently the silk has to be thrown, or the cotton has to be bought, or the spun silk has to be spun; some time elapses, and it very often happens that the dyer is driven to the last emergency to get the things forward; but no manufacturer in Nottingham would undertake

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to manufacture gloves or hose of certain colours without a positive order; a man would be worse than deranged to do so; he would be a fit subject for an asylum.

5370. *Mr. Packe.*] Are there any children under nine years of age who work in your establishment?—Not any. When this subject was named to Mr. Butt last Session by myself, he said “I think the Nottingham lace and hosiery might be exempt, and if you will write a clause which you think will have that tendency, I shall have no objection to insert it in the Bill.” This clause was then written, “And be it enacted, that nothing in this Act contained shall extend to or interfere with the lace and hosiery trade, or any process thereof, or in anywise relating thereto, anything in this Act contained to the contrary notwithstanding.” Mr. Butt said that he had no objection to insert that.

5371. *Mr. Davison.*] And Mr. Tremenheere was of the same opinion?—Quite so; Mr. Tremenheere says in his report that he recommended Nottingham to be omitted from this Act.

5372. And you have a very decided opinion upon the subject yourself?—Decidedly; I apprehend that it would be impossible to carry on the business under such restrictions; it is quite a fancy trade, both in lace and in hosiery; the buyer now comes into the market and selects his patterns, and in nine cases out of ten they have to be made, bleached, and finished.

5373. According to the taste of the purchaser?—Yes.

5374. *Mr. Turner.*] Does not the observation which you have made as to the objection to legislation for Nottingham on account of its being the seat of a fancy business, in some degree apply to all finishers of goods, whatever they may be?—In the hosiery and lace trade, certainly.

5375. Even beyond the hosiery and lace trade?—I think in the present state of trade, that is so.

5376. You think that even the Lancashire bleachers might be put to very great inconvenience if they were compelled to work only a certain number of hours?—Yes, I have no doubt of it.

5377. They must work according to the orders?—Yes. I have known the time when we could dye goods in the dark; parties bought them as a regular standard class of goods, but now there are not two customers who have the same range of colour; there would be an end of our management if the Legislature were to interfere.

5378. *Mr. Crook.*] Have you ever been in the Lancashire bleach-works?—I have been in Lancashire, and in most parts of the country where bleaching and dyeing is carried on.

5379. Have you been in the bleach-works?—Yes.

5380. Be kind enough to tell the Committee whose works you were in?—They were Ainsworth's.

5381. Did you go through them?—I was merely taken over them, but I know the nature of bleaching, both in hosiery and in lace.

5382. Have you been frequently in Manchester?—I have, among the dyers there.

5383. But this is with reference to the Lancashire bleachers?—I have not been so much among the bleachers as I have been among the dyers.

5384. Have you had any conversation with the master bleachers of Manchester with reference to this Act?—No.

5385. You have had no means of forming a judgment as to the opinion of the Lancashire bleachers?—No; I can only form an opinion of this sort, that any interference with the bleacher and dyer, or with the manufacturer, in any form, would be an inconvenience.

5386. Do you think there is any reason to distinguish between the bleachers and the factories; the worsted and other factories?—I am not able to speak as to the factories at all.

5387. Are you very busy now?—No.

5388. Is this your summer season?—This is not our busy season; this is a season when the buyers are not in the market, and the orders are not given.

5389. What season of the year do you consider specially your season?—Principally in the autumn and winter we are most busy, and running a little into the spring; the autumn and the winter are the most difficult periods of the year which we have to contend with.

5390. That would be six months at the close of the year?—Yes.

5391. You have meal-times, I think you say?—Two hours.

5392. Are

5392. Are they pretty regularly observed; do the workpeople turn out when the bell rings, or do they go just when they like?—We have stated times; they come in the morning in summer at six, and go to breakfast at nine; they return at 10, go to dinner at one, and return at two.

5393. So that if this Bill passed, it would not affect the regularity of meal-times?—Not at all.

5394. You say that you very frequently exceed these hours with adult labour during the six months at the latter end of the year, that is to say, from eight to seven, which is only nine hours a day?—Yes.

5395. But not with juveniles?—With juveniles we very seldom much exceed the time.

5396. How do you define the word “juveniles;” does it extend to all those boys?—No, it extends to about the age of 16.

5397. Of which there are 20 boys, so that it extends to all but four boys; supposing this Act passed, to what extent would it necessitate the increase of the labour of boys?—We should have to increase the number, because of the time which they would have to do it in.

5398. That would apply to the 20 boys, the two women, and the girls?—Yes.

5399. As far as I understand you, you would want two women extra during the winter months, in order to make up the difference caused by this Bill?—I do not know that that would affect the women at all, with the work that they have to do.

5400. It would affect the boys?—Yes, the juveniles.

5401. This Bill would impose upon you the necessity of having a few more boys?—The number would depend upon the time that we had to get the work done in.

5402. *Mr. Davison.*] Was it after you had pointed out to Mr. Tremenheere the different processes, that he came to the conclusion that it would be wrong to apply the Factory Act to your trade?—Yes, after taking him into the place, and showing him the work which we did, showing him that there was no machinery near the boys: he said, that he considered that in any Act which was passed Nottingham lace and hosiery should be exempted; that there was nothing in them to call for an Act.

5403. *Mr. Kirk.*] Did you read with care the 13th section of the Bill of last year?—I did not take very particular notice of it.

5404. Would you like to have an inspector going in, and examining minutely every portion of your works, and every person employed there?—Certainly not.

5405. Does that form one of your objections to the Bill?—One of my greatest objections is to have an inspector at all upon the premises.

5406. *Mr. Cheetham.*] Could you carry on your works without these juveniles?—No, it would be quite impossible; those juveniles perform work that it is impossible for a man or for machinery to do.

5407. If the time of the employment of your juveniles was restricted, would it restrict the labour of the adults to the same extent?—To a very considerable extent. Those boys perform two or three sorts of work that no man can do, and that no machinery can be made to supersede.

5408. *Chairman.*] I understand you to say that those juveniles do not practically work more than 10 hours a day now?—They do not in any of the dye houses of Nottingham, or any other place which I have ever been in, and I am only surprised to find that Nottingham is included in the report, without making any reference to Coventry, Macclesfield, Manchester, Leeds, Spitalfields, all the great dyeing districts, of which we only form a mere speck. They perform the same operations and employ the same hands; the same hands that work for us, work at Coventry. I see no mention made of them in the report, and if this Act passed, it would affect them.

5409. *Mr. Cheetham.*] Was your trade at all connected with the arrangement which was made some few years ago in Nottingham between the employers and their workmen in the bleaching trade?—Not at all; we are not bleachers.

5410. In your trade of dyeing have you had no such arrangement?—No such arrangement.

5411. Are you aware of any strong feeling on the part of your workmen upon this question?—Not any; I never heard any opinion expressed at all; indeed I believe they are wholly ignorant of it, except from what I have communicated to

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them myself. In fact, the skein-dyeing is a business in which I never heard any complaint from the workpeople.

5412. One of the workmen examined before the Committee has spoken of the young people in Nottingham not having facilities for education. Is Nottingham, in your opinion, defective in educational institutions?—Not at all; I believe there are great facilities at Nottingham, as much as in any town, I should imagine, in England, as a manufacturing town; there are great efforts made, but there is a great disinclination on the part of the parents to pay attention to the matter from a variety of causes, drunkenness and insubordination of all sorts.

5413. *Mr. Crook.*] Do you consider the trade of Coventry, and of the other places which you have mentioned, similar in character to that of Nottingham?—As far as skein-dyeing, quite so.

5414. You say that you are surprised that they have not been mentioned particularly in the Bill?—I am surprised that dyers are named at all; but I am more surprised that those places are not named, the dyers of Coventry, Macclesfield and Manchester being the most extensive dyers in the kingdom.

5415. Is not Nottingham a fair sample of skein-dyeing?—No; there is more done in Macclesfield in one day than in Nottingham in a month.

5416. In your neighbourhood would you not consider Nottingham a fair sample of the district of this branch of the trade, namely, of the hosiery and lace?—Quite so, it is a branch; but I was only referring to silk dyeing and cotton dyeing in skein, which is our principal business; the Coventry, Macclesfield, Manchester and Leek dyers are much more extensively engaged in it than we are, and it rather surprised me to find that a commissioner was sent to Nottingham, to inspect Nottingham as to its dyeing, it being a town which was so insignificant, compared with other parts of the country.

5417. Are you not aware that the inquiries of the Commissioner extended to other districts besides Nottingham with reference to dyeing?—Yes, to Spitalfields; but then it was only to the manufacturers and dyers connected; it was not to the dyers as a body. If you refer to the report, you will find that there are no dyers of Spitalfields, except those who are manufacturers and dyers.

5418. *Chairman.*] Do you not think that probably the reason why the Commissioner went to Nottingham was, that there is a good deal of bleaching in Nottingham?—Yes; they have hosiery and lace.

5419. Are you aware that by the terms of his commission, Mr. Tremenheere was only to examine into the bleaching?—Mr. Tremenheere called upon us.

5420. Did you know what the terms of his commission were?—I did not.

5421. His commission was, "Whereas it appears to us expedient that a commission should forthwith issue, for the purpose of making due inquiry how far it may be advisable to extend the provisions of the Acts for the better regulation of Mills and Factories to bleaching works established in certain parts of our United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland: Now know ye," &c.?—Yes, that I know.

5422. Therefore there being bleaching establishments in Nottingham, was not it necessary that Mr. Tremenheere should visit Nottingham?—I should have taken no notice of the Bill if it had not mentioned dyeing.

5423. *Mr. Crook.*] You mentioned an observation made by Mr. Butt; I do not know whether you consider that as a promise?—Mr. Butt made a promise to insert that clause.

5424. Are you aware that Mr. Butt is only one of the supporters of this measure, and that he has only one voice in the arrangement?—I understood that Mr. Butt had charge of the Bill; that was my understanding.

5425. Do you suppose that a gentleman having charge of a Bill has entire control as to its provisions?—Certainly not; but when I named the circumstance, he seemed rather surprised to think that it affected Nottingham at all.

5426. Do you estimate his opinion or promise as anything more than the promise of an individual?—No.

5427. *Mr. Kirk.*] Referring to the question which his Lordship has asked as to the instructions issued to the commissioners or the nature of the commission, are you not aware that the Preamble of the Bill is in these words: "Whereas it is expedient to provide for the regulation of the employment of females and young persons under 18 years of age employed in bleaching, finishing and dyeing, making-up and packing"?—Yes; that drew my attention to the Bill, the word "dyeing"?

5428. Therefore

5428. Therefore you, as a dyer, were necessarily included in that Bill?—I considered so.

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5429. And that was the reason why you sought to be excluded by a special provision?—Decidedly so.

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5430. I was rather struck by an answer which you gave; you were asked whether you could not dispense with the labour of the boys, and you said that you could not?—Yes.

5431. Will you inform us what work these young boys do that you could not dispense with?—Yes; one department is tying the silk and cotton, which they have upon two bobbins extended; it is tied round with string. These boys, we find, at about 12 years of age, acquire a dexterity in that sort of work which they lose again when they get a little older, and which no older person can acquire; they do it better and quicker than an older boy or a grown person. Another department which we employ them in, is that of turning stockings: it is impossible, as some of the stockings are now made, for a person with a large hand to get it down; therefore the youngest boys that we have are employed in that department. Then, when they get from stocking turning, they go to tying, and the boys are removed from one department to another as they get older.

5432. Do you find that the fingers of the young hands are more pliant and supple for these purposes than when they become older?—Decidedly so.

James Hardcastle, Esq., called in; and Examined.

5433. Mr. *Cheetham.*] I BELIEVE you are the proprietor of the Firwood and Bradshaw Bleach-works, in the county of Lancaster?—I am. *J. Hardcastle, Esq.*

5434. Will you state to the Committee what is the number of workpeople that you employ?—I have at Firwood, above 21 years of age, 236 males and 23 females, making a total of 259; from 18 to 21 I have 31 males and 7 females, total 38; from 13 to 18 I have 25 males and 6 females, total 31; from 11 to 13 I have 10 males and 1 female, total 11; under 11 and above 10 years of age I have one male, making a total number of 303 males and 37 females; the grand total being 340. At Bradshaw I have, above 21 years of age, 163 males and 14 females, total 177; from 18 to 21 years I have 21 males and 4 females, total 25; from 13 to 18 I have 29 males and 2 females, total 31; from 11 to 13 I have four males and no females, total 4. Under 11 and above 10 I have 1 male and no female, total 1; total 218 males and 20 females: grand total 238.

5435. Are these two several establishments to which you have referred different in their operations?—At Firwood we are employed mainly in bleaching, dyeing, and finishing for the shipping trade, and at Bradshaw in bleaching, dyeing, and finishing mainly for the home trade, and some little calico printing.

5436. How many years have you been in this trade?—I have been 40 years a bleacher.

5437. Have you been engaged in any other trades besides bleaching?—I have been a dyer 30 years, and a printer about 25 years.

5438. You have also, I think, some colliery works?—I have been a coalmaster for a considerable number of years.

5439. Were you at any time of your life connected with the merchant department in Manchester?—For 10 years I was a principal partner in one of the largest mercantile houses in Manchester, in connexion with my Bradshaw works.

5440. You have during all your life resided among the workpeople around you in your neighbourhood, and have had means of knowing something about their character and habits?—I have all my life resided amongst them, and mixed a good deal with them, and thoroughly know their character and habits; not only those of my own people, but generally those of the workpeople of the manufacturing districts of Lancashire.

5441. At one period of your life you had also some experience as a spinner and manufacturer, I think?—No, I never condescended to touch the cotton until after it had passed the loom. My father was a large spinner and manufacturer, one of the oldest in the trade, and the most extensive; he spun from the stuff that makes the coarsest counterpane, up to that which makes the finest lace; and he manufactured every description of goods from the coarsest counterpane to the finest muslin; but I was not personally employed except as a warper and weaver; I warped for my pocket-money, and wove for instruction.

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5442. Your operations in this bleaching, and dyeing and printing trade are for various parts of the world?—For every part of the world.

5443. When was your attention first drawn to the attempts at legislation upon this question?—The attempt to legislate with a view to regulate the labour of women and young people in bleach-works, I think I first had my attention called to in 1845. Sir James Graham was then Home Secretary, and Lord Shaftesbury, then Lord Ashley, had a Bill before Parliament for regulating that description of employment in print works, and his Bill included bleach-works. This was not a Government Bill, and Sir James Graham, as Home Secretary, instituted inquiries; he satisfied himself that there was no case whatever for including bleach-works; he spoke upon the subject in the House of Commons (I think in Committee), and that part of the Bill was struck out. Sir James Graham, I believe, took a great deal of pains to make himself fully acquainted with the subject at that time.

5444. Do you think that the reasons which led the House of Commons at that time to exempt bleach-works from the operation of legislation exist at the present moment?—I believe that if there was no reason then for including them, there is less than none now.

5445. You do not think that any new grounds for legislation in respect of the bleaching business have arisen since that period?—Decidedly not.

5446. Rather the other way?—Yes; the reverse.

5447. Have you read carefully the four different Bills which during the last two or three Sessions have been introduced into the House?—Yes.

5448. What is your opinion, say of Bill No. 2 of last Session; what would be its operation if passed into a law in reference to your own works?—I must shut them up; I could not carry them on.

5449. Would it create a difference in the mode of employment between parties in the same works?—In my Bradshaw works I have printing as well as bleaching, dyeing and finishing. If that Bill No. 2 were passed into a law, I should be under the operation of two different Acts of Parliament in the same works, probably in the same apartments; certainly in the same apartments; the one the Print Works Act, and the other this Bill, No. 2.

5450. Are you aware whether that Bill to which you have referred included or excluded similar operations to your own in the bleaching and dyeing of woollens?—This Bill, No. 2, of 1856, applies only to linen and cotton. The other three Bills, Lord Shaftesbury's Bill, the Bill of 1854, and No. 1, of 1856, are general in their application; that is to say, those Bills apply to linen, cotton, silk, woollen, worsted, and all the rest of it, and to the mixed fabrics and all those things, and the mixed threads. This one applies only to the trade or business of a bleacher or dyer of linen or cotton goods; it does not even apply to the mixed fabric; to linen and cotton goods; only linen or cotton.

5451. Then it would not apply to the mixed, woollen and cotton goods?—No.

5452. Which goods you bleach occasionally?—Yes, and dye too.

5453. So that as far as regards that department, the Bill would leave you in your present position?—Just so.

5454. So far as you are acquainted with woollen goods, is there any reason why cotton should be singled out for legislation more than woollen?—I have had experience as a bleacher and dyer of mousseline de laines, that is to say, woollen with cotton warp; and the mode of bleaching and dyeing them is similar to the mode of bleaching and dyeing goods entirely of wool; I see no reason, I confess, for their exemption. I consider the operation of bleaching woollen to be not so healthy as the operation of bleaching cotton; woollen is bleached mainly by the fumes of sulphur.

5455. How are the machines in your works driven; by steam or by water-power?—By both.

5456. Did you hear the evidence which the honourable Member near me gave the other day, Mr. Kirk?—I did.

5457. Are you in somewhat a similar position with regard to the supply of water as he stated?—I am in precisely the same position, with this exception, that his works are the second on the stream, I think he said, after the large reservoir, and mine are about the fifth or sixth from the reservoir. We have erected a large reservoir, perhaps the largest reservoir in the United Kingdom, more than 100 feet deep; that was with a view to regulate the supply of water in the stream from its situation through the Irwell down into the Mersey; notwithstanding

standing that, our supply of water is not so regular as to enable us to work regular hours with it. J. Hardcastle, Esq.

5458. So that any legislation which would restrict these hours still more, would tell upon the parties who had, like yourself, to have the use of water in that irregular mode?—Yes, it would; and it would tell infinitely more injuriously perhaps upon those who had not a large reservoir at the head of their stream.

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5459. There was a part of the Bill to which you have referred which professed to deal with the warehouses in Manchester, but I think it now excludes them?—Bill No. 1 professes to deal with them; but Bill No. 2 professes not to do so. Those are two Bills of the same Session.

5460. Have you any particular acquaintance with the operations carried on in those establishments?—Yes, considerable experience.

5461. What effect would a Bill have excluding interference with similar operations to your own in the establishments in Manchester, and yet retaining interference with the same operations in your own works?—I must say that the finishing at Manchester is precisely of the same character as the finishing at my works; but it is carried on in rooms not so airy and spacious as my rooms. When they finish in Manchester, in many places they hook and fold grey cloth, from whence dust arises, more than arises from any portion of my goods; and altogether I should say that there is more to object to in that description of work in Manchester than there is in the bleach-works which I know. Then as to its effect, provided they were free from restriction, and I were restricted, it would be this: that I must place all my machinery in one township, and have all my bleaching and dyeing in another township; and, having done that, I could do as I pleased; I should be free from this proposed legislative enactment. I must either do that, or I must give up business. Before I became a dyer, the practice in Manchester was to send their goods to a dyer to be dyed, and then to a finisher to be finished. They sent to me goods to be finished which were dyed in Manchester. The inconvenience arising from this in one way or other, both to me, the finisher, and to the merchant, was such, that I said I had better dye them myself, and that was the very reason (I was not looking to gain anything by it, but with a view to the convenience of the merchant, and the employment of my people), that I began dyeing. Now a merchant can go and buy his grey cloth; he can send it to me with his orders, and I send it to him ready for the ship, ready for any market in the world; he has no further trouble.

5462. That is in consequence of having a finishing, packing and making-up department in your own works?—Yes, the whole thing being under one management.

5463. Supposing the Legislature restricted you in that department, would it lead to dispensing with the labour of these women and children?—It is hard to say what it would lead to; I think we must contrive to do without them; at all events we must do with fewer of them, and I do not know how; it is a most puzzling question; I heard Mr. Tremenheere put that question to one of my oldest managers; I think he has been 40 years with me; I think he has been there as long as I have. Mr. Tremenheere put it in a very insinuating manner: "You look like a very clever fellow," and all that kind of thing; "could not you manage to go on without these women; supposing they all went away at six o'clock, do not you think you could contrive to manage?" the man replied, "I have been trying at that all my life, sir, and I never could do it yet, and I do not believe the man is alive that could do it." I heard my man give that answer to Mr. Tremenheere.

5464. Mr. Kirk.] Is that recorded?—It is not.

5465. Mr. Cheetham.] Turning to another branch of evidence, we have had some evidence given regarding the education in your district; I wish to ask you whether there are any schools in the neighbourhood of your works which these workpeople can attend if they please to do so?—Plenty.

5466. As regards their opportunities of religious instruction, are there any churches and other places of worship?—Yes, churches and other places of worship.

5467. In the neighbourhood of both these establishments?—Yes.

5468. Are there any Sunday schools?—Yes.

5469. With these advantages, do you consider the class of workpeople whom you employ on the whole a tolerably well educated and respectable class of workpeople?—I believe that they have had better opportunities of being educated than ever my father had, or even the father of the late Sir Robert Peel had, and that they are as

J. Hardcastle, Esq. respectable and as well educated as either of those gentlemen ever was—I mean taking them as a whole.

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5470. Comparing them with the other classes of workpeople in the same neighbourhood, how do you think they stand in intelligence and respectability and education?—I do not wish to disparage any; I am speaking of my own; I believe that they are superior to any.

5471. Do they remain long in your employ, or are they a moveable population?—It would take a great deal to drive them away; there are numbers of them who have been with me 15, 20 and 30 years; they have been born there, the greater portion of them.

5472. I think in the neighbourhood of your works there are several cotton factories which are under restrictions as regards the hours; do you know of any instances in which you have lost your workpeople from your bleach-works to go to those mills?—No, I am not aware that I know of any instance. I do know this, that I recommend the parents of young girls to get them into works for small wares, belonging to the Phillips's, which are in my neighbourhood, and which is very nice employment for females. I could not, if I would, employ the whole of the females of my large class of men: the number of females in my works is very small.

5473. In the statement which you have given us, the number of females and young people is very small compared to the whole number that you employ?—Yes; the number of females is very small indeed, and I recommend their parents to get them into Phillips's small-ware establishment.

5474. With regard to the health of your workpeople, what is your opinion on that point?—I believe that they are healthy, and hearty, and strong, and vigorous, and that there are very few such people to be seen anywhere.

5475. I believe a few days ago you had an opportunity of presenting the whole of the people in your employment before the public at a dinner which you gave them?—Yes.

5476. Was there any notice of that taken in your local papers?—Some one sent me a copy of the "Bolton Chronicle;" it makes some allusion to it; and I had also sent to me a copy of the "Manchester Examiner and Times," and the "Manchester Courier," I think; they are both rather strong in their remarks. The "Bolton Chronicle" says on this point: "The workpeople began to assemble in the dining-rooms between two and three o'clock, and were soon present to the number of about 1,000; and not the least gratifying sight of that joyous day was the ruddy and healthful countenances of so many people, especially the younger portion, the young men and women." My colliers were amongst them, but very few indeed were invited, except those who actually worked with us; we should have had too many if all their families had come. Again, the Vicar of Bolton makes these remarks: "The Rev. H. Powell, Vicar of Bolton, was called upon to respond," to something, I do not know what it was; it was the health of the Bishop of Manchester, I think. "The reverend gentleman, who was received with loud cheers, said he rose with much pleasure to thank them for the honour which they had done to that class of persons to whom he had the honour of belonging, in responding so heartily to the toast proposed, 'The Bishop of Manchester and the clergy of the diocese;' and if there was one regret which he had in thus rising to address them, it was simply this, that the Bishop of Manchester and all the clergy of the diocese were not present with them, to enjoy that truly happy scene. He had never had the gratification before of being present on such an occasion as that; but he could truly say, as he had had the pleasure once, he should not object to have it again; and he could truly say, that an assembly such as that, was one that augured good, not only to that immediate neighbourhood of Bradshaw and Bolton, but, he should say, to the whole interests of their beloved country. In the south of England, where he had lived some years of his life, he did not think they understood what sort of people we were in the north of England; he said 'we,' because he was here now in the north of England, and considered himself one of us; and he thought they had very strange notions of the relationship subsisting between employers and the large numbers whom they employed; now, he should like those who had an idea that these things were not as they ought to be in this part of the country, to be present at such a meeting as that; and if they could only see the large mass of intelligent faces, of smiling and happy countenances around them on that occasion, he thought they would think it a very good thing indeed to be in the north of England, and to be in connexion some way

way or other with what were called the manufacturing interests. He was speaking now on behalf of the bishops and clergy of the diocese, and, though speaking as one of the clergy, and though it might be thought selfish or professional, yet he was convinced of this, that the people of this country had no better friends than the clergy of the Church of England," and so on. If the Committee will allow me, I will just read what I said in reply to the vicar, and then we shall have done with this; this was unpremeditated, both on the part of the vicar and myself, and I am sorry that your Lordship was not there; you were invited:—"James Hardcastle, Esq., on rising to acknowledge the compliment, was greeted with a renewed outburst of applause. He spoke to the following effect:—I do not suppose that you will all know who the gentleman is that has done me the honour to propose my health, and who has spoken so many plain truths, and in so very good-humoured a way; it is the new vicar of Bolton, Mr. Powell (loud cheers). I cannot wish him a better wish than that he may be a better vicar than the old one (hear, hear); his presence here to-day, and the manner in which he has addressed you, and the words that have fallen from his lips, I think, augur well for the future, as regards our vicar (cheers). I, as the father of the young man whom we have all met to honour this day, will make a similar wish for him to that I have made for the new vicar, that he may be a better man than his father (loud cheers, the company rising and applauding). I believe that the trade that he is bound to follow is one of his own choosing. It was not exactly my choosing that I came to be a bleacher. I came out of duty to my father, because he wished me. It is 40 years since, and I will tell you this, that if I had to do it again I would not change my trade (hear, hear). I believe there is no trade, taking it upon the whole, in connexion with the cotton manufacture, where there is more generous freedom, more good-will betwixt master and man, more good-will amongst the men themselves, or where there are honester lads or bonnier lasses (enthusiastic applause). And then again, if a young fellow wants a day's hunting, he has nothing to do but get the "night lump" and he can have it (laughter); and he will be none the worse for his "night lump," and none the worse for his exercise, though rather stiff when he has done it (hear, hear, and renewed laughter); I say this, because there are other branches of our manufacture in which there are no such opportunities of freedom and the true enjoyment of life; and therefore I say for myself, if I had life to begin again I would not choose another trade (hear, hear); and I am happy, indeed, that my son has chosen this trade. Now the gentleman that has done us the honour to preside to-day is Mr. James Ormrod, a name connected with that of Hardcastle, in business more than 60 years; and throughout the whole period of that time, I venture to say, the names have never been dishonourably connected, or engaged in any dishonourable transaction (hear, hear). He has kindly come forward to-day to preside over this company, and I am infinitely obliged to him." Now I have read this, I have told you what the vicar says about the intelligent appearance of my workpeople; I have told you what the editor says about their personal appearance, and what I think myself; I have read what I said before them; and if I were a tyrant and an oppressor, if I were what I have been called, is it possible that I could have said this before all those people?

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5477. Does that report which you have read to the Committee proceed from any reporter of the press whom you engaged to be present on that occasion?—I had nothing to do with this; I believe that our people sent to the different newspapers on different sides of the question, to say that they should be glad if they would send a reporter; there was a reporter there, I believe, from the "Examiner and Times," of Manchester, and another from the "Manchester Courier," I think I saw, and I had their papers sent me; I think the "Manchester Guardian" declined to send one; the "Examiner and Times" has taken up the cause in favour of legislation on this question; but the account there given of the appearance of the people is infinitely more flattering than what is in the Bolton paper.

5478. Without any influence at all from you?—No influence whatever, not the slightest.

5479. The "Manchester Guardian," I believe, is not in favour of legislation?—It is not in favour of legislation; it is opposed to it.

5480. Will you tell the Committee what you consider to be the average hours of labour in your bleaching and dyeing-works and the finishing departments?—I

J. Hardcastle, Esq. gave to Mr. Tremenheere a table of wages in 1854; it is at page 105 of the report of the Evidence.

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5481. *Chairman.*] That is in the Appendix?—In the Appendix.

5482. *Mr. Cheetham.*] That shows the number of days' wages, and the number of working days in each month?—Yes; I gave him this table, beginning "Number of working days." What is put before it is Mr. Tremenheere's view. He says, "Table showing the number of days' wages (calculated to be earned in about eight hours) made in one of the principal bleach-works in the neighbourhood of Bolton, by each set of workpeople employed, beyond or below the number of the working days in each month." Now I think it would be totally impossible for me to write anything so utterly void of meaning or grammar, as I was taught it at the grammar school at Bolton, as that sentence; I can make nothing of it. What I gave him, began, "Number of working days per month."

5483. What are the average hours of labour in your works; that table, I suppose, will supply an answer to that question?—That table shows an average which would not exactly be an answer to your question, and therefore I wish to explain to the Committee, that which this thing of Mr. Tremenheere's does not explain. This shows each description of labour; Mr. Kirk will find beetlers near the bottom of it, working upon machines similar to the model which we saw the other day. He will find that in January 1854, my beetlers only earned 8½ days; February, 23; March, 27½; April, 25½; May, 19½; June, 22½; July, 21½; August, 27; September, 27½; October, 22; November, 12½; December, 15.

5484. The average being 20 days 10 hours per month?—Yes, that is the number of days' wages earned; but it is not the number of hours worked per day; this means the average of days' wages earned; but my lads will come to their work at five o'clock in the morning, and will come off at one o'clock, with a day and a half's wages in their pockets, earned in eight hours.

5485. *Mr. Kirk.*] They work by the piece?—Yes; I called the attention of Mr. Tremenheere to men who were going off; I said, "Go and talk to them, they are fine lads;" he would not go near them. They were going off to make their arrangements for the next day, with a day and a half's wages in their pockets; they were fine vigorous lads as ever you saw in your life. I said to Mr. Tremenheere, "Go and speak to them;" no, that did not suit his book at all. You will see by what is here stated, that the prices are calculated so as to enable the worker to earn a day's wage within eight hours, whenever skill or much strength is required. Now the prices by which these earnings were made were established in 1830; I have never altered them since. This is the list (*referring*) and I wish, if possible, to make the honourable Committee understand it: this is the hiring of one person; these are the rules and regulations, and these the prices; the wages of labour of all the different descriptions of work.

5486. *Mr. Cheetham.*] So that when you hire a young person he is at the same time informed of the rate at which he is hired?—All is together.

5487. And those prices have been unchanged since 1830?—Yes; but, in answer to your question, the only mode of coming at it is by calculation; I know exactly in what time each sort and description of work can be done; and my belief is, that the average hours worked during 1854 did not reach 10½ hours per day.

5488. Upon each individual?—Yes, upon the whole of the persons employed; I have taken out the month of May this year, both at Firwood and at Bradshaw; that I believe does not reach 9½ hours at Firwood, nor more than 8 hours at Bradshaw. I believe that in May this year, the average hours of labour at Firwood would not exceed 9½, and at Bradshaw not 8 hours.

5489. Can you explain the difference between the two; why one should be longer than the other?—At Firwood we are mainly employed for shippers, and we have a very steady old, long-established connexion, and we are generally pretty well at work there. At Bradshaw I am more in the home trade, and I find that we cannot keep up quite so much work; but the reason I can hardly tell you; it is difficult to explain it.

5490. Have you any means of control over the hours of labour in your establishments; does it lie with you to make them long or short?—No, it does not indeed lie with me.

5491. Do you think that you could carry on your business upon a regular system under a restriction of 10 hours a day?—I am sure I could not. I think it perhaps desirable to say to the Committee, as you have asked me about the average time, and I have told you what it was in May, that I take stock every month

month. I can tell you more, namely, that in the month of May, the difference between receipts and disbursements was barely sufficient to pay rent and taxes. I have an account of all that I expend upon work which comes in, and all that I get for it. Rent and taxes I add myself; there was barely enough to pay rent and taxes; at Bradshaw, there was not enough to pay rent and taxes.

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5492. Is one cause of the irregularity of the hours in your business the fact of one process of manufacture waiting for another; do all your departments commence and close at the same period, or is there one process in the bleaching which has to wait for the completion of the previous one before the goods can arrive there?—That is necessarily the case from the very outset; the first thing done with the goods on getting to the works is that they are unloaded; they are next taken to the dressing or singeing-plate, they cannot be got to the singeing-plate till they are unloaded; the next thing is to get them to the steeping-holes, they cannot be got to the steeping-holes till after they are singed; and so on throughout every process, one waiting upon another, beginning in the morning with the unloading. Then, again, we will take dyeing: I dye a great deal to pattern; there is a change of atmosphere; the steam, instead of rising out of the dyehouse, stops in it; we cannot dye to pattern; we cannot accomplish it; we cannot see the same colour. I have had such things as brocades, a description of goods for China, done in imitation of silk, and which must be precise in their colour, attempted to be thrown upon my hands; I have had to make allowances for the merest change of shade; we therefore have to stop the pattern dyeing. The goods which are detained have to be got round to go with the lot, and perhaps they cannot be dyed out until the day after; part of the goods are previously dyed of a common colour, but the remainder must be pushed round to go with the lot, and somebody must stop to do it; that leads to an irregularity as to the time when the labour is done, which nothing can control or regulate.

5493. Are the people in your employment engaged upon piecework or upon day's wages?—They are engaged on piecework nearly altogether.

5494. Has that been an arrangement of some standing between you?—It has been an arrangement ever since before I went to the works, more than 40 years ago.

5495. Taking the scale of wages which you have arranged together, how many hours would it take to earn a fair day's wages?—When I made that list in 1830, I calculated that when persons had to use their hand and their head both, they ought to be able to earn a day's wages in eight hours, and I framed my list accordingly. But improvements in various ways, not merely in machinery, but in convenience, and in handing things about, have taken place, and it can be done in less time than that; 7½ and sometimes 7 hours; perhaps less than that, in some departments; but I have taken no advantage of that; the men have had all the advantage. I have not reduced my price in consequence.

5496. Those improvements have resulted in a benefit to the workmen?—Yes, they have it all.

5497. In the severest pushes which you are compelled to make for the execution of your orders, have your workpeople any intervals of time in which they are obliged to wait for their cloth?—Yes, inevitably.

5498. They are not working?—They are sitting there reading and sewing, and the lads go out and play at marbles, and things of that sort, and they amuse themselves. Some of the men will go under the fire-hole and smoke; we allow them to smoke in the fire-hole, and nowhere else, in my works; they may smoke there if they like till they cannot see.

5499. During the 40 years that you have been in the trade, have you ever had a complaint from any of your workpeople about having too much work and too long hours?—Never.

5500. Is the arrangement regarding their work and the hours of work very much a matter of their own settlement?—The work, so long as it is passing through the bleach, that is the whitening department, is tolerably systematic, and so I may say through the dyers. When we come to the finishing, especially after the cloth has become dry, the detail is left to the workpeople themselves mainly; I never interfere; they do it; they are interested in the same degree that I am; they work by the piece; if there is little for me, there is little for them; if there is little for them, there is little for me; we have a common interest, differing in degree. There is one distinction, namely, that I have all the loss to bear, and they have none of it.

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5501. Are the hours which they work at the present time, compared with past years, longer or shorter, upon the whole, do you think?—As compared with past years, they are much shorter, and the thing altogether has been gradually improving ever since I went to the works, as regards the workpeople.

5502. The Committee have had some evidence upon a department in the bleaching, to which their attention has been drawn, called the clamping-rooms; were these rooms objectionable, in your opinion; will you state to the Committee what view you have upon that subject?—I thought that they were objectionable from the very first; this is rather an important point; I should like to state the history of this clamping, for it is in that description of finish where those high temperatures are spoken of. I believe that now everything which was objectionable is removed, perhaps not at all works, but I know that it is entirely removed at some; I contemplate going again into that finish myself.

5503. You have not had an opportunity, I think, of seeing the evidence to which I refer, given before the Committee, about these clamping-rooms?—I have not had an opportunity of seeing any evidence given before this Committee, except that of Mr. Tremenheere on the first day, for which I paid a short-hand writer, as it was refused by the Committee.

5504. Will you explain how those clamping-rooms are superseded?—It was not until Crompton invented the Hall-o'-the-Wood wheel, the mule, (and I live at his birth-place where he invented it) that we could manufacture cambrics and muslins in this country. We began to manufacture them in the neighbourhood of Bolton; the cambric was an imitation of French linen, and the muslin was an imitation of an Indian cotton. Then the question was, how to finish these goods? They had long tables made (I have some of them now), and the pieces were laid upon the table, and the women smoothed them with smoothing irons; that was the beginning. To keep this cloth straight on the table, they got what they called clamps which laid hold of the selviges.

5505. That led to the designation of clamping-rooms?—Yes; the clamps were things about six or eight inches long, which caught the selvice on each side, and stretched the cambric out upon the table. Then they got to finishing the cambrics with calenders, but they continued the finishing of muslins with these clamps, but took the tables away. The cloth was stretched in its width in these clamping-frames; pins were put on the edge of them instead of the iron clamps, similar to the way in which book-muslin is done in Scotland, and the muslins were stretched upon the pins; there was heat applied beneath, for the purpose of drying them. The object was to dry them whilst they were in that stretched out state, so that they would remain in that condition when dried; there were fans under the cloth which did not do much good; they merely disturbed the air. There was a want of ventilation, and the work was very oppressive, I thought, to those engaged in it; whenever I went into that place I wanted to get out of it again. Mr. Bridson invented and took out a patent for an improvement upon the clamping part, and he gave the cloth an oscillating motion whilst it was in the course of drying, instead of standing, whilst stretched out, and thereby it was clearer in the threads, just upon the principle that you see a woman set a cap-border upon an iron, from which he took the idea, I believe. Mr. Ainsworth, in order to get as near as he could to this finish of Mr. Bridson's, without, as he thought, invading the patent, began to move one side of his clamp-frames backwards and forwards, the other standing still, and he got the oscillation motion in that way. I sent for Mr. Bridson, and I said, "Now, I think of going into that patent Victoria finish of yours; what will you charge me?" I could make nothing of him. He did not want me to do it; he wanted to keep it to himself as much as he could, I suppose. He went to see my clamp-frames: I said, "Now, if I go into the thing, it is with this view." There was Morand's patent for a continuous motion whilst drying; the cloth was stretched on leathern straps, with hooks, and passed continuously forward whilst it was being dried. I told Mr. Bridson that my intention was to unite Morand's patent and his own, to let the cloth be progressing and oscillating at the same time. I could not agree with him, and therefore I gave up clamping altogether. Mr. Bridson adopted this idea, and made his machines progressive; we have talked about it from time to time: we are very good friends, and I suggested to him to have a glass screen at each end of his stove, where this progressive motion took place, and where the cloth was being dried and finished, and to dry with a stream of hot air forced by a fan into the place, so that the workers would be at each end, one receiving the cloth at that end,

end, and the other delivering it at this, in a cool atmosphere, whereas the cloth would be drying as hot as you please, this hot place being supplied with a stream of hot air. Mr. Bridson made an improvement upon this idea of mine, by forcing cold air through a hot cockle, which is the same thing, into this place. If an accident happens to the cloth, and the person has to go in, though the air is very hot, it is not oppressive, because it is fresh; but it is only in case of accident that a person will have to go in. Therefore everything objectionable in that, of which so much has been said, as to these excessive temperatures, is, I believe, obviated.

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5506. Mr. Kirk.] Have you seen the American patent?—No.

5507. They have copper cylinders seven or eight feet in diameter, with that description of hook which keeps the cloth out as you have described it?—I have not seen that; I should like to see it very much; every objection is obviated now, without that.

5508. Mr. Cheetham.] Is that objection obviated by what is called the Swiss mode?—Yes; they call it Swiss now; the old name was clamp; I do not know why it is now called Swiss.

5509. So that the result is, that by the improvements which you have just described, the strong objections have been removed in the clamping-rooms?—I do not believe that every one has removed them.

5510. But they are capable of being removed?—Yes; I mean to say that there is no need of legislation with regard to those places, any more than others.

5511. What do you say as to the drying stoves in your establishments?—They are now heated by steam; I have made preparation for heating one of them by hot air, which I believe will be an improvement.

5512. Are any females employed in them?—No; I do not know that a female ever goes into them; the heat seldom exceeds 80 degrees; we do not like to parch the cloth in drying.

5513. Have the boys any necessity of going amongst your stoves when the steam is on?—No; we hang the cloth from a stave higher than this room; when the cloth comes down, it will get all of a heap at the bottom, and a lad just comes, and with his finger, as it is falling down, keeps it out, that is all he does. We do not hang the cloth whilst the stove is hot; if the stove were hot, a partial state of dryness would take place before the cloth got to the bottom, and there would be ugly creases made.

5514. Have you any females employed in your beetling rooms?—Not any.

5515. Have you any children as young as 9 or 10, employed in the plating?—No, never; and upon that head, probably, this may be a proper time to make this explanation to the Committee. It will be observed that at Firwood, I have one female under 13; at Bradshaw, I have none. I did not know that I had a female under 13 at Firwood, or at Bradshaw either. I wrote on Saturday to know the reason of that girl being employed at Firwood; and this is the answer which I received: "Firwood Works, Bolton, Lancashire, July 5th, 1857. Sir,—The girl at Firwood, whose age is from 11 to 13 years, is employed in the making-up set as a hooker. She is the daughter of Reuben Laithwaite, who is a maker-up in the same set. She was taken in by Mr. Wood, through the importunate entreaties of her parents, her father having been from work some time through sickness, in consequence of which, his wife and family became very much reduced; consequently, she was taken in, in hope of her being some little assistance to them." I asked about a boy there who is between 10 and 11, and as to him, the letter says, "The boy whose age is from 10 to 11 years, is employed to stand behind the white mangles to look for wires." Some of the manufacturers are very careless, and send wires from the shuttle ends; and we are obliged to have a lad standing by to see that they do not damage the cloth.

5516. That is his occupation?—Yes. "He is the son of the late John Rostron, waggoner, who got killed a few years ago." We have only, I think, six or eight waggons, and we have killed more waggons than we have all the rest of our people put together. "He also was taken in by Mr. Wood, in consequence of his mother being a widow, and having a large family to bring up. The above is a correct account of the girl and boy alluded to." Then you will find that there is a boy between 10 and 11 at Bradshaw, but no girl under 13. This is the answer as to that case: "Bradshaw Cottage, near Bolton, 5th July 1857. Sir,—In reply to your inquiry of yesterday, the boy from 10 to 11 years old works in the white patent stove; his work is pelting or straightening the corners of the cloth when

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hanging in the stove; his name is James Collier, son of John Collier, millwright, who works here; the boy has only worked about three weeks. I was not aware till Wednesday last that we had one on the works so young; he was engaged and brought on the works by Mr. Greenhalgh, I believe; the counting-house or myself were never apprised of the matter." So that we have only one female under 13, and only two boys between 10 and 11, and they are accounted for.

5517. I think you stated, in answer to a question which I put to you, relating to the stoves, that no boys remained in those drying-stoves?—No; the only evil is, that they have little to do; that is the worst thing for them.

5518. What is your opinion as to the practicability of restricting the employment in your works to 10 hours, as in the case of the Factory Act?—I say that it is utterly impracticable; it is utterly impossible, and I may perhaps give one or two reasons. Without giving any opinion as to the propriety of legislating with a view to regulate factory labour, I would wish the Committee to consider that factory labour, that is to say, the spinning and weaving, is purely mechanical; they must recollect that the spinner and manufacturer can have his cotton if he likes, by paying for it (they sometimes get it without paying), and he can go on spinning; he can hoard up stock if he has capital, and if he has not capital he can hoard up stock, he can put it in the hands of a commissioner, and draw upon it. He has the means, in one way or another, of continuous labour, both by reason of the occupation being mechanical, and by reason of his being the master of the whole affair. Now, as a bleacher, dyer and finisher, I am just in the opposite position: I am not the servant of those who employ me; my case is that of the employer and employed. I like to draw the distinction, because I speak of myself and those who work for me as master and servant. My employers send me cloth to deal with, just at their own convenience; they never study mine, they never did, and never will; they sometimes send me cloth without any orders whatever, and I cannot touch it till I get the orders; it lies there grey. They sometimes send me cloth with very pushing orders; I must start there and then; these orders will some of them require every imaginable shade of colour to be dyed, some very heavy, requiring days to get through the dyeing, and others very light, requiring minutes almost, or very short periods. In the white cloth they require different modes of stiffening; they require different modes of finishing; they require different modes of folding, and ornamenting, and papering; they require different modes of stamping, and any mistake in any one piece throws back the whole lot, or holds it fast rather; for every piece is examined before it goes into the press. If there is any piece found that is unmerchantable, or not strictly according to order, it has to go back and to be made so, and to come again; the rest of the goods are there waiting. We must have people to do those things; that is to say, to re-bleach and re-finish anything that is unmerchantable when it gets to the press, or we must send unmerchantable goods abroad, which is a thing that I hope never to be engaged in doing.

5519. Then you find, practically, that the merchant always gives you the least possible time for the completion of the order?—No, I do not say that; what I say to my customers is this, "Give us the longest day that you can, and we will not disappoint you." I could mention houses in Manchester for whom I have done work for 30 years, who have never been disappointed of a day or an hour, acting upon that understanding; but it sometimes happens that it is a very short day, and with some houses it is because they cannot help it; large orders come from abroad, and they say, We must have so-and-so by such a ship, and the goods must go, or the order is lost.

5520. And you have not disappointed them, because you have arranged to do the work?—Because I have made my arrangements accordingly; I have good hearty honest workpeople about me, and they thrive under the thing, and I get the work done.

Martis, 7^o die Julii, 1857.

MEMBERS PRESENT.

Mr. Baxter.
Mr. Cheetham.
Mr. Clark.
Mr. Cobbett.
Mr. Dalglissh.
Mr. Davison.

Mr. Kirk.
Lord John Manners.
Mr. Massey.
Lord Naas.
Mr. Packe.
Mr. Turner.

LORD JOHN MANNERS, IN THE CHAIR.

James Hardcastle, Esq., called in ; and further Examined.

5521. Mr. Cheetham.] IT has been mentioned to the Committee that the increased facilities afforded by steam has rendered the pressure upon the bleacher to have his goods completed within the given time less necessary than formerly was the case, because if they were not ready for one vessel, they would be dispatched by another immediately going after. Do you think that that state of things has practically lessened the pressure upon you by limiting their orders?—I could scarcely answer that question in a direct manner. Formerly, many of our pushes were occasioned by this, that we bleached for the manufacturers; the market day was on the Tuesday at Manchester, and they must have their goods in on the Tuesday, or they lost their market. Then at that time the orders for shipping were not so extensive as now, but still they were as pushing as now, and I do not see that they are less imperative at this moment than ever they were. There is one gentleman who has given evidence in favour of legislation, for whom I have bleached 30 years, a shipper in Manchester, whose orders have always been the same for the goods to be delivered in six days or eight days, or ten days, whatever it might be, with an understanding that he would give us the longest day he could, and we have never disappointed him for 30 years, until the agitation on short time commenced, when our workpeople got a little unhinged and discipline was relaxed, and we did disappoint him, and being disappointed, he sent his goods elsewhere.

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5522. Do you, notwithstanding the argument adduced of the increased facilities for shipping, find that the pressure upon you for completing within a certain time is as great as it was formerly?—It is just the same.

5523. Do not you think that would arise from the fact that it is of equal importance, notwithstanding these increased facilities of shipment, that the merchant should be able to get the goods furnished in by a particular time, and he is necessarily anxious to be first in the market, if possible?—If the Bombay season was on, we will suppose for a particular class of goods dyed three colours, green, orange and purple, if they miss a ship, they miss a season; and every man is anxious to get the goods into his ship; and probably he sends patterns overland of the goods before the goods are shipped, and they are probably sold to arrive, and if we do not push and complete the order, according to the order, there would be confusion all the way from Bombay to Manchester, including bills perhaps drawn upon London, purchase of produce, and I know not what.

5524. And the result is, that they push your work so as to get them in time?—You find that nothing can provide for occasional hard-working, this impossibility of mere mechanical action.

5525. It has been stated, I think by one of the factory inspectors, that where a factory and bleach-works have been contiguous, the boys have been employed jointly in the two; have you known any instances of that kind?—I never heard of it till Mr. Tremenheere mentioned it the other day.

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5526. Do you think it necessary, then, that in bleach-works they should have more robust persons for making up and finishing than in the calender-houses, warehouses, and packing-houses at Manchester, where there are similar kinds of employment?—Not at all, but I think the reverse; for the air is so much purer with us, and the water is so much better, and I think the sewage is altogether so much better, the rooms they work in are so much more spacious and airy, and the whole thing is so much better, that a weakly person might stand the work with us who would sink under it at Manchester in their calender-houses and packing-up rooms.

5527. The same class of employment existing in both cases?—Yes; precisely the same class, calendering, finishing, and packing-up.

5528. Does Mr. Tremenheere in his report allude to some six or eight girls, whom he observed in your works when he was passing through with you, as looking rather poorly?—He does; it was thus: I first saw Mr. Tremenheere there, I think, on the 9th of January, it was either the 9th or the 10th, and he walked through my works. Christmas begins with us on New Year's-day, as you are aware; New Year's-day was on a Sunday that year, so that it only began on Monday, and there were of course two or three or four days of festivity and idleness; then there would necessarily be some getting ready to work, and fetching up the lost work; it was on the Wednesday, I think, he was at my works, the next Wednesday but one after New Year's-day, and in passing through I observed, as I thought, six girls that looked rather seedy, and Mr. Tremenheere observed them; he counted them as eight, which I could not do; two of them were girls of about 13, the other two were girls of from 13 to 24; there were four girls working together, two of whom were those that looked a little poorly, and the other two were as robust looking as any two girls I ever saw. Mr. Tremenheere immediately pounced upon the two that looked poorly; he took no notice of those that looked well; but I said, "These two are hearty, why do not you question them?" he did not say a word to them. All those were in one room, in the making-up room at Firwood. I do not know that he alluded to any other person that was anything but well-looking in my works, except those six or eight.

5529. Can you refer to Mr. Tremenheere's allusion to those girls?—It is in his print of my evidence, page 20: "I cannot say that I like to see such young girls at work as the four we saw to-day in the finishing department, about and under 13 years of age. I have no personal interest in employing them, neither do I wish any girl under 13 to be in my works. This is in reference solely to my own works as at present carried on." "The number of females throughout the works is 36, and, with the exception of the six or eight before mentioned, they are in robust health." Allow me to say, that when I stated this to Mr. Tremenheere I had not had an opportunity of inquiring how it was that those six girls were looking poorly. In those six or eight are included the four at the age of 13. I said to the foreman a few days afterwards, "What is to do with these lasses, they looked so poorly the other day;" he asked, "Was it when that great mon frø' Lon'on was going through th' works? Why," he says, "they had not got o'er their Christmas." That was the answer I got, and the explanation.

5530. I think you stated to Mr. Tremenheere that your own wishes were that none under 13 should be employed in your works; do you still retain that opinion?—I do still, as you will have observed from the list of those at present employed; I have only one girl under 13 in both of my works. I explained to him that I did not like seeing girls under 13 years of age in my works, as I did not like it. There was a time when I gave some orders in reference to that, which I will explain hereafter.

5531. In Mr. Tremenheere's report he has stated that all the masters, as well as the workpeople, were in favour of some amount of legislative interference; have you stated that to him as being your opinion?—Never.

5532. Have you ever at any time wavered in your views as to the propriety or impropriety of legislation?—Never for a moment.

5533. When he came to your works did he examine several of the workpeople?—Yes, he questioned them.

5534. Did he appear to conduct the examination in what you considered a fair mode, or were his questions what are generally styled leading questions?—At the time I did not think much of it; but after he was gone, putting things together, I
came

came to this conclusion, from observing his manner, and from hearing his questions, and from perceiving that if there was anything which militated against his desire for legislation he left it alone, and that if there was anything that appeared at all calculated to serve his purpose for legislation he pounced upon it; I remember one thing that occurred; some of them had on old boots that buttoned up at the side.

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5535. Were those boys?—No, girls. The buttons were broken. One girl had tied like a sandal to the boot a piece of rag, and he pounced upon it; he thought it was a rag for a sore foot, and the girl laughed at him. And another thing I mentioned yesterday; he would not go near those young lads from 18 to 21, who were going from their work at one o'clock, having come to the works at six, and earned a day and a half's wages. Another thing, it was close to the dinner-hour; there was a boy at the works, and I said, "That boy does not work here; do not take him as a sample; he is from a family of hand-loom weavers, and he has brought some of them their dinner." I said, "You will find that his brother is at my works, and earns his bread here." Mr. Tremeneere took no notice, and I came to this conclusion, that his conduct was that of a man in search of a case, and determined to make a case if he could not find one.

5536. That is, he led you to suppose his mind was made up upon the case that he was sent to investigate?—Clearly. When I came to reason with myself, and inquire and examine by myself into his various words and acts, I came to the conclusion, as I tell you, it was even worse than that. (He was determined to make a case if he could not find one).

5537. How do you engage these young people in your works?—The females mostly come with their relatives—with parents or brothers, as it may be, and we have no engagement whatever with them. They are paid by the list, as in that book which I have handed in to the Committee.

5538. That book shows the nature of the dealings that you have with them?—Yes, and the mode of payment. Everything is done by the piece, and every person is rated at so much per day, rated wages; everything in degree. I think for a full-grown woman, at 7 s.; for one in authority, at 8 s.; and the boys and the men vary all the way up. And then their money is divided *pro rata*, that is, according to their rated day's wages; the entire earnings of the set are divided among them, according to the rate at which they stand in the book.

5539. That is to say, the week's wages of a woman will be 7 s. or 8 s., and if she is worked overtime, she is paid *pro rata*?—Yes; this is the list which they have had ever since 1830. The young boys at 13 have 4 s. a week, and it goes on from 4 s. 6 d., 5 s., 7 s., 8 s., 9 s., 11 s.; then we have another list, inferior, beginning at 3 s., 4 s. 6 d., 5 s. 6 d., 6 s. 6 d., 7 s., 8 s., 8 s. 6 d., 10 s. We have had very few boys on the lower list. I put that on for this reason: I said, "If there is any lad who cannot read and write, let him have less, and then he will try to do better." That is the origin of this low list; I do not think I have had half-a-dozen on it.

5540. Will you explain to the Committee what hours, according to that list, you consider to be a day's employment?—That list I made in 1830; it was after a grand turn out, and I was determined that I would never have another as long as I lived, if I could help it. I made out that list with very great care; I had nothing else to do during the turn out, and I took for my basis that each individual should be able to earn full wages in eight hours steady labour, comfortably, where both the head and hands were required, where anything like skill was required; but where it was mere common labour, nine hours was the basis of my calculation. Since then, improvements have been made, and facilities for getting through work have been created; machinery has been improved, processes have been improved; and I should think now that the one would be done in seven hours, and the other perhaps in eight hours and a half; but I have given that advantage to the workpeople.

5541. Have you ever considered the effect of foreign competition upon your business in connexion with legislation?—As to foreign competition, as regards myself, I have felt its effects. I may mention one case among many: formerly I had a very large trade with Flanders, before the disruption, when Holland and Flanders were one. I was then bleaching 200,000 pieces a month for the market, to be sold in a white state to the consumers. I could scarcely go in Belgium past any shop but there was more or less of my bleach in it. Now, I could not find a

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piece of it in Belgium or Holland. A great many other markets went the same way, and they are getting it done amongst themselves.

5542. What has superseded your bleach there?—Their own.

5543. Is there any competition by the bleachers in Ireland or Scotland?—I never call it competition if it is with any person of my own country; but I had a very good trade in beetling at one time, and my friend Mr. Kirk and others seem to have taken it from me. A great many goods go from Manchester to Ireland in a rough state, and they are dyed and beetled, and they come back to Manchester to be sold; they formerly came to me in the rough state; they have beaten me in this; and in Scotland there is a considerable friendly competition, especially in dyeing, and in dyeing for India more than for other places. I formerly had goods from Glasgow to dye and to bleach that went back to Glasgow to be shipped, or went to the merchants in Liverpool; now goods go from Manchester to those places to be dyed and bleached, and come back to Liverpool to be shipped.

5544. I think you employ several agricultural labourers; what opinion do you entertain as to their position and condition in comparison with those who are engaged in bleach-works?—I bought an estate near Wynnstay four years ago; I have 600 or 700 acres upon my hands now; I found that they were an impoverished set of people, and I thought that if Ireland were worse than what I found there I should run away; but they have been trained, and set to work since then. When I talked to a neighbouring squire, he said that he had only three women that would grow turnips, and he never had been able to get more to do it. I have 12 good workwomen; I have them got into the way of it now; they are well fed, well clad, and well housed; they have their children's school wages in their pockets, and they pay the schoolmistress, and pay their own way, because I introduced among them the same system of discipline as at present existing among the workpeople in Lancashire.

5545. Do you consider that the position of the workpeople in Lancashire is a preferable one as regards the agricultural labourers?—They would be very sorry indeed to change. At harvest time I have had eight or ten out of Lancashire for shearing and harvest time down, but none of them would like to stop. As to the employment of women in the open air at turnip hoeing, and that kind of work, when the weeds arrive at a certain state, it must be done; there must be a push there as well as in the bleaching; the weeds must be cleared away, or the turnips are gone.

5546. Are long hours in existence there also?—Yes, and pushes and hard work occasionally; it must be done whether it is raining or not, unless the ground has got so moist that it would puddle. And there is no shelter from the rain with them as there is in our bleach-works; and there is as fresh air in the bleach-works as there is in the fields.

5547. With regard to Mr. Tremenheere's visit to your district; did he upon coming put himself in communication with you, or how did you ascertain his arrival there?—I heard in the first week of 1855 that there was a Commissioner from London, and I inquired if anybody could tell me what was his name; I could not get to know his name; but some one said that Mr. Ainsworth knew him, or knew something of him or of his family. And I said, "Is he a gentleman," and he said, "Yes, Mr. Ainsworth believes he is a gentleman;" and I said, "That is right; then we will treat him as such." And on Tuesday evening, which would be the second Tuesday, the 8th of January, on the railway platform at Manchester, I was told there was Mr. Tremenheere, going with Mr. Bridson to stay all night, and to commence work in the morning, and that he was this new Commissioner. Mr. Bridson asked me if I would go and take supper with him, to which I consented. After supper, in consequence of what had passed between me and the Home Office previously, having been referred by the Home Office to the Commissioner for a view of his commission, I intimated to Mr. Tremenheere that I should like to see his commission; I did it as politely as I could, without absolutely asking him for it. I asked him if his inquiry embraced everything that was included in Lord Shaftesbury's Bill, that is the Bill which was withdrawn in 1854, when Lord Palmerston, who was then Home Secretary, stated to the House that it was impossible to legislate upon the subject at so late a period of the Session (the Bill had only been brought before the House on the 17th of July), but that there should be inquiry about it; he would not pledge himself as to what sort of inquiry, but that there should be inquiry. In consequence of that, I had communication

munication with the Home Office, and I asked for the copy of Mr. Tremenheere's commission. Mr. Tremenheere went out of the room, as I thought, to bring his commission; but instead of that he brought a copy of the Bill, and led me to understand that his inquiry embraced everything included in the Bill (Lord Shaftesbury's Bill). He also told me that he was appointed by Lord Palmerston. Afterwards, on referring to his book, to my surprise I found that his commission authorised him to go no further than "to make due inquiry how far it may be advisable to extend the provisions of the Acts for the better regulation of mills and factories to bleaching-works established in certain parts of our United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland." Now this Bill (Lord Shaftesbury's Bill) goes to the dyeing-works, and various things; it is very extensive in its operation; whereas the commission extended only to bleaching-works. I also found that his commission was signed by Sir George Grey, and not by Lord Palmerston.

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5548. Did you afford Mr. Tremenheere every facility for visiting your works?—Every facility I possibly could; I showed him every attention which was due to any person holding her Majesty's commission.

5549. Had you any application for Mr. Cobbett to visit your works?—I had; I had a letter from some person calling himself the secretary to the Short-time Bleachers' Committee, asking permission for Mr. Cobbett and others to look through my works. I wrote to say that I should have great pleasure in seeing Mr. Cobbett or any other Member of Parliament, but that I could not give permission to unknown and unnamed individuals, and I have reason to know that the man got my reply.

5550. You did not object to Mr. Cobbett himself seeing your works?—Not at all; I said I should be glad to see Mr. Cobbett, or any other Member of Parliament.

5551. I think you have extended your invitation to all the Members of this Committee?—My son was celebrating his coming of age, and I thought it would be a nice opportunity for seeing the whole of the people together, and talking to them; and I thought that if the Members of the Committee could have come down and have mixed with the people, they would have got to know all about them, and with a great deal less trouble than sitting here. I gave this invitation: "Firwood and Bradshaw, near Bolton, 4th June 1857: Sir, — Being the person employing, I believe, a larger number of workpeople than any other individual in bleaching, dyeing and finishing, I do not apologise when asking that you and other Members of your honourable Committee will proceed to my works, and there judge for yourselves. An opportunity of seeing all my work-folks together will occur on Monday next, when my son (having attained his majority) will give a dinner to them at Bradshaw, at three o'clock, and he would feel much honoured by your company, and that of any others of the honourable Members of your Committee; and on the following days of the week you and the other honourable Members may have opportunities of seeing the people at work in my own and in others of the bleaching, dyeing and finishing works in the locality of Bolton and Manchester. I have the honour to be, &c. &c.—James Butt, Esq., Chairman of Committee on Bleaching and Dyeing Works." I ought to say Mr. Cobbett never came, nor did any Member of the Committee come, or any Member of Parliament.

5552. We have had evidence given before the Committee of young children having been compelled by influence used upon their parents to enter the bleaching-works; is that the case in your works?—On one occasion I did so, and I think I ought to tell the Committee why I did it. The Committee will observe, that I have decreased the number of young girls in my establishment, and that I have only one now even of that age, even in both my works. About seven years ago there was a case tried before me and Mr. Bowling, formerly member for Bolton, whom I think every man respected. It was the case of a man of about 60 years of age, who had debauched three young girls from 11 to 13 years old; it was clear that this man had debauched these girls in the presence of each other. The depositions were very carefully taken; the charge was rape, but we found that there was no case to go to a jury; there was a great desire, in my mind, to send the case to a jury for assault, but I found that Mr. Bowling thought that there was no case for a jury. We then consulted with another magistrate, and Mr. Hulton, of Hulton; we heard it in a private room while he was in the public room; but he had heard part of the case, and he was of Mr. Bowling's opinion, that, looking to the depositions, there was no case for a jury. I afterwards regretted that we did not

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deal with the case summarily for a common assault, and fine the man 5*l.* for each case. There was no doubt whatever as to the offence having been fully perpetrated upon two of the girls, who were above 12; but there was doubt as to the complete perpetration upon the one who was between 11 and 12. We could have dealt with the case summarily, and fined him 5*l.* for an assault in each case, but I did not think of it at the time; I was too much disgusted to think of anything of the sort. Talking about it afterwards, Mr. Bowling said, "I wish with all my heart that Lord Shaftesbury could see the copy of these depositions."

5553. Did this lead you to make any remark about young people working?—Yes; I inquired from a respectable person in the neighbourhood how this came to pass, as the man was a shopkeeper, and a man in a respectable station in life; and his answer was, "I think these girls had nothing to do; they will not have them in the factory, because they are under 13, and they were idling about; and this man had been giving them sweets, and so on; it came about in this way." "Well," I said, "if one of these girls had a brother or father or somebody working in the coal pits, they had better go down the pits and work there, than be idling about, and coming to this mischief." But the man said, "Well, but they will not let them come into the coal-works; they cannot do so." From this remark, and from reflecting upon this case when I was with my foreman, I said, "I was thinking that I had done wrong in saying that I will not have any young people under 13; if there are any children from 11 to 13 who are idling about and doing nothing, we must give them something to do," not telling him my reason. He mentioned one or two; and when I found that their parents would not send them, because they found it more convenient to keep them at home and send them about on errands, and what not, I said, "If you will not let them come to work, you shall go about your business; I will not have them idling about." That was the cause of my threatening to discharge the parents if they would not send their children to work between 11 and 13.

5554. I believe that the master bleachers of Lancashire and Cheshire are most of them against any legislative interference?—Yes.

5555. Petitions have been presented from nearly all engaged in the trade?—Yes. It was reported to us that the Honourable Member for Bolton, Mr. Crook, had said to Lord Palmerston that the masters were in favour of legislation; but I am not able to ascertain who they were, because this memorial was drawn up, and sent to a number of persons for signature, and I am not aware of any one to whom it was sent having refused to sign it. There are 33 firms there; it says, "That your memorialists, and the master bleachers generally," (that is, speaking not only for themselves, but for others) "are most decidedly opposed to such a measure, being satisfied that the immense property and capital necessarily employed in the trade would be seriously injured, and that injury and loss would also be sustained by the workpeople."

5556. *Chairman.*] What is the date of that memorial?—This was in July 1854.

5557. *Mr. Cheetham.*] Have you heard of any of the memorialists since that period having changed their opinion?—Not one, unless I have heard, but not from himself, that Mr. Eden, of the firm of Eden & Thwaites, having arranged his works, which are for mere bleaching for the market upon a system which originated in Belgium, and which I can explain by-and-by, thought that he could contrive to get through between six and seven, or something of that kind, and therefore he did not care much about it; with that exception, I have heard nothing but that they are all of the same mind.

5558. Will you hand that paper in?—

[*The same was handed in.*]

To the Right Honourable Lord Palmerston, Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the Home Department.

The Memorial of the undersigned Master Bleachers and Finishers of Cotton Cloth,
Showeth,

That your memorialists, whose works are situate in the vicinity of Manchester and Bolton, the principal locality in England where the trade of bleaching and finishing is carried on, have heard that your Lordship lately had an interview with a deputation from the committee of the operative bleachers and finishers, who are desirous that a 10 hours' Bill applicable to bleach-works shall be passed. That your memorialists and the master bleachers generally are most decidedly opposed to such a measure, being satisfied that the immense property and capital necessarily employed in the trade would be seriously injured,
and

and that injury and loss would also be sustained by the workpeople. That the application of a 10 hours' Bill to our works would increase the cost of bleaching and finishing; and as it is now only by the greatest care, industry and skill that we are enabled to compete with those countries (such as America, India, China, Holland and Germany) which are at present the great markets for our labour, your memorialists feel satisfied that the passing of this Bill would cause a great part of their business to be transferred to other countries, and that two millions of capital now employed would be injuriously affected. That the trade of bleaching and finishing is difficult to manage, and it differs from other branches of the cotton trade in this,—that the supply of goods to be bleached fluctuates, and during some portions of the year we are only partially employed, whilst at other times we have more work to do than could be accomplished if the hours of labour were restricted. That your memorialists are satisfied that the irregularity in the supply of cloth to be bleached and finished cannot be remedied in the way the promoters of this Bill seem to anticipate. That your memorialists deem it a matter of the greatest importance to remind your Lordship that the application of a 10 hours' Bill was considered by Government at the time the Printers' Bill was under consideration, in which Bill it was intended that bleach-works should be included, but when the case was fairly laid before Sir James Graham, the then Secretary for the Home Department, bleach-works were omitted. That your memorialists do not doubt that on inquiry your Lordship will find that the operative bleachers and finishers are amply remunerated for their labour, and are a healthy and hardy class of people. From the evidence of the most respectable medical practitioners, and the sick and burial societies, it is clear that the mortality in this branch of the cotton trade is lighter than in any other. That the forbidding by Act of Parliament the employment of children under 10 years of age in bleach-works is needless, as they are not required. That your memorialists humbly hope that your Lordship will not suffer this Bill to pass into a law.

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And your memorialists will ever pray, &c.

Gentlemen who have signed the memorial up to the present time.

R. Ainsworth, Son & Co.	William Makant.
Thomas Hardcastle & Son.	William Longworth.
Eaden & Thwaites.	James Hardcastle.
Blair & Summer.	Ridgway, Bridson & Son, Lever Bank.
Richard Bealey.	Richard Sykes & Co.
Thomas Ridway & Co.	Thomas G. Horridge.
Mortimer Lavater Tait.	Edward Hollins.
Henry Marsland.	Samuel Knight.
Lewis Merton.	John Whitehead.
Ridgway, Bridson, Son & Co.	The Trustees of J. Heyes, J. Marsden.
A. and H. Bleackley.	Thomas Holmes & Co.
Roger Taylor.	William Bleackley.
Thomas Appleton.	Rule & Davies.
Charles Whowell.	Barlow, Warburton & Hocker.
Hugh Roberts.	Chambers & Livsey.
Thomas Cross & Co.	Jon ^r Pendlebury, Son & Co.
G. and J. Slater.	

33 Firms.

Boys.	Girls.	Total.
9	8	4,052

5559. Did you ever leave Mr. Tremenheere in doubt as to your being opposed to legislation upon this subject?—No, I never did; if he had a doubt it was of his own imagining.

5560. Did you give Mr. Tremenheere any right to suppose that you thought the labour of bleaching and finishing required greater strength of constitution than the other kinds of occupation for the working classes in your district?—No, unless it arose from this, that in going through the works, and looking at the girls, we saw a young girl who was there for trial, more than for anything else; she was one of those six or eight whom I mentioned; and Mr. Tremenheere made some remark, and I said, "That girl ought not to be put to this kind of labour; her constitution is not suited for it." In fact, the girl was unsound; she had an apparent tendency to scrofula.

5561. Your remarks simply applied to that particular case?—Yes; that was the only reason I ever gave him for supposing it.

5562. Did not you meet Mr. Tremenheere afterwards at a meeting of the bleachers, at Manchester, in 1855, after the publication of his report, and his evidence?—I did.

5563. Had you any discussion with him upon the evidence which he had reported you to have given?—He had sent me the print of what he called my evidence; and the first time I saw him after receiving this print was at the com-

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mittee of master bleachers, at the Albion Hotel, at Manchester. Having read this print over I felt a little indignant, and I said, "Mr. Tremeneere, I have received your print; you have put words into my mouth that I never used; and I will not allow you or any man to do that, and you completely ignore the existence of my Bradshaw works." Those were the expressions I made use of, and I think I said something else; I then heard Mr. Tremeneere deny it. Mr. Blair was present, with Mr. Howarth; they are both here; and other gentlemen were also present.

5564. Did Mr. Tremeneere charge you with having repudiated your previous statement?—When I said that he had put words into my mouth which I had never used, he said, "I have them in writing; fortunately I have them in writing." "Yes," I said, "and fortunately I have a witness."

5565. Were there any variations in your statement?—Not a syllable; I have endeavoured to find an excuse for Mr. Tremeneere; and I think he might be referring simply to one paragraph in his report, No. 177, which I think may be some little excuse for him. This is what he imputes to me as having said: "Although I object to legislation, I should be glad indeed to see that no children under 11 are employed at all in the trades of bleaching and dyeing and finishing, and that no females under 18 should be employed otherwise than in the day, namely, half-past five in the morning and half-past eight at night, or should work more than 60 hours in any one week within those daily hours. The Legislature, in the Acts for regulating labour, has, I believe, established the hours from half-past five in the morning to half-past eight at night as constituting day-time." That remark applies to the factories, but in the print-works it is from 6 to 10; now whether Mr. Tremeneere imagined, from my having said this, that I was not averse to legislation, I do not know; but even this begins with saying: "Although I object to legislation, I should be glad indeed to see that no children under 11 are employed at all in the trades of bleaching, dyeing and finishing, and that no females under 18 should be employed otherwise than in the day." Now, I have accomplished that nearly, as will be seen from my lists, and if I can accomplish it, other people may accomplish it without legislation; in fact I deprecate legislation upon such a subject; I always did; and Mr. Tremeneere has nothing to justify his saying anything to the contrary.

5566. Do you wish to make any remarks upon the evidence given by one or two of the Manchester merchants to Mr. Tremeneere?—Since I came to London, and since I heard him the other day speak about the number of Manchester merchants who were in favour of legislation, having nothing else to do, I referred to the evidence given by Messrs. Schunk, Souchay & Co., whose firm I conclude was one of those he referred to. Now this firm is a most respectable firm; we sold goods to Mr. Schunk in the year of the battle of Leipsic, or the year after, and received money from them, and we have had an account with them from that day to this. They are very extensive merchants indeed, and very large shippers, most thorough men of business, and as systematic and regular as they can possibly be. They are of German origin. The report gives the answer of that firm to Mr. Tremeneere; and I had the curiosity to look to see what they had said, and here it is. I should like to read it, to show what he calls approving of legislation: "Messrs. Schunk & Souchay, Belfield Printing Company, Rochdale. We have bleach-works near Rochdale for bleaching fancy goods. As these depend upon fashion and season, the demand for them is irregular, and we are often consequently obliged to work overhours. Our goods go to all foreign markets, and are also for the home trade; they are fancy prints; we are liable to have sudden orders, which must be executed in a fixed time; our busiest time for the Australian trade is July, August and September; the busiest for the spring is November, December and January; we receive orders from the export merchants of Manchester, London, &c.; the busiest time is generally at the beginning of the season; all parties are generally anxious to get their orders executed by a certain day for certain steamers for all parts of the world. If an Act were passed limiting the hours for females and boys, and thus possibly for the whole, the delay caused by it would be the same for all; if the delay amounted to one-fourth of the present time, an order would take one-fourth more time to execute. There would be an inducement to the bleachers to extend their works, if they wished to keep up the present rate of production; they would have to enlarge their works. It might be very inconvenient to the smaller capitalists, who might not be able to do this, but in the end the same amount would be got through as at present, but at a greater

greater cost." Now that is their evidence, and he says it is in favour of legislation; but I cannot discover that it is in favour of legislation.

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5567. Do you wish to make any remark upon some evidence given by Mr. Waring to Mr. Tremenheere, reported in page 16 of the report, respecting a suggestion of yours?—It is put in this way: "The witness, John Waring, made the following comment upon it,"—that is, upon what I said,—“If Mr. Hardcastle's plan, or anything like it, were to be adopted, of allowing work to be done by females and boys between half-past five and half-past eight, but only 60 hours a week, the females and boys might have done their 60 hours in less than five days; that would be no benefit to the masters, because their machinery would be standing, and the drugs losing their strength the rest of the time.” Now, Mr. Tremenheere puts that flippant rubbish into that report in answer to my remark. Inconsequential as it is in every sentence, it merely shows how ready Mr. Tremenheere was to catch at any straw whatever in aid of his predetermination to legislation.

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5568. Have you any other remark to make upon this subject?—I should be happy to answer any other questions that may be put to me.

5569. *Mr. Packe.*] Do you know whether a shorthand writer attended Mr. Tremenheere when he went to collect his evidence?—No, none; I saw nothing of the kind.

5570. With reference to the question which the honourable Member put to you as regards working in the fields, is it usual in Lancashire for women to be employed in hoeing turnips?—I stated that I had an estate near Wynnstay, which is in Wales, on the River Dee, and not in Lancashire; but in some parts of Lancashire we grow very fine turnips:

5571. Are women employed in hoeing them?—Yes.

5572. Is it the usual practice that turnips as well as all other agricultural produce should be hoed by the piece, and not by the day?—I should say it was far more easy to hoe turnips by the piece, or to weed them by the piece; but they would be sure to be worse done; it is better to have a man whom you can depend upon to lead the women; they would rather not do it by the piece.

5573. Would it not be more likely to be expeditiously done if you did it by men paid by the piece?—It would be more likely to be slurred over, as I think it is in some agricultural districts; it is nice women's work; I know that by hoeing they have been raised to comfort about the place, on my estate.

5574. Are women employed in that way in Lancashire?—I am not much acquainted with agriculture in Lancashire, but I am told by my steward that he has employed women in hoeing turnips, and that the women like it in the Fylde country.

5575. *Mr. Cheetham.*] Is it not the fact that it is limited to the agricultural district between Preston and Lancashire?—It is not quite limited to that; it prevails there very much; there are more turnips growing up in the country than there are near the town.

5576. *Chairman.*] I suppose, from the gratifying account of the relations which subsist between yourself and your workpeople, that the Committee may assume that you are on the most friendly terms with them?—As a whole, I am; I have had one little instance of a quarrel, which has occurred in May, in the pulling-up room. The boys had 7s. per keeful for pulling-up goods from the grey to the white; we had been accustomed to do this work with boys of younger age than at present, and then some among them, of the age now employed, could earn more money, and get a larger share; we have made no alteration whatever for more than two years in the price or way they were doing their work; but about six weeks ago the lads employed at this work took it into their heads to go off to the ale-house; the whole, amounting to six or seven in number, went off, and we supplied their places, and have not taken them all back to the works.

5577. With that slight exception, if it may be called an exception, are we to understand that you are on good terms with your workpeople?—I do not know a single exception.

5578. Did you not say that, since the agitation about this subject has commenced, your discipline has become rather relaxed?—I meant to say that it was more difficult to be maintained, for a time, after the agitation commenced; not that there was any relaxation on my part, but that there was a greater difficulty in maintaining it; some of the workpeople got a little unhinged.

5579. Do you mean to say that you have seen an anxiety among them to have some legislation applied to their trade?—There was one of them who turned

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agitator, I believe, and some few others were influenced by his arguments; and if a very few in my works get out of joint, as it were, it causes things to be irregular.

5580. Was there any anxiety among your workpeople that there should be a legislative enactment upon this subject?—I never heard them say so to me.

5581. What form or shape did this agitation or disturbance take?—I was told by the foreman that, since this agitation began, there was more trouble in getting the people to execute the orders so punctually as they had previously done.

5582. Have they ever mentioned to you any desire for legislation?—I have no recollection of its ever having been mentioned by any one.

5583. Are you aware whether any of them have petitioned Parliament upon the subject?—I am not aware of it; it was a year ago or more that the irregularities took place; I have heard nothing of them latterly: all is right now, and has been for 12 months past. I heard one girl, whom Mr. Tremeneere asked if she would not like to get to her work, and get her wages in less time, and then get away earlier, say that she would; and I asked a girl, in the Tea-room in the House of Commons, last night, the same question, and she gave me the same answer.

5584. You have told the Committee that those girls whose appearance was not quite satisfactory to Mr. Tremeneere were those who had not got over their Christmas; will you explain that expression?—If they had been engaged in festivities for three or four days after New Year's-day, it would be some time before they got round again; I am sure I should find it so.

5585. Do you mean that they were suffering from over-abundance of good cheer?—I dare say they were; and from dances and frolics.

5586. And not from the over-pressure of work, which, as I understand you to say, sometimes occurs about that period?—The two would about that moment be combined. There would be a reaction after the glorifications which they had had; and they would find, when they came back to their labour, that it had been accumulating upon their hands, and they had it staring them in the face in a large quantity. Goods come in, whether we are working or not; and I dare say that the two circumstances together operated to make them appear a little seedy. I saw them just now, and every one of them were looking very well.

5587. *Mr. Davison.*] Is it not in the case of any one, after two or three days' jollification, as it is termed, apparent to any ordinary observer that such a thing has taken place; does not it alter the appearance of the person?—Yes. There is a lassitude about them which you never observe at any other time.

5588. *Chairman.*] You have told the Committee that 33 firms signed the memorial for the masters to prevent any legislative interference?—Yes.

5589. Are you aware whether there was a demonstration of the same kind against the interference with the factories, or were the masters generally favourable to factory legislation?—I am not a spinner or manufacturer, and therefore perhaps it would be desirable that I should not go into that; I would rather speak to what I know of my own knowledge.

5590. Can you tell the Committee how many firms there are in Lancashire and Cheshire which are engaged in the bleaching business?—No, I cannot.

5591. Could you say that the 33 firms who signed this memorial represented the great majority of the firms in Lancashire?—They represented the great weight of the trade; whether in number or not I am not sure; but the great weight as to the quantity of business done; they represent a very great majority of the quantity of business done.

5592. Are you a printer?—I am.

5593. Are you under inspection in those works?—In my Bradshaw works I both print, bleach and dye, and print in unison in my bleach-works, and I am at present under the Print Works Act there; the Print Works Act allows me to take children into my works at eight years of age, and it allows me to work till 10 o'clock at night; so that if the Bill of last Session, No. 2, were to pass into a law, I should be in this position: my works are not two separate works, like Westminster Abbey on one side of the street, and Westminster Hall on the other; but they are like these Houses of Parliament, all mixed together, and I should have my people in them working under two separate Acts of Parliament.

5594. Did you oppose the passing of the Print Act?—No; I took no notice of it; I thought it was perfect nonsense.

5595. But you did not oppose it?—I did not think it worth while.

5596. Do

5596. Do you complain of Mr. Tremenheere for saying that Messrs. Schunk & Souchay expressed themselves as favourable to legislation?—I do not complain of it; but I say that I do not see how they are in favour of legislation; I understand, from what I have heard in this room, that theirs was one of the firms put forward as being in favour of legislation.

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5597. Can you point to any sentence in which Mr. Tremenheere states these gentlemen to be favourable to legislation?—I must say that, after having received the print of my evidence from Mr. Tremenheere, I never looked at the report (I had had quite enough of it) until I came up here, and then, having nothing better to do, I referred to it to see what this firm had said, and the Committee have heard it; I do not complain, I merely state the fact.

5598. *Mr. Cheetham.*] Will you turn to page 10 of Mr. Tremenheere's report, and see what he states there?—"But on going carefully and minutely into the question with those merchants, I found that four only supported the views of the masters; the remaining 10, as will be seen by reference to the evidence (pp. 33 to 39), acknowledging that in certain cases the arguments for the masters held good, were nevertheless of opinion that, upon the whole, the restriction of the labour of females and boys in the bleaching and finishing works would make very little difference to any one; that it would be attended with no danger to the great mercantile interests of the country engaged in the cotton trade; that the difficulty of adopting the restriction was more in apprehension than in reality, and that it would soon be got over; that all parties would soon learn to accommodate themselves to it; and that in the end it would be better for all parties, bleaching masters and workpeople, and even the merchants themselves." I should think that is rather strong language.

5599. *Chairman.*] Do you think that it is stronger than is warranted by the evidence that is ascribed to Messrs. Schunk & Souchay?—I think so.

5600. *Mr. Turner.*] Do you object to legislative restrictions in respect of labour upon a principle which admits of few exceptions?—Yes; upon a principle which admits of few exceptions.

5601. Do you also object to legislative restrictions with respect to food upon a principle which admits of few exceptions?—Most certainly I do.

5602. Would you, then, object to restricting free labour upon the same principle as you would object to restricting free trade?—Decidedly.

5603. What do you mean by the term "class legislation"?—I do not know what meaning the inventor of the phrase intended to give it, but I should suppose that it meant to refer to legislating for any one particular class or section of the people as distinct from legislation for the general good.

5604. Do you approve of class legislation as a principle?—No, I do not.

5605. What has been the effect of the Print Works Act; is it obsolete?—When the Print Works Act was passed there was a great number, I think the majority of those employed in printing were block printers; each block printer employed what was called a tail boy or a tail girl; and the operation consisted in putting colour upon what is called the printing-table, and brushing it with a brush before the printer abstracts it with his block; and I believe that the idea of legislation arose more from the employment of these children in that way than from any other thing. I do not know that there is anything else connected with machinery, or with working in opposition to steam, a principle that Mr. Tremenheere seemed inclined to originate with some work, but which I do not quite understand; nearly the whole of these block tables have ceased to be, and I should think there is not one now where there were 100; whether the Act has had anything to do with it or not is more than I can say; but the main reason assigned for legislating upon the subject has ceased to be, and, so far as that part is concerned, it has become almost obsolete, and in a little time it will become altogether so.

5606. However, from some cause or other, young people have gone out of employment since the Act passed?—They have gone out of employment in my own works; I find nothing objectionable, in fact, with reference to it, except that part of the Print Works Act regarding inspectors; I found one day that the inspector had been in my white packing-rooms where my different finishes and white goods are kept white for market, and had been making himself a great man there. I thought he had no business there, and therefore sent him a message giving him my compliments, and saying, that if I caught him there I would put him into the reservoir. He said he would bring Mr. Horner, and I said, "Very well, let him; Mr. Horner may go through my works if he will ask leave, but not other-

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wise." Mr. Horner, I believe, came, and he went away, leaving his compliments, and saying that he was so pleased and satisfied with everything that he had observed upon the works, that the people looked so well, and that the works were so excellent, and everything was so systematic and regular, that he should be very sorry indeed to interfere with me at all, and I have never heard a word in any way about these inspectors or sub-inspectors since. That was about five or six years ago. I was speaking with a large calico-printer, Mr. Edward Marston, lately, and he said, "It is an old almanac with us;" I do not know any good that the Print Act is doing, except to those who are receiving salaries under it.

5607. I think you told us that you are a coalmaster?—Yes.

5608. What has been the effect of the Act respecting collieries?—The effect has been what I said it would be; there have been more accidents since they have appointed inspectors than there were before.

5609. How do you account for that?—I account for it because the masters seem to think that there was a certain responsibility taken off them when the Government have put somebody over them.

5610. Is that Act almost obsolete?—I think that the inspectors are sadly at a loss for something to do, for one of them has been giving me notice that I have not what he calls a proper steam-gauge to one of my boilers at my colliery. Now, I have 40 steam-boilers, or thereabouts, and I have been 40 years engaged about steam-boilers, and I thought I knew what a proper steam-gauge was. I have "Salter's improved spring balance," but whether these inspectors have some pet thing, or some pet person who has patented a pet thing, which they want to patronize, I do not know. This Salter's spring balance has been deemed by competent people a proper steam-gauge; I have just been putting up a new boiler (after I had received this communication from the inspector) at one of my bleach-works; it had been put up by my brother-in-law; but I kept off the fittings, and I wrote to Mr. Fairbairn, of Manchester, to affix the fittings in such a manner as he thought best for safety, without regard to expense; and the steam-gauge which he put upon this boiler was a description of this Salter's spring balance; the very thing that in my colliery this gentleman says is not a proper steam-gauge.

5611. Was it what Mr. Fairbairn considered the best possible thing he could put up?—My orders were to put the fittings that were best calculated for safety, without regard to expense.

5612. Did Mr. Fairbairn and the colliery inspector differ in opinion as to that?—Mr. Fairbairn who fitted up this boiler, is Mr. Thomas Fairbairn; Mr. Fairbairn the father is out of the business, and what may be his opinion upon that subject I do not know; but I believe that Mr. Fairbairn has said to me that it was the best valve that was made, that it was the best valve with a view to safety that had ever been discovered; it was an improvement by Mr. Salter, of the Union Foundry, Bolton, upon the old tube steam-gauge, with mercury. I merely mention this to show that the inspectors are short of work, or they would not be troubling me about a thing like this.

5613. What is your opinion as to the present state of the law upon the subject of factories?—I was sent as one of a deputation from Bolton to London upon the subject in the place of my father, when Sir John Hobhouse had the question in hand, and I argued the case with him at the time; I argued it also with Lord Melbourne, who was at the Home Office I believe at that particular time, and with the late Lord Auckland, who was at the Board of Trade; Mr. Hobhouse was in favour of legislation, and Lord Melbourne was opposed to it altogether, and so was Lord Auckland. I suggested, I think, the same thing precisely that I said to Mr. Tremeneere, and I believe that I was the author of that definition of a day, which is from half-past five in the morning to half-past eight at night, and which was put into the Bill at my suggestion; but my impression, under the circumstances, was, that you should not interfere with the work of girls under 18, except between those hours; I thought that was the farthest extent to which legislation could go without doing mischief; I have not since then observed the effects of the Factory Act. It is 1839 since my father died, and I have had no interest either present or prospective in it, and therefore I have not seen its operation, though at the time my impression was that that was the extent of legislation, and that it should go no further; and I am quite clear that we should do away with all these inspectors now.

5614. Can you speak of the present operation of the Factory Act?—At present
I am

I am out of it; but I have seen enough of the present inspectors to enable me to say that I would do away with the inspectors; I do not mean to say that I would make away with them.

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5615. Did not the hand-loom weavers at one time seek for legislative protection?—They did.

5616. Did they succeed?—They got a commission, rather a different one to that which we had in Mr. Tremeneere. The present Lord Overstone, then Mr. Samuel Jones Loyd, was chairman of the commission, and very complete inquiries were made all over the kingdom about the propriety of legislating to regulate the labour of hand-loom weavers; and I remember being asked to read a memorial; it is 20 years ago. But there was an expression in the hand-loom weavers' petition which I remember; it was something like this: "Your honourable House tell us that you cannot legislate with a view to the regulation of labour, yet you do legislate with a view to regulate the price of food." I was struck by the expression at the time, and I never forgot it, though it is 20 years ago; it was when the Corn Law existed. This commission was appointed after that memorial or petition to the House of Commons was sent up; but it resulted in discovering that they could do nothing for the hand-loom weavers, and that they had better do what they could for themselves. I remember that I quoted to one of them, who was a well-educated man, as some of them were, a passage from Sir Walter Raleigh, which I found by accident, and I think it is worth reading, as appropriate to the subject. Now, Sir Walter Raleigh says, and he was rather a luminous person, "A statesman may do much for commerce, most by leaving it alone. A river never flows so smoothly as when it flows in its own course, without either aid or check; let it make its own bed, and it will do it better than you can." But if that remark of Sir Walter Raleigh's was appropriate to commerce, it was appropriate to productive industry; and if it was appropriate for me to say it to the weavers, it is appropriate for me to say it from the bleach trade to this Committee now. I believe that Sir Walter Raleigh was right.

5617. *Chairman.*] Would not the same remark equally apply to all cotton factories?—Yes, as a principle; but there is no rule without an exception.

5618. *Mr. Cobbett.*] You were asked whether an attempt had not been made to regulate the labour of hand-loom weavers?—To legislate with a view to the regulation of the labour of hand-loom weavers.

5619. Was it not with a view to regulate the wages, and not the hours of labour at all?—It might be to regulate the amount of wages as much as the labour itself; I am not quite sure of that.

5620. Was not the hand-loom weaver a person who worked in his own cottage?—Certainly; I am speaking from memory about what occurred a quarter of a century ago; and therefore I am not quite certain whether the object of the hand-loom weavers was to get a fixed price for their work or fixed hours for their work, or whether it was not both.

5621. You repeated to the Committee just now the substance of the prayer of their petition to Parliament; will you repeat those words?—"Your honourable House tell us that you cannot legislate with a view to regulate labour; but you do legislate with a view to regulate the price of food."

5622. Were not the words these, "Your honourable House tell us that you cannot legislate with a view to regulate the price of labour; but you do legislate with a view to regulate the price of food"?—Exactly; it may be so.

5623. After that time, was not there a Select Committee of the House of Commons appointed to examine into what was called "The Hand-loom Weavers' Petition"?—I do not remember that; I remember the commission of Lord Overstone.

5624. Do not you remember the Report of the Committee?—No; the weavers' plan was such perfect nonsense, that though I was very sorry for them, I could not agree with them.

5625. Can you undertake to say that either the applications or the petitions of the hand-loom weavers or the Report of the Select Committee of the House of Commons went to advise the regulation of the hours of work of the hand-loom weavers?—I think the Report, if I remember right, was that it was unadvisable to interfere at all; it was altogether against interference.

5626. Was that the Report of the Select Committee?—It was the Report of the commission; they were decidedly against interference; I am sure of that.

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5627. Is it not the fact, that to regulate the hours of the hand-loom weavers would not have been practicable, because he worked at his own cottage?—There were very many who worked in shops; there were plenty of shop-masters.

5628. *Mr. Turner.*] Have not you said that you think it is essential that goods should be delivered in lots, finished and assorted according to the orders of the merchant?—Decidedly; it must be done.

5629. Would it do to give a part without the rest?—We should get into chaos, as bad as Balaklava, if we did so.

5630. With regard to this subject, you said, that when they bring round a lot of your pieces, frequently they are dirtied, or miss receiving the particular shade of colour required; sometimes a few pieces may be taken by mistake from another lot; and in other respects accidents may arise in the progress of the goods through the various departments of the machinery, which may require the delay of a day to be finished anew. Is not that so?—Yes.

5631. Whether by night or by day, the lot may be delayed, and the shipment thereby may be detained, and the ship may sail without them, and great confusion might arise and much loss; is that a fair statement of your views upon the subject?—I think it is almost as fair as you could put, and it is what I have found in my experience.

5632. Can there be a healthy business medium, between confusion on the one hand and good order and good discipline on the other?—No, there cannot; it must either be order or chaos.

5633. Do you think that the intrusion of the inspectors would affect you in the matter of discipline in your establishment?—It does not do for my lads to think that there is a greater man than I in the factory; we have more trouble in managing the lads from 18 to 24 than at any other time, and if these lads thought that there was a greater man than I, I do not know how we should get on, and they would begin to think that there was, if an inspector came to overhaul me.

5634. Would those young people be under the Act that you speak of?—No; but if the inspector is to come upon the property to look after me, then he is lowering me in the estimation of these workpeople, and especially of those lads who are so difficult to manage.

5635. Have you in the neighbourhood of your works churches and chapels, and other places of worship, and schools and Sunday-schools?—Yes, there are.

5636. Are there any other places of instruction for those who are more advanced in years?—Yes; we have lots of beer-shops, which are too much places of instruction, and there are too many of them.

5637. It was stated in evidence by some of the witnesses before this Committee, particularly by one, that the working bleachers as a class did not attend the mechanics' institutions and the public libraries in Bolton so much in proportion as other classes of workpeople in your locality; is that the fact?—I do not know that it is the fact, because I am not a member of the Mechanics' Institute, and therefore I have no reference to their books; but I should think it very likely to be so, for this reason, that the bleachers reside at a distance from the town, and are never in the habit of going to Bolton, except once a week, and now not so often as that; formerly they made a point of going on Saturday, but I believe they seldom go to Bolton for their marketing now; and with the exception of some very few works, the large works are a couple of miles from the town; Mr. Ainsworth's works are a couple of miles from the town, and mine are a couple of miles. These men have other means of instruction among themselves without going to the Mechanics' Institute or the Bolton Library.

5638. Can you state whether the master bleachers as a class have taken the same interest in those classes for instruction and improvement that the masters who employ labour of other classes have done; can you tell the Committee whether the bleach-masters have ever taken much interest in the Mechanics' Institution at Bolton, and whether they have been officers or presidents of it?—I believe the first president, and I may say the founder of it, was the late Mr. Richard Ainsworth, a master bleacher, and I think that during the period of the last 30 years master bleachers have been presidents of the Mechanics' Institute four-fifths of the time.

5639. It is well known that you have a large workman's library in Bolton, called the Exchange Library; who were instrumental in founding that library?—I was mainly instrumental myself, I believe, in founding the Exchange Library, in the first instance, in getting the Exchange built by private subscription; I believe I contributed more largely to it than any other individual; I think I may safely

safely say that I was mainly instrumental in the erection of that building, and in its being furnished with books; and the motto that guided me and others in the selection of the books for the public was, that we excluded nothing but that which was decidedly of an immoral tendency; there was nothing of a political tendency on any side of any question that we excluded on account of its politics; however opposed I might be to a republic in every other shape, I am an advocate for the republic of letters; we made things as open to the public as we could possibly make them.

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5640. May the Committee infer from your answer that the master bleachers in your district have taken a fair amount of interest in these things?—They have; lately I have not. I have not meddled in the borough; I have had enough to do with four townships not in the borough. Since Bolton became corporate I have interfered scarcely at all in its politics, or in its acts and doings; my own proceedings have been outside the borough.

5641. I think you are not a member of the municipal corporation?—No.

5642. What is the kind of education which you think to be due from the richer portion of Christian men to and for their poorer brethren?—I consider it the bounden duty of every Christian man within the limit of his power to see and take care that every fellow creature within his influence be taught to read God's Holy Word; and I should think that it is the duty of the State to see that there are persons properly educated and appointed to explain His Word. Then I should think that secular education should be left to itself, to parents, without the dictation either of the master or of the State, leaving a field for the philanthopist. That is my deliberate opinion upon that subject; and I am, I fancy, supported in that opinion by the authority of a gentleman whom I very much admired at a time when people laughed at me for doing so, I mean the late Mr. Cobbett. Upon the subject of education, he said that "he liked to see people well fed, well clothed, well housed, and with the childrens' school wage in their parents' breeches pocket." Now, after the people were taught the Word of God, I quite agree with Mr. Cobbett that that is the mode which I would adopt with regard to secular education.

5643. Mr. Davison.] You have read over, I presume, the different Bills which have been introduced upon the subject which we are now investigating?—Yes, I have, beginning with the Print Act.

5644. Will you confine your attention to the four Bills that have been introduced, commencing in 1854; the first is Lord Shaftesbury's Bill in 1854?—I have read and considered that Bill.

5645. What is your opinion upon the subject of the legislation proposed in the Bill, as applicable to the trade of the bleachers, dyers and finishers; do you approve of it or disapprove of it, and why?—This Bill seems to say, that "no child under 10 years of age shall be employed within any building," &c. (it would take up time to read the whole list), for "bleaching, dyeing, finishing, calendering, dressing, embossing, or tambouring any woven fabric, or twist or yarn, or in packing, carrying or conveying, or in aiding or assisting in any other labour or process connected with bleaching, dyeing or finishing." Now, that includes every description of woven fabric, twist or yarn, both linen and woollen, worsted, hemp, silk, flax, and all their intermixtures; and it includes every description of work that is to be done about them all, both yarn and woven fabrics. Then it says, that "no male under the age of 18 years be employed in the premises before the hours of six of the clock in the morning, or after the hours of six of the clock in the evening of any day, except Saturday." And then it says, "this Act shall extend to Scotland." But in the margin, it says, "the Act to extend to Scotland and Ireland." It says, this Act shall extend to Scotland, but Ireland is exempt. This Bill only embraces all those operations within Great Britain.

5646. Irrespective of the exemption in favour of Ireland, do you consider that the clauses or regulations introduced into this Act would be advantageous or otherwise to the trade?—I consider it as completely impracticable as it would be to make mushrooms out of moonbeams.

5647. Will you say why you consider it so?—Because it professes to interfere by legislation with all these varieties of operations, and the persons employed in them; and you cannot interfere with the young persons but you interfere, necessarily, with the old ones; they all hang together. It will interfere with the operations of preparing, cleaning, scouring, bleaching, dyeing, finishing, calendering, dressing, embossing, or tambouring any woven fabric, or twist or

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yarn, or in packing, carrying or conveying, or in aiding or assisting in any other labour or process connected with bleaching, dyeing or finishing. Now, when you come to look for a moment upon that, any one who knows anything must see that it is utterly impracticable.

5648. Now will you have the goodness to turn to Bill No. 2, which is the Bill of 1855, introduced by Mr. Butt. What is your opinion in reference to the legislation contained in that Bill, as applicable to the trades mentioned in it?—This Bill says, that “the words ‘bleaching-work’ shall be taken to mean any field, enclosure, building, shed, drying-ground, store-loft, lapping-room, lapping-loft, dressing-shop, bleaching-croft, drying-house, clamping-room, beetling-place, calendering-room, mangling-room, or any other premises or place whatsoever, whether open, enclosed or covered, used for the purpose of carrying on the occupation, trade or business of a bleacher, dyer or finisher, or any employment connected with such trades or businesses before mentioned, or any of them.”

5649. Do you consider it possible to apply the provisions of that Bill to the trades specified in it?—It is utterly impossible; it is not within the reach of man’s mind to conceive anything like a possibility attaching to it, or the slightest scintilla of a possibility.

5650. Now will you turn to Bill No. 3, which is the Bill of 1856?—Of course this Bill of Lord Shaftesbury’s and this in 1855 vary; and this Bill of 1856 varies from the one of 1855. This is the Bill of March 1856; and it says, “the words, ‘bleaching work,’ shall be taken to mean any field, inclosure, building, shed, drying-ground, store-loft, lapping-room, lapping-loft, dressing-shop, bleaching croft, drying-house, clamping-room, beetling-place, calendering-room, mangling-room, making-up and packing-room, and warehouse, or any other premises or place whatsoever, whether open, inclosed or covered, used for the purpose of carrying on the process, occupation, trade or business of a bleacher, dyer or finisher, maker-up and packer, or any employment connected with such trades or business beforementioned, or any of them.”

5651. Do you consider that with due regard to the trade of the country, in reference to the points touched upon by this Bill, it would be possible to apply the provisions of the Bill to those trades?—I should think it is impossible to do it, whether injurious or otherwise; it could not be done: and I fancy that the gentlemen whose names are endorsed upon the back of the Bill (that is, Mr. Butt, Lord John Manners, Viscount Goderich, and Mr. Crook) must have found that out, for they brought in another six weeks afterwards. This one applies to every description of manufactured article, twist and yarn, woollen, worsted, and all the rest of them, and mixed fabrics; and it applies to every description of occupation, even a warehouse; it applies even to paper-making, and everything of that kind.

5652. Do you think that that discovery was made when another Bill was introduced in April of the same year?—The discovery must have been made the same Session, for this was ordered to be printed on March the 4th, and another Bill was ordered to be printed on the 16th of April.

5653. Have you read that Bill?—I have.

5654. What is your opinion of the provisions of that Bill, with reference to the trades it contemplates?—It says, “The words ‘bleaching work’” (this is the same, though a clause very different), “whenever they occur in this Act, shall be taken to mean any enclosure, room, house, shed, building, or other premises or place whatsoever, whether open or covered, used for the purpose of carrying on the trade or business of a bleacher or dyer of linen or cotton goods, or in which, in the trade and business of a bleacher or dyer, any woven fabric or twist, or yarn of linen or cotton, shall be bleached or dyed, or in which any process incidental to such bleaching or dyeing shall be carried on.” Now this is, I think, strangely different to the last; the last grasped everything, and this only touches two things; it only touches linen or cotton; it does not touch even those things in a mixed state, of which we know there are enormous quantities manufactured in Ireland; it only touches those two articles, linen or cotton, and not even them in a mixed state. Then it says, “Whenever any of the processes of calendering, finishing, making-up or packing any linen or other fabrics, after the same shall have been bleached or dyed, or any other process used in the preparation of such dyed or bleached goods, shall be carried on in connexion with any bleaching-work, as above defined, then and in that case all calendering-rooms, mangling-rooms, lapping-rooms, lapping-lofts, and all other rooms, buildings and premises of what nature or kind whatsoever, in which any such processes shall be so carried on, shall be

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be deemed to be part of such bleaching-work, within the meaning of this Act." Therefore all other these places, these callendering-rooms, lapping-rooms, packing-rooms, and all the rest of the works that are in connexion with the bleaching-works are connected with the Bill. Now, I ask myself, "What is the meaning of the term 'in connexion with?'" I may have a finishing work in Manchester in connexion with my bleaching-works in Bolton, and if so, I cannot work in my place in Manchester beyond a certain hour; whereas the man that has no bleaching-works may be working, and he may be next door to me; so that in trying to get off the rock Scylla they seem to have tumbled in with the whirlpool Charybdes.

5655. So that these Bills, either taken separately or taken as a whole, in your opinion, are a description of legislation that it would be impossible altogether to carry out, and it would be injurious to the productive interests of the country?—They are the finest specimen of an attempt at peddling legislation that ever came before the British House of Commons; that is my opinion of them.

5656. You have been accustomed, I believe, to dye a variety of materials of cloth, mixed and otherwise?—Yes, I have; I have been accustomed to muslin-de-laines; I have been accustomed to mixed fabrics, woollen and cotton; and I have seen something of other mixed fabrics.

5657. In your opinion, is it a more healthy occupation or a less healthy occupation than the bleaching of linen or the bleaching of cotton?—I should say that one is just as healthy as the other; there is no unhealthiness about them; it is a very healthy employment.

5658. Is the bleaching of mixed fabrics, in your opinion, as healthy as the bleaching of unmixed fabrics?—Just so, with regard to linen and cotton; I am not quite sure with regard to cotton and woollen; I am not sure whether the bleaching and dyeing of woollen is quite as healthy as that of cotton and linen.

5659. You have no doubt as to the healthiness of cotton and linen?—I have no doubt as to them.

5660. Do any of these mixed fabrics come over from Ireland to England to be dyed or dressed?—Yes; that is the beauty of the thing. Goods go to Ireland to be dyed and finished, and come back to Manchester to be sold; and on the other hand, there are mixed fabrics sent from Belfast to Barnsley to be bleached, and then sent back again to be sold; so that we are all in one boat.

5661. Did you ever imitate linen, silk, or other fabrics in the finishing of cottons?—I would undertake to sell, even to you yourself, cotton goods for linen; I imitate in cotton almost every description of linen that is made in Ireland or in Scotland, and also that which is made in Holland, and in Germany and in France; goods so finished go to the foreign markets, and they cannot tell them from the others. I dare say the manufacturers are much injured in Ireland by it; but I am obliged to obey orders. It is the same with regard to worsteds. We were doing some damasks and finishing them so as to deceive Mr. Bridson, who is as clever a man as most in the bleaching trade, and a man accustomed to judge of patterns. I said to him, "Here are a bundle of patterns; I am starting a new trade, Mr. Bridson, what do you think of it." He said, "Are you dyeing worsted?" and I said, "Why not?" They were cotton goods, but he did not know them from worsted; and so it is with other things. We imitate also some silks; in fact, we imitate China silks. I had musters from Shanghai soon after the port was opened; I think the most beautiful workmanship I ever saw in my life, both in the weaving, and in the spinning, and in the dyeing; they had every variety of shade and colour. That silk has been imitated in cotton, and finished in such a way that it is now a very large trade in Manchester, to send the brocades of cotton to China. And I have been able to get a most beautiful illustration of the mode in which the Chinese perform their labour, their manufacture, their spinning, their weaving, their dyeing, and all the rest. Their dyeing is effected much as we performed it 25 years ago in Manchester.

5662. Is foreign competition upon the increase, in your judgment?—Most decidedly, and most formidably upon the increase.

5663. Is it a formidable opposition?—It is most formidable. Now from the United States, they will club together, and charter a ship and send different descriptions of goods from one port to another, and undersell us. In some articles their goods are sold before ours are asked for; and they have a very rapid medium in financial matters for commodities of all kinds. It is principally English money that their transactions are based upon; but they are beating us out of many markets.

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5664. Have great improvements been made in the bleaching process in Lancashire of late years?—They have, so far as regards the processes of working the cloths; I call them improvements, for there is a saving of labour in them. They do not do the work better, but there is a saving of labour and time.

5665. Are any such improvements going on upon the Continent, in anticipation of or following up those which we produce here?—There are many improvements; for instance, I believe the masters have fitted up their works in a very superior manner in this style; and I am putting up a house myself upon a principle which I saw in the year 1827 in Belgium, at Ghent, and I think I saw it again there in the year 1844, with some improvements.

5666. Is there any legislative enactment with respect to the hours of labour in Belgium?—In Belgium I think there is not. They are progressing very much in trade in Belgium; they have had a number of men there from our part of the country. When the Lancashire man speaks broad, he finds that the Belgians can understand him, and therefore they have less objection to going over there to assist the Belgians, and their competition is very effectual.

5667. Do you know it to be a fact that they are attracting English workmen over to Belgium for the purpose of carrying on their manufactures?—Yes; and they have also another opportunity which we have not. We have an absurd patent law in this country; persons taking out patents are obliged so to specify them that when their patents are expired a man of ordinary understanding can carry out in this country that invention. Then, to make it more absurd, there is a law which enables a man to apply to the Privy Council for an extension of his patent after it is over, so that when a patent is upon the point of expiring, and we are preparing to use it after it has expired, all our expense is in vain if the Privy Council should extend it. Whilst we are in this condition the foreigners take advantage of those patented things which are brought into profitable use (which are not more than one in a thousand), without stint and without restriction. I am quite satisfied that, if it were not for this patent law, the objections to that mode of finishing muslins which is carried on in Scotland, and in some parts of Lancashire, would have been removed, and that the "Swiss" mode, which I was speaking of yesterday, would have come into action long ago, if the law of patents were not in the way; there are patents in the way of it now. Where they are not in the way, as for example in Belgium, they have adopted various improved operations; and it is not in Belgium alone, but in Germany and Switzerland, and France and Prussia, and also in Russia, that improvements are being carried out.

5668. Is there not constant competition with these countries?—Yes; but I spoke of Belgium more than the rest, because I have been there more than in other places.

5669. Have you formed a decided opinion that the application of this Ten Hours' Bill to your trade would be injurious to the trade?—I believe that the application of this principle of legislation to my trade, and to what is embraced in it, would be very injurious to the general interests of the trade and manufacture of this country, and not only to my trade itself. I do not see how it is possible for the Legislature to pass a partial Act for interfering merely with linen or cotton works when everything is mixed up together in such an extraordinary manner.

5670. Mr. *Kirk*.] When you were looking over the various Bills that have been proposed on this subject, did not you remark that they were different from each other?—Certainly.

5671. And that the Bill No. 3 was the most stringent of the four?—It was the most grasping; it embraced the greatest range.

5672. Did it not embrace the Manchester and other warehousemen?—Certainly.

5673. Did it not apply not merely to the times of packing, but to the times of conveying the goods to and from the warehouse?—Yes, and to the times of conveying them from one room to another.

5674. Is it your opinion that that was one cause of the change of the Bill from No. 3 to No. 4?—I believe that when the Manchester merchants found that they were in the net, they began to struggle, and they broke through the mesh; so the proposers of the Bill mended the net and strengthened the cordage, expecting it to hold a few fish, that is to say, the linen and the cotton bleachers.

5675. I think you said that you were acquainted with the Print Works Act?—I have read it, and have worked under it.

5676. What is your opinion of that Act in comparison with these Bills; which

is the more stringent?—The Print Works Act admits no person under the age of eight, but the Bill, I think, admits no person under the age of 11. The Print Works Act allows children, women, and young persons, to work until ten o'clock at night; but I think the Bill only allows them to work till six. This new Bill endeavours to embrace in it all that is objectionable in the Print Works Act; there are the inspectors and the doctors, and all that kind of thing.

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5677. Is it not the fact that when the Print Works Act was passed in 1845, the same Committee that passed that Act rejected one with regard to bleach-works?—The same Committee (it was a Committee of the whole House), after an investigation by Sir James Graham, struck the bleaching-works out of the Print Works Bill.

5678. Were not the bleach-works and the dye-works originally in the Bill?—I believe they were in the Bill on the second reading, and were struck out in a Committee of the whole House; I am not quite sure of that; I am merely speaking from recollection, but I believe it was so.

5679. Though the Print Works Act was not extended to the bleach-works, would not these Bills, or any of them, if carried out, be much more stringent than that Act would have been?—There would be more restriction in them, and they would be open to the same objection as the Print Works Act.

5680. *Chairman.*] Are you under any apprehension of competition with the United States?—I have seen it, and I know it from conversation with merchants with whom I have been doing business.

5681. Can you tell the Committee what are the hours of labour in the bleaching establishments in the United States?—Some of my men have gone to work there and have come back again, and I have talked to them about it; and one of them said that he began work as soon as he could see to tie his shoes, and he did not give over till he could not see to untie them.

5682. That is to say, that he worked the whole day?—Yes; that was his own expression; his work seemed to extend throughout the whole period of daylight; he was a true bred Lancashire man, and they are very figurative in their expressions.

5683. If the people work only during daylight in the United States, do you think that they work later than eight o'clock in the evening in the summer, and four or five o'clock in the winter?—I have never been in the United States, but I know some little of geography, and I think that the days are longer about Philadelphia than they are in Lancashire.

5684. Do you know how much?—I cannot say, because I do not carry these things about geography in my head; when I was a boy I dare say I could have told you.

5685. Do not you imagine that those working people who ask for legislation would be perfectly satisfied, if they could be told that under the present system they would only begin to work with the daylight, and would close their work in the day also?—For me to say what I think the working people would be satisfied with would be perfect nonsense, for my plan with my workpeople is to do what is right, and to make them do the same, if I can; but I never consider as to what they will be satisfied with; I consider whether it is right and proper.

5686. Do I rightly understand you to say that you are not in a position to tell this Committee what your workpeople desire in respect to these Bills that are before the Committee?—I do not believe that one of them has seen the Bills.

5687. Are you of opinion that your workpeople have heard nothing upon the subject of these Bills?—I think they have.

5688. Are you of opinion that any of those who have heard of these Bills are in favour of them?—I do not think that if they knew what the Bills were they would be in favour of them; indeed I am sure they would not be in favour of them, if they knew what the Bills were.

5689. Supposing them to be at this moment in ignorance of these Bills, are you of opinion that any of them are favourable to them?—I am not of opinion that they are; I have an opinion, so far as this, that my workpeople would very well like to earn, as any other workpeople would, the same sum of money in less time, or with less labour in the day; but I believe that there is no feeling upon the subject beyond that.

5690. I think that you have told the Committee that some workpeople from Lancashire are going to other countries?—Some have gone from time to time, being beguiled away, and have come back again; I had one only six weeks ago from Belgium, who went because he imagined that it would be a good thing.

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5691. Did I rightly understand you to say, that they were so frequent in Belgium that broad Lancashire was well understood in the establishments in Belgium?—I did not say that they were so frequent that broad Lancashire was now understood in Belgium; it is understood, not because men have gone over so frequently, but because the weavers in Lancashire originally came from Flanders and settled about Bolton, and they talk the dialect now which their ancestors talked there in the time of the Henrys and the Edwards. And when the men from this country have gone to Belgium they have found, to their surprise, that if they only spoke broad enough they could be understood by what are called the lower orders, the working people of Flanders. It is a most extraordinary thing, and it is worth mentioning as a matter of surprise, that the same dialect which the Flemish weavers spoke when they came over in the time of the Henrys and the Edwards is still spoken to such a degree in that part of Lancashire, that when they speak it in Flanders they can make themselves understood.

5692. What were the causes which induced these men to go from the establishments in your neighbourhood to Flanders?—Supposing that a man is a mere private with me, and he has a chance of getting made into a serjeant in Belgium, and getting serjeant's pay, he has an inducement to go away; they get bribed away. In answer to a question that has been put to me as to the feelings of the working people, perhaps I ought to explain further that I should say that young persons who are living with their parents, and whose earnings go to their parents, might prefer working less, and earning less, as it would be the same thing to them; but that those who have what they earn wish for any limitation to the hours of labour, I have never heard.

5693. *Mr. Crook.*] With regard to the steam-gauge, do not you work some of your boilers at a high pressure?—Yes.

5694. How can a man tell by the Salter's balance what is the pressure of steam; if he comes late in the morning, is there any indication of the pressure of the steam until it gets off upon the boiling-off point?—Certainly not; if he had a steam-gauge, the man would tap it with his hand, to make the index go down, till the mercury in the glass is steady. If he will put his hand upon the Salter's steam-gauge, he can tell how low the steam is.

5695. If there is a proper steam-gauge, could not he tell it at once?—I have never seen one yet, except the old mercurial gauge, and that required a tap.

5696. Are you not aware that there is a steam-gauge now made that has no taps about it?—Yes, I am; and I am also aware that it is condemned as being dangerous.

5697. Have you such a gauge yourself?—Yes, I have; it is a toy.

5698. The steam-gauge to which I allude consists of a simple syphon, open at one end?—That is the old mercurial tube that I spoke of.

5699. Is it not the fact that this gauge requires no tapping with the hand?—If the dust from the fire flies about when you open the door, it gets into the tube; I often go to look at the height of my steam-gauges, and I have both sorts, some with a string and a peg.

5700. Can you tell by means of the Salter's balance what pressure of steam there is in the boiler?—Yes; I have nothing to do but to pull it down till the steam goes off the valve.

5701. If you can tell anything about it, must it not be by lifting a weight?—No.

5702. Have not you a weight hanging to the Salter's balance?—No; it is a spring; there is no weight.

5703. Does the steam-gauge that you have been recommended to use require that it should be touched with the hand before the man who is attending it can tell the pressure?—The inspector recommended me to get Smith's gauge or Gastorelli's gauge, or some other thing of that kind, and I said, "Before I give up what has served my purpose for 40 years, during which period I have had near 40 boilers sometimes at work, and I have never had an accident, I will know the reason why." It happened a short time afterwards that a boiler burst near Manchester at a bleaching and dyeing-work upon the Bury-road, Hampson mills.

5704. Do you happen to know the explosion at Mr. Smith's works?—No. In the case I am speaking of, the boiler burst, and there was some difference of opinion with regard to the gauge; a person was sent round to examine the gauges at different places, and he gave evidence before the coroner, and he said that one of these same gauges (I think it was Gastorelli's or Smith's) was indicating a difference of as much as ten or twelve pounds pressure upon the square inch; he

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took the absolute pressure, and looked to the indication of this gauge, and there was an error to the amount of five or six pounds pressure upon the square inch in the indication of the gauges; I wrote to Mr. Dickinson, the inspector, to call his attention to this fact, and he wrote to me to say that he agreed with me that a thing depending upon the elasticity of a piece of india-rubber was not quite what ought to be adopted, and that the inspectors generally had come to a resolution in favour of the ordinary tubular mercurial gauge, the syphon gauge.

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5705. The steam-gauge to which I am referring is a simple open syphon, perfectly free to act, requiring no touching, so that the man need not go from his work to see it; it is a free tube which may be seen on all sides?—I saw one of those at Mr. Andrews' works, when he was working the steam up to 100 pounds pressure, but I had not time to look into its principle and character.

5706. Is not it so made that no dust can get into it?—If worked as I saw it, I think that no dust could get into it, but then I would never work steam up to 100 pounds pressure; I do not wonder that Mr. Andrews had got something new, because he was working at a higher pressure than was usual; but I like Salter's spring balance best.

5707. Have you Salter's spring balance fixed up with a spring simply, or with a spring and weight?—I have no recollection of a weight, but I have a spring.

5708. In order to get at the spring would not the man have to go to the top of the boiler?—No; it may be in front of the boiler, or as low as he likes to have it fixed; you may fix them in one part of the boiler as well as in another, wherever they are most convenient to see and to touch. I will try to explain it; supposing we have a boiler, we set our safety-valve to throw off at a greater pressure, and we set our Salter's spring balance to throw off at a lower pressure, and whenever the steam rises to a certain pressure which will lift the valve, the steam will blow away; but when it is at a lower pressure, supposing it blows off at 20, and we wish to see what steam we have in the boiler to draw from for use, we have merely to put our hand on the valve, and the extent to which the gauge rises shows what weight we take off the spring.

5709. How is the spring attached?—It is screwed on; you can adjust it to anything you please; it may be fixed to the end of the boiler.

5710. Has not the man who has to attend to the boiler to put his hand upon the boiler, or to go upon the boiler, in order to get at this valve to see what steam he has?—Not necessarily with Salter's spring balance; then, in addition to that, steam cannot blow off without letting him know, he can hardly help both seeing and hearing it; that being so, he has a further element of safety, which there is not in a common steam-gauge.

5711. Do not you admit that you cannot discover, without touching the gauge, what the pressure is?—I do not; I merely mention this to show how sadly troubled the inspectors were to find work, and what an unnecessary excrescence they are. I may take this opportunity of saying a word upon the subject of the inspectors, that whilst I mention these facts to the Committee, I have reason to know, I may say to believe certainly, and I think, to know, that there is an arrangement now, a compact whereby the police of or relating to shipping, of all sorts, upon the water, centres in the Board of Trade; and the police, of everything upon the land and moving upon its surface, in the Home Department; and that each is desirous of increasing its patronage and power, which rests not so much in the hands of the President of the Board of Trade, or the Secretary of State for the Home Department, but with what are called the red tapists at the Treasury and the Home Department; and we are overrun with the spawn of these places, and have them to keep, and these inspectors are of that stamp.

5712. Did not you state to the Committee that one merchant had discontinued doing business with you, in consequence of your workpeople refusing to work long hours?—I never said anything of the kind; what I said was this, that owing to the agitation of this question (I ascribed it to that) the minds of the people had been unhinged, and we could not get our orders on as we ought to do, and we disappointed one house in Manchester once or twice, and they have sent their goods elsewhere. He was one of those who was reported by Mr. Tremeneere to have given evidence in favour of legislation.

5713. Has that man sent his goods elsewhere permanently, or only for once?—I do not say that he has closed his account with me, but he has sent his goods away; but that was only two or three orders. If they cannot get them done in

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one place, they think perhaps they can get them done in another; except perhaps some finishes that they can only get done in one place.

5714. Could you point out to the Committee the paragraph in Mr. Tremeneere's report, in which he speaks of the bleaching masters as being favourable to legislation?—He said so here the other day; but I have told the Committee that from the time that I saw the print that he sent to me of my evidence, to the time of my coming up to London upon this occasion, I had never seen the report; and I think that under these circumstances it is not to be expected that I should point out any particular passage.

5715. Do you adhere to your statement, that he said that the bleaching masters were favourable to legislation?—I heard him say so in this room in his evidence.

5716. *Mr. Bagster.*] Was not that with regard to the west of Scotland, and not with regard to Lancashire and Cheshire?—No; I understood him to say that the masters in Lancashire were in favour of legislation; but on account of the Committee having refused us the printed Minutes of Evidence, we are in difficulty.

5717. *Mr. Crook.*] Have you any reason to impugn the correctness of the second paragraph of page ix of Mr. Tremeneere's Report, which is as follows: "I am able to say that very few of the employers justify the long hours for the young in themselves"?—I think I could tell that I was not at Mr. Tremeneere's elbow at the time he wrote that paragraph.

5718. Have you any reason to impugn that part of his report?—No; I do not impugn anything except that which I myself know of my own knowledge to be untrue.

5719. Are you very busy at present?—No, we are not.

5720. What length of hours did you average last month?—In May I looked it up, and the statement which I have prepared shows the average of the whole, according to my mode of calculation, at nine hours and a half. You cannot get certainly what time each person was working absolutely at their work or trade; I think that from the statement which I handed to the Committee yesterday, they can form an estimate of the work performed, so that I found that in my works at Firwood, it was upon the average nine hours and a half a day.

5721. That is, estimating eight hours to a day, by piecework?—No, I do not give more than seven hours and a half to a day.

5722. Did not you say something with regard to calculating upon an estimate of piecework?—Yes.

5723. And you estimated by that the number of hours which the people do?—Certainly; I know what they can do in each department, without overstraining, in a certain time; I have already told the Committee that in 1830 I made that list of wages; that I made it upon an estimate of calculation that they should be enabled, at these prices, to earn a day's wages in eight hours; and I say that improvements have been made since then whereby they can do it in less time; that is, in the finishing department.

5724. Did you say that the average in May was nine hours and a half?—The average of the absolute labour wrought in the works would not exceed nine hours and a half per day.

5725. Would you apply that to women and children?—I would apply it to employment universally.

5726. Does it extend beyond the employment of women and children?—Yes; I have no sieve through which I can let one part run out and the other stop; I must give it generally, and I wish to be understood as giving it generally, as applying to all the people in the works.

5727. Are you still of opinion that girls under 18 ought not to be employed more than 60 hours' work in the week or in the night?—You have my words; I wrote to my works the other day for a copy of the letter that Mr. Tremeneere referred to as having been written by me to Mr. Ainsworth; it is as follows: "Firwood, 13th January 1855. Dear Sir,—Mr. Tremeneere tells me you have thrown out an idea that the trade might be satisfied if put under the Printers' Act. I, as a printer, have had experience, and know it will not do; and I have said to Mr. T., that if he were to see your signature, together with mine and those of Mr. Blair and Mr. Benley, he might consider we spoke the mind of the bleaching trade of Lancashire to a very considerable extent. I have said as follows to Mr. Tremeneere; 'Although I object to legislation, I shall be glad indeed

indeed to see no children under 11 employed at all in the trades of bleaching, dyeing and finishing, and that no females under 18 should be employed otherwise than in the day, namely, between 5. 30. in the morning, and 8. 30. at night, or should work more than 60 hours in any one week, within those daily hours. The Legislature, in the Acts for regulating labour, has, I believe, established the hours from 5. 30. in the morning to 8. 30. at night, as constituting day-time. I go on Monday to Penylan by the train, at 12. 40. from Bolton, for a week. Yours, truly (signed) James Hardcastle. J. H. H. Ainsworth, Esq."

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5728. Are you still of opinion that young women should not be employed in the night, or for more than 60 hours a week?—What I have said in this letter to Mr. Tremenheere is in print, and I do not repudiate it; I adhere to it; I never repudiated anything. Mr. Tremenheere told the Committee that I had repudiated something; I say that that is utterly false; I never repudiated anything; but I say that that is utterly false.

5729. Have you at present a school on your works?—No; we have not one on the works; we never had, but we have one near; we have built two large schools since that in the neighbourhood.

5730. It has been stated in evidence to this Committee by Mr. Thomas Miller, that there is a school attached to your works; is that so?—There are many things attached to the works, and attached to me.

5731. Is there any school attached to you?—A school means a number of children; a school-house is another thing. There may be a school attached to my works, and I daresay there is.

5732. Are you connected with the school-house or schoolmaster, who pays especial attention to your workpeople's children?—He pays no more attention to my workpeople's children than to any other people's children. My benevolence does not confine itself to my works, but it extends further than that.

5733. Were not you instrumental in establishing a school in the neighbourhood?—It is the school of the townships of Tonge.

5734. Could you tell the Committee the particulars about the class of persons who attend this school from your works?—I do not know it, for this reason: I have laid before me every quarter the names of every person that attends, both male and female, through that quarter, and I make inquiries and satisfy myself as to the truth of it. But I never ask whose people they are.

5735. You cannot give me any information as to the attendance of the young people of your works at school?—I do not separate them from the others, but my impression is that they do attend, for if not I should hear something about it; they must either attend school or be idle.

5736. We have had evidence from a man who has been 24 years in your employment, that the children who do attend school attend before they begin to be employed?—Very likely it is so; that is before they are 13 years old; I should think they did.

5737. We have it also further stated by the same witness, that they cannot attend after they begin to work; is that so?—They cannot attend regularly, but they may occasionally. And there are common things that people have to learn, that they can learn after they begin to work; what they have learned in the school is very uncertain.

5738. You say that the employment that you give to your people at Firwood is pretty steady?—I mean to say that we have a very old established, and respectable and steady connexion for Firwood.

5739. Does it vary very much?—Yes, it varies very much. I could have given the same report for May 1856 which I have given for this year, if I had thought of it.

5740. Is your work more steady now than it was in 1854?—I should hardly think that there is much difference; this last month money has been scarce; and from one thing or another there has not been so much business doing as usual; people have not sent so many goods; when money is scarce we do not get so much to do; if money is plentiful we get more.

5741. You say that the bleaching process, that is to say, the whitening process preparatory to finishing, is systematic, do you mean by that that the workpeople manage to make their hours tolerably regular?—I could not explain that to any one who does not understand the trade. What I mean by systematic is this: if you were to go there you would see that in the bleaching house, which to all appearance is a perfect chaos, there was the utmost regularity; you would find things

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things going in at one end grey, and you would find them coming out white at the other, but you would never know how it was done. You would find goods of fifty different kinds requiring twenty different operations, coming out as neat as can be in their own rooms, with now and then the exception of a piece or two. But to explain how that system is arrived at, which has been the work of years, at this table and in this room ought not to be expected of me.

5742. Do you say that the bleaching process is systematic as compared with the finishing?—Yes; I will try to explain to you what I mean by the word “systematic;” taking these goods in the grey, we have nothing to do with them but to make them white; we then establish what I should call a system, or a mode of procedure that should be steady and continuous whereby that should be done; but supposing that we have one week, or one day more to do than we have at another day, the system does not alter, but the amount of labour will alter; it will be one day more and another day less, but the system remains the same.

5743. Then your remark about systematic labour had no reference to time or to hours?—I have heard that there is some connexion between Goodwin Sands and Tenterden church steeple, but whether there is a connexion between time and working I cannot tell.

5744. Had this word “systematic” anything to do with the hours during which the operatives work?—It must necessarily comprise their labour; but a system could not comprise the amount of labour.

5745. Did not you tell the Committee that the bleaching process was systematic, but that the finishing process was not systematic?—It is not capable of being reduced to a system. The bleaching process is so far reduced to a system now as to be almost mechanical, though it is chemical and scientific; our endeavour has been to make it as much as possible mechanical; it is on account of that, that the men who come at five o'clock in the morning are able to go away again at two o'clock, having earned a day and a half's wages, and they will do that day by day; if a man wants to be off for a day he will bid for a night lump. These young boys come to get a parcel of cloth ready for another set for the morning; they will often do this when they want a frolic for the day.

5746. To do this work do you require women and children?—Those who want the frolics are the young lads; but we employ no women in the bleaching department.

5747. Can they go on with their work without employing anybody else?—The pullers can; they are the people that pull up the cloth.

5748. Did not you state to the Committee that the bleaching process was systematic, but that the finishing process you left to the workpeople?—I stated that the bleaching process was systematic, but I did not say that the finishing process was left to the workpeople.

5749. You stated to Mr. Tremenhoe “that, since the inquiry in 1843, the hours of working have been much diminished;” are you still of opinion that the hours of working are diminished as compared with what they used to be?—Yes.

5750. Can you point out to the Committee any great evils that have resulted from these more regular hours of labour?—No.

5751. Have the workpeople been impoverished by it?—Certainly not.

5752. Are the masters any worse off than they used to be?—No, we have been able to do the same work in less time, but with different arrangements, and it is what we have been always studying; it has been the study of my life.

5753. Have the bleach-works been shut up, or have they largely extended within the last 14 years?—I do not know that there are any new bleach-works, but I know that those which exist go on; I am not doing more than I used to do.

5754. Are you aware that there are some firms who are bleaching a much larger quantity of cloth than they did 14 years ago?—I do not inquire into other people's business, and therefore I am not able to answer that question.

5755. Are there any complaints from merchants with regard to these improved hours that you speak of?—I should say that we execute their orders as promptly now as we ever did. They give us the longest day, and they can rely upon us just as well as if they had the goods in their own warehouse.

5756. Can you point out to the Committee any evils that have resulted from the shorter hours of labour that have taken place since 1843?—Certainly not.

5757. Is there any reason to think that you have contemplated shutting up, yourself, during that time, inasmuch as you say that if the Factory Act were applied

applied to bleach-works, you would have to shut up?—Yes; I have absolutely contemplated shutting up. *J. Hardcastle, Esq.*

5758. Under what circumstances could that be?—Because the toil and labour and the annoyance would more than counterbalance anything that I got by it, and I have seriously contemplated getting out of it in case of legislative interference.

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5759. Was not that when you took an unduly unfavourable impression of the prospects of business?—I never did take an unduly unfavourable impression of the prospects of business.

5760. Since you did not shut up, may we not conclude that you have looked more hopefully upon business since that time?—I have never changed my conclusion about business in my life.

5761. You say that you did once contemplate shutting up?—Yes; because I was sick of inspectors and that kind of thing, and I thought that if I was going to have them about my bleach-works, meddling with my workpeople, I should have a good deal of annoyance, and I would begin to see if I could not get away from it, and that feeling continues; it is with me now; it is not because I have any fear about business. At the same time, there is a wide difference between the state of things now and what it was some years ago. When I became a bleacher we were paid 2 s. 3 d. for what we are now paid 9 d.; again, a piece of goods that was worth 25 s. or 26 s. is now worth 5 s.; so that there is a very small margin for the purpose of legislating upon, and a very slight space in which to try experiments. The margin is very narrow indeed.

5762. Have you any notion that if the Factory Act were to be extended to the bleach-works, it would have any effect upon the prices of bleaching?—I do not know that; but I know that if I had not my money, the men would go without their wages, for I cannot find money in the street: if I have not money from the business the men must go without.

5763. Do you think that it would raise prices?—It must of necessity, or the work would stop.

5764. Are you aware that the bleaching masters in the neighbourhood of Bolton have a union among themselves?—I am aware that they have not any union.

5765. Have you no association?—I am not associated with anybody but myself and my wife.

5766. Have you no reason to think that there is an association amongst the bleachers?—There are a number of gentlemen who meet together on the first and third Saturdays of every month, mainly for convivial purposes, but I am not one of them; but that is a union of men to spend a very agreeable afternoon. They have a capital cellar of wine there. I have not been a member for near 20 years, but I believe it is carried on in nearly the same way as it used to be.

5767. Have not you honoured them with your company lately?—Not for near 20 years. I think they not only dine at the Albion, but they go where they can be best served.

5768. Have you heard anything with regard to their contributions to the opposition to this Bill?—They have never contributed a farthing to it.

5769. You are speaking according to the best of your belief?—I know they have not contributed anything, for if they had I should have found it out.

5770. You do not happen to know that they have employed Parliamentary agents here in order to oppose any legislation upon the subject?—I am quite sure that they have not; if they had I must have known it.

5771. Have you any information which leads you to suppose that the leading object of this masters' union is to keep up prices?—When it started their object was to establish a minimum list of prices; there was no minimum, and I and others thought that it would be better to have something as a minimum, and we met to see if we could agree upon what that something should be, and we did agree to minimum prices; that minimum was 3,000 l. less than I received for the three years working. And we had another object, that instead of looking like two bulls ready to butt at each other, if two bleachers met in a warehouse we could speak and shake hands with comfort together, which we could do after we had dined together, and found that we were not so very bad as we fancied.

5772. Do not you think that the object of this association was to remove the bone of contention between you, so that you might meet in a friendly manner?—That was one object, to create friendly feeling.

5773. To promote a friendly feeling with regard to prices?—Yes, and with regard to other things; and there was another advantage in it; we found some

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people would say, "What is your price?" we should say, we are getting 1 s. a piece. "Oh," the other party would say, "Mr. So-and-so will do them for 11 d.;" and so we might be reduced to 11 d.; but of course, if we were upon friendly terms, we could say to each other, "Are you doing such a thing for 11 d.?" The reply might be, "No, not a piece;" whereas, if we were on unfriendly terms, we could not put such a question. I think it is a very wise proceeding.

5774. Are you aware that this association influences the prices of bleaching at present?—I do not think it does, except in the way I have mentioned. The bleachers keep on good terms with one another, and therefore, perhaps, now and then it has the effect of preventing their being imposed upon by an incorrect story. Some people will use a subterfuge, which others would not think right, in order to get a good price. Now we have, by a little communication, prevented that; and likewise, I think that the tendency is rather to prevent prices going down, as I have stated here.

5775. Is that the object of this association?—That is the main object, and the dinners.

5776. Do not you consider that a tampering with trade?—Not at all: its object is to prevent trade being tampered with. I should say that "tampering" is a word that I do not quite understand, as being applicable to the subject.

5777. You have stated that you object to this legislation upon a principle that admits of few exceptions; what principle is it against which this legislation tends?—I was asked if I objected to legislative restrictions upon a principle which admits of few exceptions; and as a definition of the word "principle," I have quoted Sir Walter Raleigh.

5778. Will you tell me, in a few words, upon what principle you object to the regulation of labour?—Upon this principle, that if you meddle with it you are more likely to do harm than good; I think that may be called a principle.

5779. That principle applies only with reference to labour; what is your opinion with reference to any other matters of trade?—It applies with reference to restrictions in the price of food.

5780. Are you of opinion that the Legislature cannot meddle with the price of food?—Yes; and they have found out that it will not do, and they have given over meddling.

5781. Have you any instance to cite to the Committee in which legislation has been injurious, with reference to the employment of labour, or to commercial enterprise?—If the Committee will let me know that they are prepared to accept evidence upon that subject, I will be prepared to give it.

5782. At present, you do not know any legislation upon the subject of the hours of labour, or any branch of commerce, that has done damage?—My reply is, that to be called upon at a moment like this to state anything upon this subject is not quite fair; but if you will give me the opportunity of collecting evidence, I dare say I shall be able to find it.

5783. Mr. *Packe*.] I think you said that the average hours of labour in your establishment were nine hours and a half a day?—Yes; that was in the month of May; I have found that in my Firwood works it was so, as nearly as it possibly could be; the work done would, on an average, be accomplished within nine hours and a half in the month of May last.

5784. Do you limit your statement to the hours in the month of May?—I do, because I have a return only for the month of May.

5785. Will you be so good as to tell the Committee what was the maximum number of hours that was worked in a day in the month of May?—I could not tell what was the greatest number of hours worked in any one day by any one person without inquiry at the works.

5786. Did not you arrive at your result by taking the maximum and the minimum number of hours, and then striking an average?—No. We know exactly how many days in the month each set of people have worked; and, according to this scale, we know the time of steady labour that it ought to take for them to earn the money which they earn, and from that we strike the average. I am told that the person to whom the honourable Member for Bolton referred, Thomas Miller, had given evidence here; and it is very unfortunate that the Committee has refused us the printed evidence, because then I should be in a condition to answer these questions. He has been 24 years with me, and I dare say that his appearance would not show that he has been ill used in those 24 years. He said that he had worked 36 hours continuously at the beetles in my works.

works. Now, he was the foreman of these beetles, and he was the person to direct the hours of working, and if he worked 36 hours at once, it was occasioned by his own greed of gain. For myself, I never heard of such a thing; but it was his own act and deed, and caused by his own greed of gain, and nothing else.

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5787. Does the average of work, night and day, include females and boys as well as those of adult age?—It does; because they work in sets together. There is a great variety in this department. In dividing the wages, we know the quantity that a good healthy person is bound to do in a day, and then we have a calculation of the rate per 100. The work is laid out by a standard per 100, and then it is spread among them all *pro rata* for women and children.

5788. Mr. Kirk.] The witness Thomas Miller, to whom you just alluded, stated that you employed women in your beetling departments; did not you state the reverse?—I am not aware that we do; I never saw one in all our beetling departments in my life. I may say with regard to my beetling, that it has been a very insignificant affair latterly, for Ireland has beaten us out of the field, and they may have put a woman or two there without my orders, for I have taken very little notice of it, but I have never seen one there.

5789. If there are women, it is an exception?—I do not know that there are; I cannot suppose it possible; I think it is very unlikely.

5790. Is not it the fact that there has been an extension of the spinning of cotton yarn in Lancashire?—Yes.

5791. Has the extension of bleaching and dyeing been equal to the extension of cotton spinning in Lancashire?—The extension of cotton spinning has been a very great extension; still there has been a very great extension of bleaching and dyeing, but it does not keep pace in any degree with the extension of the production of the grey cloth. The great bulk of goods now go abroad in the grey; in China they use many of them for dyeing; they dye there as they do here; others are used for their mourning white; there is a good market for these grey calicoes; they put them out in the sun, and water them, and then they are soon white enough for the common people. We find that whereas there were formerly no grey goods sent by people engaged in the China trade, now there are very few white ones.

5792. Mr. Dalglish.] You spoke of nine hours and a half as being the average hours of work in the month of May; have you never, during the last 12 months, worked more than nine hours and a half?—Yes.

5793. During the other months, have you worked more?—I should think so; I should think that they must go up to 10 hours and a half. Perhaps in the fullest month they have been more than 10 hours and a half this year.

5794. Last year, during your busiest season, what was the period you worked?—I could not carry my memory back any further than this year, so as to give you such an answer as I should like to give.

5795. Did not it average beyond 10 hours and a half?—No; 10, 11 and 12 have been worked. There have been people there all that time; they are there a long time when they are not working. The atmosphere of the rooms is more agreeable than that of their own habitations, and they have every opportunity of social intercourse.

5796. Can you always procure orders for your works when you want them?—I wish I could; but I am sorry to say that I cannot.

5797. Have you occasionally an excess of work over your power of production?—Occasionally we have.

5798. On those occasions I suppose you want workers?—Occasionally we want workers.

5799. Do you think that an Act of Parliament could be framed to regulate the supply of orders, so as to enable all the bleach-works and dye-works of the country to supply them for 10 hours during all the 12 months?—No, no more than it could arrange for a supply of wind for blowing Her Majesty's fleet; they have just the same power in one case as in the other.

5800. Supposing that bleach-works were employed during the busy season 12 hours a day occasionally, how much would you require to extend your works so as to overtake that work in 10 hours?—I do not know how I could extend the works; they are not things that are expansive in all their parts; they would be one part upon another; and the only mode of extension would be to build, as it were, a new additional work, somewhere near our old one, if I had conveniences of water; you must have water and other conveniences for it.

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5801. Supposing that you made this extension, would it be equal to one-fifth of your present works?—I cannot tell.

5802. Would you require to increase the number of your workpeople also?—Yes; they would have full employment at one time and there would be half employment at another; and whilst they had that half employment they would be grumbling and growling, and getting into mischief.

5803. Would not wages decrease in that case?—Of course; each man in certain seasons.

5804. And in certain seasons would not you have more work than in others?—Some trades are much more governed by seasons than my own. I have a trade in the Levant and Italy, and it does not fluctuate so much by seasons as others; but the variety of my work is great. For instance, an order may come quite unexpectedly for 5,000 pieces of Irishes and Scotch hollands; all our machinery that is capable of doing Scotch hollands may not be able to turn out more than 500 a day, or something of that kind, and then we are in a fix; we have to put all that we can on to this description of finishing. Then it requires a particular description of fold, and we have only a certain number of people who can make that fold. Then it requires a particular description of ornamenting and trimming, and stamping and preparing, and all that kind of thing; and many people cannot be taken from other departments to execute that order, and they are subject to work longer. Some kinds of finishing and folds take longer than others: the plain kinds of fold take a very short time. The possibility of being steadily and closely employed in my works is very remote indeed; I cannot conceive the possibility.

5805. Supposing an Act were passed to restrict the employment of women and boys to certain hours, from six in the morning to six at night, would not that virtually legislate for the men also?—Most undoubtedly; and that is what I think it is intended to do. I was told that the honourable Member for Glasgow wished to ask me some questions as to the hot places. I may state that by the Swiss mode of which I was speaking, all that is objectionable in them can be removed if people choose to adopt it.

Stephen Blair, Esq., called in; and Examined.

S. Blair, Esq.

5806. *Chairman.*] I THINK you are a partner in the firm of Blair & Sumner, of Bolton, carrying on the trade of Bleachers and Finishers?—Yes, I am.

5807. From 1848 to 1852 you represented the borough of Bolton in Parliament?—I did.

5808. How long have you been engaged in this business?—Since 1819 I have been employed in the bleaching trade.

5809. How many workpeople do you employ?—One hundred and twenty-seven on the works.

5810. Can you state their different ages?—I have a statement made out of the ages of the different people whom we employ.

5811. What is the youngest that you employ?—The youngest that we employ is 11, but we have only one of that age; we have a total of nine under 13; eight boys and one girl, one boy of 11, two boys of 12, and a girl of 12; all the others are upwards of that age.

5812. Have you of late years introduced machinery extensively in your operations?—I have, in all the departments in the process of bleaching; I have now machinery that takes the cloth in the first instance; we stitch it altogether, and we never unstitch the cloth until it is bleached white; we do all by machinery. We used to employ a great number of hands in the bleaching department, but now we only employ two men and 17 boys to the whole of it.

5813. In other works, where that class of machinery is not introduced, men are engaged in passing the cloth through the various operations?—The men are engaged in finishing and callendering departments, and also in the stoving.

5814. Was the result of your introduction of machinery to displace them?—It displaced a great number of people in the bleaching departments.

5815. Would legislation, in reference to bleach-works, have a tendency, or otherwise, to increase the use of this machinery?—I think that it would have a tendency to increase the use of machinery.

5816. And thereby displace manual labour?—And thereby displace manual labour.

• 5817. What

5817. What effect has the introduction of machinery had in reference to the number of hours in your establishment?—It has made the number of hours more regular, and of course the work can be done in a much shorter time by that means.

5818. Has it lessened the extremes ever since its introduction?—It has in our departments very much; the work is a great deal more regular.

5819. Have you any statement which you can place before the Committee, regarding the variation of the work done between one month and another?—I have the variations of work from the time that Mr. Tremenheere called at our works, which are all in the table of the report.

5820. Are those subsequent to those that were put in that report?—Yes; there were several; the last was 1853, and then 1854, 1855 and 1856 are here.

5821. The scales put in by Mr. Tremenheere at page 30, show a difference between the highest and lowest point of labour at 155 and 151 per cent.?—Yes.

5822. Do yours show a similar difference?—Not so much; for the year 1854 it is 57·64; in 1855, 92·37, and in 1856, 86·17.

5823. Has that class of machinery to which you referred, been put in since Mr. Tremenheere made his report?—Yes; it is the machinery that has been put in since that, the particular machinery that I am speaking of with regard to the bleaching; and then with regard to the callendering, we have speeded the callenders quicker, and are able to get through more work in a less time.

5824. So that this diagram that Mr. Tremenheere put in his report shows a variation of upwards of 50 per cent. that would not exist now?—It has not existed; I do not know what it might be in future; there might be fluctuation in the goods that we might receive from our customers; of some goods, in one month, we have a great deal, of some goods very little. In the month that we have had very little to do the workpeople have been nearly as long upon the premises.

5825. Will you hand that paper in?—(*The same was handed in.*)

Vide Appendix.

5826. Have you a paper showing the amount of hours worked through the last year?—Yes, I have.

5827. What average does that show?—The average altogether, taking all the rates together, is 10½ hours per day.

5828. Is that a fair average?—It is not the real work and the time that it lasts; it is the time that the workpeople are on the ground, but it is not the time that they work, because sometimes one set has to wait for another; they do not always get employed at the same time; some have to wait for work, still they stay on the ground. The table I have, giving the number of hours, is the hours the people are on the ground, but not the hours that they worked.

5829. Can you state to this Committee the maximum and the minimum of those hours from whence you draw your average?—I have a book in which the hours are put in; sometimes we have not worked more than two or three hours a day, and I believe there has been 16 hours in the day; that is the greatest extreme; the least is three or four or five, and some days we have not worked at all.

5830. Does that include the two hours for meals?—That includes the two hours for meals, so that the greatest amount would be 14 hours of labour.

5831. Has that been continuous labour?—No, they have had to wait sometimes; I have got a place for the men, where there are newspapers and things for them to read, and also a smoking-room, where they can go and smoke; and with respect to the girls, I think there is not a more industrious set of girls than they are, for when they are waiting for work, they are always making their own dresses, or making something or other for themselves.

5832. Mr. *Packe*.] Does that 10½ hours include time for meals?—The 10½ hours includes the meal-times; if I took the meals away, it would be eight hours and a half.

5833. Does the maximum of 16 hours include the meal-times also?—Yes; it is the time that they have to come in the morning; they have a fixed time to come in the morning, and they go away at night when they have done.

5834. Mr. *Cheetham*.] It is the time that they are actually on the premises?—It is the time they are actually on the premises; the time is fixed in the morning, and then they go away when their work is done at night.

5835. So that, though in the extreme cases the 16 hours is spent upon the premises by the workman, part of that time he would be reading and recreating himself for work?—He is not at work the whole of the time.

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Vide Appendix.

5836. Will you hand that paper in to the Committee?—(*The same was handed in.*)

5837. Is there any difference between the time of working in the bleaching departments and in the other departments?—No; there is very little difference with us.

5838. We have had evidence before us, that in your establishment there is a considerable difference in that respect; is that so?—There used to be a considerable difference with us, but, by the introduction of machinery, that difference is obviated, and it is made more regular.

5839. What is your opinion as to the desirability or otherwise of employing girls so young as 11 years of age in the bleach-works?—I do not think that there is any occasion to employ them at all under 11; we have none under 11, and have not had any for many years.

5840. It has been stated in the evidence before this Committee, that these young children have been compelled, through influence brought to bear upon their parents, to attend the bleach-works at the age of 11 and under; is that the case with you?—We have people upon the books who are wanting to come; the parents wish their children to come; they want them to make money for them, and we will not take them, unless they can read and write. We adopted that plan for the purpose of getting them to school; for I am sorry to say, that I find that where the people upon my books are making the greatest wages, their families are receiving the least education.

5841. As to the women employed in your establishment, are they employed in hot places where the temperature is high?—No, we have no hot places where we have any women employed; we have only a stove, and the cloth cannot be hung in the stove when it is hot. It is hung by a beam from the top of the room, and if it were hot, the cloth would not fall on the ground; therefore, it is quite cool when the cloth is being hung. As soon as it is hung, the doors are closed, and the steam is turned upon the cloth, and the men and boys do not come into the stove until after the cloth is dry. When that is the case, a door is opened, the air is allowed to go through, and the stove is quite cool when they come to take down the cloth which is hung.

5842. As regards the employment of females, have you any hot place in which there are females working?—I have none, with the exception of the stove, which I have just explained.

5843. What is your opinion as to the healthy condition and appearance of your workpeople?—There are none more healthy; I will back them against anybody, both for health and appearance.

5844. Do you justify that opinion of yours by the length of time that they continue working?—Yes. I have said that we have only two men employed in the bleach-works now; one of them came in 1832, and the other in 1836; and in other places they are equally long-lived. The girls who come to us scarcely ever leave us, unless they get married, and then they must go; they have to look after the house.

5845. Is the occupation connected with bleaching an unhealthy one?—Not in the least; quite the reverse. In fact Dr. Black some time ago was making an inquiry among the bleachers with the view of seeing if any bleachers had died of consumption, and he told me that so far as his inquiry had been made, he had found not a single one; and in cases of consumption, the chlorine that we make use of is used for medicine, which shows that we are not working in any very unhealthy atmosphere.

5846. How are your rooms where these young people and women work ventilated?—The rooms are as well ventilated as this Committee-room, and no warmer. At the time that Mr. Tremenheere came into our works, he went into the finishing-room, which I consider is the hottest room we have; but it appears that he liked it very well, for he sat upon the table for an hour or more talking with the workpeople, and he made the remark, that no person could find any fault with the atmosphere of the room.

5847. Are your workpeople attracted by the shorter hours worked in the cotton factories in the neighbourhood?—They are not attracted to leave us by the shorter hours in the factory, but they are attracted to come from there to us; they would gladly do it if they had the opportunity.

5848. Do you know whether young women complained to Mr. Tremenheere about having sore ankles?—Yes; when Mr. Tremenheere came to the works, he called a number of people up to him, and asked them several questions. He asked

asked them whether they would like to have a short time Bill, and work short hours. I only recollect that the girls did complain of sore feet; I was not aware till then that there was any such complaint, and I ordered them to wear slippers; they wore clogs when they were working. He pointed out a girl who was working with clogs. If any one did work in that way their feet must be sore, for they were working upon a boarded floor, and wood upon wood; I dare say it made their feet sore. But since they have worn slippers I have not heard a single complaint on that score, except from one of the girls who was determined that she would not leave off wearing clogs; and, before I came up here, upon making inquiry, I found that that girl still complained of sore feet, while the others, who wore slippers, found that they had been cured.

5849. When Mr. Tremenheere visited your works, did you give him every facility for visiting the workpeople?—Yes; when Mr. Tremenheere came to my works, I was not aware of his coming. I was in town sitting upon a bench of magistrates, and some one came and said that Mr. Tremenheere had come, and wished to go through my works; I said I would come as soon as I could come away, and then I went through the works with him. He asked me several questions, with respect to what I thought of the Bill; if there was any objection to it; but I would not give any reply to him, but I told him that he might speak to the workpeople. He did so. I did not interfere with him in the least, but I noticed in going through the works, while he was speaking to those girls and boys who complained of sore feet, that the girls were in a position in the room where I had never seen them before, and I have not the least doubt in my own mind that the workpeople knew when Mr. Tremenheere was coming; for those that he examined were close to the place where he stood in the room, and before that time, and since that time, I have never seen them there; their work was quite away. There was one boy whom Mr. Tremenheere examined who told him that his name was Thomas Spencer, I think, and that he worked all night for several nights in succession: that he came the first in the morning, and that he was there the last in the evening; that he was a sorter of ropes for packing.

5850. The report says, "Thomas Spencer,—I am 12 years of age; I have been working here six months; my employment is sorting ropes for packing; I come at five o'clock in the morning, and am always here at that hour, and go home sometimes at nine, sometimes at ten." Have you any explanation to give of that?—Yes; he told Mr. Tremenheere that he came at some very early time in the morning, and he told him a great deal more than is in that book; he said that he was there several nights during the year, and that he had been there when other people were not. I knew that that could not well be the case, and I went to the foreman to ask him the question, and he said it was nothing of the sort; that the lad was there the least number of hours of anybody on the works. Upon that I called Mr. Tremenheere's attention to it, and he beckoned him back, and spoke to him, and the lad told quite a different tale; he hit him on the shoulder, and told him to go away. I said, "What is to do, Mr. Tremenheere?" he said, "Oh, he is telling me a pack of lies." I think that if Mr. Tremenheere put in one part he ought to put the rest in.

5851. There is no evidence of any discrepancy reported by Mr. Tremenheere?—I say that Mr. Tremenheere has not put in the evidence that he gave; I allowed Mr. Tremenheere to ask his own questions, and take down his answers, as he thought proper; but I did notice particularly about the lad; he said that he had worked all night for so many nights together, and that he had worked longer hours than anybody had worked; and when I was told it was just the opposite, I thought that Mr. Tremenheere should have taken some notice of it.

5852. So far as refers to Thomas Spencer, the report is quite incorrect?—So far as refers to the evidence of Thomas Spencer, the report is quite incorrect.

5853. Mr. Davison.] Are you satisfied that the workpeople knew that Mr. Tremenheere was coming?—I believe so from what I have stated; that when I went into the room I found that the people were placed where I had never seen them before. He placed himself first of all, and then the people were placed round him.

5854. You knew nothing of his arrival until the message was sent to you on the bench?—Nothing; I never heard of it till the message came to me when I was on the bench.

5855. Mr. Cheetham.] You have already stated to the Committee that there are intervals of time when the workpeople are not employed?—Yes.

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5856. What provision have you made for them in those intervals?—For the men, I have built a room for them to read the newspaper, if they think proper to do so, and also a place where they are allowed to smoke; we do not allow smoking in any other department than that, and we have built a room on purpose for them. As for the girls, I can see them when I go through the works sitting sewing; they make the most beautiful crochet work; and on Sunday, when I meet them, I have to look to see who they are; the men are quite as well dressed as I am.

5857. Is part of that dress that you see on Sunday, the result of their working when they are with you?—It is the result of their working during the times that they are waiting for work.

5858. Is that the result of the work not being continuous?—Yes; they have to wait for one another. I can give the Committee a statement of what we do; I did not hear that Mr. Hardcastle went through that. We first of all have to unload our cloth; then it is stitched together; every piece is stitched together; we then fire it, to burn off the nap; and we used to use men to turn the roller, but now they have nothing to do with it; that is done by machinery. They used to pull it off the roller after being singed; that is done by machinery; they used to take it into the works in barrows, that is done by machinery; the cloth is taken out of one room to the other by machinery. There is no manual labour at all in any of the different processes that have to be gone through in that way, until it comes to the mangles. The mangling is done by machinery; then it is hoisted up to the stoves; that is done by machinery. The cloth is hung by machinery, and then it comes to the callender. It has made the hours of labour more regular; and as to all this work that is done, we receive the cloth from Manchester, and bleach it, and finish it, and send it to Manchester again, for 9*d.* for 40 yards.

5859. After going through all those various processes?—Now, if it were not for the quantity of cloth we have to do, we should lose money by every piece that we bleach.

5860. Is the fact of the labour not being continuous an argument against legislation?—Of course it is; if work comes in at a certain time, and we are slack of work, it is of very material importance that we should be able to get it done.

5861. The Committee have had some evidence as to the state of education among operative bleachers; what is the state of education among the people employed in your works?—I have made inquiries from every one, and I have papers to substantiate what I say; we employ 127 hands; there are 78 who can read and write very fairly; there are 36 that can read, but they cannot write; and there are 13 that can neither read nor write; making 127.

5862. Then out of 127 only 13 can neither read nor write?—Only 13 can neither read nor write.

5863. Have you any schools in the vicinity of your works?—The schools are not close; there is a school a quarter of a mile off. I have been the means of building two schools attached to churches, which they can go to; or, if they think proper, there are other schools which are taught by people for their own living, and which take the poorer classes if they pay so much a week. There are also the Sunday schools belonging to the several sects; there are plenty of schools if they will go to them, but I find that the parents do not pay that attention to their children that they ought to do; and I always find that a family which makes the greatest quantity of wages turns out children who are the worst educated.

5864. To whom do you ascribe these pushes which occur in your business?—To the merchants; they receive their orders from the merchants abroad, and the orders are that if they can get a certain quantity bleached by a certain time, they may send them in the white state. The merchant goes to the bleacher and says, "If you can get this done for me in such time you shall have it, if not, I must send it away in the grey." I find that there are considerably more goods going out now in the grey than there used to be; in fact, a particular friend of mine, who is in the business, told me not more than a fortnight ago that he was not bleaching now half the cloth that he used to do; that cloth is going abroad; they can bleach it as well abroad as we can. The bleaching machinery that I have just put up is machinery that was invented in Belgium; and the other day Mr. Kirk, in his evidence, said that he could not exactly point out the way in which the goods were bleached, but that he could tell them coming down; that is the way that I do mine. In France and in Belgium there

there was machinery before ever we had it with us, and even now, if our bleachers had got the machinery up, and if we were put under restrictions, which are proposed by the Bill, all advantage would be taken away from us.

5865. Referring to another point, John Waring, who gave evidence before this Committee, said that on one occasion he saw bleaching work going on in Mr. Cross's bleach-works on a Sunday; have you any remark to make about that?—Yes, John Waring said that in his evidence; and while I have been down in the country, I have taken the opportunity of seeing Mr. Cross, and asking if such was the case; and I have a letter from Mr. Cross, saying that he did bleach goods once on a Sunday, and only once, and that was a Government order for some goods that had to be bleached for the Crimea. I have his letter, if the Committee would like to hear it.

5866. Will you read it?—"With reference to the evidence of John Waring before the Committee on the above Bill, that he had known Mr. Cross work on a Sunday, I wish to make a few observations: it is correct that during the early period of the late war, an order from the Government was given to some Manchester merchants for shirtings for the soldiers then in the Crimea. These orders were obliged to be completed by a certain time. Indeed humanity would dictate that it was perfectly consistent to work on this occasion, when two men and six boys only were employed for five hours on the Sunday; but never on any other occasion has my establishment worked on a Sunday, and I regret that Waring should so far demean himself as to give such one-sided evidence. I have no doubt he knew perfectly well under what circumstances we worked on the Sunday. However, if he means to convey the idea that it is not an uncommon practice for my establishment to work on a Sunday, I have simply to deny the truth of his evidence."

5867. Mr. Robinson, a surgeon, of Bolton, who appeared before this Committee, said, that since machinery and chemical processes had been substituted for grass bleaching, the workpeople had not been so vigorous and healthy as before; have you any explanation to give with reference to that?—Mr. Robinson, in his evidence said, that he had been 34 years at Bolton, and that when he came to Bolton grass bleaching was in use. Now, I have a book here containing the evidence on a trial between a gentleman of the name of Tennant, who was a manufacturing chemist in Scotland, and a party in the neighbourhood of Bolton, who is a bleacher, as to the first introduction of chemical bleaching; this trial was in the year 1803, and from that time you may state that there was really no grass bleaching of any extent; therefore I consider that Mr. Robinson was decidedly mistaken in making the remark, that there was grass bleaching when he came to Bolton. My father was a bleacher, and I was born upon the same ground where I now reside, and I have seen bleaching all along, and I never recollect in my time any grass bleaching, with the exception perhaps of a piece or two pieces, which had been sent to the bleacher by his customer at Manchester for his own use, asking him to bleach them on the grass. Never, as a regular thing, was cloth bleached upon the grass in my recollection, which is considerably longer than Mr. Robinson's.

5868. He must have been speaking to a fact which occurred previous to his residence there?—There was nothing of the sort in the neighbourhood of Bolton in his time.

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Veneris, 10^o die Julii, 1857.

MEMBERS PRESENT.

Mr. Baxter.
Mr. Clark.
Mr. Cobbett.
Mr. Crook.
Mr. Davison.
Mr. Kirk.

Lord John Manners.
Lord Naas.
Mr. Packe.
Mr. Turner.
Mr. Wise.

LORD JOHN MANNERS, IN THE CHAIR.

Mr. Henry William Ripley, called in; and Examined.

Mr. H. W. Ripley.

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5869. *Chairman.*] WILL you state to the Committee your occupation?—I am a dyer in Bradford, carrying on business there in connexion with my father as dyers of worsted goods, generally, comprising in that name mixtures of cotton and silk and wool.

5870. Will you state the number of the persons you employ?—The entire number of hands in our employment at the present moment is 491.

5871. Of those, how many are women, and how many boys?—Of those, a very small portion are women, only 13.

5872. How many boys?—Boys between 13 and 18 years of age, 75; I have taken those figures as being the ages fixed in Mr. Butt's Bill of last year.

5873. Have you any under 13?—No children are employed under 13, speaking generally; it is just possible that we have one or two, but, as a general rule, children coming to works similar to ours, come after they get too old for working in the factories; they are glad to escape from the factories to our description of work, which is of somewhat a lighter nature.

5874. Will you state to the Committee the nature of the employment in which those 75 boys are engaged?—To some extent those boys are divided over the entire works; of course, learning the various departments in the works, the older boys being employed in the dyeing operations, and the younger ones being employed in the finishing operations, gradually passing on from that to the heavier work, the finishing work being carried on after, of course, the dyeing operations are completed.

5875. Will you tell the Committee what your usual hours of labour are?—Our hours of labour vary very materially with the season of the year; the work we have to perform coming from the merchants at various times, and uncertainly. In certain seasons of the year, our hands have very short time indeed; and again for some months, in the summer months especially, we work, to some extent, long hours; our rule, however, and I think it is a rule which applies generally over the trade, is not to work after nine o'clock in the evening. The arrangements of different concerns are various; some commence at six, and have an hour for breakfast; some commence at seven. Our practice is to commence at seven, and allowing no time till dinner; that varies at some seasons of the year. In the winter we commence at half-past seven, or even eight, give an hour at dinner time at twelve, and about four o'clock, when it is dark, frequently for weeks together, the concerns are closed altogether. Again, in summer time, or two or three months in spring; and again in autumn, when the merchants send in large quantities of goods to be dyed and finished, our operations will commence at six giving our men half an hour for breakfast, and an hour for dinner; and in the evening again, between four and five, they will take their half hour or three quarters, and go on till seven, eight or nine o'clock. The boys employed in those finishing operations have really, in the morning, little or nothing to do. They are playing about, waiting till some goods come up that have been dyed during the

the morning. The operations are of this description, that if any one commences to put goods into the dyeing operations, of course you must carry on those operations, and bring the goods into a dry and proper state before you can leave them, otherwise the goods themselves would be entirely spoiled; that is, with reference to many colours at any rate; therefore the boys that are employed with us come on necessarily in the after part of the day particularly.

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5876. Are the Committee to understand from that, that sometimes it happens that you do not receive the goods you are to dye until towards the middle of the day?—Oh no; in the busy seasons, of course we have large quantities of goods beforehand, when the pressure from the merchants is so great; but we do not take goods to-day and profess to deliver them again to-morrow.

5877. Do you ever receive the goods after the business has commenced, and then proceed with them as soon as you receive them?—Not with the same goods; of course it may happen that goods coming in in the middle of the day may pass through a certain preparatory process that day, but they do not get to the dyeing and finishing; goods would take four or five days to pass through the various operations, but our operations must be completed on the day they commence, and with reference to the dyeing particularly. When the goods are wet, they must be brought into the dry state again before they are left during that evening; and in proceeding to dye goods, the dyer cannot tell precisely to an hour when the operations will be completed. He passes his goods into the vessel, and if he does not match his pattern, he has to take it on to the winskill and put on more colouring matter to bring them up.

5878. What I wanted to know was, why the boys were loitering about in the morning, before they commence labour?—The goods are dried and completed from the previous day's processes in the evening, before the boys leave, and must necessarily be so; but if the boys were compelled to leave their work at a particular hour, say six o'clock, the men dyers would necessarily have to leave their work some two or three hours before.

5879. Is there any great heat required in any of the processes in your establishment?—We have no great heat which necessarily remains in the room; our drying operations are of course over hot cylinders; but they are in open places, with open roofs and open sides.

5880. Do you keep any note of the temperature?—No, we never have done so, particularly; our operations are not like those in a factory where you are compelled to keep up, to a certain extent, an even temperature; our men, if they are too hot, open the windows; if that is not sufficient, they pull the windows out of the frame entirely in the summer time, so as to get a thorough current, and they work in those currents continuously.

5881. Has your attention been directed to the subject-matter of this inquiry?—Yes, it was particularly directed to it during last year, and I think I had the honour of an interview with your Lordship and Mr. Butt, when, I think, we almost convinced you that so far from the work in our concern being onerous on the boys, it was comparatively easy, and I ventured to express an opinion, one held by all the parties with us, that there seemed to us, at any rate, not the same necessity for legislation in connection with works similar to ours, any more than there should be where children are employed in many other similar works which were, in fact, much more toilsome, and caused greater pressure on them than such works as our own. Perhaps it may be well to state to your Lordship the entire number of hands employed in the trade of the district.

5882. Do you mean in the dyeing trade generally, or in the particular class of goods that you dye?—In dyeing stuff goods; in fact, it embraces the West Riding, the towns of Leeds, Halifax, Bradford and Macclesfield, Bradford being the centre from which the great mass of those goods are sent, and to which they are returned after they are dyed.

5883. Will you hand in that paper?—Yes.—(The following Table was here read.)—“Statement of the total number of hands employed in the principal dye-houses engaged in the Bradford stuff trade, March 1856. Name of firm, and locality, Geo. Armitage & Co., Bradford: males above 18, 209; males under 18, 55; females, 8.—Samuel Smith, Bradford: males above 18, 201; under 18, 56; females, none.—Haigs & Billington, Neuldry: males above 18, 220; under 18, 80; females, 9.—James Reffitt, Leeds: males above 18, 196; under 18, 36; females, none.—Henry Holroyd, Leeds: males above 18, 114; under 18, 11; females, 12.”

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females, 2.—T. & R. Crossley & Co., Halifax: males above 18, 166; under 18, 19; females, none.—Jonathan Smith & Sons, Halifax: males above 18, 105; under 18, 22; females, 2.—John Lord & Co., Shilf: males above 18, 162; under 18, 25; females, none.—Henry Crossley & Co., Brighouse: males above 18, 43; under 18, 14; females, 2.—William Edliston & Co., Sowerby Bridge: males above 18, 56; under 18, 24; females, 11.—John Rettrill, Leeds: males above 18, 230; under 18, 48; females, 10.—Edward Ripley & Son, Bowling: males above 18, 391; under 18, 57; females, 12.—Joseph Holdsworth, Wakefield: males above 18, 180; under 18, 60; females, 10.—John Calvert and Co., Leeds: males above 18, 120; under 18, 28; females, none.—T. W. George & Co., Leeds: males above 18, 114; under 18, 35; females, 7.—Wainhouse & Co., Halifax: males above 18, 59; under 18, 4; females, none.—Thomas Parker, Leeds: males above 18, 27; under 18, 3; females, 2.—Murgatroyd & Buckley, Baildon: males above 18, 64; under 18, 24; females, 6.—J. M. Kirk, Halifax: males above 18, 280; under 18, 36; females, 12.—J. M. Kirk, Bowling: males above 18, 110; under 18, 27; females, 6.—Thomas Holmes & Co., Halifax: males above 18, 76; under 18, 9; females, 15.—Oates & Dent, Leeds: males above 18, 39; under 18, 9; females, 2.—Samuel Kirk (Stover), Leeds: males above 18, 12; under 18, 1; females, 1.—Total: males above 18, 3,174; males under 18, 683; females, 117." I may state that our own particular numbers vary some eight or ten from the document handed in; inasmuch as this was made out some months ago, and the numbers I have mentioned were taken only yesterday.

5884. Are the Committee to understand that you object to legislation with regard to your own trade?—We object, certainly, so far as we have the power of objecting.

5885. Are you aware whether those objections are shared by the majority of the firms to whom you refer?—When the Bill was before Parliament last Session several meetings were held of the entire body of the dyers comprised in this list, and very strong opinions were expressed at that time on the part of all, that such interference would be exceedingly mischievous, and would tend to cause annoyance and trouble, which was altogether unnecessary, and for which no cause had been made out in any way.

5886. Have complaints been made to you at any time on the part of your workpeople on account of the number of hours of work?—No; on the contrary, the men are thankful to work longer hours, if they can do so during the summer months, to make up for the necessarily short time that they have to work in the winter. Whatever legislation may take place, it cannot affect the question of the many months which these men have to work in the winter; of course I cannot say that if the thing became inevitable, it would be impossible to work, but it would work with injury to the workpeople, and with difficulty and trouble to the master; and would to some extent tend to bring us still more into competition with other countries, which are pressing hard enough upon us already in matters of this kind. I refer particularly to Germany and France, more particularly Germany; at present they are making rapid strides in the manufacture of goods of this description; and every bar that is brought to tell against us would, of course, give them help in those matters. There are now immense quantities of yarn sent from Bradford to the German market, and they make goods directly competing with the goods of the Bradford district; and they are sending those goods to America, and even back to our own market to compete with us.

5887. Have you any Table that will show the average number of hours in the course of a year that the people work in your establishment?—No, I have not; but speaking generally, the average number of hours, as I think I said jokingly to yourself and Mr. Butt last year, we should not have the slightest objection to a Bill for 10½ hours on an average; taking the whole year as a year, it would be found that our hands do not work ten hours and a half.

5888. Mr. Kirk.] Pray, are your workmen paid by the day or by the quantity of work that they do?—As a general rule, in our own establishment, we pay by the day; in one particular department we have paid by the piece, that is, the pressing, the ultimate process, we pay by the piece, and have done so for years; with that exception, our workmen are paid by the day; it is, I believe, not the case in all establishments; some carry the principle of piece-work further than we do; our work, is perhaps, of rather a finer description than most, and we find it policy to pay a little higher wages.

5889. What

5889. What do you call a day's work; how many hours?—We call 10 hours a day's work; we pay for 10 hours. Mr. H. W. Ripley.

5890. Then we are to understand in the winter season that the men only work eight or nine hours?—They work on and off. 10 July 1857.

5891. And then their time is deducted?—Yes.

5892. And in the summer?—They are paid in proportion to the time they work, taking 10 hours as a day; for instance, in the winter, on a Saturday, especially for several years in our establishment, in order to give the men a little recreation, I have laid it down as a principle, that they shall not work after one o'clock, and they have the Saturday afternoon, under any circumstances, as a holiday, and I am glad to say, that it is gradually spreading; and I believe now, the majority of the dyers in our trade are carrying out the same principle, and stopping at one or two o'clock on Saturday afternoons; but in the winter the men will prefer commencing on Saturday at half-past seven, and going on till one o'clock without stopping at all, and then they have done, and are free; in the summer they do in the same way go on till one o'clock, and then go away for the day again.

5893. Then in the winter season you would only make about 47 hours in the week upon that calculation?—Not 47 hours; our principle is to pay for the Saturday as a whole day.

5894. Though you have but six hours' labour?—Though we have but six hours' labour, we pay for the whole day on the Saturday; we consider that the boon that we give to our workpeople; and of course, whether it is winter or summer, on the Saturdays we do not work longer, and Saturday is called a day, and the remaining days are counted after the rate of 10 hours, and all the over-hours rated in the same proportion.

5895. Then your evidence is, that the tendency in your neighbourhood, without legislation, is to shorten the hours of labour?—The tendency is to give relief as far as possible to the workpeople, so that they shall have a reasonable amount of enjoyment; of course, as machinery has been gradually brought to bear upon our own trade, it facilitates the operations being carried on more quickly, and the more you can do that, the more power you have of producing the work that is necessitated to be done within a given period; the manufacturer can go on producing a certain class of goods for one, two or three months without having any very positive orders; the merchant does not buy from him, but he knows that the merchant will want a certain class of goods at certain times; but it is not so between us and the merchant; the merchant cannot tell until his trade comes on what particular class of goods he will have a demand for, and it is not until he gets the order from America or the Continent, or from his travellers in the country here, that he can tell what class of colours he will require from week to week; and from week to week, almost from day to day, I may say, the merchant sends out his orders for goods to be dyed to make up his wants; those goods are of course wanted, and sometimes in a very unreasonable time; but necessarily he presses upon the dyer large quantities of goods for two or three months during certain seasons, and then he becomes flat again; there are some months in which the dyer will be busy when engaged in one particular article, and then have very little to do comparatively.

5896. You say that you dry your goods over cylinders?—Yes.

5897. Filled with steam, I presume?—Yes.

5898. And those cylinders are in a room where there is air admitted from below?—The roof is perfectly open, with ventilators for carrying away the steam, and, in our own particular case, one side is entirely out and open to the room below, or a sort of yard with a complete current; the principle is to have as much ventilation as possible; there is no requirement in the operation for children working in any particularly heated atmosphere.

5899. Mr. Davison.] The process for business appears to be irregular?—The trade is necessarily irregular.

5900. Is it irregular in its stages?—Yes, and irregular in its quantity.

5901. I want to confine you now to the irregularity in its stages; I understand you to say, that legislation with respect to women and children would necessarily interfere with the labour of the adult?—The number of women in dying establishments is generally so small, and for an object which is used as it were for the general operations, that it is a matter of perfect indifference altogether, they are merely employed for the sewing of the goods; many of them are often above 20;

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they can scarcely be said to be strictly a part of the trade, they are employed for the sewing operations, but not absolutely in connexion with our trade; when you come to the next operation they are necessarily irregular, you take the goods after they have been sewn and stitched, and the operation is the steaming and crabbing; this operation you cannot tell when you commence with them to some extent when they will be finished; then you come to the dyeing operations, which have the greatest irregularity in them, and in which the greatest number of the youngest boys are employed; for instance with these goods, when the dyer commences to dye them a particular colour, when he has put them into the vessel, it may happen that in an hour he can get them completed, but when he comes to match his pattern with the goods, which he can do by a process of his own, by wringing a portion of a piece dry, he sees there is something wrong.

5902. What I want to know is this, does the irregularity in one process of the completion of that particular stage of manufacture lead to irregularity in a subsequent stage?—Precisely; these goods, with respect to which this irregularity of time takes place, have to pass through cleaning and finishing operations the same day, otherwise they are spoiled altogether, therefore you cannot tell at any hour when these operations will be completed; these boys are necessarily engaged in this final operation; and therefore if you have to send them away at a particular time, you must always be calculating beforehand, and sending your men away in the middle of that time.

5903. What effect will that have upon the next process if your previous one is delayed; if a delay takes place in No. 1, what effect will that have on No. 2?—It will be delayed; the boys are standing loitering about. I walk through the place occasionally, and find perhaps half a dozen of them lying on their backs on the goods asleep.

5904. So that in your opinion legislation with respect to a trade which is irregular in its stages and in its operations would be most injurious?—I think it would be most mischievous; that is my opinion.

5905. Mr. Crook.] Did you give evidence to Mr. Tremenheere, the Commissioner?—No; some evidence was given, I think, by some one at our works. Mr. Tremenheere has got Mr. Sutcliffe's name down; but Mr. Sutcliffe tells me that he never saw Mr. Tremenheere, and never gave him any evidence of any kind. I believe Mr. Tremenheere was at our works, and I believe the mistake arose in this way: he asked for me, and I was not there, and he might ask who was the manager, and the answer might be Mr. Sutcliffe, and he might have taken that as the name of the person he saw. I state that, because the person giving the evidence had no practical knowledge of the matter upon which he was giving evidence, and I believe he made some mistakes.

5906. You say that you are indifferent about the women you employ?—Yes, it is quite a matter of indifference.

5907. You have no objection to their being regulated by law?—If there was any regulation about women only, we should just clear them off the ground, and have a machine that would do all the work which they do; the moment there was any interference we should send them away. I pledge myself now, that the moment any legislative interference takes place with reference to women, we shall not have one on the premises; and that will be considered a hardship, no doubt.

5908. Are you working these 75 boys much after six o'clock at present?—Yes, we are.

5909. Did you do so last week?—Last week, I have no doubt, they worked at hours varying to seven, eight and half-past eight; I speak from our general principle; I have no doubt it was the case; we happen just now to be commencing to be busy. For the last six weeks or two months, during May and June, these boys did not work more than three or four days a week. We are now commencing to be busy again, and I hope, until towards the end of September, they will be able to work until seven, eight or nine o'clock, as the case may be from time to time.

5910. The party that gave this evidence stated that your busy season may possibly extend to eight weeks during the summer season, and sometimes a little more; is that pretty correct?—Yes; it varies very much; our busy season commenced about a fortnight or three weeks ago; it has been particularly late this year; we have been particularly quiet for some months, so that I hope we shall continue to be busy now for three months.

5911. Would

5911. Would you say that this reply was incorrect—"As there is to be no interference with adult male labour on the part of the dyeing process, it can be gone on with by the men"?—No; that is not correct.

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5912. That was stated by some person in your employ, was it not?—Yes; by some person who had no practical acquaintance with the thing.

5913. You say that it is not correct?—I say it is not correct.

5914. You are dyers of worsted stuffs?—Yes; stuff goods, comprising the mixtures of cotton, silk and wool.

5915. Your business does not differ very materially from that of Mr. Armitage, I suppose?—No, it does not; it is pretty much of the same general character.

5916. This is evidence with respect to his place—"Nevertheless, if all the trade be placed upon an equality, it will be better for those who, like myself, do not employ so large a portion of young labour;" do you agree with that?—Individually, if we were to have legislative interference in this way, always presuming that we can still compete with our foreign competitors; to me it would be an individual benefit, I have no doubt, because I have already the power and the capital, and every thing, so that I could extend my works if it became necessary, so as to meet that difficulty; but it is upon the broad principle that I think legislative interference at all with labour of this character is uncalled for, that I personally object to it.

5917. Do you mean to give the Committee an impression that it is more upon theoretic than practical grounds that you object to it?—No, I object upon practical grounds; I have already given my reasons practically; but I say individually, supposing we had legislative interference in this matter, I should possibly derive some benefit in being able to extend my concern, having capital and otherwise at my command, which would meet the difficulty, if it became absolutely necessary to do so, but I think that the evil to these children would be infinitely greater than to me in this matter.

5918. What reason have you for thinking so?—We should necessarily be compelled to supersede the labour of these children, to a great extent, by machinery; there are the means of doing so; it merely requires the pressure to be brought upon us to do so, to enable us to bring various mechanical appliances to work to do away with the labour of these children, and to meet the competition that would be necessarily brought to bear upon us.

5919. You do not see any evidence in the factory system of the workpeople suffering in consequence of regulated hours, do you?—With reference to the factory system, I think you must draw a broad line of distinction between those and works similar to ours; in the factories it is of course notorious that they employ very young children, whereas we take the children after they have done with the factories. I merely give my own views upon the matter. It seems to me that if you carried legislation at all beyond its present point, you should make it imperative that no children, if you like, under 18, should be employed in any labour whatever; there is no more reason why such a trade as ours should be put under legislative interference than any other.

5920. Are you aware that the same argument was supposed to hold good before the factory law was passed?—That may be; but it may have been false then, and good now.

5921. You speak of the tendency to give relief; do you think that you would attempt to pass a Bill which should include all classes?—No; if you ask me my opinion, I think it is no part of the duty of Parliament at all to interfere in such matters; I think a very great case of hardship and injustice should be made out before Parliament interferes at all in matters of this kind.

5922. In judging of the hardship of the case, have you seen a copy of the evidence given to Mr. Tremeneere with regard to the evils of excessive employment of labour?—Last year, do you mean?

5923. Last year but one, I think it was?—In the Yorkshire district?

5924. Not in the Yorkshire district, but every part of the country?—Yes, I did see it; I believe I have a copy of it, which I turned over last year at the time the Bill was before the House.

5925. Did it not strike you from that, that there were great evils in the excessive employment of women and children?—Not such an evil, I think, as to call for legislative interference.

5926. No part of it?—No, it did not strike me so; of course you might rake up evidence in abundance in any town in the kingdom.

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5927. We have this evidence given to Mr. Tremenheere, from Mr. Kirk's, of Halifax, who at that time employed 200 persons. He says, "We should have no difficulty if the hours for women and boys were restricted, in putting on a few more hands, which would enable us to keep on with the men;" do you think that is not a practical evil?—No, I think not; and I think if Mr. Kirk had thoroughly understood the case put, he would hardly have said so; in the very nature of the thing it is impossible.

5928. How long does your busy season extend?—It varies somewhat.

5929. Can you give us an average of years?—We have two busy seasons often; we have a short spring season, and a longer autumn season, as a general rule.

5930. Will you be kind enough to state the number of weeks in a year upon the average?—For some six or eight weeks in the spring there is generally a considerable push, and again in the autumn, from about this period to the end of August or September, varying according to the circumstances; perhaps it may be more distinctly put by stating that upon the average of years there are three or four months when we are exceedingly quiet.

5931. I merely asked you to give me an idea of the number of weeks that you worked after six o'clock at night?—We hope to work from this time to the end of next month, or possibly into September, after six o'clock at night; for eight or twelve weeks, say.

5932. For eight or twelve weeks in the year?—Yes; some of those weeks we should work very little over six o'clock, and some weeks again we are working two or three hours over six, varying according to the amount of work which has to be done in that particular week, and which, in point of fact, must be done.

5933. Then to get the same quantity of work done, what additional number of boys would you require during that time?—The additional number would not do it at all without additional machinery; it would scarcely be a question of additional number.

5934. Nor a question of additional boys to do the work?—Nor a question of additional boys; the boys are divided over the entire works more or less, the younger ones being employed in the finishing department, where there are a portion of men, and to a certain number of men there is a certain proportion of boys; the entire works are at present adapted the one portion to the other for ordinary operations; you cannot increase the finishing department, either in its operations or machinery, without increasing the entire works, and then you come back to the point from which we started, that at a time of push you have the necessary overworking, and that is not precisely the point; you have the dying operations carried on during certain hours of the day, and if you were to stop those boys in the finishing at six o'clock at night, you must stop the dyeing at two or three in the afternoon. These goods commenced to be operated upon in the dyeing must be passed through the cleaning process, and be left in a dry state, otherwise the goods will all be spoilt; if you send the boys away at six o'clock, you must stop the dyeing at two or three, as we do upon a Saturday, punctually; we stop our men in some departments even at 11 o'clock, in order to bring the goods in a dry state at one o'clock, or half-past, although the boys go on until two or three sometimes on the Saturday afternoon, to dry the goods, but they have ample time in the morning; they are, in fact, lolling about for hours, sometimes, waiting for the goods.

5935. Mr. Wise.] To carry on this process successfully, you are obliged to have continuous operations?—Yes, you must carry the operations through when you commence with them; the operation of dyeing is of an uncertain character, you cannot tell at any hour when it will come up to the colour which is to be produced; they vary according to circumstances, which are sometimes unaccountable; sometimes you produce in an hour, what will at other times take two, in consequence of some little matter in the operation which the man himself cannot account for.

5936. Mr. Crook.] Then you think the statement of the person in your establishment was not correct, that as there was to be no interference with adult male labour, the dyeing process could be gone on with by the men?—In other departments they could not do the work any more than you or I could; I confess I should be quite incapable of doing it; a man cannot do the work of these boys, it is impossible; even men who are on the spot, and have been brought up to the trade, cannot do it.

5937. Mr.

5937. Mr. *Wise*.] There is a certain amount of skilled labour required for it in fact?—Yes, it is a manual operation performed by their hands; it is folding the goods principally that these boys are engaged in; in the heavier operations the boys of 16 or 17 are working and learning the trade; the younger boys of 13 or 14 begin with the lighter operations; I am not aware that we have any boys under 13, and they pass on to the heavier work gradually until they become men, and get into the general work.

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5938. Mr. *Turner*.] You say that Mr. Sutcliffe, who was said to be examined by Mr. Tremenheere, never was in fact examined by him at all?—Mr. Sutcliffe never saw Mr. Tremenheere at all.

5939. Then you conceive that it was a mistake, some one else being examined, and Mr. Tremenheere considering he was examining Mr. Sutcliffe?—Mr. Tremenheere may of course have made the mistake in that way; the question was put by me to Mr. Sutcliffe what he had been about to give such evidence, and he said that he had never given it, and had never seen Mr. Tremenheere; and then I found who the person was that he had seen; he had asked if he could see me, and was told “no;” he then asked who was the general manager, and was told Mr. Sutcliffe, and I suppose he took that to be the name of the person.

5940. You would have been the proper person, if present; and in your absence Mr. Sutcliffe would have been the proper person to examine?—Mr. Sutcliffe more properly than myself.

5941. Can you give us the name of the person who was examined?—Mr. Murgatroyd, who had the management of our chemical works.

5942. You have read the examination as given by Mr. Tremenheere, was he competent to describe your works?—No; Mr. Sutcliffe ought to have been the person to give the answers to Mr. Tremenheere.

5943. But has Mr. Murgatroyd given them incorrectly?—He has given them to the best of his own knowledge, I dare say; but he was not practically acquainted with the working of that department.

5944. I think you told us that if there was any legislative interference, one of the first effects, as far as you are concerned, would be to clear your works of the women?—Unquestionably, so far as the women are concerned; if they were included in any Bill, we should not keep them a day.

5945. Is there abundant occupation for women in your district?—On the contrary, the women are very thankful to get this work. We are in fact continuing employing them to some extent where we might employ machinery for stitching and sewing the goods together, so long as the balance of cost is not very materially against us; we do that rather than extend our machinery.

5946. It would be an evil to throw women out of employ in your district?—I think it would be a great evil to restrict them.

5947. Are the women you employ chiefly married or single?—I think single, generally; in fact, they are daughters of our own workmen, as a general rule, no doubt, for we object to have women about who are strangers; inasmuch as if they have connexions on the premises they can be looked after and watched, and we can see that there is no mischief going on.

5948. You consider that limiting the hours of labour in the dye-works would rather be attended with some advantage to capitalists, who could extend their works, and make arrangements to extend their operations, so as to meet the push of work in shorter hours?—That might be the tendency.

5949. But if it would be an advantage to capitalists and men of extensive property, perhaps it would be a disadvantage to those who had but limited means?—It strikes me decidedly so; it would place greater difficulties in the way of men of small means rising in the world; they would not have the same means of doing so.

5950. It is not exactly a comparison with factory owners, but there are many small proprietors of works, are there not?—There are many small works in addition to those on the list I have given in, and there are some now rising.

5951. From small beginnings?—Yes.

5952. Is it desirable to centralize work in that way; to knock down the small men, and set up the larger ones?—In my opinion it is better to give all a chance; and I think that legislative interference would rather have a tendency to check that.

5953. Mr. *Packs*.] You have mentioned the name of Mr. Murgatroyd; do you believe that he was examined by Mr. Tremenheere?—I believe he was.

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5954. Is it impossible that Mr. Wilson Sutcliffe's name may have been placed to this evidence instead of that of Mr. Murgatroyd?—When I saw the evidence which had been printed, I said to Mr. Sutcliffe, "How was it that you gave such evidence?" And he replied, that it was not his evidence; that he was not there at all. I put the question to Mr. Murgatroyd; and he replied that Mr. Tremeneere had asked if I was in; that he told him I was not; that he then asked who was the general manager, and that he replied, "Mr. Sutcliffe;" and I have no doubt that was how the mistake arose; that he took him to be Mr. Sutcliffe.

5955. Then this evidence ought to have been under the name of Murgatroyd instead of Sutcliffe?—Yes.

5956. Do you dispute as correct any of this evidence as it is given by Mr. Tremeneere in his report?—Yes; it is a mistake, in my opinion, as to the working of the thing.

5957. I think you say that you employ about 75 boys under 18 years of age?—Yes; about 75.

5958. Is that less than you employed in 1855?—I do not think it would vary very materially.

5959. Had you a larger number of boys at that time?—I really do not know.

5960. It is stated in the evidence that you employed 100 boys?—The discrepancy there would be accounted for in this way—that was taken as the number of boys under 21 years of age.

5961. It is stated here as "under 18?"—Mr. Murgatroyd merely gave it from recollection; he did not refer to books at all; he merely gave the numbers from his impression, without counting them in any way; I have given the numbers to-day from our books of last autumn, and again from our books of yesterday.

5962. Can you tell the Committee what is the age of the youngest of the boys that you employ?—About 13; we have a few boys just about 13.

5963. Have you none younger than 13?—No, I am not aware of any; there may be one or two, but we profess to take the boys on when they come from the factories at 13; that is our general rule; indeed we cannot do with boys materially under 14 or 15.

5964. Do you agree with this part of the evidence, that when you work over-hours, you begin at five or six in the morning and go on until eight or nine at night, and sometimes a little longer; is that correct?—Of course, putting it very generally, you might say that it was correct; but it is not strictly correct; we never begin at five now; our earliest time is six; the other part is correct; we do go on till seven, or eight or nine; our general principle is not to work after nine. I do not say that never, under any circumstances, do we work half an hour or an hour after that; but it is only on special occasions, it is not our general rule; our general rule is not to work after nine.

5965. Do they ever work as late as 11?—No.

5966. Or 10?—Occasionally, I will not say it may not be so; I do not say it is not possible.

5967. Does that continue for any length of time?—No, certainly not; we continue till seven, eight, or nine o'clock for two or three months in the autumn.

5968. Does the work continue as late as 10 o'clock?—No, not as late as 10; our principle is, that nine o'clock is late enough for the operations to cease, and all our calculations are based upon that; but in the very nature of the operations it is possible that on some particular day, a large quantity of goods may occasionally go wrong in the dyeing work, and those goods would be an hour or an hour and a half later in the cleaning operation, and on such an occasion as that, we may go on till 10 o'clock; I will not say that they have not done so; but as a general rule, our time is nine o'clock at the latest.

5969. I think I understood you to say, that your objection to legislation was not so much from individual inconvenience as upon principle?—It would be a great individual inconvenience, and very undesirable, but I have a very strong feeling against it upon principle.

5970. But did I not understand you to say that it might even be rather more convenient as extending your operations, that there should be some limitation of these hours?—No, I think it would not be more convenient; it would be decidedly inconvenient; what I said, or what I intended to say at all events, was, that it would tend to restrict the facilities which smaller concerns have now for rising in the world, and that it would give any concern which had capital at its command

command power to extend itself by means of machinery, so as to meet the difficulty, if it was imperative that it should be done. Mr. H. W. Ripley.

5971. It would give an advantage to large capitalists over small ones?—I think so, most decidedly; that is my opinion. 10 July 1857.

5972. Mr. Cobbett.] Therefore it would be advantageous to the large capitalists?—No; it does not at all follow that it would be advantageous to them; but it would give them an advantage over the small ones, decidedly.

5973. I understood you to say, that, so far as you were concerned, legislation would be advantageous?—As between ourselves and the smaller concerns, but not advantageous in itself by any means.

5974. Then, in fact, it would only get rid of the smaller men without doing any good to you?—It would give them greater difficulties in rising, that is my opinion.

5975. Mr. Turner.] It would tend to throw the small capitalists out of work in the same way that it would tend to throw the women out of work, would it not?—I think that all this kind of legislation has that tendency.

5976. Mr. Crook.] Perhaps you will describe to the Committee the difference there would be under the circumstances?—The difference would be very great, inasmuch as the merchant has to depend entirely upon his dyer for producing a certain quantity of goods in a given time; small capitalists could not do the work in that given time, therefore the orders would necessarily go to the large man.

5977. Assuming both to be upon the same footing as to time, that they cannot employ women and children after six o'clock, in what way would the law make any difference between them; because the proportion of work with tradespeople is generally in proportion to their convenience, is it not?—It is so to some extent, no doubt; still the smaller concerns make a little more push than the larger ones do, and I think they are very fairly entitled to do it, in order to help themselves a little more. In very small concerns the parties even work themselves; some of the very small concerns in connexion with our own trade, for instance, take the finishers who have not got to dyeing. There are two or three of our own workmen, very intelligent, steady men, who have commenced the operation of finishing, and are carrying on small concerns in connexion with their own families, in fact. Now, if you restrict these men to any particular hours of labour, I think you are committing a great hardship upon them, and are taking it out of their power, in fact, to raise themselves in the world. I have two cases in particular in my eye now; cases of two very worthy, respectable men, whom I should be glad to see get on and rise in the world; but I think that if you put Parliamentary restriction upon the hours they are to work, and their families, you will do them a great injury. They have three or four boys of their own, and they are all thankful to work as they can get it.

5978. Mr. Baxter.] How many women do you employ in your establishment?—About a dozen.

5979. And I understand you to say, that if there was to be any legislation affecting their hours of labour, you would dispense with their services altogether?—If there is to be any legislation affecting women only, without reference to children; of course if it also applied to children under 18, it might be a question.

5980. Do you find the labour of these women remunerative to yourself; I suppose you do, as you employ them?—They are merely employed in the stitching, stitching the goods endways together, which could be carried out in time by means of machinery, if it became a matter of importance.

5981. Then that species of labour which the women are employed upon could be done by machinery?—It could.

5982. And as cheaply?—Yes, possibly rather cheaper; but as I remarked before, our own workpeople have daughters, and they are generally employed in this way, and we do not like to make a change which would throw them out of employment, or send them to seek work in the factories, which is a much more objectionable thing; our numbers are very limited, but the women consider it rather a higher thing than being employed in the factories.

5983. Are there many establishments of the same description as yours at Bradford?—There are three or four: three other large concerns.

5984. As large as yours?—No, not as large as ours, ours is the largest concern, perhaps, in the trade.

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5985. Mr. *Packe*.] Are any of the females in your establishment under 18 years of age?—It is possible there may be two or three; they are girls, varying from 15 to 20 or 25.

5986. Are there none under 15?—No, I should think there are none so young as 15, they could not do the work which we require of them.

5987. *Chairman*.] At present they are not working at all against machinery?—No.

5988. It is more in the nature of domestic labour?—There is no machinery at all employed in carrying on the work; we did formerly do it by means of boys, but it seemed so much more natural for women to stitch than boys, that we have gradually got into the way of employing women.

5989. You yourself were absent when Mr. Tremeneere called?—Yes.

5990. And Mr. Sutcliffe was also absent?—Yes; he did not happen to be present.

5991. In the absence of yourself and Mr. Sutcliffe, who was the natural person to be asked for?—They ought to have said to Mr. Tremeneere that I was not there, and that Mr. Sutcliffe was not there, and that if he could make an appointment, one or the other of us would meet him.

5992. But in your absence, and that of Mr. Sutcliffe, who would be left in charge to speak?—Each department works itself; there are men over each department; but there was no man who was competent to give an opinion as to the working of the whole matter.

5993. Supposing that I or anybody else had come for the purpose of asking leave to see your works, and found you and Mr. Sutcliffe absent?—You would have been refused.

5994. Who would have given the refusal?—The clerk in the office would have said that I was not there, and Mr. Sutcliffe was not there, and he could not have given leave under any circumstances.

5995. You regard yourself and Mr. Sutcliffe as the only persons who could give proper evidence?—Yes.

5996. But it seems that in this instance, whoever gave the answer to Mr. Tremeneere, pointed out Mr. Murgatroyd?—Yes; Mr. Murgatroyd had the management of the chemical works, and to some extent knew the working of the concern.

5997. The Committee are not to understand that you make it a matter of complaint against Mr. Tremeneere?—Oh, no, not in the least; they would naturally turn to Mr. Murgatroyd, I dare say, as being the next likely person to give an opinion to Mr. Tremeneere on the matter.

5998. All the boys you employ you take from the factory at the age of 13?—Yes; they come from the factories to us, in fact, when they get too old or too big for the factories; they are glad to get into our work if they can do so, as being work of rather a less close and confined character.

5999. All those boys of course have gone through whatever education is provided for them under the educational clauses of the Factory Act?—Yes, they have done so; unless a boy has some tact for carrying on his education by means of Mechanics' Institutes, or something of that kind, his education has practically ceased from that time.

6000. Mr. *Clark*.] As regards masters, you seem to think that legislation would be injurious to their interests; would you consider it injurious to the interest of the employed?—I think it would have an injurious effect on the employed necessarily; these boys are now getting something like an average weekly wages throughout the year; it would not improve their position one iota for the many months when they only have half time; they would have the entire deduction of their overtime, which they look forward to with a great deal of satisfaction and pleasure.

6001. Have the employed expressed any wish on the subject?—I do not think the matter has been sufficiently brought before the workpeople themselves for them to do so.

6002. Then you can form no opinion what their feeling is on the subject?—I venture to give a very decided opinion as to their own feeling, that one and all would protest and object.

6003. In the event of legislation, would you prefer having the average of the working hours by the week, say 60 or 70 hours, or would you prefer an average of 10 hours a day?—I really have no opinion upon the point. I think the matter would

would throw the whole thing into such a completely different state, that we should meet the thing in all possible ways, so as to do away with anything like inspection or interference. My opinion would be, that if we could by any possible means bring machinery into operation, so as not to have a boy or woman on the premises, so as to come within the meaning of the Act, whatever it might be, I should strain every possible nerve to do so, so as to be rid of the thing; whether that would be possible, would be a question of some little time.

6004. Then you would direct all your energies to the removal of women and boys from your works?—Yes; the question was raised when Mr. Butt brought in his Bill last year to do away with the labour of these boys in one or two departments, and when a little alarm was felt, should that Bill pass, some of our foreman said we can do the work they do altogether by machinery, and the tendency would be to supersede labour altogether; the greater difficulty would not be the superseding the labour, but the bringing up of boys, so as to carry on the labour of men.

6005. Mr. Crook.] Do you think there would be any difficulty in boys getting work, supposing they had the misfortune to be rejected from your work?—I think there would be great difficulty.

6006. In Bradford, do you mean?—Yes, in Bradford; at any rate, if you carried out the principle at all in connexion with the works of a similar nature.

6007. You are aware that it is carried out in the factories at Bradford, that boys under 18 cannot be employed after six o'clock?—Yes, I am aware of that; but our operations are as dissimilar from those of a factory as possible. In a factory everything can be stopped and left with perfect safety, and commenced again next day; not so with us, it would be utterly impossible.

6008. Do you suppose that the factory masters looked as complacently upon the Factory Act as you do now; are you not aware that some of them would prefer working 16 hours a day?—Possibly.

6009. What is your fear of inspection; have you ever seen an inspector?—Oh, yes, often.

6010. Is there anything to make inspectors so objectionable at your works?—I object to the principle altogether; I think Parliament has no right to interfere.

6011. Then it is not a personal objection to the inspectors?—No; I have the pleasure of the acquaintance of several of those gentlemen, and I respect them; it is the principle I object to.

6012. Had this Mr. Murgatroyd you speak of, had the oversight of most of your workpeople?—No, he had not.

6013. Had he no oversight of any of them?—I would not say of none of them, but he had not of most of them; since that evidence was taken he has changed his position materially, and has gone more practically into certain departments; at that time he had the management of our chemical works, and of the chemical works alone.

6014. And in the chemical works, strictly speaking, he had very little to do with what he was speaking about there?—He had little or nothing to do with what he was speaking about there.

6015. It was not his department at all to attend to the dye-works?—I would not say not at all, but he had not the management of the practical working of the finishing, he had never been in the finishing department at all; the dyeing he had a knowledge of.

6016. Were you correct when you described him as manager of the dyeing department?—I do not think I did.

6017. That was your first description of him?—I think not; I intended to say the chemical department; at any rate I must not be understood to say that he had not to some extent the management of the dyeing department; what I mean is this, that he had never followed out the entire work so as to have a knowledge of the finishing, in the way that Mr. Sutcliffe had; I say this in order that I may not be misunderstood, although there is nothing so very material in the evidence that he gives.

6018. I presume that he is an intelligent and respectable man?—Yes, he is so.

6019. And capable of giving an opinion on such a point?—Yes, quite so.

6020. Chairman.] Is the evidence that you have given, given on behalf of those who are employed in the same line of business as yourself?—Yes, and also on behalf of the Bradford Chamber of Commerce, which has deputed me to come

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here; two other gentlemen were appointed to accompany me, but they found it excessively inconvenient to do so, and they also had a strong opinion that the evidence of one person was quite sufficient to settle the matter as to legislation upon this subject; but the stuff merchants, I believe, at one time, with reference to warehouses, were proposed to be included in this Bill; and Mr. Mitchell was nominated to be here on their behalf. I am perfectly at home in the warehouses of the town of Bradford, and I am quite able to give an opinion as to the employment of the boys there.

6021. Will you be good enough to give the Committee the benefit of your experience and knowledge as it respects the warehouses in the town of Bradford?—The stuff warehouses in Bradford employ a number of boys who are growing up in their various departments, and their hours of labour vary according to the amount of business that is going on from time to time during the year, that business, of course, being somewhat corresponding in point of amount with the times when the dyers are busiest. The merchants, however, employ very few boys, and they do no finishing whatever; the only operation which they carry on is that of making up the goods, folding the goods and putting them in paper, and packing them after they are received from the dyers and finishers; no finishing operation is carried on by any of the merchants in the stuff trade.

6022. With respect to the hours at which these establishments are open, and the labour performed in them, can you tell the Committee what they are?—The hours of labour in the warehouses vary very materially; they do not, as a general rule, commence quite so early as the dyers and finishers; they are not so particular as to their times; their apprentices have certain times fixed, and they work in accordance with the work they have in hand; no machinery, of course, is employed in these warehouses, except for the purpose of folding the goods; some of them employ a small steam-engine, which carries on this operation, but altogether the number of boys employed in the warehouses generally is so small, and the work they have to perform so trivial, that I apprehend they scarcely thought it necessary to give any evidence upon the matter. They considered it so completely out of the question that it should ever be thought of in any future Bill, it was so completely decided last year that they were to be left out, that they did not think it necessary to trouble themselves, I believe; that is really the truth of the matter.

6023. Will you be good enough to look at this Bill, and see if these establishments are included in it (*a paper was handed to the Witness*)?—This is the second Bill of last year; they are not included here. The third clause here makes the distinction as to the operation of packing being carried on in connexion with any bleaching concern, but they were included in the first Bill of last year. The stuff dyers are in reality included in this Bill, although I believe it was not intended that they should have been so; I have two notes from Mr. Butt, in which he said that he would put in another clause, so as to put out of the question our being included, but it never got to that point.

Mercurii, 21^o die Julii, 1857.

MEMBERS PRESENT.

Mr. Butt.	..	Lord John Manners.
Mr. Cheetham.		Mr. Turner.
Mr. Cobbett.		Mr. Wise.
Mr. Crook.		Lord Naas.
Mr. Dalgleish.		

LORD JOHN MANNERS, IN THE CHAIR.

Stephen Blair, Esq., further Examined.

6024. Mr. *Cheetham.*] HAVE you anything to say to the Committee with reference to your previous examination?—The last subject which I was speaking of was with reference to the evidence of Mr. Robinson, with regard to the time at which field bleaching was done away with; I may add that I believe there is one bleacher in the neighbourhood of Bolton, Mr. Slater, of Dunscar, who bleached a sort of cloth, made of cotton and linen, who occasionally bleached in the fields. The cotton is bleached by a chemical process, but the linen is obliged to be bleached in the open air. I have a letter from Mr. Slater, in which he says that it was given up in 1815 or 1813.

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6025. Was not that evidence given in reference to the statement made by Mr. Robinson, that the workpeople had not been so vigorous and healthy since grass bleaching had been done away with?—Yes; Mr. Robinson said that it was 34 years since he came to Bolton; and that at that time bleaching of cloth upon the grass was in practice; and my remark went to show that long before that time cloth was bleached by chemical process.

6026. Mr. *Butt.*] Is there anything in the nature of linen which prevents it from being bleached by chemical process?—There is; the linen will not admit of the use of drugs; you cannot bleach it by chemical process; it is obliged to be bleached on the grass.

6027. Is there not a chemical process applied to linen?—The chemical process is from the air, as it lies upon the grass. Mr. Kirk would be able to explain better than I can, why it is that we cannot use the chemical process (what we call the chemicals and the sours), in bleaching linen cloth.

6028. Mr. *Turner.*] The Committee have learnt from Mr. Kirk, that they do bleach in the open air?—Yes, that is linen bleaching; but since 1813, as Mr. Slater told me, they have not bleached goods upon the grass in the neighbourhood of Bolton.

6029. Mr. *Cheetham.*] Henry Waring, who was examined before this Committee, stated that there would be no difficulty in leaving the goods for 20 or 24 hours after any process of bleaching had taken place; and said that such a thing is always done at certain seasons of the year, such as Christmas and Whitsuntide, when the works are always suspended; can you explain that?—At Christmas and Whitsuntide the workpeople always have holidays; and we prepare our goods for those holidays, by either keeping them in the grey, or by putting them into such a state that they will not be damaged by being left in that state; we are aware that those times are coming, and we prepare accordingly; the men get through as much work as they can, and when the goods are bleached, and in the white, it is all right.

6030-2. Then the preparation which you have to make for these occasions is an exceptional thing, and not what you do regularly?—We could not do it regularly; because, if we were to leave off at the end of each day, the cloth might be in the process of boiling, or it might be in the process of stewing, or of chemicaling,

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or of souring; and if it were left in that state it might rot. And not merely that, but there is a certain red heading made by the manufacturer across the piece, and, if this heading is spoilt, the manufacturer will at once deduct 1 s. for the spoilt heading, and perhaps return the goods to us when we only charge 9 d. for bleaching the piece. If it is left in the chemical process, it will discharge the heading; and when the headings are discharged it takes 1 s. per piece off the value of the cloth.

6033. It has also been stated to this Committee that if the workpeople refuse to work these long hours they would be dismissed; is that the fact?—There has never been anything of that sort with us. Our men are always very willing to work, because they know that, being paid by the piece, and not by the day, the more work they get through the more money they have; and on looking over the wages that I have paid during the last 12 months, I find that the men have averaged 4 s. 6 d. a day, and the women about 1 s. 9 d. or 1 s. 10 d. a day.

6034. When any of your workpeople leave you, are you in the habit of giving them notes of dismissal which they term “quittance papers”?—Yes, we generally give them “quittance papers” when they leave us.

6035. Have any of those “quittance papers” which have been given to the workpeople who have been dismissed by you, been so marked as to prevent their employment in other establishments?—It was stated by Henry Waring, in giving evidence before this Committee, that, at two or three of the works, the papers had a private mark upon them which was put on by the bleachers; and that when the workpeople offered these “quittance papers,” the master bleachers said, “We cannot employ you, though you have ‘quittance papers’ from your last employers.” There never was any case of that sort since 1829 (I think it was 1829), when the operatives formed themselves into a club. I had a man with me who would not enter into that club; and the workpeople came to me, and told me that he would not enter into their club, and called upon me to discharge him. I said, “I shall not discharge him for not entering into your club;” upon which they turned out. Then I called the bleachers together, and told them what had taken place. I said, “It will not do for the men to talk in this manner to us; we must put a stop to it. If you will not employ any of my hands that have turned out, I will stand a turn out, and will get fresh hands.” I sent the names of those who had been in my employment to the master bleachers; and of course if any of those people gave their “quittance papers” to a master bleacher, it was at once known that they were some of my hands who had turned out from my works, and he would not employ them. There was never any case but that one in which anything of the sort was said; and there was no private mark upon the “quittance paper” in that case. The masters knew who those people were, and whom they had worked for.

6036. Henry Waring also told this Committee that 40 years ago, when they worked in the field they began at seven in the morning and left off at six in the evening, except on Saturday, when they gave over at four; will you explain that to the committee?—I have stated just now that it was above 40 years since grass bleaching was given up. My father was the first to put his men upon piece-work. They used to be paid by the day, and I dare say that what he has stated with regard to the time at which they came in the morning, and the time at which they left off at night upon grass bleaching, may be correct; but that is done with now. It is above 40 years, I think, since the people were put on piece-work.

6037. The same witness has also stated that children as young as nine or ten years of age were employed in the bleach works; is that correct?—There used to be young children employed, but not so young as that, in the bleach works. But with respect to that department now, we do everything by machinery; and we do not employ any people at all now where they used to be employed; it is all done by machinery. And I think that most of the bleachers in the neighbourhood will put up machinery on purpose to do away with it. Therefore, those who are employed in those departments of labour will lose their employment through the machinery.

6038. Has the extension of machinery also affected the employment of adult labour?—It has affected adult labour; formerly we had 43 hands in our bleaching department, where we bleached the cloth, who were chiefly adults at that time; now we have 19, and we have only two adults among them. There are 17 boys and two men.

6039. Has

6039. Has the introduction of this improved machinery had any effect upon John Waring's own position?—He said that he had gone round to several bleach-works to ask for employment, and had been refused. He never called upon us to ask for employment; but if he had done so, we should have not been able to give him the employment he wanted. He had been brought up as a crofter, and his work is now done by machinery, and a great many people have been thrown out of employment by the introduction of that machinery. He thought that it was because he was an agitator that he could not get employment; that would have made no difference with me; but, at the same time, he is qualified for a species of work which has been taken away by machinery.

6040. It has been stated before this Committee that there are not many schools attached to the bleach-works in Bolton. What do you say to that statement?—As far as regards my own works, there is a school within three hundred yards of them. There is a Sunday school and also a day school belonging to the church of St. John; and there is a school that is kept by a man (I forget his name) who takes children for a payment of something like a penny or twopence per week. All the bleach-works round are more or less supplied with schools in a similar way to mine. We have not schools attached to the works, but they are close to them, and the workpeople have an opportunity of going there and getting education if they feel so inclined.

6041. Will that statement apply, not only to your own works, but to those of Mr. Ainsworth, Messrs. Ridgway & Co., and Mr. Cross?—Yes; Mr. Ainsworth has schools of his own which he has built, and Mr. Cross has schools close to his works. I do not know of any bleach-work which has not schools close to it, at which the children may have education if the parents will send them. But, as I stated before, upon making enquiries, I have found that those people in our works who are receiving the best wages, are those whose families are the worst educated: some time ago I gave instructions that no persons should be employed by us who could not both read and write; and, for the future, there will not be a single person in our works who cannot read and write.

6042. It has been stated that the result of legislation on the hours of labour would tend to distribute the work equally throughout the year among the work people. What is your opinion as to that?—I do not see how you could distribute the work equally throughout the year, because the orders come from the merchants in Manchester to us, and the orders come from the merchants abroad to them. Within these last four days we received an order at ten o'clock at night from a Manchester merchant, that some goods which we had in our hands, which were bleached, must not be sent to them in Manchester, but that we must order tin and wood-cases to pack them, and must pack them, and send them off to Liverpool, or else they would be too late for the vessel by which they were to sail. We called up immediately the men who made these things. The men worked all night, and they were got off in time. That is a case in point which occurred within these last four days in our own place. In consequence of these irregularities we cannot have a regular business unless some arrangement could be made by which we should always have work to begin at six o'clock in the morning, and to leave off at six o'clock at night. If I could have regular employment I would not be here to object to a Ten Hours' Bill. But it is the irregularity of our work which causes my objection. A short time ago I was looking over a book in which we put down the hours of labour, and I found that in one day we worked seventeen hours and a-half, and we never worked for three days afterwards. One of those three days was a Sunday, and the other two days were working days. We had not cloth sufficient to be going on. Then immediately a quantity of cloth comes we have to set to work. When we go to Manchester we do not know whether we are to receive any cloth or not, or whether we are to receive 1,000 or 10,000 pieces.

6043. During those three days which you have alluded to, during which there was no employment, were the workpeople at their own homes?—They went where they liked; they were not called upon to be upon the works; they were not upon the premises at all.

6044. Is it your opinion that legislation would affect the quantity of work undertaken in the bleach-works in a year?—Legislation would affect it in the way in which I have described. We cannot get through the work by working regular hours unless we can have the cloth regularly delivered to us. If any plan could be adopted by which we could have the cloth regularly delivered to us we could work

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regular hours; but as long as we are dependent upon the merchants in Manchester, and they are dependent upon the merchants abroad, the orders cannot be regular.

6045. Have you long hours more frequently in those departments of your works in which the callendering and the finishing are performed?—We do not work the long hours that we used to do in the callendering department, because we have speeded our callender so much that we can do the work in a shorter time.

6046. Is not that a branch of your business that is conducted in Manchester in the warehouses there?—Yes, the callendering and making up is performed in Manchester in a similar manner to that in which it is done with us; and if the callenderers and makers up in Manchester were distinct and free from the Bill, not being bleachers, we should be driven to the necessity of building another place for callendering and making up distinct from the bleach-works which the Bill is affecting.

6047. The Committee have had before them several gentlemen from Manchester, who have stated that, whilst it is very proper that legislation should be applied to your works, it would be absurd to apply it to theirs; are you of that opinion?—Legislation ought to apply to them as it does to us; because their work is just the same as ours; I have just mentioned that within four days we have had an order for goods to be packed up at our place, which had never been done before by that house, in consequence of their being wanted by a certain vessel, and we did what they had been in the habit of doing. But if legislation takes place with respect to bleaching and to callendering, and making up attached to bleach-works, and not in the callendering and making up not attached to bleach-works, we shall be obliged either to give up that branch of our business, or to build other places and to carry on the work distinct from the bleaching.

6048. So that that distinction in the legislation would inflict an injury upon you, and still leave another portion of the trade in which long hours could be carried on?—Yes, if it was done in that manner. Supposing that a number of boys or girls had been finishing with us, at six o'clock they would be obliged to go away; but there would be nothing to debar them from going to one of the finishing works; and whilst they were working with me under the Ten Hours' Bill, working with them under no such restriction. They could leave my works at six in the evening and work all night with them.

6049. Is it not the fact that in the early history of the bleaching trade its operations were confined principally to bleaching, and were not extended to the finishing and other departments?—Since I can recollect there was very little in the way of finishing in the bleach-works; we used to make them up, and then they went to the callendering works; now it is not so.

6050. So that the tendency at present is to a certain increase in the operations of the bleach-works so as to finish the goods finally?—Yes, of course, as you go on increasing the business you come into other matters; there was no dyeing at one time in the neighbourhood of Bolton, but Mr. Hardcastle began, and after that Mr. Ainsworth began, and Mr. Bridson. The bleaching was carried on distinct from the trade till they found that there was a certain other process that had to be done, and they thought that they might as well do it themselves.

6051. The Honourable Member for Bolton has said, in his evidence before this Committee, that if a workman stated that he would only work short hours he could obtain no employment in your district; is that your opinion?—No; he can please himself as to whether he works short hours or not; there are plenty of mills in which he can get employment, for the bleach-works are only customers for a certain number of hands, who are very glad to work the long hours because they work by the piece. If they bleach 100 pieces they receive a certain amount of money: and if they bleach 200 they receive double that amount.

6052. Is there not in your district very extensive employment at the present moment, and a very great increase going on as regards the building of cotton mills?—There are several mills being built now in Bolton; the building has much increased.

6053. So that if there were any strong feeling among the workpeople as to regular hours, they might seek other employment?—Yes, they might seek for other employment, and they might have it if they liked; but they will go to that employment where you find them getting the largest amount of wages. They like money best with us; where they can get the greatest amount of wages they will go, and our work being so healthy and clean, they prefer this work.

6054. I think

6054. I think you have stated to this Committee that the wages are higher in the bleach-works than the mills. Is not that so?—I have averaged our own wages, but I do not know what the wages are in the spinning mills. I have only been given to understand that they are not so much in the spinning mills as they are with us in the bleaching works; I find that our men averaged 4*s.* 6*d.* a day for the last 12 months, and our girls, 1*s.* 9*d.* or 1*s.* 10*d.* or 1*s.* 10½*d.*

6055. *Chairman.*] What do the children earn?—The men are rated at 3*s.* a day, the women at 1*s.* 3*d.* a day, and the boys according to their age. But whatever amount of money they get, they reckon it so many days to the men and so many to the women; it is all calculated by days.

6056. *Mr. Cheetham.*] How many hours do you allow to a day of these wages?—The average is 10 hours and a half of time spent upon the ground per day.

6057. Is the amount of wages for the women (which is 15*d.* a day) based upon the calculation of 10½ hours as a day's work?—They are rated at that, but it may come to considerably more. They are rated at 1*s.* 3*d.* when they have actually got 1*s.* 10*d.* and 1*s.* 10½*d.*, for the work they have done.

6058. And of the long hours?—Yes, but still they have made it by being upon the ground 10½ hours per day.

6059. Assuming that when they are on the ground, they are not employed for two or three hours, but are waiting for some other process to be completed, would not that still be called a day's work?—Whatever there is to do, they get it done, and at the end of each fortnight the quantity of goods that are bleached is reckoned up at a certain price, and they get so much money from that according to their wages, the men's wages being 3*s.* a day, the women's 1*s.* 3*d.*, and the boys', according to their age, from 9*d.* to 2*s.* per day; I cannot give it exactly, but I can state that they are rated at 3*s.*, and that the money they have actually received is 4*s.* 6*d.* That is caused by the quantity of work they do, and by having machinery by which we get through our work quicker, and the work-people make better wages.

6060. Henry Waring has stated to this Committee that it has been made matter of complaint among the workpeople, that their health has been impaired by their labour in the bleach-works; is that your opinion?—I do not believe that it is the case; but a person will be examined before this Committee to-day, from Mr. Ainsworth's works, who has returns to lay before the Committee, which contain a statement as to the health of the workpeople, how long they have been ill, and so on.

6061. He also stated that there was a time, in Bolton, when any one of the masters might have turned out a number of men fitted for the Life Guards; but that they could not do the same thing now; is that your opinion?—No, there is not any difference; the work is not hard work now, because the machinery does the work.

6062. Will the personal appearance of the men compare fairly with other employments?—I would back my men against any men in any other employment. Among a number of men, you may pick out those that are employed in the bleach-works from those that are employed in other employments; they look so much better.

6063. The Honourable Member for Bolton has informed the Committee that in his opinion the feeling of the workpeople is unanimously in favour of legislation; have you had any opportunity of ascertaining how far that opinion is correct?—It is not unanimous; there are some that are in favour of it, and some that are not. There are some girls who are employed by me, who subscribe a penny a week towards the movement. One of the men had told them that they must subscribe; they said they would not give anything, but they were obliged to give over, for they were scouted, and called names by the men for not subscribing; they said they wanted no Ten Hours' Bill.

6064. He has also stated that, in his opinion, the master bleachers have not a strong opinion that legislation would materially injure their position; is that your opinion?—Not at all; and it is not the opinion of the master bleachers generally.

6065. Do you think that merchants would submit themselves to the altered state of things in the way of doing their business?—I think that Mr. Barber has given the Committee a good answer to that question, in saying that it cannot be done. And if it cannot be done with the merchants, it would follow that it cannot be done by us; it is not in their power, receiving instructions from the

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merchants abroad to do so. Perhaps a vessel comes in with an order; they say, "Send so many goods by such a vessel; if you can send so many white, send them; if not, send all gray." There is not so much white cloth going out as there used to be; the foreigners can bleach cloth quite as well as we can. At the Paris Exhibition, it was noticed that the foreign goods were bleached better than we could bleach them; but then they could not finish them so well.

6066. Are the goods bleached in France?—They are bleached in France. This new machinery which I have put up, saving so much labour, was originally invented in Belgium, and came to us from France; therefore they are forwarder than we are in those bleaching processes, at all events, whatever they may be in other matters.

6067. Can you furnish to the Committee a statement showing the comparative numbers of men, women, and children employed in your works?—I have it here (*producing the same*).

Vide Appendix.

6068. Will you hand it in to the Committee (*the same was handed in*).

6069. I believe that it is not your desire to employ very young children in your works?—No, it is not indeed; in fact, they are not required. The young children are employed by us in hooking up; but there is a machine coming out now that will be worked by machinery which will supersede them, and those who have been working at hooking up will be turned out, and must get employment somewhere else.

6070. Is it the fact that the employment of young children is more to gratify the desire of the parents than from any desire on your part?—It has always been the desire of the parents; they have always been wanting to get employment; we find it the case that they will work their children to get money, and not think anything of their education.

6071. After a careful consideration of the proposed legislation in your department of labour, is it still your decided opinion that it would be injurious rather than beneficial?—I am sure that it would be injurious, and I do not see how it could be carried out.

6072. Mr. Butt.] Do you recollect the agitation which took place before the passing of the Factory Act?—Yes, I recollect that it was so, but I never interfered with it, because it had nothing to do with my business.

6073. Do you know that there was the same objection to legislative interference under the Factory Act as there is now to the proposed legislation?—There could not be the same objection, because the factory people can go to Liverpool and buy their cotton, and can commence at six o'clock in the morning, and leave off at six o'clock at night. Their goods will not take harm by waiting; but with us it is quite different. As I have said before, if you will adopt some plan to find us work to commence at six o'clock in the morning, and to leave off at six at night, I shall have no objection to being put under legislative restriction.

6074. Were not strong objections made to shortening the labour in factories?—Yes, they made objections; but they could not make the same objections as we do.

6075. You say that men are rated at 3 s. a day, girls at 1 s. 5 d., and boys at from 9 d. to 2 s.; but that in point of fact the men receive 4 s. 6 d., and the girls 1 s. 9 d.?—Yes.

6076. Then in fact they receive wages equivalent to the wages for a day and a half?—Yes.

6077. Did I rightly understand you to say that if they did a certain amount of work which you considered a day's work, they would receive 3 s.?—Yes. They may do less, and then they do not receive 3 s., and if they do more they receive more than 3 s.

6078. Are the extra wages which they receive created by long hours?—They are created by doing more work; but, as I have already stated, the average of the time they have been upon the ground during the last 12 months has not been more than 10 hours and a half a day.

6079. How do you rate that 3 s.?—I say that that is the regular wages that we give to the men, and we rate them at 3 s. a day.

6080. Is there work for which you pay 3 s. what they can easily do in 10 ½ hours?—We pay a certain price for the work; but instead of 3 s., they have made 4 s. 6 d., by being on the ground 10 ½ hours.

6081. Mr. Cheetham.] Is it the fact that 3 s. per day for 10 ½ hours' work would

would be paid, supposing that men were doing it by day's work?—Yes, you may put it in that way.

6082. Instead of that you pay by the piece?—Yes.

6083. And when the whole work is turned out, you look at the result, and divide it after the rate of 3 s. per adult labourer, and in proportion for women and children?—Yes, that is the way we do it.

6084. Mr. *Buch.*] Do you pay 3 s. for a certain amount of work?—Supposing I give a man 3 s. for bleaching 100 pieces; if he does 150 pieces, he receives 4 s. 6 d.; if he only does 50 pieces, he receives 1 s. 6 d.

6085. Mr. *Turner.*] If he did 150 pieces instead of 100 pieces, and was only employed 10½ hours, would he still receive a day and a half's wages?—Yes.

6086. Mr. *Butt.*] What would be the ordinary time in which a man would do 100 pieces?—From seven to eight hours would be the ordinary time in which he would make his 3 s.

6087. Mr. *Wise.*] Three shillings, in fact, represents that number of hours?—Yes.

6088. Mr. *Butt.*] Three shillings, in fact, represents from seven to eight hours labour?—Yes.

6089. Of course allowing for meal times?—Yes.

6090. Mr. *Wise.*] Do you allow an hour and a half for meal times?—Yes, but they may get their work done before they go home to tea; and if they commence at six o'clock in the morning, they would make a day's wages before that time.

6091. Mr. *Butt.*] Can a man, by working 10 hours and a half in your establishment, earn 3 s.?—He will earn more than that.

6092. Mr. *Turner.*] Did I rightly understand you to say that, if he did 150 pieces in the 10 hours (supposing a day's work to be 100 pieces), he would get a day and a half's wages; but that if from dilatoriness or mismanagement, he was 12 hours in doing 100 pieces, he would only get 3 s.?—Yes.

6093. Supposing a man of ordinary efficiency at this work came at six o'clock in the morning and left off at six at night, going home for meals, what amount of work would he do?—In my establishment they have only been upon the ground that time, and I have stated that they have made 4 s. 6 d. a day.

6094. Do you think that if a man works from six o'clock in the morning till six o'clock at night, going home for meals, he would earn more than 3 s.?—He would earn more; according to my statement the men have only averaged 10 hours a day, and they have made 4 s. 6 d.; therefore, within half-an-hour of the day's work, he would make his 4 s. 6 d. I got that statement made out mainly on account of this agitation, in order to see really what our men had worked.

6095. Mr. *Butt.*] Is it the fact that originally 3 s. was fixed as being what was considered a fair day's work?—Yes.

6096. And that when improvements have been made in the machinery which have enabled the workmen to do more than a fair day's work they have had the benefit of it?—Yes; they have in one way but not in another, because we have been obliged to reduce the number of hands; but those who have been kept on have got as good or better wages than before.

6097. Did I rightly understand you to say that in one department, where there were formerly 43 hands, mostly adults, you have now 19 hands, of whom 17 are boys?—Yes; that is in the bleaching department.

6098. Is that owing to improvements in machinery?—That is owing to improvements in machinery.

6099. Would it be a correct inference from that, that the effect of the improvements in machinery has been to cause the employment of a larger number of children?—There must be the same quantity of boys as there were formerly; the men have been discharged, but I fancy that we have the same quantity of boys as before. We have no more boys on the ground than we had before, but we have a great many less men.

6100. Is not the tendency of the improvements in machinery to throw your work more into the hands of boys?—Yes, it has been so; and if those men who are employed now were to leave us we should put boys into their places.

6101. Are you yourself personally conversant with the hours at which your workpeople come, and the hours at which they go away?—No.

6102. Have you read the evidence given before Mr. Tremeneere by your workpeople?—Yes; I explained in my former evidence that Mr. Tremeneere had not put down in his report all that had passed.

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6103. That was only in the one instance of Thomas Spencer?—Yes.

6104. I find here, in page 32 of his report, the evidence of Jane Kay, to the following effect:—"I am 17; I have been working here two years; since New Year's day we have come at half-past four and five o'clock, and worked till eight and nine." Was that an accurate representation?—It was not true.

6105. What time did she work?—I know that she did not work for that length of time, because I had the foreman speak to Mr. Tremenheere, and he did speak to Mr. Tremenheere, and told him that it was not true. I have not my books now in which I have the work entered, or I could tell the Committee the time they have worked. They have all worked the same length of time.

6106. She goes on to say, "When there are pushers on we come towards one o'clock in the morning and work till towards nine at night." Is that true?—As to coming in the morning, they say that they come at one o'clock in the morning, and I believe there are some who have come at that time, but they are often an hour or two hours behind their time; they do not keep to the time at which they should come, and therefore they do not work the time stated.

6107. As a matter of fact, could you say that it has never happened that girls of that age have come at one o'clock in the morning and worked on till nine at night?—I will not say that; I dare say it has happened.

6108. She goes on to say, "We then come about five o'clock the next morning and work till about nine; sometimes I come twice a week till one o'clock in the morning and work till nine at night." Will you state that that has not happened?—No; but if they work long hours in one night they go home sooner the next night.

6109. Have you read the evidence given to Mr. Tremenheere by Mr. Nicholson?—Yes, I have.

6110. He says, "Although these girls say they come at the hours they mention, they are the hours at which they are ordered to come, but they frequently come from a quarter of an hour to an hour later, sometimes even later than that. They are correct in saying they go away between eight and nine; and sometimes also they begin work at 12 o'clock at night, and may do so two nights following." Do you think that that is a correct representation?—If Mr. Nicholson has said it I am sure that it is correct; I should place entire confidence in what he says as being correct.

6111. He says further, "In some cases, when they come at 12 at night, they will work till eight or nine the following evening." From your knowledge of what passes in your establishment, do you think that that is correct?—Mr. Nicholson is there regularly, and I am not there regularly; but I am sure that whatever he has stated is correct; he would not state an untruth.

6112. Will you say that the girls have not come at 12 o'clock at night, and worked till eight or nine the following evening?—There may have been one case of it, but it has not happened within this last 12 months; I am sure of that. If you will look to the statement which I gave to Mr. Tremenheere, of the variations in the amount of employment, you will see that they vary as much as 155 per cent. That will show that the statements which you are putting to me may be correct.

6113. Would not you think that that was a great deal too long for girls of that age to work?—If they have nothing to do the day afterwards I do not consider it too long. But such a thing has never occurred, during the last 12 months, with us; we are abridging the work as much as is in our power. If a man worked all night, and had little or nothing to do the night afterwards, he would never feel it.

6114. Are you of opinion that a girl of 16 or 17 years of age, could be worked from 12 o'clock at night till eight or nine the following evening, without injury, provided that she rested the following day?—Yes, I think so, because they are not constantly employed. If orders of that character are sent, there is not cloth sufficient to go on regularly, and they have to wait for the cloth coming from the stove if they are in the making-up room, or they have to wait till some other process is finished, if they are in any other department.

6115. Supposing that they did that twice a week, do you think that it would injure their health?—I do not think it has occurred twice a week, but even if it has I do not think that it would injure them. If you were to see our workpeople, who have been worked so long a time, you would say that you never saw more healthy workpeople in your life. The Committee will have statistics laid before

before them, from Mr. Ainsworth's works, as to the health of the people, and how long they have been sick, and that will answer the question; I have not gone fully into it myself; the atmosphere of the works is good and clean, and it is a healthy employment.

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6116. May I ask you to look at the evidence given by Jane Spencer before Mr. Tremenheere; she says, "I generally come to work at five o'clock in the morning and stay till between eight and nine at night;" do you think that that is accurate?—Mr. Nicholson does not say anything about her; but they all work the same hours, and if you get it for one you get it for another; but with respect to Jane Spencer, I may say that I gave instructions that the children should wear slippers in consequence of their complaining of sore ankles; and they have done so with the exception of Jane Spencer, who would wear clogs, and now she is complaining of sore ankles and sore feet, and the others are not.

6117. Are you able to speak on this subject from your own knowledge?—I am not regularly there; but if you will put your finger upon any particular days, I will tell you how long she was there.

6118. The statement made is, that girls of 17 years of age have generally come to work at five o'clock in the morning, and remained at work till eight or nine at night; are the Committee to understand that you are unable to say that such a thing has never occurred?—I say that such a thing has occurred, but not as a regular thing. I think it cannot be true, because we have to work according to the work that comes in, if you were to fix upon one particular month, that is our busiest month in the year, you might find that they have worked long hours. But in other months, when we have had nothing to do, they have only been upon the ground three or four hours a day, and sometimes they have never been upon the ground at all in the day; and therefore, if we are to be legislated upon, how must we get through the work.

6119. Is your answer founded upon the inference that you do not think that they could have had that amount of work?—If you will give me any particular date, I will write home, and get the amount of work done from the books.

6120. Was not this evidence given upon the 18th of January 1855?—Yes. Since then, the work has been a great deal more regular, as is shown by the statistical tables which I have handed in; and we are endeavouring, to the utmost of our power, to regulate the hours of labour; and they have been regulated, because the average is only 10½ hours a day.

6121. Can you give the Committee information from your knowledge of what has gone on in your own works as to whether that statement is true?—I cannot speak as to that time; but I can say that, for the last 12 months, they have only done an average of 10½ hours a day. But you will find in Mr. Tremenheere's Report that the girls who worked together gave different statements, so that they do not agree as to the statements which they have given.

6122. Are the Committee to understand that you are not able to state whether the girls have not for a considerable period worked so many hours a day?—I am able to say that that is not true. But I will not say that for a day such a thing may not have taken place. I do not think that it has happened half a dozen times in a year.

6123. Is it your present impression that it would not be true that Jane Spencer generally came to work at five o'clock in the morning, and remained till eight or nine at night?—My impression is that it is not true. Such a thing may have taken place occasionally; but I could write home to know the real truth, if it is required.

6124. Could you ascertain by writing home the hours at which Jane Spencer worked for the two months preceding the 18th of January 1855?—Yes, I can do that.

6125. Mr. Cobbett.] Could you state how long she has worked in the two months of June and July 1854?—Yes; but I think that if you take two of our largest months you ought to take two of our shortest months also.

6126. Mr. Butt.] Will you furnish the Committee with a statement of the number of hours worked by the young women in your establishment, from the 18th of November 1854 to the 18th of January 1855, and from the 18th of June 1854 till the 18th of August in the same year?—Yes, I will; but at the same time I should state that you must not take that as a general rule; for, as I have said, for the last 12 months the whole of the time has not averaged more than 10½ hours, which is the time that you are legislating for.

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work short time in the mills?—I do not know of any one instance in which that has been the case.

6346. Is the contrary the case, that they come from the mills to seek employment at the bleach-works?—We have several cases of that sort, and one in particular. A girl was taken in six or eight months since, who came on account of not being able to stand the work in the factories; it did not agree with her health, and she preferred coming to our works. She got in and she is working there now. I asked her why she left, as she had less wages when she came in than she had in the mill, and she said it was in consequence of the mill not agreeing with her, and that she had found herself much better since.

6347. Did she get less wages when she came to the bleach-works from the mill in consequence of having to learn the trade?—Yes, I think she was about 16 years of age; she was rather older than we generally take them, and she got 4 s. when she came, because she had to learn the work.

6348. How long has she been with you?—Six or eight months. Since that she has been raised to 5 s. per week. She has got to know the work, and can work nearly as well as the others. We have a scale of wages, which range from 2 s. 6d. to 8 s., according to age for females.

6349. To what rate of wages may she probably arrive at the age of 20?—She may get to 6 s. or 7 s. It depends upon the work that she gets to. They are moved on from one department to another until they get to what we consider a woman's work. The women's wages are from 7 s. to 8 s. That is what we call a day's wages.

6350. Is the system of piecework carried on at Mr. Ainsworth's works?—It is mostly piecework.

6351. Is it therefore the interest of the workpeople as much as that of the master to work, while there is work, within moderation?—Certainly; we never find any difficulty in that.

6352. Can you tell us the average of hours worked in Mr. Ainsworth's works during the year?—For real work it will average something like 11 or 12 hours a day.

6353. Is that the number of working hours, not reckoning meals?—Yes. I am speaking of busy times.

6354. Do you mean that includes two hours for meals, or that they are all working hours?—They will work 11 hours, at any rate, upon the average.

6355. Is that much less than it was 30 years ago, and has the improvement been gradual?—It was more many years back; 25 or 30 years since they did work longer; but it has not been so for many years, I should think.

6356. A witness before this Committee (Mr. Price), in answer 1834, seemed to wish to lead us to suppose that this improvement has been owing to the agitation; is his insinuation grounded upon fact?—It may be in some measure since the agitation began, but the improvement began before that; at least before ever I knew of it; I know that there had been a difference before that time.

6357. We have heard a good deal about pushes; I suppose you know what they are?—I know something about them.

6358. At the time when you consider yourselves under the pressure of a push what are the hours?—Now the hours are from six till nine, or they may be ten sometimes; but now in those places where females work, particularly those which Mr. Price made allusion to, I scarcely think they ever work after nine; there may be often nights when they work an hour longer. Samuel Price says, in answer to Question 1829, that he has worked 15 or 16 hours a day through the year; now I am able to prove, that he did not work more than 10½ hours per day of an average for five years before he left the works.

6359. I believe you are subject to what are called slacks?—Yes.

6360. Those are times when they have not work enough to do?—Yes.

6361. How slack are you occasionally?—Sometimes we are for a week or a fortnight; they do not get half the amount of the wages they would for full time; sometimes we are for a month or two very slack.

6362. During the hours that the workpeople are on the ground are there inevitably periods when they are unemployed besides the hours for meals?—Yes, they are frequently waiting for half an hour; sometimes a quarter of an hour.

6363. At such periods are they allowed, to some extent, to arrange their own hours of work?—The arrangement of the hours is this; the head man of each room fixes the time for his own set to attend in the morning. But at any time when they are both busy and slack of work there, the girls and women very often bring

6138. Does the process itself create any impossibility in stopping at a given hour every evening?—I should be happy to show any of the Committee over my works, and then they will see the difficulty.

6139. Supposing that you had abundance of time, or that you were allowed to take your own time in performing your work, could not you make arrangements to stop regularly at six o'clock in the evening?—I think we might.

6140. Then the difficulty does not arise from any thing peculiar in the process of preparing the cloth?—It is in consequence of this pressure that we are obliged to have the cloth sent in at a certain time; and to show the Committee how we are pressed, I said that within these last four days we had received an order at 10 o'clock at night for goods to be baled by the next morning. We sent to the men, and got them up, and got them to work all night to catch the vessel; but if that had not been done, the vessel would have been lost.

6141. *Chairman.*] If you were restricted by law as to the hours you might work, would not you be likely to receive your orders sooner from the merchants?—They could not help themselves; you cannot make a law for the wind, where there are sailing vessels, they cannot sail without wind.

6142. Would not the manufacturer in that case know that he was asking you to do a physical impossibility?—If a law of that sort were passed it would drive the bleaching into other countries, where they can do it as well as ourselves. A merchant will go from one bleacher to another, for 2½ per cent.; we bleach 40 yards of shirting, and carry it from Manchester to the works and back again, all for 9d., and there is not much margin to work upon there.

6143. With respect to the processes which necessitate long hours are there any beyond what is called the boiling and the chemical process?—The same thing is repeated over again; the stewing is done once, the boiling in ashes is in the same condition, but it is not so long; and then the cloth undergoes twice chemicaling and twice souring.

6144. Are children engaged in these processes?—In the bleaching we have 17 boys and two men, but we have no girls; we have 19 people employed, two men and 17 boys, and the ages of the boys are stated in the paper which I have handed in.

6145. I think, in answer to a question put to you, you stated that you could not fix your hours for coming in the morning?—A person in each room fixes the hours for the room; the manager knows what cloth is coming up, and he may say to the people in his room, "You may come at six or seven," or, "You will not be wanted till nine," or, "We shall not work any work to-day." I have a statement of the hours of work, and on looking it over I find that we worked long hours one night, and we did not work for three days afterwards.

6146. Did I rightly understand you to say that, in your opinion the Bill would be worthless if the callendering works were excluded from the operation of it?—If the finishers and makers up in Manchester are excluded from the Bill, and we are included in the Bill, we must either give up that branch of employment or we must build buildings at a distance, and in that case we should be excluded from the operation of the Bill except for bleaching. We could immediately go away from there, and could begin to callender and make up in that place; and the people in Manchester are doing it in the very same manner that we do, and they will take it from us unless we build another place; and if we build another place, the Bill is not worth anything as regards callendering and making up.

6147. *Mr. Butt.*] Why do you say that the Bill is worthless?—Because these works do not come under the Bill; and all the evidence that the Committee have received show that the callendering and making up occupy the longest hours.

6148. *Mr. Cheetham.*] And the youngest portion of the population?—Yes.

6149. *Chairman.*] Under the arrangements which you have now stated of building separate houses, would the people who have been employed during the legal day in the bleaching process be after the legal hours taken away to the new finishing establishments?—We might do so if we liked, and they might come if they thought proper; but if they did not like to come to work again we might get fresh hands to do so.

6150. Is it the practice that the people who work in these separate processes can easily or do ordinarily apply themselves indiscriminately to all the different departments?—No, they cannot do that; but, with regard to the process of

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callendering and making up, if that is included in the Bill, when bleaching is upon the same premises, they might work till six o'clock at callendering or finishing with me, at my bleach-works, and then they might go to another person, who was a callenderer and maker up, but not under the Bill, and work at night for him.

6151. But, with respect to the people who are employed in the other branches of the bleaching business, do you consider that they would be secured by the Bill from working more than the legal hours?—Yes; but then there are very few people employed in the bleaching business now, because it is done by machinery.

6152. Be they few or be they many, would the Bill be worthless as applied to them?—I think it would be worth very little; because when they work by machinery you can have adults, or you can manage in different ways, so as not to make the Bills worth much.

6153. *Mr. Butt.*] Have not you now 17 boys working in the bleaching department?—Yes.

6154. Supposing you were to overwork those boys to a great excess (if such a thing were possible), do not you think that it would be a valuable thing to give them protection?—I consider that there is no work in that department; it is all done by machinery. They only have to be there by it, to guide the cloth.

6155. Supposing that they were obliged to remain all night by the machine, do not you think that it would be a considerable protection to them to allow them to go home at an early hour in the evening?—It would; but they could never be kept that length of time with us. I should not like to see boys kept so long a time as that; but if you were to restrict them, they might put adults on.

6156. Should not you consider, if you were to see these young boys, at that early age, when they ought to be receiving education, working day after day, and night after night, for these long hours, that some legislative protection should be afforded them?—I do not like the overworking of boys; I never did; and as soon as ever the thing was brought to my attention by Mr. Tremeneere coming, and by my hearing that he was come, I turned my attention to endeavour, as far as I possibly could, to reduce the hours of labour.

6157. Was it the coming of Mr. Tremeneere that turned your attention to the hours of overwork that existed?—Of course, my attention was brought to the question generally. I did not know that they were overworking; as I had never thought of the time that they were employed.

6158. At that time you did turn your attention to it?—Yes, I did.

6159. And so far as your own establishment is concerned, you have endeavoured to remedy that evil?—As far as our own establishment is concerned, we have endeavoured to remedy that evil, and I think we shall still go further; and I think that the effect of the improvements will be to throw a great number of people out of employment who are now employed.

6160. *Mr. Cheetham.*] If you have effected a remedy, it has been by the introduction of improved machinery?—Yes; and we shall go on again. There is machinery coming out now, which I know is used for plaiting up cloth; it will be done by machinery, though it is now done by girls with us.

6161. *Mr. Butt.*] Did I rightly understand you to say, that you have been influenced in doing that by a sense of the impropriety of allowing young persons to work so long?—I have been influenced in doing that by knowing what I did not know before, the length of hours that the young people have been employed.

6162. And by feeling that you, as a humane employer, ought not to overwork your people?—I do not want to overwork anybody. For this last twelve months I have been trying to avoid it.

6163. Supposing that there are other employers who are not actuated by the same feelings as you are, and who, even after having their attention called to it, persevere in long hours (which you think wrong), would not you think it right to restrain them by legislative interference?—I should not think that there is a bleacher in the trade who will not eventually do what I have done; they are getting into it as fast as they can.

6164. Is it your opinion, that without legislative interference, the abridgment of the hours of labour will be carried on by the good feeling of the masters in the trade?—Yes.

6165. Would not it be in the power of one or two obstinate or cruel men (if there were either among the bleachers,) to go on working long hours?—If they did

did not put up the improved machinery they would not be able to compete with us; they would be obliged to put up the machinery.

6166. Supposing they had the machinery, might they not still work long hours?—We cannot help pushes; the trade is so very fluctuating, and the goods come in so irregularly. In some days we have little or nothing to do, and in other days we are pushed for cloth.

6167. Do I rightly understand you to say that you would not think that any consideration of gain would justify systematic overwork?—I do not like overwork; and they are not overworked now, as they were at the time Mr. Tremeneere came, because the bleachers' attention has been called to it, and they have done all that is in their power to relieve them from the over hours of labour.

6168. Do you consider that you have made any sacrifice in doing that?—I have made some sacrifice, because it has cost me money to put down the machinery; but eventually it will pay me back, because I get through more work at less expense, and with less hands.

6169. Mr. Turner.] Supposing that this Act should pass, regulating the bleaching and the finishing, and making-up works attached to it, but not extending to the callendering and making-up at the warehouses at Manchester; would not you endeavour, as much as you possibly could, to free yourself from the operation of such an Act, by separating your callendering and finishing department from your bleaching works?—There is no doubt of it; I have already said so.

6170. In that case you would only be under the operation of such an Act to the extent to which you carried on the operation of bleaching as a separate business from callendering and finishing?—Yes; and with respect to bleaching, we now do it by machinery, and by fitting up more machines we might get it done in a shorter time, but if we did not that would be the case.

6171. Then as far as the bleaching part of your business is concerned, would not you set your wits to work to free yourselves as much as possible, if not entirely, from the visits of the inspectors?—Certainly we should.

6172. Would not you, in the first place, endeavour to get rid of all juvenile labour?—Yes; and we should do without boys as we have done without women.

6173. Would not you endeavour to throw off entirely the employment of young women?—Yes; all that we have been doing is with a view to do away with manual labour; we do not employ any young girls now, except in hooking up, and this machinery which I have mentioned will be at work soon to do away with that employment.

6174. Do you think, looking at this question in a benevolent point of view, that the workpeople are mistaken in the view which they take, and that this Bill will do mischief, rather than good, in throwing such a large number of young persons and women out of employment?—Yes; I am sure that it will do a great deal of mischief. The workpeople do not know what they will bring upon themselves, if they get a Ten Hours' Bill; it will fall more upon them than it will upon the masters, because of the introduction of machinery.

6175. Is there abundant employment for young women in your district?—There are plenty of mills.

6176. Then the alternative will be, that instead of going to the bleach-works they will go to the mills?—Certainly.

6177. Lord Naas.] Do they prefer the bleaching work to the mill work?—Yes, they prefer the bleaching work; they would rather, by half, work there than they would in the mills; they come into the bleach-works from the mills.

6178. Why is that?—Because it is so much more healthy; it is much cleaner.

6179. Do they prefer working in the bleach-works even though the mills are under the Ten Hours' Bill?—They would prefer working in the bleach-works, which are not under a Ten Hours' Bill to working in the mills, which are.

6180. Mr. Crook.] Will you state to the Committee what number of women and young persons you employ?—It is stated in the paper which I have handed in.

6181. Did not you state that you had 127 people in your employment?—Yes.

6182. If you deduct two, which are the number of men, does that not leave 125 women and children?—No; when I spoke of there being two men employed, I referred only to one department, which is called the bleaching department; we have men employed in every other department.

6183. Could you give the Committee an estimate of the number of people who

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would be affected by a Bill of this kind?—It is all set out in the paper which I have handed in.

6184. You stated that if a Bill of this kind passed there would be an inducement to construct a separate work at Manchester, or some other place, for the callendering department?—We need not go to Manchester; we might go to the other side of the road.

6185. You saw the Bill brought in last Session, do you think that it would be practicable to evade the law in that manner?—I do.

6186. The part of the Interpretation Clause which refers to this subject is as follows: “Whenever any of the processes of callendering, finishing, making up, or packing any linen, or other fabrics, after the same shall have been bleached or dyed, or any other process used in the preparation of such dyed or bleached goods, shall be carried on in connexion with any bleaching work as above defined, then and in that case all callendering rooms, mangling rooms, lapping rooms, lapping lofts, and all other rooms, buildings and premises, of what nature or kind whatsoever in which any such processes shall be so carried on, shall be deemed to be part of such bleaching work within the meaning of this Act.” Do you think that if you established a work on the other side of the street it would not be within the action of the law?—If the callenderer and makers up in Manchester are not included in the Bill, and it only extends to places where there are bleach-works, in that case we could do it; but if you put the callenderers and makers up under the same restriction we could not do it.

6187. Do you consider that they are not under the same law by the present Bill?—I understand that they are clear, but the Honourable Member who brought in the Bill can answer that question better than I can; as far as I have thought of it, it will act in that way.

6188. Are not you sufficiently conversant with the Bill of last year to be able to speak as to the effect of it?—As I understand it the Manchester callenderers and makers up are not included in the Bill.

6189. Do you think that it will be possible for you to conduct a finishing work at any other place which would not be under the operation of the Bill?—Yes; I should not conduct it in my own name, I should conduct it in another person's name; I should have a partner, and let him carry on the finishing, and I should carry on the bleaching.

6190. If it were one concern would not that clause in the Bill regulate it?—If it is the same concern that clause applies to it, but I would take care that it was not the same concern.

6191. You say that you do not like to see boys employed very long days or in the night; do you like to see young girls and women employed long hours and in the night?—No, I do not; but I can tell you this, that after the boys have done their work I can see them running about, and playing; they are not tired.

6192. Since Mr. Tremenheere came round has not your impression in favour of more reasonable hours of labour been strengthened?—When Mr. Tremenheere came round, and the inquiry was made before him, I was surprised at the answers that were given, and it called my attention to it, and from that time I have endeavoured to reduce the hours of labour as much as possible for the people under my employment.

6193. Did not you state in your evidence the other day that the introduction of machinery had had a great effect in reducing the number of hours' labour, and that it had made the hours of labour more regular?—I believe in answer to a question about callendering, I stated that we had speeded the callenders quicker, and that of course we got through more work.

6194. Did I rightly understand you to say that your work is a great deal more regular?—Yes; this speeding of the machinery makes it more regular; where we could only run through 100 pieces formerly we can now run 150 through the same machine by speeding it quicker.

6195. Is not there less necessity for working long hours in consequence of that?—The result of the alteration is that we have not worked so many hours.

6196. Are not you aware that the average of the hours in your works is precisely the same as those which the Bill attempts to enact?—Yes; but we have not work to enable us to work regularly, it is on account of the pushes that the work is irregular; I would not say that we have not in any case worked more than 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ hours a day, but that is the average.

6197. Is

6197. Is your objection to the Bill that it interferes with irregular hours?—Yes; we could never make it answer; it would drive the work away from this country.

6198. Do you think that it would put the bleachers to such inconvenience that it would drive the business away?—I think that the merchants would send their cloth away; they would have it packed and sent away at once.

6199. Since you were a bleacher have the hours of labour been more regular than they were formerly in your works?—We can get the work done much quicker. When I first began to bleach we bleached perhaps 20,000 pieces in a month, but we can do 100,000 pieces now and can do them better.

6200. Do you work as often in the night as you used to do?—We work just as the cloth comes, either in the night or in the day, and we are glad to get it and to get rid of it as fast as we can, and to get paid for it.

6201. Do you work more in the night, or less in the night, than you did formerly?—We work less in the night.

6202. Do you work more short days and fewer extremely long days than you used to do?—I have already mentioned that our men have eight hours to themselves out of the twenty-four.

6203. Have you heard any complaints from the merchants, with regard to inconvenience, in consequence of the work being more regular?—We have had no complaints at all from the merchants, unless we do not send their goods up when they want them. They may want them back in three or four days, and our irregularity depends upon that. If they could get their orders from abroad, and give their orders to us, so as to let the cloth come pretty regularly when we wanted work, it would not be so; but they cannot do so, because they have to wait till the price is such that they can buy; one is dependent upon another.

6204. I think you have quoted Mr. Barbour's opinion upon that point?—Yes, I have.

6205. Do you agree with Mr. Barbour, in the opinion that if the hours of labour were more limited it would tend to induce the merchants to give out their orders more regularly?—Since Mr. Barbour gave his evidence here, he wanted some goods bleached, and the bleacher said that he could not have them in the time that he had given, because it was too short a time, and he lost the cloth by that; so that he gives evidence one way, and works in another. The merchants receive the orders, and they are bound by the orders that they receive, and we are bound by the orders that we receive. That is the way of business.

6206. Did you see that part of Mr. Barbour's evidence, in which he states the general working of the present system of pushing, and in which he says, "They say, We will furnish such a quantity of goods if you will deliver them by a given day"?—Yes; Mr. Barbour will deliver us the cloth, which we are to deliver back again by a certain day.

6207. Mr. Barbour goes on to say, "We go to the bleachers and say, 'If you can finish us a quantity of shirtings, or other things, upon a given day, we will give you them;' there will be no necessity for that if all are upon the same footing; I do not think it would make any great difference, whether we got those goods by the very day we desired to have them; if they missed this vessel, we should get one in the course of a fortnight afterwards;" do not you think that that is a fair statement of the amount of inconvenience?—I think, if you go a little further, you will see that when Mr. Barbour was asked if he would not like to be brought under the restrictions as to his hours of labour, in the packing and putting-up departments, he said, "Certainly not; it could not be done." Therefore I think I may give Mr. Barbour's answer to the question which has been put to me.

6208. Mr. Turner.] Mr. Barbour says, that if he missed one vessel he might ship the goods in a fortnight by another; are there vessels going every fortnight to all parts of the world?—I should think not; I should think that there could not have been a vessel going every fortnight to the place for which we had a push a few days ago. If there had been another vessel going in a fortnight, perhaps they would not have pushed us so hard; but I never asked the question.

6209. Mr. Crook.] If this Bill had passed, would you have been able to get that cloth out in that time?—Yes; because it had been bleached by us, and was sent out to those who were not under restriction, the joiners and tin-plate workers, to make the tin and wood cases.

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6210. Would this proposed Bill have affected that case?—It would not have affected that case, because the goods were bleached, and the cases were not brought unto the ground, I think, till about 10 o'clock the next morning.

6211. Were any women and children employed after six o'clock at night upon that order?—Not one.

6212. Mr. Turner.] Did not you quote that case to show that there was a great necessity, sometimes, to meet the sailing of a particular vessel?—I stated it to show the pushes that we are subjected to.

6213. Mr. Crook.] Do you admit that this Bill would not affect such pushes as that?—It would not have affected that one; the work which was affected by it, from 10 o'clock at night till 10 o'clock the next morning, was that of men not on the premises, who are in the habit of making these tin and wood cases; but the boxes came to us in the morning, when we could put the goods in and send them off by rail.

6214. Mr. Dalglish.] Do you bleach by machinery?—We do.

6215. What description of machinery do you use?—"Winches."

6216. Are the goods taken out of the boiler by the winches?—They are taken out of the boiler by the winches; they are caught by the winches, and are taken to the kier.

6217. Does not a kier hold a certain amount of cloth?—It holds two tons' weight.

6218. In getting the cloth from Manchester does two ton weight always represent the same number of yards?—No; some 40 yard pieces will weigh 12 or 16 lbs., and others will weigh only 2½ lbs., or something of that sort; there is as much difference as that.

6219. In the filling of this boiler, is there not a great disproportion in the time required, according to the weight of the cloth?—I could not get the lighter cloth in more easily than heavier cloth; it depends upon the bulk of the cloth. The kier will only hold a certain quantity, but we generally consider that the kier will hold two tons' weight.

6220. Supposing that two tons' weight of cloth amounted in one case to 2,000 pieces, and in another case to 3,000 pieces, would not it take longer for this machinery to run the 3,000 pieces into the kier, than it would to run the 2,000?—It would, of course.

6221. Consequently, if the kier had to be filled by machinery, could you limit a certain time for that?—The more cloth there is, of course, it takes more time to run it through, for the machinery only goes at a certain speed.

6222. Do you require to fill your kier before the process begins?—Yes; we always fill the kier before we put the steam to it.

6223. Consequently, although ten hours might do for a certain piece of cloth, would not a longer period be required for the same weight of cloth if it extended to a greater bulk?—Yes; it is just according to the difference of length. If you can run 1,000 yards through the machine in an hour, it must take two hours to run 2,000.

6224. And you require to have the kier filled before you go on?—Yes, we fill the kier before we begin to turn the steam upon it.

6225. Would not those operations involve this consequence, that if you had a medium weight of cloth, and a certain number of yards which would go through in 10 hours, if you increase the weight of the cloth the number of yards will be less, and you will be able to do it in a much less time?—Yes.

6226. And that any increase in the number of yards would force you to take a longer time?—Yes. The winches run at a certain speed, and if you have more, they take a longer time. It makes no difference as to the heaviness of the cloth; it depends upon the speed.

6227. Did I rightly understand you to say that you were averse to legislation which would limit the employment of women and children to certain hours between 6 a.m. and 6 p.m.?—I am averse to legislation, in consequence of the irregularity of our work. We cannot commence at six o'clock and leave off at six; and if we could, I should not be partial to it, because it is only at certain times that we have work to do, and at other times we have not; and therefore we could not do our work regularly in consequence of the irregularity of the work given to us.

6228. If a Bill is brought in to legislate upon these trades, though it merely applied to women and children, would not it, in fact, apply to the whole of your

your staff?—Yes, it would, unless we employed adults instead of women and children.

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6229. Would you consider it objectionable to prohibit by Act of Parliament the labour of women and children in stoves for more than eight hours, but without any limitation as to the period of the day when such employment was to take place?—We do not employ any women in the stoves. The cloth is hung from the top by a machine, and if the stove is hot, it cannot fall down; therefore, the stove is obliged to be cold when the cloth is hung, and the boys are only employed to spread out the bottom of the selvage.

6230. What is the heat of the stove?—We allow the air to go into it, and it is as cool as this room when they hang the cloth; and then, as soon as the cloth is dry, we open the windows, in order to take it down. We do not take it down inside the stove. The stove is never hot when the people are in it.

6231. Have you no women employed in the stove?—We have no women employed in the stove; we have men and boys.

6232. What is the age of those boys generally?—The paper that I have handed in gives the age of every boy that we have about the works.

6233. Do not you think that it would be right to limit their hours of labour to eight hours in a hot stove, in which the temperature ranges from 90 to 100 degrees?—I do not like them to work so long in a hot stove; but the stoves are not the same as they used to be. Mr. Hardcastle, in his evidence, said that there is a place upon one side of the stove where the people stand to put the cloth upon the frame and watch it as it goes along, and upon the other side to take it off; inside it is very hot; but the people are in a cool place. I do not consider that it is fair to say that they work in a hot stove.

6234. Does not that remark apply to one particular description of stove?—The stoves that we use are never hot when the boys and men have to work in them, in fact they could not stretch the cloth if it were hot; it would hold itself up in the air; and then they do not go in till it is quite dry; and, in fact, they need not go in at all.

6235. Are you acquainted with muslin bleaching?—We do not do any muslin bleaching ourselves; ours are shirtings.

6236. Are your workpeople bound in any way, or are they at liberty to go away whenever they do not like your employment?—They are not bound at all, if they want to go they may go, we give and take a fortnight's notice. If a man wants to go away, he gives a fortnight's notice; but if he wants very particularly to go at once, we do not insist upon the fortnight's notice, but let him go there and then, if he can better himself; in fact, when we began with our machinery to perform the bleaching which we used to do by manual labour, we informed the men of it, and we said to them, "You shall remain here till you can get another situation, and we will not insist upon your giving any notice when you have a situation," and the men all got situations.

John Slater, Esq., called in; and Examined.

6237. Mr. Turner.] I BELIEVE you are not now actually employed in the bleaching business?—No, I have been an operative and a master, and I am the owner of Little Bolton Bleach Works, and my sons carry on the trade.

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6238. How long have you been in the trade?—Better than 40 years.

6239. Have you read or heard the evidence given by Mr. Hardcastle and Mr. Blair, before this Committee?—I have both read and heard, and I generally coincide in it.

6240. How many people do you employ in your works?—Formerly, a great many more than we do now; we had a great many, from 200 to 300 formerly, but now 150 to 200; the proportion of boys and girls, and males and females will be much the same as in Mr. Hardcastle's and Mr. Blair's works.

6241. Do you employ any young persons under 11 years of age?—We may have done, but we have not done it knowingly.

6242. When you have done it, was it at your own wish or rather at the instigation of the parents who wanted to get the children to work?—The parents are always anxious to get their children into the works, and if they are a deserving family, we allow them to work at 10 years old, at parents' request.

6243. There has been evidence given to this Committee by two men of the name of Waring, father and son; now, as they were employed by you, I wish to ask you a few questions about those persons. John Waring says that he has known your young people to work for four days incessantly, without going home.

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Is that true?—It is possible that they may have worked long hours for four days, but that they worked without going home, I do not believe is true.*

6244. He says that has occurred often?—He might have had an opportunity of judging, but I have not.

6245. You do not contradict that evidence?—Not upon that point; I should think that it was not true, but if it was, it was very seldom indeed that we have admitted of these long hours.*

6246. He has also said that many people in your works were occasionally sick in consequence of the long hours; does your recollection serve you as to that?—That requires explanation; we allow persons to work upon the sick list, and as a substitute only in case of absence; if a man wanted to see his friends, he will report himself sick in consequence. And if they had been drinking too much, and had made themselves sick, they could employ other hands without their masters' knowledge, so that it was a convenient word to use, and not always correct.

6247. Since John Waring and his father have been with you, have you laid out a considerable sum of money in the improvement of machinery?—A very large amount.

6248. Has not the effect of that been to shorten the hours of labour?—It has both shortened the hours, and reduced the number of hands.

6249. Can you tell the Committee the average number of hours that your works have been in operation during the last two or three years?—Henry Waring, the father, was a remarkably good servant, and a very steady man; I have the days that he made with me, he certainly did make a long time, but he had easy employment.

6250. Are you speaking as to the average of the hours generally?—No; the hours are never continuous; they fluctuate and change very much according to the orders.

6251. John Waring says that he has a note, stating that the workpeople worked upon one occasion all Friday night and all Saturday until five o'clock in the afternoon; is that correct?—That is correct as far as one-third of the hands goes; the reason of it was this, our second large engine broke the piston, and it took five days to repair it; it was just before Whitsuntide, which is a general holiday in Bolton, working was suspended, and our hands wanted to work hard to get money to spend during the holidays; the engine being stopped had stopped one-third of the hands, and at the suggestion of the hands we allowed them to work the extra hours, and we also advanced money that they might enjoy themselves on a footing with those who had not been stopped work by the breakage.

6252. Have you known a large number of cases of families of young persons working from 16 to 18 hours a day for five months?—No; I have known them to work that time, but never continuously; and even when they were working long hours there were times when they could get rest in the works.

6253. Your opinion has been quoted by John Waring: he says, that on Saturday the 6th of June, he saw you, and you said that the Bill would do you no harm, and that you would not come up here to oppose the Bill. Did anything which he could construe into such an expression of opinion occur upon Saturday the 6th of June, or at any time?—I was up here on other business, standing outside in the lobby, and he came up to me and addressed me as his master, and I said I am here, but I am not come to oppose the Bill; I am neither come for nor against it; I am not come up upon that business at all, but for another business; and he then told me that which I did not know, that his party, who were promoting this measure, had not brought Mr. Tremenheere to our works; he said, that there was no occasion, we were so prepared with extra machinery that he did not bring him on that account. Had he come there he would have found young women such as you seldom see, for looking cheerful, and rosy, and well.

6254. Is it now your opinion that this is a good Bill, and that it is a desirable Bill to have passed?—For my own part, if the trade would back me, I would sooner give up business, and sell off, and stand still, than have it; it is my opinion that it will injure the workpeople too.

6255. Then, in fact, you are opposed to legislation?—I am strongly opposed to it, particularly inspectors; I object to the system of having inspectors, and teaching

* "Henry Waring never said that his wife worked for Mr. Slater nor Mr. Cocker, neither he said it was Bentley's. I said it was at Robert Heywood's, at Crescent, that I had seen those boys work four days and nights."

The above was written in the Committee Room by John Waring during Mr. Slater's examination, and given to him on leaving the chair.

teaching the men to look upon the master as their greatest enemy. Now, I like to be the master in my own work; when I was a working man with other masters I looked upon them with respect, and I like to be looked upon in the same way myself. It is teaching them to despise their masters, and to look upon every act as being unfair, and as if they were going to take some advantage over them. Waring has put words into my mouth; he said it would do my works no harm, and I said nothing; it is quite true that I was neither for nor against the Bill, because I never expected to be called upon to speak about it.

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6256. You were not come to oppose the Bill nor to promote it?—No.

6257. But now, as a witness, you give it as your opinion to this Committee, that legislation upon this subject is unwise?—That is my opinion.

6258. Now about Henry Waring. Henry Waring says that 42 years ago, when he worked in the fields, he began at seven o'clock in the morning and finished at six o'clock; was there any grass bleaching at that period, to any extent?—I think that, generally, there might be a little there at times, laid out in the fields.

6259. It was quite exceptional 40 years ago?—I cannot say whether it was; it was not general.

6260. Forty years ago, were the hours of working in the bleach works longer than they are now?—That was before piecework came up. I have assumed that 40 years ago bleaching was done out of doors mostly, so that in the summer time they would work longer hours, and in the winter they could not; that is a long time ago.

6261. I am much distressed to hear the account given by Henry Waring, of the way in which his wife had been treated; he said that his wife had worked a week without having her stays off;* do you believe that ever occurred in your time?—Henry Waring's wife never was an engaged servant of mine; but in the first process, hands come in to do the work which was done by females; it is what we call stitch-marking. Henry Waring's wife never was a regular hand; but if a lot of cloth came in for stitching, she was employed, and she got them to take home. She was a woman of a grasping disposition, and she would work all day in the works, and get a lot at night to take home, and she might have done it unknown to my foreman.

* See John Waring's written statement herewith.

6262. Lord *Naas*.] Was that work paid by piecework?—Yes.

6263. Mr. *Turner*.] Is not it the same as with the shirt makers, who get piecework from the slop-sellers in London, and who may get what work they like?—We only paid her for the quantity of work she did.

6264. The impression I obtained was, Henry Waring's wife worked at the works for a week without being able to take her stays off; is that correct?—She never was employed in the work, except casually as a stitch-marker, and it was quite optional; she had her own way. I do not believe it is true.

6265. Is it an exaggeration, or otherwise, of Henry Waring when he says that he has worked 16 hours a day for 11 years?—He would work 16 hours a day upon several portions of the time, but not continuously.

6266. Mr. *Butt*.] Do you know where Cocker's Croft is?—I succeeded Mr. Cocker; the place went by the name of Cocker's Croft.

6267. Mr. *Turner*.] Is it called Cocker's Croft in your occupation?—In Mr. Cocker's day it was called Cocker's Croft; it was formerly called Little Bolton Bleach Works.

6268. Mr. *Butt*.] The evidence of Henry Waring is this: he was asked, "Were you foreman to Mr. Slater?" and he said, "No." Then he was asked, "Where were you foreman?" and he said, "At the same place, but under Mr. Cocker?"—He was under both; I found him at the works.

6269. Were the long hours of work he was exposed to during the time he was working under Mr. Cocker?—I think he would work much longer under me than under Mr. Cocker.

6270. Mr. *Turner*.] You say you have worked 40 years?—I have been that time in the trade.

6271. When did you succeed Mr. Cocker?—I succeeded Mr. Cocker in 1833.

6272. You found Waring there?—I found Waring there, and I left him there.

6273. Then you cannot speak to this fact at all?—I can only speak to the time that

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that he worked for me; I have the number of days that he got when he worked with me.

6274. *Mr. Butt.*] Any contradiction that you have given to the evidence about his wife, you of course apply only to your own time?—In Mr. Cocker's days I do not suppose she was employed, nor was she ever a regular servant to me.

6275. Can you say that she did not work in this way in Mr. Cocker's time?—I never knew whether she did. My father built the place, and it is where I was born; I have always been attached to it, and I know a good deal about it.

6276. *Mr. Crook.*] You did not work there in Mr. Cocker's time?—Not at all.

6277. What Waring said in this statement, about his wife, occurred in Mr. Cocker's time; you cannot say anything about that?—I cannot answer for Mr. Cocker.

6278. *Mr. Turner.*] You do not consider that if such a thing has occurred 40 years ago, any such thing occurs now?—I may say, with regard to Mr. Blair's statement, that a man can earn two days or more in one; that I have made 5½ days in one day.

6279. How is that?—Supposing I had 1 s. a hundred for calendering articles, pressing them, packing them, and making them ready for the market, and if I can do 1,000 of them in one day, it is 10 s.

6280. In fact you reckon a day's work by the quantity of work done, and not by the number of the hours of work?—Yes; I should like to explain that a little further. Sometimes orders come in for 8, 10, 15, or 20, up to 50,000 pieces, if sent by a certain time; the merchant gets his order to buy a certain number of pieces, and he will go into the market and buy what he can, and he will send them out to bleach as quick as he can; and wants to bleach them by a certain date, in order to send them by a particular ship; he wants to have them of various qualities, and in order to complete the orders in the time, it puts us to inconvenience and expense. We are willing to oblige our customers, and therefore we work early and late to comply with their request; the bleacher has no option himself; he is not his own master, and must use every exertion to perform the orders in the time allowed.

6281. Henry Waring accounted to us when he was pressed as to sending his children to the works so young, by saying that he was obliged to do so because he had had great misfortunes in his family; he had lost a son at 20, a daughter at 27, a second at 15; can you give any reason to account in any way for that?—Henry Waring, as I have said, the whole time that he served me, never had a wrong word; he was a very steady man; he was foreman of his department, and employed his own family under himself; he was always very fond of getting money; he made them come to work early. I never compelled them, but he wanted them to do it himself; he did not send them to school as he ought to have done, but brought them to the works. Those who died did not work for me, to my recollection.

6282. He has stated that upon one occasion, when his daughter left your works to go to Mr. Meeking's, you threatened to discharge him because his daughter left your works; is that so?—That is since I gave up business; if it is so it must be by my sons. I asked them about the matter, but they did not recollect it. I think young women are so plentiful that there was no occasion for it; they had then 30 young women upon the works, and we are close to the modern mills, where there is good employment; still we have always plenty of young women.

6283. Did you ever know that he was compelled to send a young child at from seven to eight years old to work against his wish?—Not to my knowledge; it is possible if he was behindhand with his work, and the foreman saw it, he might say go and get some of your own family to help you; but I have no recollection of it.

6284. Is it the fact that the parents most frequently request that their children may be employed at an early age instead of sending them to school?—It is quite a pest to be troubled with them; if they were like Waring we should like to employ the family of a steady man; we should be backward to part with them, but I have no knowledge of employing any so young; but I think it is the wish of the parents rather than the masters that the children should be employed so early. I think it is stated that there were two or three deaths in his family; I do not know whether they have died in my works; I do not think that they were regular

regular servants of mine, with the exception of one, and that one only a short time; I think they were not in my works.

6285. Lord *Naas*.] Could you tell the Committee how much wages you pay the women and children in the week?—It is all piecework, and they will never make two days alike; but a set work together.

6286. Is it all piecework?—It is all piecework, except that now by the new machines they work daywork in the bleaching department.

6287. How long have those machines been worked?—They have been worked about four or five years, not much longer.

6288. Previous to that were all the payments made to the women and children by piecework?—Every hand in our works worked at the trade at piecework.

6289. What is the proportion between the amount of wages that you pay to the women and children by piecework and by daywork?—Henry Waring was rated at 2*s.* 8*d.* a day; he could earn, and sometimes did earn, 6*s.* and sometimes 7*s.*, sometimes 8*s.* or 9*s.*, according to the quality of the work.

6290. What age is he?—He is now 65; the women and children will earn from 1*s.* to 2*s.* a day; sometimes, while they are learning, they will earn under 1*s.*

6291. Is there a great difference between the earnings of different children of the same age?—Not great; we try to make all of the same active habits, and the same age get as nearly alike as possible.

6292. Are half the number of women and children that are employed working piecework?—More than two-thirds of the hands are working piecework.

6293. And the remainder are working by daywork?—Yes; a day is from six to six, with stoppages for meals.

6294. Do they ever work overwork at the machines?—Yes.

6295. Is that often the case?—Yes; it depends upon the supply and demand; they seldom work longer than nine o'clock now, and seldom before six in the morning.

6296. Taking one week with another, do the women and children work longest by piecework or with the machines?—There are women and children at the stitching machines for the bleaching department who seldom make overtime; we have women and young people in the making-up rooms on piecework, and they make much longer time, but not so long as formerly.

6297. Which work the most hours in the day, the women and children employed at machines, or at piecework?—Piecework.

6298. *Chairman*.] In general, may the Committee understand that you do not contradict Henry Waring's evidence?—I wish to exonerate my own character from any incorrect statement made by him.

6299. Is Mr. Joseph Slater your son?—He is my eldest son.

6300. Have you called his attention to the statement made by Henry Waring, that when he wished to recal his daughter, who was working at Mr. Meeking's, and Henry Waring said he could not do so, your son then said that he must take the consequences?—I called my son's attention to what we have seen in the papers.

6301. What did he say about it?—He said sometimes hasty words might be spoken, but that he had no recollection of ever making any threat to carry into force.

6302. May the Committee understand you, on behalf of your son, to give a contradiction to the statement so made by Henry Waring?—My son's impression is, that he was trying to make a false impression upon the Committee; he does not believe that such a thing occurred.

6303. You have read the statement, and know that it is a very detailed and lengthy statement of a conversation alleged to have been held?—We are so sensitive about taking other people's servants, it would stamp him with disgrace, and he would not do it.

6304. Does your son allege that he knows the conversation not to have taken place, or does he say that he has no recollection of such a conversation?—No; my son said that hasty words are sometimes spoken without an intention of carrying them out, but that he would be very backward to put such a threat into execution.

6305. Mr. *Butt*.] Is there a person of the name of William Isherwood in your employment?—I believe there is. I have been living away for the last seven years, and I am not very conversant with what has been going on.

6306. Ten years ago was he in your employ?—I believe that the name of the head man over the bleaching is William Isherwood, and if he is the person you

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are alluding to, he came soon after the machines began, but had worked for me previously to machine bleaching.

6307. Was he the man who was examined before Mr. Tremenheere?—Mr. Tremenheere never came to Little Bolton Works.

6308. Then it cannot be the same that I am referring to?—No.

6309. Mr. *Crook*.] Can you state the number of women and young persons in your employ?—I have about the same proportion as Mr. Hardcastle and Mr. Blair, according to the number we employ; but I am not in business now; my sons carry on the trade.

6310. Could you give the Committee any idea of the number of occasions during the last six months when you have had to work beyond six o'clock at night?—I cannot give it at all. I know that we have worked much longer; but being away from home I cannot speak to it.

6311. Can you give any evidence as to the extent of those pushes that occur now?—They are not so common as they used to be.

6312. Do you think the hours of labour at Little Bolton Bleach-works are more regular than they used to be?—I consider they are much more so, because the master is trying to make them so; it is their own interest to make them so.

6313. Have you observed any unfavourable result upon the workpeople in consequence of the more regular hours?—I never knew any before, and I have not observed any change. I always considered them very healthy.

6314. Do you consider that the workpeople are worse off with regular hours than they used to be with more irregular hours?—There is not so much night-work as formerly.

6315. And not so many extremely long days?—No.

6316. Do you conceive that any evil has resulted to the workpeople in consequence of having less occasion to work in the night?—I never considered it against their health when they worked long time; they were always fond of it.

6317. Can you speak to any evil that has resulted from their being relieved from the necessity of working long hours?—I have not seen any change, and I have never observed any evil.

6318. Have you had any complaints from the merchants in consequence of those modified hours of work?—Yes, many; we try to meet them; we are willing to comply with their requests.

6319. Can you bring to mind any case of inconvenience that has resulted from the modified hours of labour?—No; I have no data to go upon, being out of business.

6320. Do you think that if the hours of labour were modified to a fixed limit, not to exceed certain hours, evil would result from a further extension of that principle?—I think that we ought to be very careful to oblige our customers as far as we can in doing the goods at the time they wish, for there are so many that go out grey, that we have less to do. I am an advocate for bleaching, and not for the cloth going out grey, and therefore I want to comply with their requests; I encourage them all I can in our works. Before I left home I asked our workpeople whether they were for or against this Bill. During these last two years I have heard very little about it; they do not appear to care much about it. Whether they would speak candidly to me, I cannot say; they do not appear to think much about it now.

6321. Do you suppose from that that their impression was that their hours had been so regular, that it would not interfere much with them?—I think the main thing is, that they do not want to get less money; they would rather work long hours and get more money, than short time and get less.

6322. Do you consider that their indifference about the Bill shows that they do not think the Bill would reduce their wages?—They said that they did not think much about it now.

6323. If they had an impression that the Bill would reduce their wages, would not you suppose that they would have cared more about it?—My own opinion is that they do not care about it either way.

6324. Mr. *Butt*.] Did I rightly understand you to say, that your objection to the Bill was principally as to the annoyance and vexation likely to be caused by having the inspectors?—That weighs very heavily with me.

6325. Am I right in saying that your objection is not so much founded upon the obligation to stop work at a certain hour?—I want freedom in trade; I do not want to be interfered with in any way; the masters will care for their servants, and make it worth their while to serve them well without a Bill.

6326. Your

6326. Your principal objection is to interference of any kind?—I am much against the Bill.

6327. Would you have any objection to stopping voluntarily at six o'clock every evening?—I cannot do that; I have a great capital laid out, and I want to use it judiciously.

6328. Mr. Crook.] Are you not a member of the Master Bleachers' Association?—I am not in business; I am only owner.

6329. If you were a member of that association, and if the masters agreed by a majority not to work beyond six o'clock at night, would you have any objection to fall in with the arrangement?—I would join the masters in doing anything that would promote the welfare of our trade; but I could not agree to stopping so early as six o'clock, because we have days together without full work.

Mr. William Morris, called in; and Examined.

6330. Mr. Turner.] ARE you the manager of a portion of the works of Mr. John Ainsworth, near Bolton?—Yes.

6331. How long have you been at those works?—It would be about 40 years.

6332. During that time, how many weeks have you been off work from illness yourself?—I believe about three weeks, and that was at a time when we had the scarlet fever in the house; I believe all the family had it at that time, or at least all the children.

6333. How long has your father been on the ground, and how many weeks has he been sick during that time?—I believe it is about six weeks.

6334. How long has he been upon the ground?—He has been upon the ground 66 years.

6335. We have had some evidence given by the Rev. William Milton, to the effect that 600 or 700 women and children were employed in the Halliwell bleach-works; can you tell us exactly how many men, women, and children are employed there?—There are 574 I believe altogether, men, women, and children; I have a list which will tell you the number of men, women, and children respectively; it also gives the sum of the whole (*producing the same*); it is a sort of summary of the people employed and of their ages, and things of that sort; it is merely to show the particulars. There are 574 altogether, namely, 382 men, 89 women and girls, and 47 boys under 18.

6336. How many children under 11 years of age have you?—There is one I believe, a boy. It is under very peculiar circumstances that he was taken in; we do not like to take them in under 11; his mother was a widow, and wished to have him taken in; he is a fine boy, quite as fine a boy as one boy whom we have at the same sort of work who is 13 years old.

6337. What sort of employment do you give to him?—He is employed to straighten the cloth when hung in the drying stove, when the man hangs them.

6338. It is not very laborious work?—No, it is very easy work.

6339. Is the Rev. William Milton, the late incumbent of St. Paul's, Halliwell, correct in saying, in answer to Question 1406, that they work as young as from 9 to 10?—We have none now under 11 but that one; it might have been the case; I would not say that it was not so at that time.

6340. Are the persons employed by Mr. Ainsworth respectable in their appearance and intelligent, and do they remain a long time in his employment?—I know that they are respectable in appearance, and they have stopped a long time in his works. I have a summary which I think will give the Committee an idea of it.

6341. Will you hand that in?—(*The same was handed in*).

6342. In your opinion, do they prefer bleach-works to cotton-mills, where regular hours are worked according to the Act of Parliament?—They do, decidedly.

6343. Do they consider themselves as a class superior to the factory hands?—I believe they do.

6344. Is not it a sort of indication of their being better off that they consider themselves rather aristocratic among the workpeople?—They think the work better. We have plenty of applications for employment when we have a vacancy.

6345. Do you ever find the women and children leaving the bleach-works to

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work short time in the mills?—I do not know of any one instance in which that has been the case.

6346. Is the contrary the case, that they come from the mills to seek employment at the bleach-works?—We have several cases of that sort, and one in particular. A girl was taken in six or eight months since, who came on account of not being able to stand the work in the factories; it did not agree with her health, and she preferred coming to our works. She got in and she is working there now. I asked her why she left, as she had less wages when she came in than she had in the mill, and she said it was in consequence of the mill not agreeing with her, and that she had found herself much better since.

6347. Did she get less wages when she came to the bleach-works from the mill in consequence of having to learn the trade?—Yes, I think she was about 16 years of age; she was rather older than we generally take them, and she got 4 s. when she came, because she had to learn the work.

6348. How long has she been with you?—Six or eight months. Since that she has been raised to 5 s. per week. She has got to know the work, and can work nearly as well as the others. We have a scale of wages, which range from 2 s. 6d. to 8 s., according to age for females.

6349. To what rate of wages may she probably arrive at the age of 20?—She may get to 6 s. or 7 s. It depends upon the work that she gets to. They are moved on from one department to another until they get to what we consider a woman's work. The women's wages are from 7 s. to 8 s. That is what we call a day's wages.

6350. Is the system of piecework carried on at Mr. Ainsworth's works?—It is mostly piecework.

6351. Is it therefore the interest of the workpeople as much as that of the master to work, while there is work, within moderation?—Certainly; we never find any difficulty in that.

6352. Can you tell us the average of hours worked in Mr. Ainsworth's works during the year?—For real work it will average something like 11 or 12 hours a day.

6353. Is that the number of working hours, not reckoning meals?—Yes. I am speaking of busy times.

6354. Do you mean that includes two hours for meals, or that they are all working hours?—They will work 11 hours, at any rate, upon the average.

6355. Is that much less than it was 30 years ago, and has the improvement been gradual?—It was more many years back; 25 or 30 years since they did work longer; but it has not been so for many years, I should think.

6356. A witness before this Committee (Mr. Price), in answer 1834, seemed to wish to lead us to suppose that this improvement has been owing to the agitation; is his insinuation grounded upon fact?—It may be in some measure since the agitation began, but the improvement began before that; at least before ever I knew of it; I know that there had been a difference before that time.

6357. We have heard a good deal about pushes; I suppose you know what they are?—I know something about them.

6358. At the time when you consider yourselves under the pressure of a push what are the hours?—Now the hours are from six till nine, or they may be ten sometimes; but now in those places where females work, particularly those which Mr. Price made allusion to, I scarcely think they ever work after nine; there may be often nights when they work an hour longer. Samuel Price says, in answer to Question 1829, that he has worked 15 or 16 hours a day through the year; now I am able to prove, that he did not work more than 10½ hours per day of an average for five years before he left the works.

6359. I believe you are subject to what are called slacks?—Yes.

6360. Those are times when they have not work enough to do?—Yes.

6361. How slack are you occasionally?—Sometimes we are for a week or a fortnight; they do not get half the amount of the wages they would for full time; sometimes we are for a month or two very slack.

6362. During the hours that the workpeople are on the ground are there inevitably periods when they are unemployed besides the hours for meals?—Yes, they are frequently waiting for half an hour; sometimes a quarter of an hour.

6363. At such periods are they allowed, to some extent, to arrange their own hours of work?—The arrangement of the hours is this; the head man of each room fixes the time for his own set to attend in the morning. But at any time when they are both busy and slack of work there, the girls and women very often bring

bring their own work from home, and employ themselves in that or in anything that they have to do for themselves; and of course the boys go and play, or do as they like; that is, when they have a few minutes in the day-time at liberty; but in reference to the head man of each room, they calculate the time of attending in the morning by the time they expect to have the work ready for the department. Sometimes they attend at six, sometimes seven, and probably sometimes they will fix for after breakfast, eight o'clock, or half-past.

6364. Will you give the Committee your candid and honest opinion, as a man knowing this kind of work, whether you believe the bleaching operatives are generally, as a class, healthy and strong, or otherwise?—They are. My candid opinion is that they are healthy and strong; and I may here remark that I do not think there is any other business connected with manufacturing, or with business generally, that is more healthy, or perhaps as healthy, as bleachworks.

6365. The young women have been a good deal spoken of as being sickly; are the girls employed about your works generally healthy looking as compared with the factory hands?—They are more healthy looking than the factory hands are generally.

6366. There have been some insinuations with regard to the morals in bleachworks; are the young women employed in your works as well conducted and as moral and respectable in their conduct as the ordinary class of workpeople?—I should say that there are none more so. I believe that, as far as one part of morality goes, we have not had a case of anyone having an illegitimate child for the last six years.

6367. Do you think that as regards morals, and as regards health, legislation is not necessary for the bleaching population?—I do not think it is at all. I believe the morals and general health of the people would not be at all improved by legislative interference.

6368. Have you prepared any information as to the average earnings of the men, women, and children in your works?—It would be a difficult matter to make a selection, but I should say that if I made returns of that, and of the amount of a day's wages throughout the year; there are sets; each department has its set, and those sets have so much to do for a day's work. Their wages are all put together, and of course it makes a dividend to divide the work by. Suppose they take 600 pieces a day for the day's wages, when they have done 600 pieces they have made their wages, and whatever they do more than that they are paid for in proportion.

6368*. A certain quantity of work is considered a day?—Yes.

6369. How many hours' actual work, in Mr. Ainsworth's works, are required to earn what they call a day's wages?—It varies; some may go to seven hours a day, some under that, and some may go as far as eight hours, and if more, in proportion.

6370. In all instances, at the end of eight hours they would be considered to have earned a day's wages?—I should say, take it upon the average, that they earn a day's wages in seven hours.

6371. When those hours are exceeded are they paid extra in proportion, and when they work less do they receive less in proportion?—Of course if they do not make their wages they are not paid them; if they are stated at 600 pieces a day, and they only make 500, they are paid accordingly.

6372. I suppose you have been an operative?—Yes.

6373. Have you gone through every stage in the works?—Yes; and I may say that I have been rather privileged upon that account.

6374. When you yourself were formerly employed as an operative, were you desirous to make up for short days by working long hours when you could get work?—Always; and I believe every man is, that wishes to be respectable, and pay his way. Any man who wishes to get on in the world, there is no doubt, will never be backward in doing that. There has been a great deal said about females working overtime; now, I can prove an instance of two who had offered to work after they had done their own work. They were two girls in the works; one works in the packing room, and the other works in the mangling work.

6375. Do you think that your operatives as a class sympathise very much in this agitation for short hours?—I believe not. If the Committee will allow me, I will give them this instance with reference to women working overtime. I do not think any evidence has been properly brought before this Committee upon this point, and I think it is a very important one. With respect to the

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girls working long hours, the question was put to them by Mr. Tremenheere whether they would rather work short hours or longer hours, or if they would rather be under the Factory Act. Now it seems with few exceptions that they would rather be under the Act, and be forced to give over at a certain time; but I find from my own experience that it is not so. This case refers to the work which Mr. Slater had mentioned, of putting marks upon goods by the needle; we have had a good many of that sort of late. All our markers were busy in that sort of work; this girl in the mangling work, and another in the packing-room, I know had done about five or six o'clock, and I asked them if they had any objection to do this work. I said they should be paid to themselves, and they said, oh, yes, they would go; they seemed quite pleased to do it, and those two women went and got their tea, and came back again and worked till dark. We do not light up the works; we have not been burning gas there for about three months now; and I said, "What time are you coming in the morning?" they were coming at seven or eight o'clock; I said, "If you can come an hour sooner, I should be glad." They were there at five o'clock in the morning. Now that proves to me that it is not in consequence of the work being so laborious, but that they have not an interest to work above a certain time. Girls or a boy who live in the house with their parents have no interest in working above a certain time, because they get fed and clothed whether they work overtime or not, and if when they work longer the extra wages were given to them, I think it would alter the case. It is not that the work does them injury, but from what they stated to Mr. Tremenheere they wished to give over sooner, because they had no personal interest in working later.

6376. When you receive work from the merchant to bleach, is it one of the conditions that the work shall be done within a certain period?—In most cases it is; it is not so as a rule, but in most cases it is.

6377. Is there some space of time in which it is considered right and proper that you should return the work?—They expect that the bleacher will return it in a week or 10 days, but often in the orders less time than that is allowed.

6378. Do you think that in many cases the merchant would have considerable difficulty in extending the time; is he often compelled to require you to return the work in a certain period?—I do not think that in most cases the merchant has the power of doing it, for he is dependent upon other merchants abroad; I do not think it is in his power to alter the time; if he has an order to get, and he can get it at the price stated, he has to send it by a certain ship.

6379. As a rule do you think that the merchants who send cloth to you are often compelled to give you the shortest possible time, because they want to buy at the most advantageous period in the market, and to meet the vessel at the time that it is expected to sail?—No doubt; often they may have orders which they have not an opportunity to buy till the market changes.

6380. Are the pushes to which you are subject occasionally regulated by your own desire, or is it not rather forced upon you by the demands of the merchant?—Certainly; we have no power over it; if we could have them regularly we could arrange better.

6381. The Committee have it in evidence, in answer to Question 247¹, from the Honourable Member for Bolton, who is one of your customers, that he bleaches largely with Mr. Ainsworth?—He does bleach with us.

6382. Does he ever push you to execute your work in a short time, and thus cause a little extra work?—I believe he does; I can produce written orders of theirs to that effect if required; but I should not consider Mr. Crook to bleach largely with us; he is what I should call one of our small men.

6383. Have you any orders of his to that effect?—Yes; at the present time we have some of Mr. Crook's orders in our hands; but I will prove to you what the amount of his orders is, and which we consider very small; from July 1856 to 1857 I find that his account with us is only about 400*l.*; now that we consider extremely little, and scarcely worth our notice.

6384. He says you have had 600 or 700 pieces of his, which you have kept 51 days; is that so?—It is, probably; but that may be in consequence of our not thinking it worth our while to throw other orders aside which were of greater consequence to us to attend to them. I can only answer him that way.

6385. I suppose you have clamping frames?—We have.

6386. Are they worked by adult males entirely?—They are.

6387. Have you any women at the stoves?—No.

6388. Are

6388. Are the drying-stoves, in what we may call the shirting department, oppressive to the men or boys working in them?—No, they are not; when the workmen go into them there is no heat in them; they do the work before ever they turn the steam in; and after they have put the whole quantity in they come out and wait until the cloths are dry, and then they turn the steam out and the place is cool while they have any work to do in there.

6389. The Temple Works have been referred to; what number of bleachers were formerly employed at the Temple Works?—It is one portion of the works of which I have the management; formerly there were about 17 or 18 men in the bleaching department.

6390. How many are there now?—There are three men now and four boys since we established the machines.

6391. When you are busy how long do these men and boys work in the day?—They do not often work after eight o'clock, or at any rate half-past eight; they never work long hours.

6392. Is the work of the boys continuous?—No, it is not. They are very often playing and become troublesome. In fact sometimes they run off and are not to be found when the work is ready for them; they are never so tired to prevent them playing when they have an opportunity.

6393. Would it be convenient to stop the bleaching process at any hour, as is the case with the cotton spinning?—I do not see that it is practicable.

6394. Would injurious consequences ensue?—I should like just to explain that as briefly as possible to the Committee, how the restriction of hours would interfere with that particular process. Supposing that we had been slack for a week, or for three or four days, and after that time we received a great quantity of cloth, say three or four waggon loads; we are anxious to get them into work as soon as we can, not only that they may get the work, but that they may get into the places where it is slack, and by a little pushing in the dressing work, and getting as many as we can the first day into the bleaching, the goods get forwarded by being pushed a little in the first instance, and they get into the places which are empty sooner. By working two or three hours after six o'clock and so on, we are enabled to get the work forwarded, so that those places that were empty before them, as it were, and that have to take them after them, will be the sooner employed with them. Now if we are restricted in the hours it would make the difficulty much more, because we should not be employed, for this reason, that we have girls that stitch them in the first onset, and then we have boys in the bleachworks; so that according to the Act we could not do that, and consequently it would make it still worse with respect to the other departments that have to receive the goods after them than it is now without an Act.

6395. Are you of opinion from your long experience in bleaching, supposing that there is legislation, such as may be contemplated, that the commission agents and merchants in Manchester will ever be able to send you cloth regularly so as to keep you employed ten and a half hours per day?—I think it impossible; from the experience I have had in the working of the departments, for I have been in all of them; I first went to the mechanics' shop, and after that I have been in almost all the departments, and for 11 years I have been manager there; and from the information and from the experience which I have had myself, I do not think that it is practicable to do that; I do not think it is in their power.

6396. Have you, in your experience, heard or known many instances in which females and boys have been incapacitated by the length of hours that they have worked in bleach-works?—I do not know that I have; I believe that the girls and boys are quite up to their work; it is a sort of work that is very easy, and they are quite able to do the work they have to do.

6397. The Committee have been told by medical men that it is only strong and robust constitutions that are hardy enough to bear the work of bleach-works; is that your opinion?—My opinion with reference to that is, that I believe that a weakly person is more likely to be strengthened by performing the process of bleaching than anything else; there is ventilation and every convenience, and I think they are more likely to be strengthened by it than otherwise.

6398. As a test of the opinion of the people at the Halliwell works, do they subscribe largely to the support of the delegates in this agitation?—I do not think they subscribe at all, and have not done for a long time.

6399. What is your opinion of the last meeting of the operatives at Bolton; supposed

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supposed to be in favour of legislative interference, of which Mr. Crook was chairman?—I was not there myself; but from the information I had I understood it was a very poor affair; there were people there of course; the place was about half full, but not of the class that would be considered to be interested in the affair.

6400. Do you think that adult women should be prohibited from doing work suitable for women after six o'clock in the evening?—I should say they ought not, certainly, from the reasons I stated before to Question 6375.

6401. Is there any trades union among the operative bleachers?—No; at least I do not know that there is.

6402. Have you had many turn-outs among the operative bleachers lately?—I am not aware of any for the last 30 years or more; I think there has been none since 1821. There was a general turn-out then, but I believe there has been none since; I am not aware of any.

6403. Do you think that the master-bleachers generally are in favour of legislation?—I should say decidedly not; as a body, there may be one or two exceptions.

6404. Are there any instances in the Halliwell works of the workpeople working on Sunday?—Not at all. We do not allow them to do work of any kind on Sunday; I do not think there is any case that I can remember.

6405. Have you no recollection of any case?—I have no recollection of any case; I am certain that they do not.

6406. Are repairs ever done on Sunday in order to enable the men to come to work on Monday morning?—Not in any one instance; we never do that under any circumstances.

6407. Would it be expensive for a bleacher to extend his works, supposing each department to be well proportioned at the present time?—Certainly; it would be very expensive, all kinds of work connected with bleaching are very expensive; particularly the mechanical works.

6408. Do you remember a man of the name of Samuel Price being employed at Halliwell?—Yes.

6409. He says that there are no cotton-mills convenient to Halliwell; is that so?—That is not so; there are four mills more convenient to the most populous part of Halliwell than Mr. Ainsworth's work.

6410. Can you state any mills that are conveniently situated to you?—Yes; there are four cotton-mills about five minutes' walk from the most populous part of Halliwell.

6411. Will you name some in the parish?—I believe there are some mills not above ten minutes' walk from Mr. Ainsworth's works at Halliwell. I will state the names of those belonging to the mills: Mr. J. Stones, Messrs. Greenhalgh & Shaw, Cannon & Haslam, and Sutcliffe & Co. There are two mills in the district of St. Paul's, and the others just out of it.

6412. Is Messrs. Gardner's and Bailey's mill, in the district of St. Paul's, one that you refer to?—No; that mill is nearly a mile from the boundary.

6413. How far are the nearest mills from St. Paul's church?—About seven minutes' walk, the four mills referred to above.

6414. Why was Samuel Price discharged from Mr. Ainsworth's works?—I was the person who discharged him; it was because he did not attend to orders; he was the head of the room he was in, and he did not attend to the orders given; and to clear himself from being blamed upon the subject he used to tell lies, and denied it; of course I could not have that confidence that there ought to be in a man who was in a responsible situation, and of course I told him he would have to leave.

6415. Are the Halliwell bleach-works in the district of St. Paul's?—There is a small portion called the Temple Works, and only a small portion; not above one-sixth part of the works in that parish, and there are not above one-seventh of the hands employed there; the others are all in St. Peter's District.

6416. I think the Rev. William Milton has told us that one part of the room is for sleeping, and that the young men and young women lie down together in that room; is that true?—It is nothing of the sort, and it seems to be casting a great odium upon both the masters and the workpeople if it were true, but it certainly is not the case, and it never was so.

6417. Have the females ceased to work all night?—They have, a long time since.

6418. Do

6418. Do you know two young women of the name of Greenhalgh, referred to by Mr. Milton?—I knew something about them, but I never knew much of them, for they were not in my department at all.

6419. After being many years at Halliwell, will you give the Committee an opinion whether Mr. Ainsworth bears the character given him by the Rev. William Milton, of being a very arbitrary man?—I should not extend it to saying that he is an arbitrary man; he may be what you may call a disciplinarian, and I leave it to any gentleman here that is in business, to say whether it is not requisite in all particulars to be strict with his hands, particularly in a large concern like his.

6420. Has not he generally, for a long period, been considered a liberal and benevolent man, charitable to all those about him, whether they are his work-people, or whether they reside within the range of his influence?—He is; there is no exception to his liberality.

6421. Is not he very desirous and careful for the improvement, both moral and intellectual, of those over whom he has any influence?—I do not think there is a man more so, so far as I know.

6422. Generally, what is the general state of education among the people employed at the Halliwell Bleach-works?—I should say it is good. I will just state that all the responsible situations are filled by men who have been educated in Halliwell, with one exception, who have been upwards of 20 years there.

6423. Has not Mr. Ainsworth built schools and churches for their benefit?—Yes.

6424. And used all the means that lay in his possession, that he could possibly devise himself or that have been suggested to him, to improve their character?—He has to a very great extent.

6425. What is your opinion of the effect of an inspector coming continuously about your works?—As far as we are concerned, I should say that it would be a very awkward and a very injurious thing to the whole concern. The works extend three quarters of a mile at least along the river; they are not exactly alongside of the river, but they go from the Capital to the Temple, and there are I do not know how many doors, but they are not far off 20, for the people to go to their work; our works are not inside a yard, as most cotton-mills are; on that account I think it would be the very worst thing, and, as a matter of business, I think it would be very injurious both to the masters and to the men; I do not think it practicable myself, and I never have done.

6426. *Chairman.*] I think you told the Committee that you look upon the bleaching labour as so healthy that you would recommend a weakly person to adopt it?—Certainly.

6427. Do you make that statement without any reference to the number of hours the person should be employed in the business?—Yes, as we are generally working.

6428. We have had cases mentioned of persons working 60 hours continuously without taking their clothes off; would you go so far as to recommend that?—No, certainly not.

6429. You do not mean to?—Certainly not.

6430. How much would you propose for a weakly person adopting the occupation?—I would propose it, taking into consideration the quantity of hours that we work, and that we have worked for a long time; I should take that as the line.

6431. Could you specify for what number of hours a weakly person would find it better to work in the bleaching business?—I should say that females would work 13 or 14 hours a day with less injury to themselves than they could work in a cotton-mill for 10½ or 11 hours. I should say that they could work 13 or 14 hours in the bleach-works with less injury to their health than they could work in a cotton-mill 10½ hours.

6432. Beyond that period do you think it would disturb their health?—Yes.

6433. In your own works I think you said that you do not work by gaslight?—In the department that I have the management of I ordered the gas to be turned off, I think some time in April; I do not exactly know the date; in fact, it was turned off in the beginning of April in that part of the works.

6434. In other parts of the works do they now work by gaslight?—Yes, I believe they do.

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6435. Is there any part of Mr. Ainsworth's establishment at the present moment which is working beyond nine o'clock?—I believe not, where females work.

6436. Can you say for how long they have ceased to work after nine o'clock?—I do not know; but I know that it has been so for some months; there may have been exceptions where some of the workmen were going on till 10 or 11 o'clock; I will not positively say that there are not.

6437. You told the Committee that you did not think the people who are employed by Mr. Ainsworth objected to long hours?—From the information I have gathered I do not think they do; by your permission I will just remark on this: I remember at one time when they were busy, and made some complaints, so I said "I will get you more hands to assist," but they said, "No, we will try to work it out ourselves, as we shall have too many hands when we get slackers of work.

6438. Have you never heard any complaints from any young people so employed?—Not of late.

6439. Have you heard such complaints formerly?—Formerly, a long time ago; I could not possibly say how long it was.

6440. What was the nature of those complaints?—I do not know that there were any particular complaints. It appears that some of them, in their evidence before Mr. Tremenheere, said that their feet were sore, and their legs ached, or something of the sort; but I believe that since that time some of them have taken to wear slippers, and they have not experienced sore feet since then; they used to wear clogs before that time, I believe, most of them, with wooden bottoms.

6441. About three years ago complaints were made?—Yes, that would be about the time that Mr. Tremenheere was there.

6442. Since that time slippers have been introduced?—By some; I think some that I have under me stated that they found a great advantage by wearing slippers. I have not made a point of asking anything of the sort, but I know that there are two or three who have worn slippers in the works.

6443. Mr. Crook.] You were manager of the mill and the Temple Works?—Yes.

6444. At which, out of the 574 hands, 100 are employed under you?—Yes, about 100.

6445. Are you aware that that class of bleaching differs in its character from the bleaching of the Capital?—It does.

6446. There is a different rate of hours, and the employment of labour differs to some extent?—Of course it does; that is what I already stated, that the generality of the classes that I have had to do with have not worked more than 10½ hours per day, and the others may have worked 11, or some 12, upon the average.

6447. Is that description of work subject to more frequent pushes than the other?—I do not think there is much difference in that respect; we both bleach for the same markets; it is only a different sort of work; because those which are bleached at the top of the works, and those which are bleached below, no doubt may go very often into the same ship.

6448. Is it true now that women and boys under 18 are working from seven o'clock in the morning till 10 or 11 at night?—I believe that there are none that work that time at present.

6449. This is the evidence given to Mr. Tremenheere by Mary Pendlebury; does she work under you?—No.

6450. Then I apprehend that you will not be able to speak to the truth of her evidence?—I can speak to the facts, very probably.

6451. She states that the hours in your works were at that time generally from seven till 10 and 11?—It might be, but I believe that that was a long time back; they work less hours now; they do not work after nine o'clock, nor boys either, I believe.

6452. Have you any means of judging whether this evidence is true, with regard to the opinion of the women and girls in the employment of Mr. Ainsworth; she says: "If the Parliament was to pass a law for the girls to begin at six and leave off at six, I should like it; though I should only earn a day's wage instead of a day and a half or two days." "All the girls say they would like to give over at six and start at six"?—All the girls do not say so. I know that there was one who said that if this Act passed, and they had to come at six o'clock, she would not come, and she told Mr. Tremenheere so; Mary Ann Ashworth told him

him in the answer to question 163, but this he minds to leave out altogether. There is a decided dislike on the part of the girls to coming at any particular time.

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6453. Have you any reason to think that Mary Pendlebury has altered her opinion about it?—I do not know whether she has.

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6454. Is she still the head maker-up?—I think she has got married.

6455. You are not aware whether she is still working as head maker-up?—No, I do not know.

6456. Are you at all aware whether any of the women or young persons in Mr. Ainsworth's works have ever subscribed to the agitation?—I am not aware that they have; my opinion is that they have not.

6457. Do you think that any notice would be taken of it by Mr. Ainsworth if he was aware that any of the workpeople were subscribing to the agitation?—He was aware of it at one time, and he did not do anything about it.

6458. He has not taken any measures to stop it, to your knowledge?—Not that I am aware of; I think not.

6459. Since you went into the bleach-works, have the hours of labour been more regular or less regular?—There may have been a little improvement; the employment of machinery may have caused it to be so. It is my opinion that there is an improvement in that respect.

6460. Do you think that to have more regular hours is an improvement?—Certainly; there is no doubt about it, if we could have them.

6461. Do not you think there has been less nightwork, and more regular daywork, since you first knew the trade?—Yes, decidedly so.

6462. Are you aware that any inconvenience has resulted from that change, either to the workpeople, or the masters, or the merchants?—I think the reason of that has been, from the improvements that have taken place, probably, in the bleach-works; but I do not think it has arisen from anything in the way of business, or from the orders being less fluctuating than they were.

6463. Do you think it has arisen from better arrangements in the bleach-works?—To a certain extent it has.

6464. Either by machinery or by the better hours of labour by the masters?—It was more from the improvements in the machinery.

6465. Has there been any attempt to ameliorate the hours of labour by Mr. Ainsworth?—Mr. Ainsworth has done all that he could.

6466. Has he succeeded in making the hours less injurious than they formerly were?—He does not interfere at all in the management of the work; he leaves it entirely to me, and I am put there to do it in my own department.

6467. I understood you to say that he had made some efforts to modify the evils of the long-hour system?—He may have told his manager to do that; but as to interfering with any arrangements that we have, he never does; he recommends what he thinks best.

6468. Has he by any means made the hours of labour at his works more regular?—I am quite certain that Mr. Ainsworth is as anxious as any other man to do all he can to make it more regular.

6469. Has he succeeded in doing anything of that benevolent character?—I do not know.

6470. Have there been any results of that kind?—I could not point out the particulars; but I know that they are not working such long hours as they were; but I attribute it in a great measure to the different arrangements, and the improvements in machinery, more particularly than anything else.

6471. As far as that goes, do you observe any inconvenience that results to the trade of the merchant in consequence of this alteration?—There are many inconveniences that still occur.

6472. Have you experienced yourself, in consequence of the better arrangements, any complaints by the merchants?—I do not understand what you mean.

6473. Has there been any inconvenience that has given any ground of complaint from the merchants upon that account?—We think that they complain sometimes when they have no reason to complain, because we do what we can for them.

6474. Had you any complaints from the merchants arising from the better arrangements with regard to the hours of labour, or have they been the occasion of any delays to the merchants in the delivery of their goods?—Certainly not.

Veneris, 24^o die Julii, 1857.

MEMBERS PRESENT.

Mr. Cheetham.
Mr. Cobbett.
Mr. Kirk.

Lord John Manners.
Mr. Turner.

LORD JOHN MANNERS IN THE CHAIR.

Stephen Blair, Esq., called in; and further Examined.

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6475. *Chairman.*] HAVE you any statement which you wish to make to the Committee?—In the latter part of my examination the other day, the honourable Member for Youghal wanted to know the hours we had worked from the 18th of November 1854 to the 18th of January 1855. I have here the detail of each day's work, which makes an average of 8½ hours a day of working; I was to give the working hours from that time; which I have done; from the 18th of November 1854 to the 18th of January 1855; I wrote home for it, and it has been sent to me.

Vide Appendix. 6476. Will you read it, and hand it in to the Committee.—(*The same was handed in.*)

John Rylands, Esq., called in; and Examined.

J. Rylands, Esq.

6477. *Mr. Kirk.*] ARE you a merchant and a warehouseman in Manchester?—Yes.

6478. Have you at any time in your life had anything to do with bleaching works and dye works?—I have for a long period of time.

6479. From about what time to about what time?—I should think for more than 30 years.

6480. You were not merely interested in the profits of those works, but you took an active part in their management?—I have done so.

6481. And therefore you are necessarily well acquainted with those different branches of business?—Perfectly so.

6482. Have you now any interest in bleaching or dye works?—None whatever.

6483. When you had an interest in them, will you describe the mode in which bleachers and dyers received goods to be bleached or dyed?—Persons were appointed to visit the different establishments in Manchester, and to collect what they thought proper to give them for bleaching, dyeing, or finishing.

6484. When sending to Manchester for goods, did your town-man exercise any choice whether you would receive goods or refuse goods from any of your ordinary customers?—He received everything that was offered to him which he had a reasonable expectation that the works could finish in the express time.

6485. Did he attempt to make any choice as to time or terms?—Very rarely; there might be some particular cases, some order of which he saw the impossibility of complying with the terms, or something that he deemed the works were not suitable to finish.

6486. But whenever there was a reasonable demand he complied with it?—Of course he did.

6487. Had not the merchants who gave you those goods to dye or bleach, generally done so from the orders of correspondents?—From the demands from their business, either by orders or finishing for stock, as the case might be.

6488. When

6488. When the parties came to them, or wrote to them, were not they obliged either to obey the order, if they thought it likely that they could get it finished in time, or to refuse it?—Certainly.

6489. In your position, as a merchant and warehouseman, are you often obliged to decline orders from want of time?—Every day.

6490. Do you not exercise a great amount of judgment as to whether you are likely to get those orders completed within the time desired?—Whenever we do exercise our own judgment it is at our own risk; orders come to us, coupled with conditions, and if we see a reasonable chance of complying with those conditions we proceed; but if anything occurs so that the conditions are not complied with, it is at our own risk. But there is a general feeling of lenity between the person ordering, ourselves, and the finishers; there is allowance made for any accidents that may arise.

6491. Does not it frequently occur that parties come to purchase goods or to offer you an order, and you require almost immediately to replace the goods sold, or to fulfil that order?—Very frequently.

6492. How in that case do you manage?—We decline it.

6493. Supposing there is a reasonable time?—We should undertake a great amount of risk ourselves, and most likely our correspondent would, when the circumstance was stated to him, show that forbearance that is necessary between the parties, in the uncertainty that there is attending every finishing transaction, with which I am perfectly familiar, and know the difficulties of it; and therefore perhaps exercise a greater degree of forbearance than those who have not a knowledge of the operations.

6494. Under those circumstances, and with this knowledge, do you think that restricting the hours of labour would be beneficial or prejudicial to the employers or the employed?—I have not the slightest hesitation in saying, as decidedly as it is possible to speak, that it would be nothing but prejudicial, and nothing but injurious, to every party interested in the whole of the transactions.

6495. Will you be kind enough to explain how, in the first instance, it would be prejudicial as regards the employed?—The bleacher, or finisher, erects works and puts up machinery to do whatever kind of work may come to him, and the continual variations in the requirements of his customers make it quite uncertain what quantity of work he may receive on any day at any time. I have known, for instance, cloth that in one operation has required 60 hours, owing to a change in the fashion, has been done in six; now, how can any bleacher or dyer prepare for that, unless he has a large quantity of machinery, and unless he is permitted to use that machinery according to his judgment unfettered?

6496. Supposing that the operation required 60 hours this year, and six the next season or the next year, would not it follow that if he was equal to do the 60 hours, he must have a large portion of his machinery standing idle when he only required six?—Unquestionably he would, and that would render his business, in the present severe competition, unprofitable.

6497. In the second place, will you explain, how restricting the hours of labour would be prejudicial to the employers?—If a certain number of persons can do a certain amount of work, and if that work is increased one-half, and they are limited in the hours of labour, the number of persons employed would necessarily have to be increased one-half; and therefore, there would be one-half more to be kept, and one-half more to be idle, when, by a decrease in the work, it came down one-half. I believe that scarcely any bleach-work or dye-work in existence has the same amount of work two successive weeks.

6498. There is a constant fluctuation?—There is an ebb and flow.

6499. Arising from what cause?—The wants of the community; the caprice of the merchant; the ideas that he has about holding stock or not holding stock; the rise and fall of the material, and a thousand causes, are continually influencing it.

6500. It has been held here by certain parties, that if there was a limitation to the hours of labour, it would have a tendency to steady the market, and that merchants would be more cautious about taking orders, and more cautious in their requirements at the hands of the bleachers; is that practicable?—It is not only not practicable, but it is the opposite of the fact. With my knowledge of the case, I should say, that if I said so I was insane.

6501. This brings me to the third point you have mentioned, and that is,

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whether the merchant and the trade generally, foreign and domestic, would be benefited or injured by limiting the hours of labour in bleaching and dye works. is that the case?—As I said at first, the merchant and his customers, the bleacher and his workman, all would be prejudiced. We hold a very large stock, and yet there is not a day that we can execute all the orders that come to us. And if the parties that supply us now, and there are a great number, were placed under restriction, our difficulties would be increased to such a degree in the present competition, that I fear our profits would suffer by having to keep a much larger stock than we now do.

6502. It is pretty generally said that you hold a stock exceeding 200,000 *l.* in value; is that the case?—It is the fact.

6503. I believe, with that large capital invested in stock, you are every day obliged to refuse orders for different articles, are you not?—To a very great amount daily.

6504. Could you give the Committee an idea of how many orders you refuse daily or weekly?—Yesterday, when I knew that I was coming up here, I made an inquiry, and the person who has the care of that department said that he should think we had 500 in the course of one week.

6505. Do you not also keep stocks of goods of a particular quality, and in a certain stage of finish at particular seasons of the year waiting orders, as you are not able to tell exactly the finish until those orders come to you?—We do; in one branch that I have in my mind, I should think fully one-half of the stock is kept in a state that there would be at least 12 to 24 hours' work to be done upon goods that took three weeks or a month to bring to that state, that 12 to 24 hours will finish them out; I should think, perhaps, that one-half of that stock is kept in that state. The same remark applies in a more limited degree to other branches; but that is the one I have most especially in my mind.

6506. Could you, consistently with your interest, finish those until you know exactly the style of finish that will be required?—We have to know, not only the shades of colours, but the kind of finish; and to effect that the finisher has to put on every hand he can employ, to get them in in the time required.

6507. Have you seen Mr. Barbour's evidence?—I have, this morning.

6508. Do you agree with him?—No.

6509. In what do you disagree with him?—With regard to his having stated that it was quite practicable for bleachers and finishers to do certain things. I differ in opinion from him; I believe that to be impossible which he states to be possible; he says that orders would be given more promptly; no man retains an order any time beyond the necessities of the case; he cannot speed his orders, he gives them out as soon as he gets them. I observe also, that he speaks about the children being jaded, and says that being worked unfits them for school. To any opinion respecting children under 12 years of age, I should quite agree. No child under 12 years of age should be employed at all; but after 12 years of age they should be left perfectly unfettered by any interference whatever; I have found that in my experience. I can state that, for now nearly 40 years, I have been an employer, and that in the whole of that period I have not known one person, really and truly above the age of 12 years, injured by overwork. I believe I have myself made longer hours than any person whom I have employed. I was delicate when I was 25 years of age, and now I am in good health. The best work-people that we have at this moment are those who have acquired knowledge and done the greatest amount of labour; I believe that continuous employment is favourable to their moral improvement, and to their attainment of knowledge; the opposite is stated, but I believe it is contrary to truth. We have had the experience in Manchester of a half holiday on Saturday, which I believe has been stated to have worked well; I believe it has not.

6510. Will you kindly state in what respect it has not worked well?—I never had so much anxiety, or had to exercise such strict surveillance in my life over young men as I have at present; we have been more fortunate than many other employers; there are continuous instances of fraud, and young men feloniously employing the capital of their employers, and they are getting more frequent.

6511. Is it your opinion that the half holiday now enjoyed is spent, not for their mental or moral improvement, but in dissipation or folly?—It is, and their expenses are thereby increased; and consequently, their wages not being equal to their

their expenses, they resort to fraud. In the present state of the relations between the employed and employers, arising from causes which others present could, perhaps explain, better than I can, the employer rather needs protection than the employed; the power of combination among the employed, owing to the diffusion of education and the continued influence exercised upon their minds by various parties, has now become notorious to every person who observes the position of those people; they are taught to know what their employers' duties are, and not what are their own, and I fear the consequences to this country, if we proceed at the speed we are now proceeding for the next 25 years. I know for a fact, that the finishers are now leaving the country to finish articles abroad, and we only maintain our supremacy by a slight circumstance, and that is chiefly the finishing; if they are restricted, to a certainty those men will go to where they are not, and finish those goods, and our trade in them will be at an end. I allude chiefly to German woollens; but it is not to them alone that the remark should be confined.

6512. With reference to the time during which persons in your warehouse are employed, at what time do you begin in the morning, and at what time do you leave off at night, generally?—Nominally we work from 8 in the morning till 7 in the evening, but we never close at one hour, except it is very late; we close not at any hour, but we close when the goods are all packed that have been sold in the day.

6513. Would it be possible to limit you to particular hours?—No, not unless we could limit the sales to a certain amount; there are never two days when the sales are alike, and there never will be; the orders are uncertain, and the sales also: we do not know even in the morning what we have to do in the day.

6514. Is it your rule to pack before the men leave the warehouse all that has been sold during the day?—It is, if practicable.

6515. To what time does that system oblige your people to remain?—I cannot speak quite correctly, but I should say about 9 or 10 o'clock; it is left to their own option, of the packers themselves, and their judgment says, that if they get them done at night they have not them to do to-morrow.

6516. Is that general in Manchester?—It is with every one, I should think.

6517. Is it universal?—I should think so.

6518. And it is your opinion that if there was a limitation to that it would be prejudicial to the trade?—Very much so.

6519. Do you think that it would be fair to limit the hours in a bleacher's warehouse, if you in your own warehouse in Manchester are left free?—By no means; all ought to be served alike; but all would be served very badly if they were served in that way.

6520. Who do you mean by all?—I mean that every class and every body ought to be served alike; if there is a law to restrict one person, there ought to be a law to restrict another. I think that when particular trades are selected, from whatever alleged reasons they may be selected (which I believe, as far as I have seen or heard any of the reasons, are fictitious and groundless), it is a great hardship to the trade, because it is quite unnecessary, and it is unjust; if it is for the good of society that labour should be restricted to a certain amount, then I think that all labour should be restricted.

6521. Farm labour?—Of course, if labour be a curse; but I believe it is a blessing; and I believe it is a dispensation of Providence, that the more people are employed the more moral they are, and the better they are as far as my experience goes. It is just the opposite to some of the popular statements that are now made.

6522. If it be true that you do not know in the morning who may walk into your warehouse and make purchases of any number of goods, and you pack the goods for that party before the men leave, as a general rule do not you think that the rule ought to apply to the bleacher who sends his goods into the town of Manchester, to supply the wants of his customers in like manner?—I cannot see, I do not know any difference.

6523. Is it your feeling that a rule that would apply to the one, would apply to the other?—It is, decidedly so.

6524. Mr. Turner.] The Committee have had the evidence of Mr. Barbour, of Manchester, whom we all know to be a benevolent man, and who has given his opinion that it would be practicable to have more regular hours in bleach-works;

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so far as you are aware, has Mr. Barbour had much practical experience in carrying on works of any kind?—I am not aware that he has had any; he is a commission merchant.

6525. Does Mr. Barbour deal with you?—He does deal with us.

6526. He orders goods from you?—Yes.

6527. Sometimes those goods have to be finished for him, possibly?—Of course, if we have not them in stock they have to be finished.

6528. Does Mr. Barbour, like other commission merchants in Manchester, sometimes press you to have them ready for him at a particular time?—It is ordinarily the custom, when an order is sent, to fix a time for delivery.

6529. And do not you make exertions to meet his wishes?—We must do so, and we do do so.

6530. Why do you suppose Mr. Barbour, as a commission merchant, is obliged to press you to get the goods ready by a certain time?—Because he is pressed by his correspondents; he is their servant, and we are his.

6531. Is not he engaged in foreign orders?—Chiefly.

6532. Has not he to meet the sailing of particular vessels that go to particular markets?—Unquestionably.

6533. He has given it as his opinion, that if he was not ready for one vessel he might be ready for the next, which probably might sail after the next fortnight; as far as you are aware, are there vessels sailing actually every fortnight to all parts of the world?—It depends upon what country it is.

6534. If it were to the United States it might be so, but if he had an order for some remote part of the coast of Africa, it might not be the case?—I have no doubt that all delay is an evil.

6535. Mr. Barbour is a large commission warehouseman in Manchester for the execution of foreign orders; has he, like all other commission merchants, frequently been in the habit of keeping his people late at night in packing?—Report used to say that he did as much as others.

6536. Has it been the custom of late years for many of the large warehousemen in Manchester, such as Mr. Pender, to erect machinery in their warehouses for finishing goods themselves?—I do not know any thing of the internal management of Mr. Pender's warehouse; I know him to be a large shipper.

6537. You do not know it as the fact, that the large warehousemen connected with foreign orders are putting up machinery for finishing their goods themselves?—The trade has for some time been going that way; parties are endeavouring to do as much as they can within themselves.

6538. Do not packing, callendering, and making-up establishments in Manchester, employ the same kind of hands as the bleachers do in similar operations?—If they callender, it is so, but I am not aware of any merchants callendering. They may have making-up only, which does not require the same power; but I would rather not speak of what I do not know.

6539. You said that you were afraid of the tendency to idleness and dissipation in consequence of the hours of limitation; from your experience, are the men who, like yourself and many others in Manchester, gain a respectable position in society, and progress in trade, and are ornaments to society in which they live, those who have been diligent and industrious, and have never shrunk from work?—The only difference between the lower and the middle classes arises from their temperance and industry.

6540. Is not there fully as much opportunity in your district and in any other district, agricultural and manufacturing, for an industrious man to raise himself from a low position in society, by steady working and industrious improvement of his talents, among the poor as among the rich?—I believe there is, except the advantage that capital gives in the start.

6541. But he must be willing to throw himself steadily to work, and be industrious?—Yes, undoubtedly.

6542. *Chairman.*] Can you tell the Committee how many women and children you employed when you were a bleacher and dyer?—I could not speak from memory; it is about six or seven years since I discontinued my connexion, and the number employed was very various; it would be a mere guess.

6543. Can you give the Committee any idea as to the age at which you took children into your work?—No, I cannot; for that was never inquired into if they were able to do their work; but I can say that a more healthy set of people there was not in any occupation than those that we employed.

6544. You

6544. You have told us that your custom, when you were a bleacher, was to refuse any orders which were given to you unless a reasonable time was allowed for their execution; will you have the kindness to explain to the Committee what you meant by a reasonable time?—The person who received the goods, when a lot was offered to him, would know by past experience what quantity the works that he represented could do, and if he thought he could do them, of course he took them in; he would be the judge of that. When a lot of goods is shown to him, for instance, 100 pieces, he would be told, "We shall want these goods back at a certain time;" and he would say, "I am afraid we cannot do them in that time; would it do in a few days more?" and perhaps they would say, "Yes, it will;" and then of course he will take them; but if he thought he could not do them in that time, he would say, "I would rather not take them."

6545. In considering whether the time allowed to him was reasonable or not, did he take into consideration the hours of work which would have to be exacted from your workpeople, in order to complete that particular order?—He would merely consider what hours we had been accustomed to work.

6546. In the definition of a reasonable time, would you include the hours which the women and children engaged in your works would have to labour?—Most of our work for some time has been done by what is called piece-work; they are paid by the quantity they do. Now, a case came under my knowledge very recently, where the work is chiefly done by women. They asked me whether there would be any objection to their working late, and the answer was "No;" they might work late; they got that work done by Friday night, and on Saturday they took a holiday. As a rule, those that work by piece are rather inclined to long hours than to short hours; they would rather work straight on to a certain point, and then have a holiday of their own selection.

6547. Did I rightly understand you to say, that as far as your own opinion went, you did not think that children under 12 years of age ought to be employed in bleaching works?—In no kind of operation.

6548. Did not you also say that you had not known people above 12 years of age injured by any amount of work?—I never knew such a case. There are three evils that the working classes are liable to, which are overlooked by the parties professing to advocate their interests; they are, their ignorance of domestic economy, their idleness, and their intemperance; those are the fruitful sources of distress and their diseases.

6549. Having laid down the rule that children ought not to work at any trade or profession under 12 years of age, do you object to a restriction which should prevent children working in the bleach-works and dye works under 12 years of age?—No; I would have a provision that they should work nowhere before they are 12 years of age. I would make it illegal to employ them in any close confinement.

6550. With respect to your present occupation as a merchant, did I rightly understand you to say that you have to decline orders every day?—Every day.

6551. Can you tell us at all what becomes of those orders that you are obliged to decline?—A different result would occur to almost every one. Perhaps I may illustrate it in this way: we receive an order, and we write back to the parties that we have not got the goods, but we expect them in a little time. In most cases, we say we shall send the goods unless we hear from you to the contrary. And sometimes they reply that the order must be cancelled, and sometimes that we may send it. So that every order may not meet the same fate.

6552. Confining your attention to those orders which are definitely refused by you, what becomes of them?—They go elsewhere.

6553. Is it within your knowledge that there is any very great difficulty in their going elsewhere and being executed?—It will depend whether the order was for export or for the home trade. If for the home trade, there are half-a-dozen houses similar to ourselves to whom they would go, if the parties who gave the order thought they could get them sooner. But shipping every order would very likely have to be separately considered, and would be dealt with differently according to its nature.

6554. Are the Committee to understand that as far as the home demand is concerned there would not be any difficulty in orders rejected by one commission merchant being executed by another?—The difficulty would not be of the mag-

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the movement for legislative interference, and this has been the staple argument of agitators.

6579. If your intercourse with the bleaching branch has ceased for five years, how can you give the Committee this information as to the reason why the people are in favour of legislation?—I see them every day; they come into the warehouse for work, and I can converse with them, and with their employer.

6580. How do you get at your conviction of the reasons which induce the working people to advocate legislation?—I know, as a general principle, that has been the fact invariably with all whom I ever have conversed with at any time, and therefore I expect that it is in full force now.

6581. Are the Committee to understand that this impression is not the result of any of your own conversations upon the subject with the bleaching workers?—Not as their employer.

6582. Can you say that, in your present capacity, you have conversed with the working people upon this subject?—I do not recollect any particular or special conversation; but I have, within the last three or four years, come across some of them who had been old servants of my own; in fact, I am employing some of them in other parts of our concern.

6583. Have you had conversations with those whom you are employing?—I could not refer to any special or particular conversation.

6584. Is it not a general impression that you have upon your own mind that such probably would be the reason which induces the working bleachers to wish for the Bill?—I have no moral doubt of it.

6585. *Mr. Turner.*] You have been asked whether the same forebodings were not entertained with regard to the legislation for mills which are now entertained with regard to the bleach-works, and whether they have been fulfilled; will you allow me to ask you whether the circumstances of the work in a cotton mill may not be divided into three general items; the capital employed, the wages paid, and the raw material and other articles introduced to the mill?—I divide them into four; I make the incidental expenses the fourth item.

6586. Does not the foreigner who competes with us get his cotton pretty nearly as cheap as we can?—There is no doubt about that now.

6587. And is not his labour cheaper?—Yes.

6588. And does not he get many other articles that he consumes in his mill on equally favourable terms?—Yes.

6589. Then, as to the item of capital; supposing the capital of an English millowner can only be employed for 10½ hours per day, and that abroad there is no limitation to the labour, must not the English millowner necessarily charge a higher rate per hour for the employment of his capital than the foreign manufacturer does?—Unquestionably.

6590. Then is not the tendency of this resort to legislation for factory hours in this country, that the foreigner has now an advantage in competition which he did not possess before?—I know it to be the fact, that the mills are doing well at this present time on the Continent.

6591. Are you sufficiently well acquainted with the subject to know that the proportion of cotton consumed out of this country, as compared with what is consumed in this country, is very much larger in 1857 than it was 10 or 12 years ago?—I could not speak correctly without figures; but I believe that it is very much larger, and that it is increasing in a greater proportion than ours.

6592. Therefore, though they are behind us in quantity, they are getting a tendency to overtake us, and to come upon a level with us?—Undoubtedly.

6593. *Mr. Cheetham.*] Are you aware that in consequence of the high price of material at the present moment, any number of the mills are working short hours in the district about Manchester?—I have not any very correct knowledge of the quantity of people out of employ; I heard it stated that there were as many as 30,000 looms standing.

6594. Have you heard of any similar statement at the present moment, with regard to the Continent of Europe?—Not a word, but the opposite; they are doing well.

6595. Is the just conclusion to be drawn from that fact, that the pressure of the high price of the raw material does not tell upon the Continent to the extent that it does in this country?—It does not tell, because they get so much higher prices. I can tell the Committee of one instance in which a person who was

manager

manager at some works, said, that he could sell an article at 6½ *d.* a yard, which we are selling at 3*d.*; and he said, that in the country, the people would not wait until the pieces were finished, but they cut out a few yards; he was the manager of the mill.

6596. *Mr. Turner.*] In what country was that?—In Spain.

6597. *Chairman.*] Can you tell us why they get so much better prices for their goods in Spain than we do?—I am afraid that is beyond my province.

6598. *Mr. Cheetham.*] Are you not aware that there is an almost prohibitory tariff?—In Spain, I believe it is actually prohibitory, except by smuggling.

6599. *Chairman.*] Are not the prohibitions rendered nugatory by the systematic smuggling?—I believe that there is a general practice of smuggling.

6600. *Mr. Turner.*] Is it not the fact, that the Americans and the Germans and the Swiss are meeting us with the same goods in neutral markets, and are under-selling us?—I cannot speak from my own knowledge about it; we do not export any ourselves; I have heard so.

6601. *Mr. Cobbett.*] You said, some little time ago, that you thought that the main thing that was overlooked by those who professed to serve the working-people were these three, their ignorance of domestic affairs, their idleness, and their intemperance; do not you think that their ignorance of domestic affairs in the manufacturing district has arisen very much from the long hours that they work in the factories; do not you think that that has a tendency to prevent young people from becoming acquainted with the routine of domestic affairs?—It would theoretically appear to be so; but I think, practically, there is that desire to improve their position, and that desire for knowledge among the working classes, that I think if they were left alone they would soon be in a much better position than they are.

6602. Do you mean to say, that if there had never been any Factory Act passed they would have been less ignorant, less idle, and less intemperate than they are now?—I will not attribute all the evil to the Factory Act; but I think that if the Factory Act had said that no child under 12 years of age was to go to a mill, and the other people had been left unfettered, we should have a much better state of things than we have.

6603. The regulation that you would propose would have been to prevent young people from going into a factory until they were 12 years of age?—Yes.

6604. Do you think the Act that should have rendered that compulsory would have been a proper Act?—Yes, I think it would have met a good many of the complaints which have been made.

6605. You are not decisive against all legislation upon the subject?—I am decidedly against all legislation for any particular branch of any kind; legislation should be universal.

6606. Do you think all working people should be included in it?—All should be included, no matter whether they were in a milliner's shop or a factory.

6607. Supposing it to be practicable to do it in one instance, and impracticable to do it in another, would not you do it in the practicable instance, rather than not have the good which might be derived from it?—I would not do violence to a great principle for the sake of any particular exceptions.

6608. You will not put it partially for the extension?—No, I should avoid any partial legislation.

6609. Supposing you found that in a factory the young people, going in at a very early age, long before, according to your own opinion they ought to go, worked long hours so as to be detrimental to their health, and you did not find that to be universally the case with regard to other trades, would not you apply legislation to the factories?—The question is a suppositious case.

6610. Do you deny that the young people were taken into the factories and much damaged in their health?—I think that the statements with respect to those cases were much exaggerated.

6611. Evidence has been given before this Committee by Mr. Brownbill, a medical gentleman from Salford, who stated that if you go into the Salford workhouse at the present moment, you will there find persons who have been worked in factories before the recent factory legislation, and who are objects of pity on account of their distorted limbs; do you think that that gentleman said that which was erroneous?—He was under a mistake, in my opinion, and for this reason: I think that he attributes to the factory what arose from other causes,

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namely, the children going to the factory without proper food and clothing; and when anything went amiss, their being put under improper treatment; I think they suffered most from quackery, and want of proper food.

6612. Do you think that they suffered from the doctor more than from the factories?—Yes, from quacks. I mean unauthorised practitioners.

6613. Have you been at all in the habit of going among the working people who work in the factories since the time when the Ten Hours Bill was passed, in 1847; have you visited their cottages at all, and spoken with them upon the subject, and asked them whether they liked the present regulation better than the old one?—I have never visited them with that object.

6614. Do not you think that before the Ten Hours Bill was passed, young women were much in the habit of putting out their clothes to be made, they being incompetent to make them, or not having time to make them; and that, since the Ten Hours Bill has passed, they have found the time, and have made themselves competent, and do needlework now which they could not do then?—No; I do not believe a word of it.

6615. I hold in my hand a letter which was put into my hands by Mr. Samuel Fielding, the son of the late Mr. John Fielding, who took a great interest in the matter of the Ten Hours Bill since the Ten Hours Bill came into operation, accompanied by a prospectus of the factory operatives of Bolton and its vicinity (*the same being read to the Witness.*) Supposing that document to be genuine, does not it modify your opinion with regard to the beneficial operation of the Factory Act, and do not you think that shows that the young people, having an abridgment of the hours of their work, immediately began to learn those domestic habits that you say they are wanting in?—I would not shut my ears to evidence; but I still believe that much better results, even if that were true, and much more solid results, would have occurred had there been no Ten Hours Bill.

[The Letter to Mr. Fielding and the Prospectus were read as follows:]

Dear Sir,

THE purport of this note is to beg your acceptance of the enclosed prospectus, the perusal of which will show you that the factory workers of Bolton are endeavouring to convince the public of the beneficial results of your much-lamented father's labours.

Yours most affectionately,

The Factory Workers Committee.

James Greenhalgh, Secretary.

No. 17, Bank View, Mill Hill, Little Bolton-le-Moors.

To the Factory Operatives of Bolton and its Vicinity.

PROSPECTUS of the Contemplated Bazaar.

THE committee for the protection of the Factories Act, and for the getting up a bazaar for the exhibition and sale of such articles as factory workers are capable of producing in their leisure hours, beg most respectfully to remind you that, in one of their former circulars, it was intimated that a bazaar would be got up, to be held about Midsummer of the present year, and that a prospectus would be sent out as early as possible, which would state the nature and plan of such bazaar; but in consequence of unforeseen circumstances such prospectus has been delayed until the present time.

The committee, however, have great pleasure in announcing that they are now making every exertion in their power, according to previous arrangements, to carry out so desirable an object, and by these exertions a great many articles are at the present time in a state of active preparation by the factory workers for the intended bazaar. The committee take this opportunity of inviting all factory workers, both old and young, male and female, to participate in the good work, and would urge upon them to enter upon it in a spirit of emulation, and an earnest desire to cultivate the talents with which they have been endowed, which would show to a demonstration to the ten hours' advocates and the public, that the labour bestowed in obtaining the present boon of shorter hours of labour has not been in vain.

The Committee call your particular attention to the following prospectus of the bazaar. In the first place, it will be open and accessible to all factory-workers, to exhibit specimens of their handiwork. The articles to consist of the following descriptions:—

1st. Plain sewing, such as the making of shirts, chemises, plain dresses, stays, soles, bonnets, and hoods for infants.

2d. Specimens of good mending, such as patching shirts, petticoats, darning stockings and other little matters which, must be considered as essential qualifications for insuring good household economy, and above all, domestic happiness.

3d. Fancy needlework of all descriptions will be exhibited, as being both useful and ornamental.

4th. Kni

4th. Knitting, netting, and crochet work of every variety, even the knitting of garters by the younger girls, in order to give all an opportunity of showing their habits of industry.

5th. Specimens of penmanship in all its different forms and branches.

6th. Arithmetic in all its branches, which may be shown on sheets of paper.

7th. Drawings and paintings of all sorts will be encouraged, and it is expected there will be a few specimens to exhibit.

8th. Miscellaneous articles of all sorts that can be made by the fireside by the unlearned, such as birdcages, or any little article to show habits of industry. It is also expected that those who delight in cultivating gardens will exhibit such fruits of their industry as may be in season at the time of the exhibition.

It is intended to have notes attached to every article exhibited, stating the names of the producers, whether they have been self-taught or not; or, if the articles have been wrought at a night school, then the name of the school, also the name of the master or mistress under whom they have been instructed, and the time spent in working the article.

The committee wish it to be understood that they intend to remunerate the producer of every article brought to the exhibition, according to the estimated value of such article. They also intend to give prizes to the producers of the superior articles, in accordance with the utility of such article. The extent of the prizes will be regulated according to the amount of funds at the disposal of the committee. Every producer will have the privilege of preventing the sale of the article he may have produced, and such article will be returned at the closing of the exhibition.

The committee earnestly desire the co-operation of all factory workers in carrying out the above undertaking, which will most assuredly tend to elevate the moral and social character of all factory operatives. It is intended that the bazaar shall be held at the Baths Assembly-rooms on some convenient day in the month of September next, previous to which due notice will be given. The committee also contemplate having a tea party at the same time, to which all factory workers and their friends will be invited. The committee wish it to be understood that they are all working men in factories, and that they are devoting their leisure time to an endeavour to improve the character of the class to which they belong; and they most respectfully solicit the assistance of those kind friends who are ever ready to help in all philanthropic movements.

Donations of the smallest amount sent to the Chronicle Office will be thankfully received and accounted for; and all communications sent to Mr. James Suttle's, Bird-i-th'-Hand, Bank-street, Bolton, will be duly acknowledged.

Committee-room, 26 April 1852.

N.B.—The committee meet every Thursday night, at seven o'clock, at the Bird-i-th'-Hand.

6616. Do you believe that if there had been no abridgment of the hours of labour by statute, they would have been abridged by masters and the workpeople?—They would have been mutually and more beneficially arranged by the masters and the workpeople.

6617. Have not those attempts to abridge the hours of work been frequently made?—There has not been any attempt made on the part of the men, except to raise wages, and to shorten the hours; but practically to receive the same wages.

6618. Have not there been agreements entered into and regularly signed by the masters in Manchester to abridge the hours of labour, and have not they invariably been broken?—There have been cases in extreme depression of trade when it was desired that they should act together; but it is of no use, unless it is to their interest to keep it.

6619. Do not you know that in good times the masters, yielding to the desire of the workpeople to have the hours of labour shortened, have upon various occasions entered into and signed agreements to abridge the hours of labour?—I am not aware of any such agreement.

6620. You were asked whether there had not been very confident predictions, at the time when the Ten Hours Bill was before Parliament, that it would drive the cotton factories out of the country; did I rightly understand you to say that it has to a certain extent done that?—I say that it has had a prejudicial effect; but to what extent I am not prepared to say. I beg to refer to a remark I made before (Question 6569.) The Act was at first for 11 hours for 12 months; and then for 10 hours, but afterwards altered to 10½ hours; a compromise was made.

6621. Do not you measure machinery by horse-power?—Yes.

6622. Do not you believe that a greater amount of horse-power was brought into operation in the cotton factories year by year, since the Ten Hours Bill was passed, than was brought into operation year by year before the Ten Hours Bill was passed?—I am not able to speak as to that from memory.

6623. Do you live at Manchester?—Yes, in the neighbourhood.

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6624. When you go through Lancashire and Yorkshire and Stockport on towards Preston, do not you see an extraordinary number of new factories starting up in all directions?—I have seen a great deal of bricks and mortar.

6625. Do not you know that those buildings are designed for factories?—I should say that if the cotton trade were in a healthy state there ought to be one-third more. That is not a proof of present prosperity; mills were arranged to be built when trade was good, but unfortunately during the two years they require to complete, trade has changed, and many have been ruined. If, during prosperity the spinner might have produced a greater quantity; he would have made capital wherewith to renew his machinery, but he was not permitted by Act of Parliament; and the foreigner, not being able to get British yarns, had to produce them himself, and was thus transformed from a customer into a rival for the purchase of cotton.

6626. Where would the cotton come from?—We should get plenty of cotton if we had a healthy trade.

The Reverend *Arthur Packer*, called in; and Examined.

Rev. A. Packer.

6627. *Mr. Turner.*] I BELIEVE you are a Clergyman of the Established Church?—Yes, I am.

6628. Where do you at present reside?—At St Paul's, Halliwell.

6629. How long have you been the incumbent of St Paul's, Halliwell?—About two years and a half.

6630. I believe that the bleaching works of Mr. Ainsworth, with respect to which the Reverend Mr. Milton gave evidence before this Committee, are in your parish?—Part of them; there is a part just alongside the borders of my parish, and the rest is just beyond.

6631. Do the work-people belonging to Mr. Ainsworth's works form a considerable portion of your congregation?—Several of them.

6632. Have you also a number of persons residing in your parish who are employed in the mills?—I should think that nearly half the population in the district work at the mills; half would be mill hands, and the other half would be bleachers.

6633. Are they tolerably equally divided as regards number?—Yes.

6634. So that you have had a pretty good opportunity of forming a comparison between the two classes of hands?—I should judge so from my work there, and also from the Sunday school and the sick-clubs.

6635. Have you also another parish in the immediate neighbourhood?—There is one adjoining, which is also called Halliwell; there are two districts taken out of the parish of Dean, one is St. Peter's and the other is St. Paul's, and they are near each other.

6636. Are there day schools and Sunday schools in connexion with the church, at which the workpeople can attend?—I have three day schools in my parish, two of which have been recently completed by Mr. John Ainsworth, at an expense of 2,000 *l.*; one for boys, one for infants, and one for girls.

6637. Have they been recently erected?—There was one large one; but in order to carry out the Government scheme of education, I thought it requisite to have three in the district.

6638. How many schools are there, including the Wesleyan schools, in your immediate neighbourhood?—In my district there are four; in the adjoining district, which is about a mile distant, there are about the same number; it is an easy walk for the children to go to either school.

6639. Have you yourself established night schools?—I have established a night school, to meet twice a week, at which I had about 120, till my health gave way, and then I gave it into the hands of a man who was competent to teach, and who was a very good scholar; but when he began to charge a penny a week for the education the school went down to about 40; but when I conducted it myself I had 120 young men and young women from the bleach-works and the mills.

6640. You made no charge?—No.

6641. Was the 1 *d.* a week which was charged by the schoolmaster an obstacle to the workpeople?—It is so.

6642. Do you think that it is an obstacle in consequence of their being so poor, or that it is an obstacle because they do not like to contribute their money for the purpose of education?—I think the latter is the case.

6643. What

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6643. What class of people attended your school generally?—Both classes, the bleaching hands and the mill hands.

6644. Is your neighbourhood well provided with schools, if the people are willing to avail themselves of them?—I am convinced that there are not three better schools in any district of Lancashire. The inspector has just been to the schools, and much admired them, and since then I have seen different schools in Lancashire, and I am of the same opinion.

6645. Are there libraries attached to the school?—There is a library, and the young people take out the books once a week.

6646. As there is abundance of accommodation, can you tell the Committee whether or not the people employed in the bleach-works avail themselves of it?—The majority of the labouring classes that attend my church come from the bleach-works; although half the population are weavers and spinners, there are not 10 adults that attend my church connected with the mills.

6647. May the Committee infer from this, that the bleaching population are more disposed to perform their religious duties than the mill hands?—I do not know what principle influences them, but it is a matter of fact.

6648. Are not they very superior to the mill people in that respect?—They are infinitely superior, they attend church, the Sunday schools, and the day schools.

6649. With respect to the schools, can you give any statement of the number of day and Sunday scholars, and also of those who attend the jubilee schools?—I have nothing at all to do with the jubilee schools, but, inasmuch as there is some degree of rivalry between the two schools, as to which has the greatest number, which has been rather brought about by the workpeople themselves, I was led to inquire, some few months ago, what was the attendance, and I found that the average is 372 in my Sunday school, and in the day school 203, out of a population of about 2,000. I am aware that, by the census return, it was under 2,000, but, judging from the increase of the population, I should think it is above that now.

6650. Would those be mill people or bleaching operatives?—Both, but the majority are from the bleach-works; 203 attend the day-schools, and 372 on an average attended at the Sunday schools; and, with regard to the Methodists, I have found that there are 136 in the Sunday school attendance. I have a statement of the whole, by which it appears that there are nearly one-fourth of the population under tuition in either the Sunday schools or the day-schools.

6651. Will you hand that statement in?—

[The same was handed in, and is as follows:]

	DAY SCHOOLS.			SUNDAY SCHOOLS.			Average attendance.
	Boys.	Girls.	TOTAL.	Boys.	Girls.	TOTAL.	
St. Paul's - - -	105	98	203	176	196	372	}
Jubilee School - -	58	57	115	130	135	265	
Smithills - - -	-	-	-	41	60	91	
Methodist - - -	-	-	-	-	-	136	
St. Paul's, Halliwell -}	-	-	-	-	-	207	
Delph Hill (Jubilee) -	-	-	-	-	-	207	
						1,071	

Halliwell, 14 July 1857.

J. Lomax.

6652. From your experience of the working classes of Lancashire, do you consider that the persons who work in the bleach-works have a fair average amount of intelligence?—As far as abstract education is concerned, I think they are superior; as regards intelligence, I should say that they are equal in every sense to the other operatives of Lancashire.

6653. The Rev. William Milton has stated to this Committee that at the time

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he was incumbent of Halliwell the morals of the workpeople were very bad; is that the case now?—With respect to that question, I beg to say that I have between 60 and 70 young women in my Sunday school, and that for the two years and a half that I have been resident there, I have not had one case of disgrace or immorality in connexion with any of the bleachers; that is to say, no case has come under my immediate notice, and the district being very concentrated, I know all that is going on there.

6654. Have not you a pretty good knowledge of all of them?—I think I know most of them.

6655. The Rev. William Milton has led the Committee to understand that the bleachers were denied opportunities of improving in morality, and in physical condition; if that were so in his time, is it so now?—I know nothing respecting Mr. Milton, or the circumstances connected with him; during my own time I have kept up a night-school, and in that school I have had classes, in which I tried to teach various things; according to the previous knowledge of the class; I have taught them English grammar, and they have been through the Latin grammar twice, and they are in the Delectus, and most of them are young men in the bleach-works. The best teacher that I have in the school, in fact, the best teachers and the best scholars are bleachers. Some of them translate the Delectus very well, and they will soon be in Cæsar, and those are hands working in the bleach-works.

6656. May the Committee infer from that statement, that whatever may have been the case formerly, now, at all events, the bleaching population has opportunities of improving in morality and physical condition, quite to the same extent which the factory hands have?—I am not prepared to assert that; I am prepared to assert that they take advantage more readily of what they can obtain in the shape of education than the mill hands do; I have only one mill hand who attends my night classes. Either from their calling, or from some cause which I do not know, or from the temptation to drink, I cannot get the young men at the mills to attend my schools, nor their parents to attend church.

6657. Persons who, according to the evidence which has been given to this Committee, are employed longer hours in the bleach-works than the mill hands, are still more willing to avail themselves of the little leisure that they have than the workpeople in the mills, who have more leisure?—I am a stranger in Lancashire; I have been only six years there; but from my experience in Lancashire, what I think is, that if the Legislature shortens the hours of labour for the working classes, it must decrease the facilities and the temptations afforded by drink, which are the curse of this country both mentally, morally, and physically; that is the result of my experience for six years in Lancashire.

6658. With reference to the health of the young people in the bleach-works, in your opinion is their health injured by the long hours they work?—I never found it so; during the two years and a half that I have been at Halliwell, I have had 27 cases of consumption, and I have only had one from the bleach-works out of the 27.

6659. Where did the other cases chiefly come from?—The mills. The number of those who have died, and who now have consumption, and I may say are dying, are 27 in 2½ years, and only one of those was from the bleach-works, and that was a case of hereditary consumption; the family was a consumptive family. The same remark would apply to my former parish at Prestwich. I might remark that there are 24 who have been in my juvenile sick-list since October, and that, out of 24, there are only three or four (I believe it is three) in connexion with the bleach-works.

6660. What is the idea entertained among the workpeople themselves as to their position; have you found them apt to consider themselves superior, as a class, to the mill hands; and have you had occasion to check the exhibition of that feeling?—Yes; I have had to do so in both parishes. Many children have left the school, in consequence of what I might call the sneering and contemptuous language which the bleaching girls and boys have used towards the mill hands; and I have publicly stated that I should either punish the children or send them out of the school, if they showed any disposition of the sort towards the mill hands.

6661. Do you ever find that the workpeople leave the bleach-works and go to avail themselves of the short hours in the cotton mills?—No, I have never had anything of the sort; at least I am not aware of it.

6662. Have

6662. Have you ever found the reverse?—I have had frequent applications, both in the parish of Prestwich, and in the parish of Halliwell, to get the children or the grown-up people from the mills into the bleach-works.

6663. In whose works did that occur?—At the bleach-works in the neighbourhood; Mr. Ainsworth's and Mr. Cross's, in the neighbourhood where I am now living; and Mr. Bleakley's, at Prestwich.

6664. Have you ever recommended young persons employed in the cotton mills to go to the bleach-works?—I invariably recommend them to do so. If I find the children leaving the day schools, I ask their parents where they are going to send them, and I advise them to send them to the bleach-works, even for less wages.

6665. Do you think it is more healthy, and not less moral?—Decidedly.

6666. Have you often been in Mr. Ainsworth's bleach-works?—Occasionally; when I have had friends I have taken them through those, and the works in the neighbourhood.

6667. Have you ever observed the rooms in which the people work, so as to know what sort of rooms they are employed in?—Merely as a passer by; I have never looked at them particularly.

6668. Did they strike you as being of such a description that they were peculiarly adapted to women?—I think so, so far as I have seen.

6669. Are the rooms airy?—Most of them are so.

6670. And free from disagreeable smells?—I never noticed anything of the sort in any of the rooms.

6671. Do you know the Temple works?—Yes; that is part of my parish.

6672. Samuel Price told the Committee, that in the making-up room of the Temple works, the boys and girls found it very hot in consequence of the stove adjoining it; are you aware of that?—The room to which Samuel Price refers is on the left hand side, and on the right hand side of it is a stove, and between those two there is a thoroughfare for carts to pass to go from one road into another road; then there is a strong current of air always passing through the passage between the stove and the room where the children are employed.

6673. During your residence at Halliwell, have you ever heard of the boys and girls lying down, and sleeping together in a room set apart for that purpose, whilst waiting for work at night?—No; I have never heard of it during my residence at Halliwell.

6674. From your inquiries among the people at Halliwell, would not you have heard of it if it had been true?—Certainly.

6675. Have you any sick club in your Sunday school?—I have one which has 151 members; and the age for admission is 12.

6676. Can you tell the Committee whether Mr. Ainsworth's workpeople stand in need of much relief owing to sickness?—With reference to the sick society, as I have said before, since October there have only been 24 cases of relief, and of this number there have only been either three or four bleachers. I think that nearly half of the 151 members of the sick club who are engaged in any works at all, are engaged in the bleach-works either at Mr. Ainsworth's or at Mr. Cross's.

6677. With regard to Mr. Ainsworth himself, do you regard Mr. Ainsworth as a very charitable man, not only to his own workpeople, but to all others when called upon to render assistance?—Mr. Ainsworth being blind, a considerable amount of his charity has to be distributed by others. With regard to myself as a clergyman, and as one of those who have to distribute his charity, he never makes any inquiries relative to those for whom his charity is required, as to what religion they are, or for whom they work; all that he requires is, that they are sick or in distress, and then he supplies them with everything that is necessary in the shape of food and wine; and, if they are badly clothed, with clothing also.

6678. Does Mr. Ainsworth appear generally to be careful and anxious for the moral and religious well-being of those who are in his employment?—I think that may be inferred from what he has done; he has built two churches in the district at a cost, I think, of 15,000 *l.*, and he has built three schools at a cost of 3,000 *l.*; and the schools have cost him a great deal to keep them up until they were placed under inspection.

6679. So far as the Halliwell bleach-works are concerned, is it your opinion that legislative interference is necessary in order to promote the health and morals of the people?—I think that what I have said will answer that question.

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6680. Where did you reside before you came to Halliwell?—I belonged to the district of Unsworth, in the parish of Prestwich.

6681. Are there bleach-works there?—Mr. Bleakley has bleach-works there.

6682. In what state did you find the health, morals and education of the working bleachers in that parish?—As regards the morals, what I said of Mr. Ainsworth's works applies to them; as to their health, I only had one case of consumption in the bleach-works there, and I had several from the mills.

6683. Have you a teacher in your schools named Greenhalgh, the son of old Greenhalgh?—Yes.

6684. Has he remained a long time in the school?—He was there when I came, as a sort of head boy and assistant to the master, and when the school was placed under inspection, and a pupil teacher was required, his father applied for the situation for him, saying that the child was not in good health, and that he had a constitutional disease upon him.

6685. The Committee have heard a sad story about the death of two young women in that family, was not that before your time?—Yes.

6686. Did the father explain to you, that the reason why he wished this boy not to go to the bleach-works was, because he was subject to hereditary consumption?—I know nothing about what transpired with regard to the others; I can speak with regard to the boy, and also with regard to the family of the Greenhalghs, one of his cousins died last summer of consumption, and the sister has been very ill since then of consumption. I thought she would have died also.

6687. *Chairman.*] At what hour does your night-school commence in the evening?—Seven o'clock.

6688. Are the bleachers able to attend that school at that hour?—Sometimes they could attend and sometimes not; they can generally come on Saturday. In my time it opened at eight o'clock, that hour being more convenient to myself; but the master who came after me altered the time from eight o'clock to seven, and that of course has affected the night classes.

6689. Can you tell the Committee how often the bleachers were able to attend that class?—It is impossible that I could say how often any particular individual attended; some bleachers, of course, if they were not engaged at their work, would attend both times, and some could not attend both times; the dyers could attend both times, and some others; but on Saturday, I should say, that very nearly all attended; it depended entirely upon what they were engaged in; the claspers leave work earlier than the others.

6690. Did you notice that, owing to the hours in the bleach-works, they were very irregular in their attendance at your night-school?—I am not aware they were more irregular than any other class of people working in the mills or working anywhere else.

6691. *Mr. Cobbett.*] Did you never ascertain whether that was the case or not?—I have never inquired; I never had any reason to inquire.

6692. How long have you been at the parish where you are now?—I was appointed two years ago in February last.

6693. Is yours the church to which Mr. Milton belonged?—It is the same church.

6694. Did not Mr. Ainsworth build that church?—Yes.

6695. Does he appoint the clergyman?—He is the patron of the church.

6696. Did he dismiss Mr. Milton?—He could not dismiss Mr. Milton, the Bishop alone could do that.

6697. Were not you suggested to the Bishop by Mr. Ainsworth?—Yes.

6698. Have you had much communication with Mr. Ainsworth upon this subject?—No.

6699. Did you ever speak to him about it?—Not with regard to this Bill; what I have said to him is what I have said to other parties with whom I have come into conversation at any past time when I had no idea that a Bleaching Bill was in existence; what I have stated here is the result of my experience spoken of at different times to different individuals prior to my knowing of a Bleaching Bill being in existence.

6700. When did you first hear of a Bleaching Bill being in existence?—The first time that I knew any thing about a Bleaching Bill was when a person called at my house to know if I would sign some petition for a Bleaching Bill, and I said that I knew nothing of the merits of the case, and that I thought that a clergyman ought not to interfere between a master and his men, and I refused to sign it.

6701. Do

6701. Do you know who they were who applied to you?—I do not.

6702. Do you know when that was?—I do not.

6703. Might it be two months ago?—It was more than two months ago; I had some friends at the time staying at my house, and I did not pay much attention to what was said.

6704. Since that time have you had any conversations with anybody about this matter?—I have had conversations about this matter, but not with regard to the Bleaching Bill.

6705. Since the time that you heard of the Bleaching Bill, am I to understand you to say that you have had no conversation with Mr. Ainsworth, or anybody else, about it?—Not with reference to the Bleaching Bill. When I have met people in the social circle, or in a railway carriage, I may have told people my impressions, or I may have given answers to questions as to the result of my experience, or as to the morals of the bleachers, but not with regard to anything like a Bleaching Bill.

6706. Since you heard of the Bleaching Bill you have had no conversation about the Bleaching Bill?—No, not as to its merits.

6707. Before the Bleaching Bill was mooted, of course you had no conversation with anybody about the Bill?—Certainly not.

6708. Do you speak with certainty to the fact that you have never had any conversation with Mr. Ainsworth with regard to the restriction of the hours of work?—Never.

6709. Never, either before or after the introduction of the Bleaching Bill?—I am not aware that I have ever spoken to any bleacher, or to anybody about the hours of labour.

6710. Since the time when the Bleaching Bill was mooted, which might be a year and a half ago, have you had any conversation with Mr. Ainsworth upon the subject?—I have never, with any object, except that I might talk to any spinner about the bleachers comparing the bleaching-works with the spinning-works, this I have frequently done. I have spoken with the spinners of the unhealthiness of the calling of spinners, and of the contrast between their works and the bleach-works, but I had no object in view.

6711. What gave rise to that conversation; did the bleacher say that his occupation was more healthy than the spinner's?—Yes, the spinners may have named to me what the bleacher said, or I may have mentioned it to the spinner.

6712. You have found out the bleacher is a more healthy person of the two, and finding it out you have mentioned it to the spinners?—Yes.

6713. Has that occurred both before this Bill and since?—Yes, I mentioned it only a few weeks ago to one of the largest spinners in Bolton.

6714. Have you ever had conversations with the operative spinners, in which you have said to them, the bleachers are more healthy people than you are?—Yes.

6715. Have any of the bleachers ever spoken to you favourably of a Bill to restrict the hours of labour?—I am not aware of any; I do not remember that any person has spoken to me about it, either in the parish that I am in now, or in the parish where I was before, or out of my parish, or that any person desired me to take any part about the Bleaching Bill, except when the petition came to me.

6716. Was the petition presented to your notice by any of the people who came to your church?—No; the people who brought it were strangers to me.

6717. Had you any conversation with them upon it?—As I said before, I was dining at the time, and I had some friends at my house, and the servant came and said that some people wished to speak with me; and when they told me their object, I said that I did not consider it right for the clergyman to take any part between the masters and the men, except it was to reconcile the parties; and as to signing a petition for any matter which placed the masters and the men in opposition, I never had done so, and I never should.

6718. Are you quite certain that you never had any conversation with Mr. Ainsworth, with regard to the policy or impolicy of the Bleaching Bill?—Never; I state positively that I never have spoken of the policy or impolicy of the Bill to Mr. Ainsworth, or to any other bleacher.

6719. Did I rightly understand you to say that the bleachers are, in point of morality at any rate, on a par, if not superior, to the factory people?—I do not

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speaking of them collectively; I speak of those people who have come under my notice in the two parishes where I have been placed since I have been in Lancashire; and I state that the morals and the health of those people are superior to what I have found among the spinners and the weavers.

6720. What is your opinion as to their education?—As to education, I say that they are decidedly upon a par (judging from my experience) with other classes; I should say that they are superior. As a proof of that, I may mention that there is a young woman who has just gone to be a schoolmistress, who has been engaged in the bleach-works for some years. She is gone directly from them to be a schoolmistress; she was in my night school shortly before she left, and she is now schoolmistress; and I have had many other girls who are infinitely superior to many women who are engaged in teaching schools. And of the young men in the works, many can do any sum in decimals, and know the English grammar well, and are now progressing rapidly with the Latin grammar.

6721. Do you think that the opportunities of acquiring education are quite as great among the bleachers as among the factory hands?—I believe I have stated before that what I have to complain of is not the want of opportunity, but the want of the will to attend among all classes, but particularly among the spinners.

6722. If they desire to obtain the advantages of education, have they the opportunity of doing so?—I am sure that if there was a great need for it, they would only have to wait upon Mr. Ainsworth or Mr. Cross, and name their request to them, and they would accede to it.

6723. Mr. Turner.] There has been some documentary evidence laid before this Committee to show that the factory girls are particularly skilful in making fancy work and various articles of needlework, and reference has been made to a bazaar at which those things were exhibited; can you tell the Committee whether the girls employed in the bleach-works are also acquainted with fancy needlework or crochet work, and can make fancy articles quite as well as the girls employed in mills?—Quite so, and I have samples of it in my own house, having had things presented to me of a fancy nature, made by the workpeople. But this is a thing which I do not encourage, and I would rather not use it as an argument for this question; I never wish to allow it in my school; my complaint is, in visiting from house to house, and from cottage to cottage, that I see the needle so little used among the spinners; I seldom see a mother even repairing a garment, and the reason is this, as Mr. Rylands stated just now, that, according to the principles of the Factory Act, a child is allowed to enter when eight years old, and it is frequently the custom for them to go to work at the mills till they are old enough to come to the bleach-works. I do not know of more than one child in Mr. Ainsworth's mill going to work under 11, and they are all examined by Mr. Ainsworth, to see whether they can read and write and spell before they are admitted; but they go to the spinning mills from the time they are eight years old, until they are admitted into the bleach-works; and because there is an opportunity for them to have half a day's education, in order that they may get more money, the parents refuse to send their children to my school and other schools before that time, because they will get half a day's education for the four years from the time they are eight years old till they are 11 or 12. The very fact of their having this opportunity, prevents the parents from sending the children to school. I believe the Factory Act works injuriously, both mentally and morally, I say nothing about its results physically; that is the result of my experience.

6724. Mr. Cobbett.] Would you repeal the Factory Act?—That is another question altogether; I say that practically it works badly; but it does not follow that there is not another mode by which it can be prudently worked. As Mr. Ryland stated just now, I would not allow any child to work until he was 11 or 12 years old, and then the parents would be obliged to send their children to school, because they would have no alternative in the shape of half a day's education in the mills. Moreover, it works badly with respect to the other children. We inculcate the necessity of cleanliness, and they come to school clean in the morning, but in the afternoon when the half timers come in with their clothes covered with oil, the bleacher's children do not like to associate with them; and then they get a vocabulary of obscene words in the mills that are communicated to the other children not engaged in the mills; and therefore, I object, as a clergyman, to uniting them with the children that go to school regularly.

6725. Is the committee to understand that the only amendment that you would make in the Factory Act, would be to prevent the children going in till they are 12 years of age?—I think so; they go into the factories at a young age, and work there till they are frequently taken into the bleach-works.

6726. Did not you speak of the Factory Act as mischievous, both mentally and morally?—Yes; I am not speaking of the physical results upon their minds, but I am saying that they do not get that education that they ought to have in consequence of having that opportunity. If they were obliged to stay at home till they were 11 or 12 years of age, they would go to school up to that time; but now, knowing that they will get half a day's education, the parents refuse to send them to school up to the time of their going to the factories.

6727. Do you mean to say, that the parents would be able to give their children a full day's education instead of a half day's education, not having the advantage of the children's labour?—They would do it because they would know that the children would have no education unless they got it before they went to work.

6728. Did not you say that there was a great disinclination upon the part of the parents, to give their children education?—Yes, because they can work them.

6729. Do I rightly understand you to say, that if you had to make a suggestion, you would suggest that the Legislature should restrict the time for going into the mills till the children were 12 years of age?—If there were any legislation as to the time of work, it should be with respect to restricting the hours of labour among young children; that is what we should commence with.

6730. You say that the children, when they come out of the mills, the half-timers as they are called, are greatly given to the use of obscene language?—Yes.

6731. Do you find that particularly among the half-timers?—I find it particularly among the factory people.

6732. Did not you say in the former part of your evidence, that you had to rebuke the bleachers for using sneering language towards the factory hands?—Yes: I said sneering, as the Lancashire people call it. What I mean by sneering is, looking down upon them, because they are worse clad, and because they do not get so much wages; I did not mean by the word sneering, that they used bad language, but merely that they treated them as inferior.

6733. Then the bleachers use sarcastic language, and the half-timers use obscene language?—Yes.

6734. Have you observed that at both the places where you have been living, both at Prestwich and Halliwell?—Yes.

6735. Mr. *Cheetham*.] At the school to which you refer, and at which the half-times attended, had you no rule that they should come with their hands and faces washed?—We have a rule, but we find it almost impossible to carry it out; instead of the children coming for half a day, the master sometimes will send them for three days, either at the beginning or the end of the week, as it suited their convenience; instead of coming five successive half-days, they would come for two whole days and a half, either at the beginning or the end of the week. I believe it is contrary to the law; but still, often there is an understanding between the employer and the schoolmaster who keeps the account, so that you could not rely upon their correctness when they represent that they have attended for five successive days.

6736. You have spoken of the night school, which you said commenced at eight o'clock; what class of young people attend that school?—Both classes; there were weavers and bleachers, and some from other employments; but the bleachers were the principal.

6737. What ages, generally, are those young people?—At ages varying from 15 to 25.

6738. Had they generally had a previous education in a day school?—Most of them had. The education that I gave varied very much; some I taught to write, and some to spell, and some to read.

6739. Had you any ecclesiastical charge previous to your first charge in Lancashire?—No; I came direct from Oxford to Lancashire.

Siffrid Nevil Bancroft, Esq., called in; and Examined.

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6740. Mr. *Cheetham*.] YOU are, I believe, a Surgeon practising at Bolton?—Yes.

6741. How long have you been in practice there?—Thirty-one years.

6742. Has your practice been chiefly among the workpeople of that neighbourhood?—Yes.

6743. Have you obtained a considerable experience among that class?—I have a tolerable knowledge of them.

6744. Have you had any acquaintance with the working classes employed by Messrs. Ainsworth, of Halliwell?—Yes.

6745. We have had a case mentioned before the Committee with regard to a family employed at Halliwell, of the name of Greenhalgh, do you know that family?—Yes; I attended, I think, three or four of them.

6746. How long ago?—It is many years ago.

6747. At that time, was the Rev. William Milton, the incumbent of St. Paul's, in that parish?—Yes.

6748. Do you remember the deaths of two of that family, Elizabeth and Mary Jane?—Yes; one had been confined. But I may say that, previously, there was an hereditary complaint in the family; there was both scrofula and consumption.

6749. Were their deaths or illness attributable to being over-worked in the bleach-works?—No; Elizabeth Greenhalgh had been confined, I think, about six months, and it had left a disease; and she went to work, I think, about six months after the disease was got in abeyance; and she returned to work, and died.

6750. From your experience with the population employed in the bleach-works, have you formed any opinion as to whether that employment is a healthy one or otherwise?—I think it is a very healthy employment; I do not know any employment more healthy.

6751. Do you concur in the opinion given before this Committee by a previous witness, Mr. Robinson, a medical man, that bleaching was not an unhealthy occupation?—I perfectly agree with him in that.

6752. Have you occasionally recommended delicate persons with whom you have come into contact to enter that occupation in preference to other branches of the trade?—I have only recommended them when I found the constitution delicate; when I have found that they have been in a mill, and I have begged them, if they could not get more than half the wages, to go to the bleach-works.

6753. Can you state to the Committee any reasons for that advice?—I think that the factory is very unwholesome; the flue that is obliged to be kept down in the spinning, by the moisture and heat together, so as to make the fibres twist into an even thread, takes the oxygen out of the room just upon the same principle, that when a fire occurs in any of the rooms they break the steam-pipes, so as at once to take the oxygen out; I believe that is the great principle that breaks down the constitution; there is extreme heat, which compels the workman to drink water freely so as to keep the heat of the body down.

6754. The Committee have had objections offered to the finishing-rooms in the bleaching-works; have you ever been in any of those rooms yourself?—I have been in them; the heat is great there; but they can have a current of air through the room; and I think persons come by less injuries than in the factories.

6755. Do you think that the ventilation to which you have alluded, then, mitigates the evil that might arise?—It does; it takes away one-half of the evil.

6756. Judging from the state in which you have seen those rooms upon your visits, do you deem them objectionable places for females and other persons to be employed in?—No, I do not.

6757. Is it your opinion that young persons could be employed in bleach-works a longer time without prejudice to their health than in cotton mills?—I think that a person would work better 14 hours a-day in a bleach-work than 10½ hours in a mill.

6758. Have you formed any opinion as to whether you consider legislation necessary with reference to bleach-works for the preservation of the health of the people employed in them?—Not necessary; I interested myself very much in the passing of the Factory Act, because I saw there a loss of life, and I thought, as an individual member of society, that it was my duty to do what I could to mend it.

6759. You

6759. You do not consider such a course actually necessary with regard to bleach-works?—I am sure it is not as far as their health goes.

6760. Have you formed any opinion as to the intelligence of the persons employed in bleach-works?—I think they are of a fair average.

6761. *Chairman.*] Did I rightly understand you to say, that neither the death nor the illness of either of the Greenhalghs was occasioned in any way by over-work?—No it was not; the girl returned to her work, and when I spoke as to her keeping regular hours, it was with regard to her moral conduct, not with regard to the hours of labour.

6762. Now, I understand you to say, that after six months the disease fell into abeyance, and then she went back to her work, and died there?—She came back from her work and the disease progressed.

6763. At that time were you under the impression that she was in a fit state to go back to her work, or not?—She was in a fit state, but there was an hereditary disease, which broke out afresh.

6764. Is it your opinion, as a medical man, that her death was in any way accelerated by her going back to work?—I cannot answer that question directly, yes or no; but it is my opinion it would have broken out had she not gone to work; it was not through very excessive work at the time.

6765. That is with respect to one of those girls; what was the case of the other?—The other died from an affection of the brain, brought on by irregularity of body.

6766. Is it your own opinion that her death was in no degree increased or expedited by work?—I am sure it was not.

6767. Did I rightly understand you to say that you have recommended delicate people to enter the bleach-works?—Yes, often, before there was the least agitation about the Bleaching Bill; I was convinced with reference to the employment long before that, that it was the best remedy they had.

6768. Were those people whom you recommended to go into bleaching-works working in factories?—Yes.

6769. Did you make that recommendation previous to the passing of the Factory Act?—Yes; I think I did, many times before the Factory Act was passed.

6770. Since 1847 have you made similar recommendations?—Yes; and I recommend them even now, if they have delicate lungs or any hereditary disease, to go to the bleach-works.

6771. Did I rightly understand you to say that you thought the unwholesome heat most fatal to human health?—It is, particularly when moisture is combined with it. I know that a great number of overlookers take a can to moisten the surface of the floor, and the room being kept hot creates a moist atmosphere, which softens the fibres of the cotton, and twists it into a more even thread.

6772. Supposing there to be a dryer atmosphere, at what heat would you imagine a more dry temperature to be prejudicial to human health?—I think it would be equally bad in those rooms if it were not for the moisture, because you would have the cotton flue coming out.

6773. Take any room you please, at what height would you say that the temperature in any particular room would be prejudicial to human health?—I should think 100 degrees prejudicial to human health.

6774. Would it be your opinion that people working in a temperature of 100 degrees would suffer?—Yes; I am confident they would.

6675. *Mr. Cobbett.*] Have you had great opportunities of noticing the health of the persons who work in the factories?—Yes; I have remarked them in the town constantly coming out from work; and when the matter was first mooted in Manchester some 40 years ago, I was quite astonished that the masters gave the evidence that they did before the House at that time; and there were only one or two gentlemen in London, I think Abernethy was one, who came forward like men.

6776. Have you been for a great number of years observing this kind of work in factories?—Yes.

6777. Did I rightly understand you to say, that the reason why you think it so unhealthy is, that there is damp with the heat, and that where there is not that damp there is the flue?—Yes; they are not both together, the damp keeps the flue down.

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6778. Each of them is prejudicial to health?—Yes.

6779. And you particularly observe that formerly they were very unhealthy people?—They have improved a little since the Factory Bill has passed; but not so much as I thought they would have done.

6780. Have you been in the habit of recommending sickly people who were in factories to go into bleach-works in preference to remaining in the factory?—Yes; because I saw that death would follow; and I have requested them repeatedly to do so, because I knew that I should have to contend with disease that I could not encounter.

6781. You said just now that persons in bleaching-works could stand 14 hours a-day better than they could stand 10½ in a factory?—Yes, that is my opinion.

6782. Can any young person stand such long hours as 14 hours a-day?—They will stand 14 hours when in the bleach-works; that is my opinion. I would rather go to the bleach-works for 14 hours than I would go for 10½ to a mill.

6783. Do you remember the question being put to the gentleman whose name you have mentioned, Mr. Abernethy, as to at what age a young person could work 14 hours in the day, and his answer being emphatically, “No age”?—No, I do not recollect that.

6784. Would you dissent from that?—Yes. I am speaking of the comparison of one with the other.

6785. In your opinion, could a young person, without detriment to her health, be called upon to work 14 hours a-day?—Yes, in a good atmosphere.

Henry Marsland, Esq., called in; and Examined.

H. Marsland, Esq.

6786. *Mr. Cheetham.*] I BELIEVE you are the Proprietor of some Bleach-works in the neighbourhood of Stockport?—Yes.

6787. And some years ago you represented that borough in Parliament?—I was member for the borough.

6788. How long have you been engaged in that trade?—Perhaps altogether from 20 to 25 years, but for 8 or 10 years I was out of business while I was in Parliament.

6789. How many workpeople do you employ in the bleaching trade?—About 100.

6790. Did Mr. Tremeneere visit your works?—No, I never saw him.

6791. Are not your works, in themselves, very different to some others that we have had before the Committee, in respect to the mode in which they are turned?—They are chiefly turned by water power.

6792. Does that subject you to greater inconvenience than those works which are turned by steam?—Yes, in consequence of an Act of Parliament that was passed to benefit the Manchester corporation; they have the power of impounding the water for 12 hours out of the 24; and, by that Act of Parliament they give us the water at half-past five in the morning; and in dry seasons it does not arrive at Stockport, in consequence of that impounding, till perhaps 10 or half-past 11, or sometimes even as late as one in the afternoon. Now I consider that it would be a great injustice if an Act of Parliament were passed prohibiting me from employing it at the bleach-works at any time except from six to six, when there is another Act of Parliament which prevents me from having the water until 11 or 12 o'clock at noon.

6793. Do you mean to say that there are occasions when you cannot commence operations at your mill till 12 o'clock?—Yes, there is not water-power for it.

6794. If by legislation you were placed under continuous work and restricted to ten hours and a half daily would not that subject you to a greater loss than you now sustain?—Yes, for I should have to pay to Lord Vernon 400 *l.* per annum for the water privileges, which, by two Acts of Parliament, I should be unable to enjoy above half that time.

6795. For what particular trade are you engaged in bleaching?—The foreign trade.

6796. Are you, in consequence of that, more subject to what are termed pushes for any particular market?—We are subject to pushes, but I have never worked, in 1854 and 1855, more than 10 hours a-day upon the average, and from 1856 up to June 1857 more than an average of 9 hours, but we are certainly subject sometimes to pushes, and we are dependent upon the parties who supply us with the goods for bleaching.

6797. Is

6797. Is it not the case that at certain seasons of the year you may have worked 4 hours, and at others, 16 and 17, so as to make an average of 9 hours in the one case, and 10 in the other?—Yes. *H. Marsland, Esq.*
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6798. Is that average which you have stated to the Committee less or more than formerly was the case?—When I was formerly in business, I never worked long hours, because I was so connected with manufacture, that I could not work long hours, therefore I have never worked more in my own time.

6799. You cannot tell the Committee, whether in your experience the length of time that the work-people have been employed has been greater or less than it is now?—I cannot speak from my own personal knowledge, but I fancy it has.

6800. Can you state to the Committee the condition, as regards health, of the people in bleach-works, as compared with other works round there?—I consider that as compared with factories, where machinery is employed, upon the whole there is better ventilation and better air and a less number congregated together.

6801. Have you had any complaints in your works of sore feet?—No, none whatever; I do not believe they have suffered from that.

6802. Can you state anything to the Committee as regards the morals of the people employed in bleach-works?—Stockport is not a bleaching place, and therefore the morals of the people in the bleaching-works must correspond, in some degree, to that of the surrounding class; but we can get a superior description of hands to those employed in the factories, and therefore, no doubt, they are a more moral class than the factory people are.

6803. Does your employment enable you to make a selection of labour in Stockport?—Yes; I should fancy that we get a superior class of hands. I would sooner take persons out of the bleach-works for domestic servants than I would out of the factories.

6804. Can you explain how it is that you get this higher class in your work?—It is more healthy, and they like it better: it is not such continued or such continuous work, and they have more leisure occasionally.

6805. What is your own opinion as to the employment of young people of 11 years of age?—Abstractedly, apart from all considerations, it cannot be advisable to work children within that tender age.

6806. Would you exclude them altogether from employment in bleach-works at 11 years of age?—A thing may be a great evil, and yet I may not be willing to have it rectified by legislation; for instance, intemperance is a great evil, but I should not like to join in the alliance movement.

6807. Have you any clamping-rooms, such as those respecting which we have had evidence before the Committee?—No.

6808. Are any of the women whom you employ employed at a high temperature?—No.

6809. How do you pay your workpeople, by the day or by the piece?—Some by the day, but most by the piece.

6810. Do you remember Mr. Tremenheere's Report?—I have looked it over.

6811. Do you remember a passage in which he alludes to a man of the name of Richard Partington being engaged in your works in the year 1842, and in which this man states that he worked eight days consecutively without seeing home or bed?—He never worked for me at that time, because I was not in business at that time.

6812. Did he work that length of time for some party?—Not for anybody with whom I was connected or had any interest in; I can only speak to what concerns myself; I cannot speak to any thing which concerns anybody else.

6813. He further said that he worked six or seven Sundays running; is that the case?—He never worked for me six or seven Sundays, nor have I ever had my machinery running for any Sunday; there is a law against Sunday working.

6814. The Committee have had evidence regarding certain discharge papers which are technically called quittance papers; have you them?—We never give quittance papers unless they are asked for, we have no secret mark; if a person asks for a note saying that they are discharged, we give it without any mark, but we seldom give it.

6815. Most of your neighbours in the borough of Stockport, being engaged in cotton factories, are subject to legislation; do you think that your trade should be made an exception to the rule?—I have always opposed legislation upon the subject of work, and I do not think that because one evil has been committed another should be.

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6816. Are you of opinion that there is no proved necessity for legislation in bleach-works?—I do not suppose there is; I do not mean to say that if it could be managed, it would not be better for people to work regularly and at certain times; but it is a thing that cannot happen; and I do not see why, with the few women employed as they are in most of the bleach-works, we should have a law relating to bleach-works when you allow the theatres and the operas, and those places where women are employed in far greater numbers than in bleach-works, and where they are employed later hours; and the same remark would apply to domestic servants. I believe that the morals of the bleaching workpeople are just as pure as they are at those places which I have mentioned, and that their health is more robust, and their hours of labour are more regular.

6817. Have you heard any expression of opinion upon the part of your workpeople as being anxious for legislation?—No, but that is an answer which I must qualify: if I have a push of work come in, and I want to do it, if I ask my people if they will be willing to work or not, I invariably find that they have been glad to work. For instance, some time ago, when we happened to have more work than usual, a man said to me, "This is as it should be;" but if I were to ask them whether they would like to have long hours or short, they would say, short hours, thinking that their labour would be increased in value, in consequence of there being more demand for it.

6818. Is it your opinion that legislation could regulate the hours, and make them more steady than they are?—I have said already that I am opposed to all legislation upon the subject; it is not merely saying that a thing is an evil that would make me legislate upon the subject, because I would endeavour to cure the evil by other means. A great deal has been said about the factory people; I believe they are much better off than they were when the Factory Act was passed, but it should be borne in mind that at the same time the Corn Law was altered, and there was a greater demand for labour, and the people became more independent, and they could dictate their own terms. Now for instance, since the Factory Act was passed, there were two or three mills at Stockport which worked longer hours than those which the Bill allowed, from six to six, and it was put a stop to by the people determining that they would not work; that has been done by themselves and not by any legislation, because those factories were beyond the Factory Act.

6819. To redress any irregularities of employment in the bleaching works, you would recommend a voluntary arrangement between the masters and the workpeople?—With regard to everything that concerns the condition of the working classes, it is a great thing not to encourage a spirit of antagonism between employers and employed, and I think that public opinion bearing upon the question would cure many of the evils which have undoubtedly existed in times past.

6820. *Chairman.*] What class of goods do you bleach?—Shirtings; anything that we can get.

6821. Is it linen bleaching, or cotton?—There is no linen at all; it is all cotton.

6822. Did I rightly understand you to say that you were much restricted in the hours that you could work by the operation of some private Act of Parliament?—Yes; by the Manchester Corporation Act.

6823. Is not your case, therefore, a special case?—I fancy it is a stronger case than others.

6824. Supposing that that Act of Parliament was not in existence, and that you were not hindered in any way in the supply of water to turn your wheels, would your objection to the proposed legislation be as great as it is now?—Not so great, because there would not be that injustice; but I should object, upon the general principle that I do not like interference.

6825. Beyond the general principle, which would be as strong against all interference, practically speaking, what would be your opinion of the effect of this proposed restriction upon the hours of labour?—I very much doubt whether the restriction upon the hours of labour by legislation will not have a very injurious effect upon all manufactures of this country in time to come; and to show that my opinion has not been guided by circumstances, I may say that when I first came out as a Member of Parliament, I was much teased to express an opinion upon the subject of the short-time Act, and I always refused; I said I would never come into Parliament if I was tied upon the subject.

6826. Did not you say that, with few exceptions, you did not work these long hours

hours as a general rule; and that, as a general rule, you had not worked more than nine hours a day for the last two years?—Yes; that was in 1856, and up to June 1857; and I worked, upon an average, 10 hours the year before.

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6827. Practically, would a restriction to 10 hours a day seriously interfere with your operations?—Yes.

6828. Will you point out how it would do so?—Because sometimes we work more than 12 hours a day, and six or eight at others.

6829. What would be the insuperable difficulty in making some arrangement, whereby you might divide your work more evenly over the week?—It does not depend upon ourselves, but upon the parties who push us, and who do not know the hours we are working.

6830. Have you ever had occasion to appeal to the persons who were driving you with these pushes not to press you so hard with pushes?—I am afraid that such an appeal would be no use; it is always against the interest of the bleachers to push things too fast.

6831. Then, as far as the interest of the bleachers is concerned, you object to these pushes?—Yes.

6832. And anything that would induce those people who give you their orders to be a little more considerate you would regard as a boon?—Yes.

6833. Mr. Kirk.] Do you find that the water, generally speaking, does not come to your place sooner than 11 or 12 in the day?—Yes, in dry seasons; I have a table of the hours when it came in July.

6834. Will you hand that in?—

(The same was handed in, and is as follows:)

DATE.	WHEN THE WATER ARRIVES.	DATE.	WHEN THE WATER ARRIVES.
1857:		1857:	
July - 1	- 10 a. m.	July - 13	- 12½ noon.
" - 2	- 11 a. m.	" - 14	- 12 noon.
" - 3	- 12 noon.	" - 15	- 12½ noon.
" - 4	- 12 noon.	" - 16	- 1½ p. m.
" - 6	- 11 a. m.	" - 17	- 1½ p. m.
" - 7	- 6 a. m.	" - 18	- 11½ a. m.
" - 8	- 11 a. m.	" - 20	- 1½ p. m.
" - 9	- 12 noon.	" - 21	- 1½ p. m.
" - 10	- 12 noon.	" - 22	- 11½ a. m.
" - 11	- 11 a. m.		

6835. When you commence work at 11 or 12 o'clock in the day, to what time would you work at night?—That depends upon circumstances.

6836. Assuming that you had ample employment, when would you commence?—We do not commence all our operations at once, we have to run the engine partly; for the engine is not sufficiently powerful to turn all the works, and therefore until the water arrives we do the lighter operations in the morning.

6837. You gave an answer to a question with regard to continental competition; is it your opinion that continental competition is over, or that it is only beginning?—That is a question that I only gave an opinion upon because I was asked; but it is a thing that I am not sufficiently acquainted with, except upon general views. I do not think it is over, if you ask my private opinion; but still I say, not having travelled upon the Continent much, I am not able to express an opinion upon the subject so carefully as I should like to do.

6838. Is not it true that they are continually getting machinery from this country, similar to yours and that of other gentlemen, for the purpose of competing with Englishmen in your peculiar branches of trade?—I suppose they are; but I have no means of knowing it, because it does not pass through my hands.

Mr. James Southworth, called in ; and Examined.

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6839. Mr. Cheetham.} ARE you the Manager of Messrs. Sykes and Company's bleach-works, near Stockport?—I am.

6840. How long have you been engaged in bleaching?—Forty years, and the last 24 years with Messrs. Sykes & Co.

6841. Had you had experience before, of bleaching?—Very great.

6842. Did Mr. Tremenheere visit those works?—No; he never came near us at all.

6843. Were your works in the list that was handed to him by Mr. Ainsworth?—I am told they were in that list.

6844. What is the number of workpeople employed there?—Two hundred and six, altogether.

6845. Does that include men, women and children?—It does.

6846. Have you any statement which you wish to make upon that subject?—I should just state that the number of men above 18 years of age is 123; under 18, and above 11, 39. The females above 18 are 28, and between 11 and 18, they are 16.

6847. What is the number of children that you have of 11 years of age?—From 11 to 12, we have five boys and one girl; from 12 to 13, eight boys and one girl; from 13 to 14, seven boys and two girls; from 14 to 18, 16 boys and 12 girls.

6848. Do you consider it desirable to work them so young as eight years of age?—No one ought to do it at all.

6849. Do you find that occasionally the parent is anxious to get them so employed?—We are inundated almost every day in the week by parties applying to have their children taken into the works, and sometimes as early as eight or nine. We never take any one till they are 11 years of age.

6850. It has been stated to the Committee, that occasionally the employers have threatened to discharge the parents if the children of that age did not come there; is that so?—I never knew a case of that sort in all my life.

6851. Is there any pressure on the part of the parents to obtain employment for their children?—Decidedly so.

6852. Have you been employing machinery to a greater extent of late, than you formerly did?—For the last three or four years we have made considerable alterations in the works, and have considerably extended the machinery in connexion with bleaching.

6853. Is that in the finishing and making-up departments?—It is both in the bleaching and the finishing departments.

6854. What effect has the introduction of that new machinery had upon the employment of the workpeople?—I think the effect upon the employment of the people has been to equalise the work.

6855. And in some degree to reduce the hours?—That is decidedly so.

6856. Has it facilitated the nature of the work?—It has facilitated the nature of the work.

6857. Do you think it has relieved the labour of the workpeople?—It has, very much indeed; it has not only decreased the labour, but it has also increased the comfort of the workpeople.

6858. That has been the result of the introduction of this improved machinery?—Yes. In relation to that, I may speak a little of my own experience. When I was a youth I was put to work, in order to get some practical knowledge of the bleaching business; I was about 16, I think, when I was first put to work, and a considerable portion of the work then had to be done in the open air, it was connected with the water, and in the winter time we had to work out of doors as well as in doors, the same as in summer; if it was wet it did not interfere with our business, because the work must be done, and we were to do it, whether it was wet or dry.

6859. Whether it was dry or not, the principal part of the work at the time you speak of was done out of doors?—A certain portion of it; they began to cover the things over when I was working out of doors; machinery has completely done away with that, and there has been, ever since the time I speak of, a constant tendency

tendency to use such improvements as would ameliorate the condition of the working people; that has been the effect of machinery. Mr. J. Southworth.

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6860. Looking back to the time to which you refer, do you consider the condition of the workpeople now superior, with regard to ease and other advantages connected with it, to what it was then?—Decidedly; there is no comparison.

6861. Can you state to the Committee the time to which you have worked at your establishment?—The average time that we have worked for the last three years has been about 10 hours; I do not think it has been more, but during the whole of 1856, and from the commencement of this January, we have not averaged more than nine hours.

6862. Of course you have had extremes both ways?—We have worked as much as 15 hours sometimes, and at other times we have not worked more than six or seven.

6863. Is that irregularity of employment within your own control?—It is not, or we should not use it.

6864. Are you in a dependent condition, as regards the orders from the merchant and the manufacturer?—We are; and we are so much so, that the merchant has said to me frequently: "Can you do this work in such a time? if you cannot, we cannot send it to you;" and I have said, "I will." They have sent us goods to bleach without fixing the time to have them bleached at all, and in the course of a day or two an order has come for them. They have said to me, "If you do not get this cloth in by such a time" (which is a much shorter time than our ordinary time) "we shall have it thrown on our own hands. You must make an effort, and try to do it for us."

6865. And, in order not to disappoint them, you have worked irregular hours?—We have had to work the longer hours.

6866. Do you think it practicable, as a man of business, that you could refuse those orders and say, "I can only work my establishment such a number of hours?"—As a man of business I could not refuse the orders, if they did not entail very unreasonable hours on the workpeople; when we are unduly pressed for time, we refuse the order.

6867. You could not always refuse the order?—I could not always.

6868. Would not the result be, that there would be times when you would have no work at all for your establishment?—It would.

6869. How do you pay your workpeople; by the piece or by the day?—Most of them are paid by the piece.

6870. Is the day's work based upon any certain number of hours?—It is by the number of pieces done that the workpeople are paid, at prices agreed with them, and the money is divided *pro rata*; some may be rated at 10 s. per week, some at 15 s., and some at 20 s. per week; and they generally make a day's wage in from seven and a half to eight hours.

6871. What would a female earn as the result of a day's work?—I was noticing in last pay that some of the females earned 14 s. a week.

6872. And the adults much more?—Yes; the adults earned from 30 s. to 35 s. per week.

6873. Are there occasionally times when they have not work?—Yes.

6874. Have you had any complaints from your workpeople as to whether pushes were required?—Never.

6875. Have you never discharged any one of them for refusing to work?—I never did.

6876. Evidence has been given to this Committee of instances where workpeople have been threatened to be discharged because they would not submit to them; do you know of any such case?—We have not had any case of that kind.

6877. The Committee have had evidence that occasionally discharge papers have been given to workpeople under the name of quittance papers, that had been so privately marked as to prevent their being employed elsewhere; have you known of such an instance?—I have heard that such a thing has been done, and it has been brought against the bleachers as a charge, but I never knew it in practice in my life. I have had a good deal to do with quittance papers; they certify that such and such persons have been at work in our employ so long, and they are at liberty. In most cases they are confined to that.

6878. Having been engaged upwards of 20 years as a practical man in those

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departments of labour, what is your opinion as to its effects upon the health of the people employed in bleach-works?—Judging from my experience with regard to them I should say that they never have suffered at all in health. In fact, I believe a bleacher is more healthy than any other person in any branch of any other trade or business, such as either the factory hands, or the persons who take in sewing, or those in any other business that I know of, in which a number of people are collected together.

6879. Have you any difficulty at any time in obtaining labour?—We have no more difficulty in obtaining labour than results from any special demand for labour.

6880. Have you none from objections to the nature of the work?—None from objections to the nature of the work. In fact, we are frequently asked to take in parties who have been engaged in other occupations.

6881. Are not you immediately adjoining the agricultural district of Cheshire?—Yes.

6882. Are there any instances where the workpeople have left you to go to mills?—I do not know of any at all.

6883. What kind of rooms do they work in?—The rooms that they work in are very large, they are wide and long rooms; in the principal part of the works the rooms are 16 feet high.

6884. We have heard of the objectionable places in which there are stoves; have you any?—We have stoves, and I do not know how we can do without them; we have stoves, in which there are about four or five men and two boys working.

6885. No women or girls?—No women or girls; but I do not think it at all an unhealthy business, judging from my experience of above 40 years. I have always found the stovers have been a remarkably healthy class.

6886. Are the boys not allowed to remain for a long period in those stoves?—Generally they go into the stoves while the cloths are being hung, which occupies them, perhaps, 20 or 25 minutes, and as soon as the rooms are hung they are released from the stoves altogether till the cloths are dry, so that I do not believe they are half the time at the stoves.

6887. After they are released, where do they go?—If they have any little work to do, such as removing rollers, they go out of the place altogether to remove the rollers there; or if they have not anything particular to do, they go to play at marbles, or anything of that kind.

6888. Have you any clamping-rooms?—No.

6889. What should you say as to the respectability of the workpeople; do you consider them as respectable a class as any other?—I always consider them more respectable than mill hands.

6890. Do they change their employment with you often?—Not often; very rarely.

6891. Have you had cases where families have been continued with you from generation to generation?—I have had, more than one; there is one case where the grandfather worked at it; and his son and daughter have worked in the works, and his grandchildren work there now; that is not a solitary instance; there are several other families in which there are workers of the third generation.

6892. Have you any schools or places of worship in the immediate neighbourhood?—Yes, we have schools as well as chapels in the immediate neighbourhood.

6893. And you have also other descriptions of works, print works and mills, and other employments in your neighbourhood; have you any instances where the workpeople have gone to those other descriptions of work on account of the long hours at the bleach-works?—Never, on account of the long hours; and I have known no instances at all of persons leaving us to go to other mills, excepting that there have been parties who have been brought up all together in one particular employment, who have come to learn the business, and they have not had patience to go through with it.

6894. In Mr. Tremenheere's report he alludes to a person of the name of Richard Partington, who made a statement to him that improper things constantly go on in the bleach-works, in consequence of the young women being kept late at work; is that so?—I think that he could not have had any opportunity of knowing anything of the sort. I have a list of the days he has worked for us, fortnight

fortnight after fortnight, from the time he first came till the time he left us; and from this it appears that in the 12 working days we had in each fortnight for the first year that he was with us, he worked nearly 12 days of 11 hours; but not quite in the second year, 11½ days; in the third year, 11½ days; in the fourth year, 10½ days; in the fifth year, 11 days; in the next year, 10 days; and in the last year that he worked with us he was only upon the premises 10 days in each fortnight, taking one fortnight with another; and I have a table which will tell how those 10 days were divided; for instance, in one fortnight 8½, another 7½, and another 10½, and so on. Now, as the time was put down by the parent of the man himself, the tendency is always to put down as much time as possible, in order that they might not be made to appear to receive such large wages for each day's work; it is not likely that the time he says he has worked, in that statement, is correct. He says it has been the same at every place he has worked at, 18 or 20 hours, and sometimes the whole night through, and yet he has made short days at our works.

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6895. Do you contradict his statement?—Decidedly; it is not correct.

6896. In your experience have you had any reason to think that such sorts of things do go on at all?—It has not come under my observation at all.

6897. Have many of the young women relatives with whom they are employed, either a father or a brother?—Yes, nearly every one; I find that as much as possible it is the interest of the employers, and also of the employed, that they should congregate together in families, because they are a protection to each other.

6898. Do you find that they reside some distance from the works?—Most of them reside within five or 10 minutes' walk of the works.

6899. Have you had an opportunity of considering the four Bills which have been printed, as regards legislating upon bleach-works?—I do not think that I have read any one of the Bills right through, but from what I have read of them, I do not approve of them at all; I have read portions of them, and especially the last.

6900. In your opinion would such a measure as the last measure be injurious, or otherwise?—I think it would be very injurious.

6901. Would the result of legislation have the effect of encouraging foreign competition?—If I might judge from those observations which have been made to me, I should say that it would have that effect, and also from what I know of the natural tendency of things.

6902. *Chairman.*] I think you said, that occasionally you have had to work 15 hours a-day?—Yes, occasionally.

6903. Do the children who are but 11 and 12 years of age work those hours?—The children of 11 and 12 years of age have worked those hours along with those who are working with them, and who are often their parents.

6904. Have you any children of your own?—Yes, I have.

6905. Have they been engaged in the works?—Not at those works.

6906. Do you think that those long hours are proper for children of that early age to work?—I do not think that they are objectionable in the way that the bleachers work them, because they do not work the whole of the 15 hours; it is not a continuous and monotonous work, as it is in the factory, but they would work a portion of the time, and then another portion of the time they are resting. I have seen the girls sitting, and so on, some sewing and some at crochet work, and some chatting, and some playing with one another, and laughing and joking. It being almost always the case that you cannot have continuous employment during the whole of the time, in consequence of the irregularity of the work coming forward, it is impossible to have a constant regularity, and that is one reason why they would be called upon to work a little longer.

6907. During those 15 hours, are those intervals of rest which they have sufficiently long to enable them to get any sleep?—If they want sleep there would be intervals for that, I am sure, frequently, but they seldom do seem sleepy at the time they give over. At any rate, if I may judge from my own experience when I was a lad, I had to work a great deal longer hours at that time than they do now. I recollect at the time when I was a boy, 40 years ago, when I had to work long hours, that I have had opportunities of getting sleep between the times.

6908. With respect to the stoves, do the boys you have mentioned in the hot stoves ever work 15 hours?—They are not called upon to work as long hours

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as they are in the bleach-works, because they can only be in the stoves up to a certain time, till they have done all the work that is ready for the coming day ; and therefore it is not so often the case with them, as they can only go to work as soon as they have work to do ; sometimes they work a little longer and sometimes a little shorter, but never more than half the time in the stoves.

6909. You have told us that if you were to refuse any orders that were sent to you the result would be that you would probably lose your order ?—I can merely say, that it has been mentioned to me by our customers, that if we cannot get the things done, they must send them off in the gray state, so that we should not get the bleaching at all, nor anyone else in this country, because they are obliged to send the goods off by such a vessel ; of that I have had frequent instances.

6910. That is done under the present system, and those who give the orders know that there is no legislative restriction upon your working any number of hours. In the event of legislative restriction being imposed upon the hours of work, do you believe that those who give you those orders would still insist upon your doing what would then be an impossibility ?—I believe that we should then lose a considerably larger portion of work than we do now, because they would say “ You are restricted from doing it ; I could have sent you an order for bleaching, but as you cannot get them done in time, on account of legislation, I must send them out in the gray state.”

6911. Do you think that the effect would be to compel the bleaching business to be abandoned ?—I think it would very seriously endanger the bleaching business by lessening the amount of bleaching done. I am quite sure of one thing, that considering the amount of gray calicoes that are made now as compared with what there were 20 or 30 years ago, there is not one-third of the bleaching done, in proportion, that there was at the time when I first commenced bleaching.

6912. Is that owing to legislative interference ?—Certainly not ; but if there was a restriction upon it, it must have a tendency still further to depress the trade.

6913. Do you think it impossible that a legislative restriction might make the merchants who give the orders think a little more than they do, as to the time the orders require to be executed ?—I do not think that would be the effect. My opinion is, there would be as much hurry-scurry then as there is now.

Martis, 28^o die Julii, 1857.

MEMBERS PRESENT.

Mr. Baxter.
Mr. Brett.
Mr. Cheetham.
Mr. Crook.

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Mr. Dalglish.
Mr. Kirk.
Lord John Manners.
Mr. Turner.

LORD JOHN MANNERS, IN THE CHAIR.

James Mac Adam, Esq., jun., called in; and Examined.

6914. Mr. Kirk.] DO you reside at Belfast?—I do.

6915. Have you been officially connected with different branches of various manufactures?—I have been, from the year 1844, secretary to the Royal Society for the promotion and improvement of the growth of flax in Ireland, and since 1852 I have been secretary to the Belfast linen trade committee; I have also acted upon other occasions generally for the Irish trade, both at home and abroad, in matters concerning their general interests, more especially on the Continent, endeavouring to bring about changes in the foreign tariffs, and particularly those of France and Belgium, which were excessive upon our linen manufactures and linen yarns.

6916. During the period of your employment by the Belfast Committee, have you had any opportunity of inquiring into the progress made by the linen manufacturers in the Continental States?—I have made it my particular business to inquire in all the chief countries in which linen is manufactured, both with regard to the extension of trade, and also as to the relative cost of manufacturing in every branch compared with England, Ireland, and Scotland; I have more especially had an opportunity of marking the progress of the trade from having been present at the Paris exhibitions of 1844 and 1848, and at the Brussels exhibition of 1849, and then at the great international exhibitions of London in 1851, and Paris in 1855. At London, in 1851, I was acting as secretary to the Belfast local committee, and had under my charge the entire of the linen department of the whole of Ireland. In 1855, at the Paris Exhibition, I was named by Government, International Juror, and of course, during my stay there, I had an opportunity of inspecting very closely the productions of different countries; the exhibitors were above 4,600. Ultimately, in consequence of my colleague, Mr. Beveridge, of Dumfermline, being obliged suddenly to leave Paris upon domestic business, I had to undertake his section as well as my own; and therefore, all the linens exhibited by all countries, making in all 16,000 different articles, passed through my hands, and I had a close opportunity of judging of them; at the same time, I had occasion to ask the opinion of my fellow-jurors, who were intimately acquainted with the linen manufacturers of the different countries, and matters connected with the wages of labour, as to whether there had been an increase or a decrease in the manufactures of each country; from that time I have made personal inquiries also with regard to the general progress of the linen trade in all countries.

6917. Can you state what you have noticed with regard to the extension of spinning factories in the leading states in Europe?—I have obtained data from the best authorities in each of the countries which may be considered the leading manufacturing countries of Europe, France, Belgium, Austria, and Prussia. I find that in France, in 1848, there were only 92,000 spindles for flax, and in 1850 the number had increased to 498,000. In Belgium, in 1844, there were 88,000 spindles, and in 1856, 131,000. In Prussia, in 1846, there were 47,000 spindles, and in 1856, 96,000. In Austria, in 1846, there were 21,000 spindles, and in 1856, 82,000.

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6918. Mr. Cheetham.] Those are in the flax manufacture?—Yes.

6919. Mr. Kirk.] Do the Governments of those countries give any direct aid to persons erecting flax and spinning factories and linen bleaching works?—They have done so to a considerable extent in every one of those countries; for instance, in Prussia I find, on the commencement of the flax-spinning trade by machinery, the Government offered a large premium to persons setting up in the trade. They gave 10 thalers per spindle, that is 30 s. Now, with regard to Ireland, a flax-spinning mill will cost for building, motive power, and machinery, 4 l. 10 s. per spindle; therefore the Prussian spinner has a direct aid from the Government equal to one-third what it will cost the Irish spinner to put up a mill. Also in Prussia the Government, in the case of bleaching works, has accorded two things, the gift of the machines, both steam-engines and bleaching-work machinery; and, after the lapse of six or seven years, if they have found that those machines have been in use during the six or seven years, the Government has given up its claim to them, and they have lapsed entirely to the manufacturers. In Belgium I know of one case of that sort, with regard to the first bleach green erected upon the Irish system, near Antwerp, belonging to Mr. Wood. The Government in that case gave 125,000 francs (5,000 l.) to Mr. Wood, upon the condition that he should erect bleach-works, exactly upon the Irish principle and with the Irish machines. There is also an important advantage accorded in Belgium by the bleachers and the spinners also being permitted to import machinery free of the import duty upon machines if they prove that the machinery is of a novel construction; they make a declaration to that effect before the mayor of the commune, and a Government commissioner is then appointed to inspect the machines, and to see them at work; and then, under the charge of the Chamber of Commerce of the district Government remits the entire amount of the duty upon those machines. Then, there is a very considerable reduction of duty upon the importation of machines, accorded to spinners and bleachers.

6920. Can you state what is the cost of labour on the Continent in these processes as compared with what it is in Ireland and Great Britain?—With regard to the cost of labour, I have ascertained that in the spinning mills it is considerably under what it is in Great Britain and Ireland, in France, and in Belgium, and also in Austria, and some cases in Prussia. And when I say that they are under the wages in Ireland (of course, they are considerably under those of England and Scotland, which are higher than those of Ireland) I may say that in every factory on the Continent the wages are cheaper than with us. With regard to the weaving the wages in some countries are exceedingly cheap. In Rhenish Prussia, Prussian Silesia, Moravia in Austria, and in Bohemia, the wages upon the average which a weaver can make are about from 15 to 30 per cent. cheaper than in Ireland; and while during the last 10 or 15 years, the wages of the weavers have advanced considerably in Ireland, I believe they have remained stationary in foreign countries. There being so large an emigration from Ireland and so much employment, and the population being reduced so much by the famine of 1847, the wages of the weavers have been obliged to be considerably raised. I have every reason to know that no change of any moment has occurred in any other countries on the Continent; the weavers now are paid much about the same rate as they were at the time that they were first established; with regard to bleaching being also cheaper. For instance, in Belgium the system of the bleach-works is generally to give the bleachers their meals, the bleach-works' proprietor provides the food for them. At stated hours they have their meals, and they have a certain sum of money wages in addition to their meals; where they are not fed, which is the case about Ghent, they get two francs a day for 15 hours' work. Now, in Ireland the lowest wages that I know for bleachers is 10 s. a week for 10 hours a day. And here you have the Belgian bleacher getting but two francs a day, or twelve francs a week, for 15 hours a day. Wages are also less in the North of France; the general wages are two francs a day, not including meals; their hours of work there are 12 hours, not including meals: 12 hours' labour. As to Austria and Prussia, I have not exactly the figures; but I made them up about two years ago, and there and in other States of Germany the bleachers are paid considerably less than with us.

6921. Have you made any inquiries with respect to the relative cost of the fuel and chemical substances employed in bleach-works in this country and on the Continent?

Continent?—The cost of fuel varies very considerably; I may say, that in all those countries coals are considerably dearer than they are in England. But I have made a calculation, which I can substantiate by facts if necessary, that the cost of coals at Belfast, as compared with the cost of coals at Leeds or at Manchester, is in greater proportion than the cost of coals, say at Schönberg in Moravia, which is a great place for spinning, or at Lille in France, or at Ghent in Belgium, is over the cost in Ireland; that is to say, the relative cheapness of fuel in Ireland over the Continent generally is not so much greater in proportion as the cheapness of fuel at the chief manufacturing places in England is over the cheapness of fuel in Ireland. The cost of fuel in Manchester and Leeds is less than at Belfast, and the cost of fuel in Moravia, in Belgium, or in France, is much greater than it is in Belfast. But the proportion between the increase of the continental prices over those of Belfast, is less than the proportion of the diminution of prices in England as compared with Belfast; that is to say, the foreign manufactories with regard to fuel, are less unfavourably placed as regards Ireland than Ireland is as regards England.

6922. Mr. *Kirk*.] Does that apply to Prussian Silesia?—I cannot exactly tell; the data that I have are chiefly from Austria and from the district about Ghent and Bruges, and Liege, and the Department du Nord in France also.

6923. Were you ever at Freybourg?—No, I was not.

6924. Mr. *Cheetham*.] Does that remark apply to Belgium?—It does apply to Belgium.

6925. Are not there extensive coal fields in Belgium?—There are, about Mons; but I cannot say why coals are dearer in Belgium. They have been importing coals lately into Ghent from Newcastle. I was deputed by the Belfast Chamber of Commerce to be their delegate to the Congress held in Brussels last September upon Tariff Reform, and I had occasion to make up all these calculations upon that, and I have with me a report on the relative cost of labour and fuel presented to the Congress, and published by the Belfast Chamber of Commerce. We pay from 11s. to 12s. a ton for coals; at Ghent last autumn coals were 14s., but two years ago they were only 10s. At Lille coals have been bought at from 13s. 6d. to 18s. 6d.; at Schönberg coals cost 2-4ths of a florin the 1,000 kil., that is about 16s. 6d. or 17s. a ton; but they are a very superior quality. They have, I believe, coals from Moravia cheaper, but those are of a superior quality fully equal to our Newcastle coals. I think they have an inferior kind of coals, something like the coals that are so much employed in Ireland, the Ayr and Whitehaven coals, at a much less price.

6926. Mr. *Kirk*.] What is the result of your observation with regard to the difference of the chemical substances employed in bleaching?—With regard to the chemical substances, at the present time they are obliged to import considerably from England, but I know of several chemical manufactories having been erected in France and Belgium of late years; and I was told by an extensive Belgian bleacher lately, that he has found that he can get nearly as cheap, soda-ash and chloride of lime in Belgium, as we in England can get them; one chemical manufacturer has invented a new process, by which he gains considerably, and has taken out a patent for it, to make these things considerably cheaper.

6927. Do you refer to soda-ash and chloride of lime?—Yes.

6928. Do not they there employ the same mode of making sulphuric acid that is employed in this country?—Yes.

6929. Then the conclusion from all this is, that they can get chemicals as cheaply as we can?—I think upon the whole you may say that they can get them nearly as cheap; but in some places they are dearer than in England.

6930. Has not there been a system of study pursued by persons from the Continent in Ireland, with a view to acquire an intimate knowledge of bleaching and spinning?—Yes; during the last 10 years to which my own observation particularly applies, I have known gentlemen frequently come over to Ireland for the purpose of studying practically the linen manufacture in all its branches in the spinning factories, and at the bleach-works for a lengthened period. I was personally acquainted with four of those gentlemen, and I have found that they were young men, superior upon the whole to the same class here; generally they were the sons or younger brothers of persons engaged in the flax-spinning, and bleaching upon the Continent. The education in the German schools or academies is peculiarly practical; and consequently, almost all those young men arriving in Ireland are pretty fair chemists; the four of whom I speak as being

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personally acquainted with them, are now all engaged for themselves, or for their relatives in the spinning and bleaching, or other manufactures; one at Bielefeld, one in Silesia, one at Happendorf, in Moravia, and one at Courtrai, Belgium.

6931. Then your conclusion is, that they have put in practice the information they acquired?—I have every reason to believe so; and I have myself visited one of their concerns at Courtrai, which was put up by a gentleman who remained in Ireland for one or two years, and he spent 12,000*l.* erecting it, according to the Irish system; there was formerly a bleach green there, built upon the old system.

6932. Have you had any means of ascertaining whether the linen manufacture, in its different branches, has been improved in those States of the Continent where it is most frequent?—It has been very considerably improved. The improvement in different classes of linen shown in the Paris Exhibition of 1844 and 1848, and the Brussels Exhibition, 1849, as compared with that in the London Exhibition, in 1851, and more particularly with the Paris Exhibition of 1855, was extremely striking, not only in the texture and bleaching of the goods, but also in the general style of finish and ornamentation. They seem to have closely copied the Irish models. I may mention that, having occasion in Paris to adjudge the prizes, I and my colleague found ourselves conscientiously bound to give the highest prizes in many cases away from our own country. The Belgian and French yarns were better, those, at least, we adjudged prizes to, than any thing that we have in the United Kingdom; they were better spun yarns altogether; the French cambrics were naturally superior, but they had acquired particular pre-eminence over ours in point of quality, though as to price we had the advantage. The Austrian and Saxon damasks, and more especially the latter, which always excelled in point of design, are now equally admirable in point of texture and finish. The coarser fabrics from several of the German States were extremely good and strong, and, in many cases, of surprising cheapness, and certain of the same fabrics were cheaper in price. I had occasion to inquire afterwards how some of them were conducted. The fine plain linen fabrics from Belgium were the best shown; possibly, in this case, they had been got up especially for the Exhibition, but at all events the machinery employed by the manufacturers and spinners on the Continent must be excellent to produce these articles. One of the highest prizes was given to Mr. Kramsta, in Prussia, and his goods were considered excellent. The two grand medals of honour were given, one to the town of Valenciennes, and the other to the town of Belfast. The town of Belfast claimed one, and its claim was allowed, in consequence of the well-known opinion that its manufacturers generally made the cheapest class of goods, and the town of Valenciennes for the excellence of the fabric.

6933. Did you observe any imitations of Irish fabrics?—Yes, in the earlier exhibitions that I visited, the foreign goods were very clumsily made up, and the finish was by no means such as would be desired; since then it is evident that through the personal inquiries which the manufacturers had made, and the extent to which they had employed persons from Ireland as foremen and operatives, they had been able to imitate our fabrics very closely, so closely indeed that you could scarcely tell them from the Irish. That does not merely apply to the system of manufacture, but also to the very ornamentation. I took some notes with regard to the ornamentation which are rather curious. I found, in the case of one manufacturer of Stuttgardt, that he had stamped in red upon his goods, “superfine soft finish,” in English words. Another manufacturer, it appeared, marked some damasks, in English, “manufactured expressly for family use.” Another piece of linen was stamped, in English, “free from any admixture of cotton;” another was marked, “superior soft finish;” another “manufactured and finished expressly for family use.”

6934. *Mr. Butt.*] Do you think that those were copied from Irish stamps?—Copied from Irish stamps; they had procured the stamps in imitation of the Irish; they had procured them from the celebrated house of De la Rue, which supplies the ornaments for the Irish. If I had not seen the linens among German linens I should certainly have taken them for Belfast linens, looking at the finish and so forth.

6935. *Mr. Butt.*] Were they meant to sell for Irish linens in foreign markets?—They were meant to sell for Irish linens in foreign markets. It is a strange thing, that we began by ousting the Germans from their great strongholds in South America; and then we were obliged to adopt their terms. For instance, one great export class of Irish linens is called Silesias. Now the Germans are turning

turning the tables upon us, and are creeping into the market by employing our terms. *J. MacAdam, Esq., jun.*

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6936. *Mr. Kirk.*] Do you mean to say that in that particular point of view at Paris, their fabrics were equal to the Irish?—Yes; I think that is the general tendency now with the foreign manufacturer to produce quite as good plain linens; a large class of foreign linens is exported to compete with the bulk of our trade; I saw many pieces quite as good as any made in Ireland; and if I had gone through the Paris Exhibitions of 1844 and 1848, and the Brussels Exhibition of 1849, I should not have found a single piece able to compare with ours.

6937. Then do you think that their equality or, in some cases, superiority has arisen within the last 10 years?—I have not a doubt of it.

6938. Do you know if there has been any increase in the exports from Belgium of certain goods to markets, where Ireland had formerly the chief share of the supply?—Yes; with regard to goods, there is a very large quantity of Belgian goods now sold in Italy and Spain, where we had the lion's share of the trade a short time before; in some cases goods from Courtray have been entirely displacing Irish goods in the Spanish markets. To other places also, and more especially to Brazil, a vast quantity of Belgian and German goods are going out. They are beginning to creep into the United States; but nothing like to the same extent.

6939. Does that arise, in your opinion, from the change in the Belgian tariff which took place some years ago?—To some extent as regards Belgium. The Belgian Government were, during the time they were creating their machine spinning trade, acting upon what we conceive to be a very false principle of government. They were nursing their trade by putting on large duties on our yarns; and consequently the Belgian yarns were very dear, and the fabrics made from them could not compete with us in foreign markets, because they enhanced the cost so much. There was an advantage, but it is a curious one, conceded by the Government; the Government accorded to the manufacturer a full remission of the duty upon our yarns, provided they bring to the douane exactly the same weight of linen for export. They would not allow the Belgian people to have cheap linens; but they would allow the Belgian manufacturer to make a great deal of money in this way; and in fact the trade between Belgium and France, which is a great injury to our trade, arises from a differential duty for the protection of Belgium, which has been created by the French Government.

6940. *Mr. Butt.*] Does that differential duty exist now?—Yes.

6941. *Mr. Kirk.*] Is it the fact that the Belgians get English or Irish yarn duty free, manufacture them into cloth, and send them into France at half the duty which the French charge upon the Irish, who are the makers of them?—Yes.

6942. Is that the main cause of the decline in the consumption of Irish and Scotch linens in Paris?—I should not say that it was the main cause of the decline; because if France maintained for all countries the same ratio of duty, very little foreign linen would be consumed at all. Her giving to Belgium a special favour, that he is permitted to export brown linens, at a reduced rate, which would have otherwise to pay the full rate of French duty, is a thing that I have paid great attention to; and I have endeavoured, vainly in some cases, to obtain an alteration. When this duty was first laid on the French spinning trade was in its infancy, and it was intended to be 20 per cent., a rate which we should not have considered very hard. But the spinners pressed to get the duty laid on in such a way by weight, that in place of 20 per cent. it was, in the lowest case, 33 per cent., and in the highest upwards of 60 per cent., which duties remain the same to the present day, although in the interim the cost of spinning yarns has been so materially reduced by improvements in the manufacture, that at the present moment the ratio of the duty is very much greater than it was in the years 1841 and 1842, when the duty was laid on by France.

6943. Are the Committee to understand that the price of yarns is higher in Belgium and Germany than in Ireland?—Yes. The price of yarns spun in those countries is generally higher. It is not very much higher now, and in certain times we find they are almost as cheap. But from the yarns which Belgium obtains from us free of duty they make linens and export them to other markets in France. About two years ago, at Lille, yarns were sold which could actually have been brought into Belfast and sold at a profit, and yet the French maintain, at the present moment, the present duty.

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6944. You stated that the proprietors or managers of spinning factories and bleach works have studied the subject in Ireland. Have they invited over there any operatives from the United Kingdom?—Yes; many. In Ghent I am sure there are many hundred Irish operatives. One case occurred, which perhaps some of the Committee may remember, of alleged ill-treatment of some Irish workers by the proprietors of a spinning mill near Liege; and on that occasion, I believe, in the course of the evidence, which, however, proved that the proprietors were not guilty, it was stated that there were 47 Irish workers in the mill. There are also a very considerable number of English and Irish factory workers. And in the case of the bleach greens I know many cases in which persons have been employed from Ireland, both foremen and operatives. There is a large bleach green in Brussels where the foreman is a North of Ireland man, and in Mr. Verduyts's green, at Courtray, there are some Irishmen. I do not know whether there are still, but there were 12 or 15 operatives. In Bielefeld there are a great number, and in Elberfeld also; and at Stuttgart the principal linen manufacturer has an Irish foreman; and there are very few of the large spinning mills throughout Prussia and Austria, where there are not one or two Irish or English workers.

6945. Generally speaking, is the spinning machinery English or Irish?—It is generally speaking of Leeds manufacture. In spinning machinery they have had an enormous trade on the Continent. In the year 1841 our Government permitted the importation of machinery, free of duty. The Belgians have been availing themselves largely of our machinery, and they have also made a considerable improvement in the making of machines. At Liege they have made spinning machines and bleaching machines remarkably well. Now, in many cases machines are taken out from here and enter there duty free, and serve as models, and others are made by them. At Lille also they are turning out some very good spinning machines now.

6946. Is it not now generally known and believed that they get these models for the express purpose, and they have persons upon the look-out for any improvements in machinery which will be brought there, and used in the manner you have described?—It is. In the case of Belgium, the Government only permits the importation of machines free of duty in the event of the whole or some particular portion of them being of novel construction, and the result is, that some trickery goes on. A small portion of a machine is made in a particular way different from what it was before, so that the person importing it can swear that it is of a novel construction, and then it goes in free of duty. I have reason to believe, from what I have heard in conversation, that not only do the spinners import these machines, but also the machine-makers themselves in order to obtain models to make others by.

6947. Do foreign governments afford any honorary distinction to persons who have contributed by their exertions to improve the manufactures of the country?—Yes, almost all. The continental governments have rather a different notion from our Government upon that point; they do not conceive that men who have distinguished themselves by carrying out improvements in manufacture and commerce are a whit less deserving of honorary rewards than distinguished commanders, or men who have shown themselves able, in the different departments of the civil service, which I believe is almost the only class here who obtain any honorary distinctions. To give an instance in point; there are two manufacturers in France, both of whom have aided in extending the linen manufacture; one is Mr. Scrive, of Lille; he is the largest flax-spinner in France; he has spared no expense to improve the various processes, and has, in fact, created a spinning trade in the country. The other is M. Cohin, of Paris, the largest linen manufacturing house in France. The exertions of these two men have been very great indeed; and they have also been very civil in giving information to those seeking it, and they have helped to nurse the trade to its present excellence. At the close of the Exhibition of Paris, when the honorary distinctions were being given by the Emperor, M. Scrive was raised from the grade of "Chevalier" to that of "Grand Officier" of the Legion of Honour; and M. Cohin, who had not been previously decorated, received the decoration of "Chevalier"; I believe he had the two grades in two successive gazettes. And I also heard of many others in Prussia and Austria being decorated; one in particular, my fellow juror in Paris, a young Austrian, was decorated upon that occasion.

6948. Mr. Cheetham.] Was not that also the case in Austria?—Yes.

6949. Mr.

6949. Mr. Kirk.] Do you believe that this is a great incitement to the manufacturers, or that self-interest alone is the greatest stimulus?—Self-interest is the greatest stimulus; at the same time I believe that these distinctions are highly prized, and that they tend to make others press forward in the same course, because it is not merely that the manufacturers who have distinguished themselves by the development of a particular branch of trade have done it with the hope of making money, but they have done it with a degree of enthusiasm, they have spoken of it with a sort of *amour propre*. These distinctions have been received with the greatest delight in the world; and I have not the slightest doubt that many other rising manufacturers, seeing that their brethren in the trade have been thus distinguished, have endeavoured to aim at the same distinctions, irrespective altogether of self-interest and making money.

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6950. Is there any Government interference on the Continent with the hours of labour in factories and bleach works?—I am not aware of any interference anywhere in any foreign countries in bleach works; in fact, I know that the hours that the people work are merely those that the masters may wish. In Belgium the general hours are, in the summer time, from three o'clock in the morning until six o'clock in the evening. But should there be a pressure of work, all the people employed, men, women, and children will go on to any hour that the master bleacher requires. In the case of spinning factories I am not aware in Germany, or in Belgium, of any State interference with the hours of labour. There is a supervisor, but his supervision entirely relates to reports. For instance, in Belgium there is a particular department devoted to that object; I happen to know the gentleman at the head of it. He is called, "Inspecteur des Affaires Industrielles sous le Ministre de l'Interieur," and his office is to make a general report to the Government upon the progress of manufactures throughout Belgium founded upon an inspection each year. But in no way does he interfere with the time the workpeople are employed in the different manufacturing establishments.

6951. Having given that answer, will you state what is your opinion as to the probable effect of the proposed legislation upon our foreign trade in linens?—I think it would have the most pernicious effect; because already we find that labour on the Continent is generally much cheaper than ours. We find that they have been creeping up to us till they run a fair chance of distancing us in point of quality. I think that hitherto we have had the supremacy so much in the linen manufacture, that we are becoming careless, and we shall have to compete with their cheap labour when our labour is becoming dearer; and if Government were to interfere further by reducing the hours of labour in our bleach works, it would seriously damage our trade. Supposing, for instance (I daresay the Committee are aware of such things), an order coming in for a large quantity of goods to be prepared for a certain market, and to be forwarded by the next steamer, and supposing that some house in Belgium or Germany, if a bleacher there, might make up his goods and work his people to any hour until he was ready, he might hand over the goods before we could; but we are obliged to work certain hours a day. If the Government said, You shall not work any more, you could not compel them; and they, therefore, would have the advantage over you, because in the market the rule will be, "First come first take." I conceive that you would be in the most dangerous predicament if the hours of labour were interfered with. And they have a further advantage which no bleach greens in Ireland have. I could not conceive any more healthy occupation than bleaching. It always struck me that it was one of the most delightful manufacturing occupations that I ever saw; they have plenty of air and plenty of water, which produce cleanliness among the people who work there. I think that has a tendency to create habits of cleanliness that are most beneficial. I have observed many cases of it; for instance, there is one up the valley of the Six Mile River in the county of Antrim, where the workers' houses are perfect models of cleanliness and neatness, and the same remark applies to other bleaching greens.

6952. Mr. Cheetham.] Does not your evidence apply solely to linen bleaching?—It applies solely to linen bleaching.

6953. Have you had an opportunity of investigating any cotton bleach-works?—I have never seen one.

6954. Have you ever had an opportunity of investigating any dye-works?—I have never seen any dye-works.

6955. You have alluded in your evidence to Elberfeld; are there not large dye-works

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dye-works at Elberfeld?—There are large dye-works at Elberfeld, but I only looked to the linen-works; I never looked at the dye-works.

6956. Were you aware that there were dye-works?—I believe so.

6957. Did you visit them?—Never.

6958. In those linen and bleaching works which you had an opportunity of investigating, what were the average hours of work?—In the lowest case 12 hours a day, as a regular system, and in the highest 15.

6959. Have you ascertained that they are subject to what are called pushes, like those in this country, arising from the same causes?—Yes, arising from the same causes, more especially since they have begun to gain ground more in foreign markets.

6960. In any investigations which you made, did you find any English or Irish goods under the process of bleaching in foreign bleach works?—No.

6961. Had you an opportunity of investigating the social condition of the working people in those countries?—Yes, I had.

6962. What is their situation there as compared with those in this country?—They look very comfortable, and, in fact, I think they are much better off; they can get their food a great deal cheaper, more especially in the countries along the Rhine and in Belgium, than it is with us in Ireland; and the people, from their habits and tastes and customs, can make a great deal more of the same quantity of food than the Irish workers can. The houses also cost less rent than the cottages of the workers in Ireland.

6963. Do you believe that they possess the same amount of comfort that they do in this country?—Decidedly; I should say in most cases more so.

6964. Have you had any opportunity of investigating the state of education among them?—Yes, and I find that, both in the case of the Government and in the case of individual employers, a good deal of attention is paid to the education of the workpeople, and the intelligence of the workers is very great indeed; I should say, very much superior to the mass of the operatives in the north of England.

6965. Have you had any opportunity of investigating the factories?—Yes; I have seen most of the flax-spinning factories in Ireland.

6966. Have you also made any observations upon the state of the workers in those mills?—Yes.

6967. How do they compare with the workers in the bleach works?—The workers in the bleach works are decidedly more healthy, cleanly, and comfortable looking.

6968. Bleaching being an out of door employment?—Bleaching being an out of door employment; and besides, the work is much more cleanly in the bleach works. In the flax mills there is a quantity of dust flying about, and the passing of the flax through the hot water creates such a steam, that it is difficult to keep the people cool and clean. In the bleach works of course there is no such thing.

6969. *Chairman.*] Do I rightly understand you to say that coal and the chemical substances are dearer on the Continent than they are in England?—Coal is dearer on the Continent than in England; with regard to chemical substances, in several parts of the Continent they are much about upon a par with us in point of price.

6970. Are they dearer in any of those countries that you have mentioned than they are in England?—In some of them they are.

6971. Do not you say that wages are less on the Continent than in England?—Wages in all cases are less.

6972. Balancing one against the other, upon which side does the advantage lie?—The balance is decidedly in favour of the Continent; I have made close calculations as to the amount of money paid in wages, and the amount paid for fuel, and for chemical substances, and that is the result.

6973. But the wages, as you say, are considerably lower in the foreign bleach-works than in the Irish bleach-works; what is it that induces the Irish workers to go there?—I believe they give higher wages to the workers who come over from here than they do to their own people; they take them over, in fact, to train their own workers, and in the course of a few years they dispense with their services. In the oldest spinning factories at Lille you will find no Irishmen; in the case of the bleach works, they pay higher wages to the Irish managers and the Irish operatives than they would get in Ireland, to induce them to go over; and after
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staying there a few years, they conceive that their own workpeople are sufficiently trained to do without them. J. MacAdam, Esq.,
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6974. Have you had instances in which the Irish operatives have been dismissed?—I have known many instances in which they have returned to Ireland.

6975. While they were abroad, were they employed at higher wages than they get in Ireland?—Yes.

6976. Mr. Butt.] Did I rightly understand you to say that the Irish linens going into France pay a higher duty than Belgian linens?—Yes.

6977. Is that especially favourable to Belgium?—Yes.

6978. Supposing the linens were imported from America, or from any other place, would they pay the same duties as Irish linens?—Yes, the duty was conceived upon the old principle of the Methuen Treaty against England and Portugal, Belgium has been made the most favoured country in those things, upon the condition that she made France the most favoured country in other things.

6979. Can you tell how long that existed?—I cannot exactly say. I should think it was established in 1845; it was done, but not without a dispute, in consequence of the French spinners petitioning against it.

6980. Are there many factories in Belgium?—Yes; there are about 25 flax spinning factories.

6981. Is there any favour shown by the French tariff to the importation of the manufacture of the Belgian cotton factories?—I am not aware of the circumstances with regard to cotton at all.

6982. Are you not able to say whether cotton goods imported from Belgium have any advantage over English goods?—I am pretty certain that they have not. There are very few articles admitted from Belgium under the privileged tariff. Linen constitutes one class, coals another, and iron a third; the French in return are permitted to export to Belgium silks and *articles de Paris*, and some one or two other things.

6983. Does not this tariff appear to be prejudicial to the staple manufactories of Ireland, and not to the staple manufactories of England?—We can hardly consider the linen manufacture as exclusively Irish, because the Scotch branch of it is very large indeed, and also England has her linen manufacture. We consider it an Irish manufacture because it is our only staple.

6984. Are you able to give the Committee any information as to whether there were restrictions upon the hours of work of any foreign manufacturers?—I have stated that, in the countries I visited, there are no restrictions upon the hours of the bleach works. With regard to the factories, I know that there is nothing to limit the hours of labour in Belgium, Austria, and Prussia; the factories are under inspection in Belgium, but the inspection has reference to the drawing up of reports for the Government annually, as to the progress of trade. The places where such trade is carried on in Belgium are generally denominated factories, and the visits of the inspectors (one of whom I personally know) are confined to obtaining the requisite information, to enable them to report before the Government; and with regard to the claims made by the manufacturers for the remission of the duty upon merchandise.

6985. Are you aware whether there is any restriction upon the hours of work of children by the laws of any continental country?—The only restriction that I know of, is in Lille, where the children in the spinning mills are only permitted to work a certain number of hours; I think 12, but I cannot state exactly what they are.

6986. Is that law peculiar to Lille, or is it universal through France?—It is universal through France, in the case of the flax spinning factories.

6987. Is there a restriction upon the labour of children in the factories all through France?—In the spinning factories alone, not in the bleach works; it applies to the factories, and also at Lille and throughout the *Departement Du Nord*, there is a system of weaving, not in the houses of the poor of the country as in Ireland, and as in Germany, but in large rooms; and the workers in those things, and also the children, are brought under the same rules as apply to spinning factories.

6988. Was it any part of your special occupation to inquire as to what those laws regulating the labour of young people were?—I did not inquire.

6989. You cannot say that they were not restricted to 10 or eight hours?—I think I can, because I have a letter here which I received the other day from a Lille spinner, where he speaks of children, under 12 years of age, being restricted to spinning or weaving for 12 hours a day.

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6990. At what age are the children allowed to work 12 hours a day?—I cannot tell you the age.

6991. Do you know what penalties are imposed for the infringement of that law?—I do not.

6992. Can you say whether there is any restriction in Prussia?—There is not any restriction, as far as I am aware, in the factories in Prussia, but I will not state for certain; I am not aware of any.

6993. Are you unable to tell the Committee how long the people work?—I have seen the bleach greens in the neighbourhood of Lille at work at seven o'clock in the evening, and I presume that the hours worked are the same in France as in Belgium, because the arrangements generally in France and in Belgium are the same; there is such a constant passage of Belgian labourers into the French works, and if they find themselves under certain restrictions they would go across the frontier again into their own country.

6994. Do you think that they are so much mixed up together, that if they were under restrictions upon one side of the frontier, and not upon the other, that would lead to the transference of labour?—It would lead to the transference of labour; the wages of course would be entirely regulated by the length of time which the people worked.

6995. Are there factories in France, on the Belgian frontier?—Yes, there are a great number close upon the frontier.

6996. Is not it your impression that there is a restriction upon the hours of labour in France but not in Belgium?—Yes, I believe it to be so. The population is very dense in Belgium, upon the other side of the frontier. The Belgian spinning trade is a small thing in comparison with that in France; the Belgians have altogether only 131,000 spindles, but in Lille and its environs alone there are 130,000.

6997. Is it a fact that the person who is under restriction upon one side of the frontier does not transfer his capital and labour to the other side of the frontier, where he can work without restriction?—He does not do it.

6998. Do I rightly understand you to say, that the spinning factories in France are much more numerous than those in Belgium?—They are; that is to say, only in point of number, but if you take the importance of the countries into consideration, Belgium has as large a proportion.

6999. The effect of the restriction of the hours in France has not been to drive the trade across the frontier?—It has not; but the French spinners have an extraordinary bonus in the shape of an enormous duty upon foreign yarns, although Belgian yarns are permitted to be imported into France at a low rate of duty as compared with those of other countries; yet they are restricted to 4½ millions of kilogrammes.

7000. Would you attribute the prosperity of the spinning trade of France to those restrictions?—I should attribute it almost entirely to the very heavy duty which is laid upon all foreign yarns, in consequence of which the French spinner, except in times of commercial crisis, such as occurred two years ago, can obtain for his yarns a price much higher than the English or Irish spinner can obtain; he can have his raw materials as cheap; he can have his labour cheaper, and consequently he makes a larger profit than the English spinner does; and the population of France is obliged to consume their own linens with the exception of a small amount that comes from Belgium, and the loss to the French I have calculated to be two millions of pounds sterling annually.

7001. But the spinning trade is prosperous in consequence of it?—Just so.

7002. Mr. Kirk.] Is not the lowest rate of duty upon Belgian goods at least 17½ per cent.?—I cannot say exactly; I think it is about 20.

7003. Is not the tariff regulated by two modes, by the weight, and by the number of threads in a quarter of an inch?—Yes, the second mode is called the verification.

7004. And therefore the goods must be of a certain texture, and possessed of a certain weight, in order to pay a certain duty?—Yes.

7005. The least duty being something about 20 per cent., and the highest something about 35 per cent.?—Yes, the highest will be about 35 or 38 per cent.

7006. Mr. Butt.] Could you give the Committee any information as to the amount of employment given to the population of France by the spinning trade?—I can give a calculation of it, but it is based entirely upon the knowledge of the number

number of workers which it takes to attend a certain number of spindles; you may say that there are 20,000 spinning operatives in France.

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7007. Do you give it as your opinion, that the Irish bleaching operation is a healthy one?—Yes.

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7008. Of course you limit your opinion entirely to the bleaching of linen carried on constantly in the open air, and not to the chemical processes carried on in close rooms?—I do; but I have also some slight knowledge of stoves where the temperature is very considerably above that of the open air, and the workers have appeared all healthy.

7009. As a matter of fact, do you know of any case in the Irish bleach works in which children under the age of 14 or 15 have been employed in them?—I am not aware of any; I have not had the means of ascertaining that.

7010. Are you aware that there has been overwork among the young persons in the Irish bleach works?—I think that if there were great overwork, I must have heard of it incidentally; being professionally connected with the trade, and meeting so much with people constantly engaged in the different branches of the manufacture, there is hardly a point in the trade that I do not hear discussed at some time or other.

7011. *Mr. Kirk.*] But you never did hear of it?—I never did hear of it.

7012. *Mr. Butt.*] Is it your impression that with regard to young people, there is not overwork in the Irish bleach works?—That is my impression.

7013. Supposing that a law were passed prohibiting young persons from working in the bleach works more than 12 hours a day, would you be of opinion that that would be injurious to the linen trade?—I have not the slightest doubt of it, because in cases of a press of work it would be impossible to do that work; you may say that you only stop the children of tender years, but you cannot stop any particular branch of employment without disorganising all the rest.

7014. Does not your answer assume that when pushes come, children are worked long hours?—I should think it might have been so in the case of pushes.

7015. Have not you given it as your opinion that prohibiting the Irish bleachers from working their children more than 12 hours a day would destroy the trade?—I think it would be most injurious to the trade.

7016. Are you able to say whether now, in point of fact, they work more than 12 hours a day?—I am unable to say positively, but I should suppose that if there has been a pressure of work they have been obliged to do so.

7017. Is not that a mere supposition?—That is a mere supposition.

7018. Are you able to inform the Committee, of your own knowledge, whether young children under 14 years of age have worked more than 12 hours a day in the Irish bleach greens?—No; because I never was on a bleach green, or in the lapping-rooms at night.

7019. Will you tell the Committee upon what you found your opinion, that a prohibition upon the employ of children for more than 10 hours would destroy the Irish trade?—Upon the simple reason that every person who is acquainted with the system of doing business in the trade, knows that orders arrive very suddenly, to be executed very suddenly; and if you stop a great number of persons employed from working long hours, if the manufacturer requires it to make up his goods which may be required for a certain steamer, you prevent him from being able to execute the order.

7020. Would you consider that if we passed an Act of Parliament preventing children under 15 from being worked in any bleach works for more than 12 hours a day you would injure the Irish trade?—I should.

7021. Then I ask you whether, as a matter of fact, you have inquired whether children were worked more than 12 hours a day?—I have not, but I have given my reasons why I supposed that it would be a detriment to the trade.

7022. As a matter of fact, you do not know whether they work more than 12 hours or not?—I do not know whether they work more than 12 hours or not.

7023. Then is not your opinion with regard to the effect of the legislative provision, that they should not work more than 12 hours a day, subject to the remark that you do not know whether they ever do work 12 hours a day?—The question was put to me as a man who knows something of the general system of work in Ireland, and I stated that I believed it would be to the detriment of the Irish trade if the hours of labour, for a certain class of people, were restricted to 12 hours a day, and in reply to a further question, I gave my reasons for holding that opinion. I conceive that it is not very material to the point whether I am
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7024. Supposing that such a thing had never occurred as a child being employed for 12 hours, do you think that legislation would injure the trade?—The question contains an assumption which merely from hearsay, from others, and from reading the evidence, I do not believe to be the case. Although from my own personal knowledge I cannot tell you that it is so, yet other people have stated that in times of pressure they must be worked beyond that time.

7025. Am I not right in saying that your opinion that legislation would injure the trade must depend upon the fact of children being employed in the trade more than 12 hours a day?—My opinion is founded upon the impression that the stopping of one branch of labour would necessitate the stopping of other branches, and would prevent the manufacturer completing his orders.

7026. Must not the injury inflicted upon the trade by legislation depend upon the fact that at present children are worked more than 12 hours a day?—It must; but there is a wide difference between the working of children, perhaps occasionally during long hours, and their being worked constantly. I should be very sorry myself to see the young persons worked all the night, or half the night, the whole year through; but in a case of two or three days, when there was an occasional necessity for overwork, I conceive that there could be no possible harm done to the children.

7027. Would not the extent of interference with the trade appear to depend upon the frequency of those hours of overwork?—Of course.

7028. Supposing that the children rarely were overworked, would not the prohibition in a legislative enactment produce very little danger?—The orders which it affected might be the most profitable throughout the whole year to the manufacturer.

7029. Would not the interference caused to the manufacturer depend upon the frequency of the overhours?—Yes.

7030. And, therefore, if it were a rare thing for the children in the Irish bleach works to work more than 10 hours a day, would not the interference be small?—I do not think that that question should be considered in that way. In my opinion the great point is to have no interference whatever.

7031. Is the Committee to understand that the evidence you have given is founded upon a general impression, and not upon special facts connected with the Irish trade?—I have given a number of facts upon which I have founded my opinion.

7032. What are the special facts connected with the bleaching trade upon which you have grounded your opinion, that limiting the hours of work to 12 hours would be injurious?—I have stated more than once that when the foreign manufacturer who can work overhours when he pleases, with the very low prices of labour, is beginning to compete with us in the most dangerous manner, if you limit our hours of work you will only give another advantage to the foreign manufacturer against us.

7033. Is that a matter of fact, or a matter of opinion?—It is a fact that on the Continent there is no restriction on the hours of labour.

7034. Can you state any fact connected with the working of the bleach works in Ireland, to show that it will be injurious to prevent the children being worked more than 12 hours?—The fact is, that the bleachers are obliged to work overtime to complete the orders that come to them, and if you prevent them from doing so, you put them in a false position.

7035. Do you state the fact, that in the Irish bleach works they work overhours?—I know it; as I have said, I cannot speak to it from my own personal knowledge, but it is pretty well known to the trade that such a thing is done.

7036. From the information you have derived from what is going on around you, do you state to the Committee that children are ever worked more than 12 hours a day?—Yes.

7037. From the same source of information, do you think that they work 15 or 16 hours?—I could not tell the number of hours.

7038. Supposing that an Act were passed, limiting the hours for children to 10 hours, what difference would that make in the price of Irish linen?—I conceive that the difference with regard to price would not be at all a material point; it would be the absolute impossibility in many cases of the bleachers finishing their orders, to turn them out for the foreign markets; because, speaking specially with

with regard to the foreign markets of South America and North America, orders are now executed sometimes in a great hurry, and they are shipped in a great hurry, and if the manufacturer finds he is restricted in making up the goods, there is no doubt the Belgian and German linens will be sent across sooner than ours, and will command the market.

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7039. Then it is not an enhancement of price that you look to?—I conceive that if you limit the hours of labour, you would increase the cost of manufacture.

7040. Have you seen the Bills before this Committee?—Yes.

7041. Have you estimated how much the Act restraining children from working more than 12 hours a day would enhance the price of linens in South America?—I have not.

7042. Have you estimated how much it would alter the price of bleaching?—I have not.

7043. Have you estimated what proportion it will bear to the price of the manufactured article?—I could have made all these calculations if I had known that they would have been asked for; but I have not done so.

7044. But still you have given an opinion that it would enhance the price of labour?—Yes.

7045. But to what extent it will enhance the price of labour you cannot say?—I cannot say.

7046. Do you think that it would enhance the price 10 per cent.?—I cannot say.

7047. Do I rightly understand you to say that you cannot form an opinion as to whether an Act such as this would or would not enhance the price of the manufactured article 10 per cent.?—I decline altogether to give an opinion unless I founded my answer upon proper data.

7048. Have you read Mr. Tremeneere's report?—Yes.

7049. Have you turned your attention to that part of the report in which he has stated that the enhancement of the price would be so trifling as to be imperceptible?—It has been so stated.

7050. Have you made calculations as to the amount of loss it would inflict?—To the manufacturer it would be extremely great, and also to the bleacher. If he is limited in the time of his labour, the cost of getting up a certain amount of goods would be greater.

7051. Have you seen the evidence which has been given by some of the Manchester merchants?—No; I have not looked specially over the English evidence. I was anxious to look at the Irish part of Mr. Tremeneere's examination.

7052. Are you yourself practically acquainted with the mode in which orders are given?—I have heard frequently that orders have to be sent by the return mail packet (a large amount of goods go by the steamer, hardly any by sailing vessels) and they must be executed in a certain time.

7053. Do not you think that these orders are given because the persons who give them know that they can be executed?—Yes.

7054. Supposing that from any cause there was an impossibility in executing them in the time, do not you think that the effect of that would be that longer time would be given for the order?—No, I do not; I think that the order would go abroad; at the present time we find it hard to compete with the foreign markets; but if the foreign buyers found that we could not execute their orders to the time they would transfer them at once to Bielefeld or Courtray.

7055. Did I rightly understand you to say that the occasional overworking of children would not injure them?—I should think not.

7056. But that you would object to constant overworking?—I should not like to see children worked the whole night, or half the night for the year through.

7057. Would you like to see a child worked the whole night for a fortnight successively?—I should not.

7058. Supposing it were true that children were worked four months successively from five in the morning till nine at night, what should you say to that?—I should say that the manufacturer was reprehensible; but I do not think that on account of an instance of hardship the whole body should be judged. If you made that rule you might interfere with every branch of employment, because you find in all hard task-masters.

7059. Would you repeal the factory laws?—I can scarcely offer an opinion upon that point. I have a good deal in my own mind *pro* and *con* the Factory Act, but there is one matter connected with the factory system which does not

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apply to the bleach greens, and that is the heat and the dust in the spinning-rooms, which I conceive to be extremely injurious to the health of the persons employed a great number of hours in them.

7060. Are the Committee to understand you to say that quite independently of the general question of interference, you do not consider that there is a necessity for interference in the Irish bleach works?—I do not consider that there is, and I judge particularly from the health of the persons employed in them, which I have noticed particularly.

7061. *Mr. Kirk.*] I think you have read the proposed Bills?—I have.

7062. Did you happen to read the definition of the word child; which is as follows: "the word child should be taken to mean a child under the age of 11 years"?—Yes.

7063. I presume that the Honourable Member who drew this Bill was speaking of children under 11 years of age, when he used the word child; in the questions which he put to you. Do you believe that there is any child under 11 years of age employed in the bleach works in Ireland?—I never saw any. I took the word "child" to mean those under 15. I do not remember ever seeing a child so young employed, and I cannot believe that any can be employed so young as that.

7064. In that case all your answers with regard to a child go for nothing?—I had taken it in my mind to mean a person under 15 years of age.

7065. *Mr. Butt.*] Will you let me read you this part of the clause, "the words 'young person' shall be taken to mean a person between the age of 11 and 18 years." Is not that so?—Yes.

7066. No children under 11 years of age are allowed to be employed at all. Would you consider that objectionable?—In that point of view it would be quite unnecessary, for I believe that if there are any, there are very few employed, but it might be found desirable, at some future time, to employ children at that age in a particular sort of business.

7067. Would you consider that that provision would do any harm to the Irish trade?—I do not consider that that provision would do any harm to the Irish trade.

7068. As far as the provision relating to children is concerned, you do not think it would interfere with the Irish trade?—No.

7069. Suppose that there were a provision relative to young persons, that no young person—that is, no person between the ages of 11 and 18, is to work between six and six, do you think that that would be injurious to the trade?—I do.

7070. Are there young persons employed in the Irish bleach works between the ages of 11 and 18?—Yes.

7071. *Mr. Kirk.*] Would it be practicable for the young persons in the Irish bleach works at any time between the 1st of November and the 1st of February, to begin work at six in the morning?—It would be quite impossible; in the spinning factories they could easily do it, but they could not in the bleach greens.

7072. Could they work till six in the evening?—No, they would not have light enough.

7073. Therefore they could not, even supposing this Bill is passed, absolutely obey it, for they could not begin at six, and they could not work till six?—It would be practically impossible.

7074. *Mr. Butt.*] Therefore, for six months in the year, any restriction would be inoperative?—It would be inoperative.

7075. Is it not therefore clear that it would do no harm?—It would do this harm; that the bleachers would be obliged to let these girls begin their work when they had sufficient light in the morning, and to leave off work when the light ceased, and to pay them a day's wages for it.

7076. *Mr. Kirk.*] If these persons cannot begin till eight o'clock in the morning, either at out-of-doors work, or at in-doors work, is there any practical evil in their remaining at their work till seven or eight o'clock in the evening?—Certainly not.

7077. Would not this Bill, which obliges them to begin at six o'clock, and prevents them from working after six, have a very injurious effect?—Yes.

7078. Supposing, for instance, that the bleacher or the manufacturer at Belfast receives an order by post, about half-past eight or nine in the morning of Saturday, would it not be a very grievous evil to him if he was obliged to shut up his works at two o'clock in the afternoon?—Certainly; because if he was calculating

calculating upon sending these goods off upon Saturday night, to be in time for the Sunday mail steamer, it would be impossible for him to do it if he had so few hours to work.

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7079. Is it not well known that the shipments upon Saturday at Belfast are the largest in the week?—They are.

7080. Does that apply to shipments for Liverpool, to be transferred to vessels at Liverpool for the different parts of the globe?—I have not a doubt of it; I can state that more especially, because my official duty is to examine the exports of linens which are made out from the different steam-packet offices, and I know that the end of the week is always the great time for shipping.

7081. Is not there in progress a continual inclination, both on the part of the employers and the employed, to have shorter hours of labour?—Yes decidedly; there has been a great tendency towards that of late years.

7082. And that without any legislative provision whatever?—Certainly.

7083. Is not there another effect likely to arise from legislative interference, namely, distrust between the employers and the employed?—That I conceive to be one of the gravest points connected with legislative interference; it quite destroys all the good feeling that exists between the employer and the employed. If you give the employed an idea that they have another authority to refer to besides the master, to whom they could appeal if they thought their master was going on badly; if an evil disposition affects them, they will exercise that right, so as to inflict considerable annoyance upon their employers. I believe that the best possible feeling exists between the employers and the employed in the Irish bleach greens at this moment, certainly more so than between the employers and employed in the spinning mills.

7084. Have you read a particular clause in the proposed Bill with regard to that point, which is as follows: "All persons wilfully obstructing the inspectors or sub-inspectors in exercising any of the said powers, shall be deemed guilty of an offence against this Act, and shall be subject in each case" to certain penalties?—Yes, I have.

7085. And the owner of any bleaching work in which an inspector or sub-inspector shall be obstructed by any attempt to prevent him from making a full and complete examination of all parts of the bleaching works, and of every person employed therein, shall be liable to the penalty provided by the said Act, in the case of like obstruction in print works?—I have read that.

7086. Do not you conceive that that would be an objectionable clause in any Act of Parliament?—It would be exceedingly unpleasant for any manufacturer to have his works subject to the visits of inspectors.

7087. Does not this clause give an extraordinary power to the inspectors completely at variance with the liberty of the subject?—I should not like it at all myself.

7088. *Mr. Butt.*] Are you aware that that clause is taken from the Print Works Act?—I have not seen it in operation, but I know that the manufacturers have the greatest objection to it, and I think it would not be the intention of the Committee to take away their rights by Act of Parliament.

7089. Are not you aware that the factories and the print works are subject to it?—The factories object to it as unpleasant and unreasonable, as far as it applies to them.

7090. Then in fact the objections which you have made to this Bill will apply equally to the Factory Act, with regard to that point?—Certainly, I think that a most disagreeable and inquisitorial office is committed to the factory inspectors.

7091. *Mr. Kirk.*] Would not the working of the clause which I have read to you, enable any inspectors or sub-inspectors to go into the office of a master bleacher, and examine his books?—I conceive that if he chose he might do so under the powers of the Bills which are to be applied to these works; he might state that he wanted the books to ascertain the hours of work.

7092. Might not the inspectors inquire about the wages and look to the ledger to see what was paid?—Yes.

7093. *Mr. Crook.*] Are you a mill owner?—I am not.

7094. Have you ever been in a mill?—I have frequently.

7095. In a cotton mill?—I have been in a cotton mill in Ireland.

7096. Have you seen an inspector in a mill?—No, I have not.

7097. Did you ever hear of any examination by an inspector of a ledger, or of any books not having reference to the employment of children?—I have not heard

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of such a thing, but I have read factory cases frequently in the Belfast papers in which the inspectors have brought charges against the proprietors of mills; but I have not seen anything with regard to books.

7098. Have you seen any instances in which they seem to have brought charges that were not justified by the facts?—I do not recollect any.

7099. Did you see much dust in the cotton mill that you were in?—Yes, a great deal.

7100. Was that in the spinning rooms?—In the spinning rooms; but not so much as in the flax rooms, in the preparing department.

7101. Would there be a great deal of flue?—Yes, a great deal of flue.

7102. Did you see it in the air at all?—Yes, I have seen it in the air, and I have seen it stick on to the windows, and so forth.

7103. Could you tell the Committee what clause in these proposed Bills compels parties to begin work at six o'clock?—My impression is, that the clause does not compel a person to begin work at six o'clock; but that they are not to begin work sooner than six or to go on later than six.

7104. Are you in the habit of receiving orders from the country or from abroad for linen goods?—No; I am not in the trade myself, but I am pretty conversant with it from my connexion with it.

7105. The bleachers do not bleach for you as a merchant?—No.

7106. Have you, therefore, any practical knowledge of any ground of complaint by the merchants of this Bill?—I have heard it so much discussed of late, that I have reason to believe that there would be a strong ground of complaint against it. I conceive that the knowledge that I have gained from conversation is quite sufficient to enable me to form an opinion.

7107. Have you read the evidence in Mr. Tremenheere's report?—I have.

7108. Have you read the evidence of the master bleachers in Ireland?—I have read it.

7109. Would you consider Mr. Bragg, of the firm of Bragg, Dobson and Co., qualified to give an opinion upon that subject?—I believe he is principally a cotton bleacher, at least to a great extent, and, therefore, I do not think that his opinion is to be taken upon linen bleaching.

7110. Are you aware that his evidence upon that point is this: "We bleach and finish linen and muslin, worked and plain"?—I believe that to be quite correct, but I fancy that the quantity of linen bleached in that concern was very small at that period.

7111. Did you notice his evidence with reference to the effect of the limitation of the hours of labour of women and children?—I remember the effect of it, but I do not remember the different answers that he gave.

7112. Would you think his opinion worthy of attention?—I believe that Mr. Bragg is perfectly entitled to credence; but at the same time, I know the chief part of his concern to be occupied with bleaching muslins, the cotton fabric which is chiefly used about Belfast.

7113. He says, "It occasionally also happens about once in two or three months that all the females are required to work till about nine o'clock; we do not wish it, but we do so to oblige our customers; from six to seven is as long as we like to have them employed; as we give them two hours for meals and rest; if an Act were to pass, limiting the hours to between six a. m., and six p. m., with an hour and a half for meals, it would not make any material difference to us." Do you think that he is a man whose opinion is entitled to respect?—I do; but I should greatly prefer the opinion of one more occupied in linen bleaching.

7114. Could you give the Committee any idea of the cost of bleaching a piece of linen?—I have the figures somewhere, but I do not know that I have them here.

7115. Are you prepared to give the Committee the relative cost of the process of bleaching as it is carried on in the bleach works in Ireland, and as it is carried on in Belgium?—I could do it, but not upon the spot at the present moment.

7116. Are you aware that there is an import duty upon linen going into Belgium?—Yes, but I spoke of the danger accruing from Belgian competition to us in neutral markets in South America, and in Italy.

7117. Are you prepared to give the Committee the grounds of your apprehension with regard to the competition of Belgium in neutral markets?—It is because, as I have already stated, weaving and bleaching are carried on rather more cheaply
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in France, Belgium, and Germany than they are in Ireland; and I have already given my opinion that the tendency of this Bill would be to the detriment of the Irish bleachers in the case of an order requiring shipment, in consequence of their not being able in the first place to execute these orders in a given time; and secondly of the tendency I conceive there would be to increase the cost of turning out the linen; I think that this would be quite sufficient to turn the scale in favour of the Belgians and Germans, and to enable them to drive us completely out of the market; I think that, added to other things, the effect of that would be material.

*J. MacAdam, Esq.,
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7118. Can you tell the Committee what amount of labour could be done relatively in Belgium and in Prussia?—No, I cannot tell you the relative amount of it. I can tell you that wages are cheaper, and I know the prices charged for bleaching. I have the data, but I have not them upon the spot.

7119. Are you prepared to give the Committee any data by which they can judge of the danger of foreign competition?—I am not prepared to give them any except what I have already given, as regards the danger of restricting the hours of labour.

Mr. John Pender, was called in; and Examined.

7120. *Mr. Turner.*] ARE you a Commission Agent and Merchant in the city of Manchester?—Yes.

Mr. J. Pender.

7121. Will you explain to the Committee the nature of your business and the mode in which it is carried on?—Our business is principally buying for export merchants in London, Liverpool, and Glasgow, and also buying calicoes in Manchester for supplying the calico printers and the dyers of Glasgow. We receive orders from London, Liverpool, and Glasgow, as I have before remarked; to buy goods for India and China and other markets.

7122. I believe that your business of that description is very extended?—Yes, I believe about as large as any in Manchester.

7123. So that you have had personally as great experience in the foreign export business in Manchester as any other party in England?—Yes; and my China business particularly is a very important portion of our business.

7124. Therefore you employ a considerable number of people?—Yes; we employ a good many for preparing and packing goods for shipment.

7125. Have you any other description of labour besides packing in operation in your establishment?—We have, making up; also the calendering and finishing of prints, and making up such goods for packing.

7126. Do those operations employ an additional number of hands?—Those operations employ an additional number. We have altogether in the establishment, including the boys, makers up, packers, warehousemen, and clerks, about 120 people.

7127. Can you give the Committee any information as to the age of the people whom you employ?—From 13 to 50 years of age. About 50 are from 13 to 18 years.

7128. What are the number of hours of work to which they are subject?—I find that the average hours are about 10 hours a day.

7129. Is not the employment at times irregular?—It is a little sometimes. We have a push of business, and they are employed longer, at other times less; but as an inducement to our packers, and the boys as well, to get through their work, we pay them day's wages. The packers we pay a certain amount of day's wages. We estimate what work should be done answering to a day's wage, and we give them over and above a certain consideration for every bale they pack, and we find that that induces the men to finish the day's work in a shorter time. My object has always been, in Manchester, as far as possible, to reduce the hours, and to give the men some inducement to shorten the hours for themselves.

7130. What kind of rooms do those boys and young persons work in?—Large airy rooms.

7131. How is the state of education among them; are they inferior upon the whole to the other classes of workpeople?—All the clerks and the warehousemen, of course, are men of moderate education. The packers, of course, are fitted

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for their own particular department; the boys are not so well educated. There are very few of the boys write; mostly all can read.

7132. It has been suggested to the Committee that the description of labour which you have now alluded to should be placed under legislative restriction, as in the case of bleach works; what is your opinion as to that?—My impression is that if you legislate for such establishments as ours, you will fetter trade to a very great extent; you tie our hands behind our backs; because it is often a question with the merchant whether he will export goods or send bullion abroad; and if there is a great deal of delay in getting up his orders, or if the value of the production is enhanced by restriction, which must necessarily be, I think it will tell very much against the Manchester trade.

7133. Then it is your opinion that the merchants and the manufacturers should in all respects be left as free as possible?—Certainly; I think that by every restriction you put upon the trade of this country, you give a premium to foreign competitors.

7134. Is not it the fact that practically you have no control over the orders of the merchant; that they come pressing upon you at times when you are compelled to complete them in the shortest possible time?—We have no control; we are instructed to prepare certain goods for a certain ship; if the assortment can be made in the time, of course the order is completed. If we cannot get the dyed and bleached portion ready in time, they are left.

7135. Are you aware whether the position in which you are placed with regard to the merchant is the position that the bleacher is in as regards yourselves?—I look upon the bleachers as being much in the same position as ourselves; we are the servants of the merchant, and the bleachers I look upon as our servants. Therefore if we lose the order they must lose it.

7136. Do you think it possible to regulate the supply of the foreign markets by any fixed rule?—I do not think it is at all possible; nor do I think it is wise, because if we do not supply the orders, the supply will go from other countries. And, speaking more immediately in connexion with bleaching, my own impression, and indeed my own experience is, that for China and India the demand for bleached goods is rather falling off than increasing, in proportion to the quantity of greys. I impute that, in some measure, to the much lower wages current in those countries; they can bleach their goods cheaper than we can do it in this country, and therefore any impediment or any restriction put upon bleaching is only putting us to a greater disadvantage with our foreign competitors.

7137. Will not that refer more especially to continental countries than to more distant markets?—I think it refers quite as much to the more distant markets; they have water and sunshine which they can use for bleaching; and, as I said, they have 2 *d.* a day or only 1½ *d.* a day wages; so that it requires all our ingenuity to compete with them.

7138. Practically, do you find that the orders you receive are decreasing?—I think so, for bleached goods; I consider there is a dulness in this business.

7139-40. Are you of opinion that if any measure were adopted in this country by the Legislature, which might add to the difficulties of the bleacher as well as to the cost of bleaching, it would, to any extent, be injurious to the interests of the people?—Clearly so. I think, in the first place, that it would tell very much against the employers; and, in the second place, I think it must tell against the employed; because I am perfectly satisfied that if you enhance the cost of bleaching, you will lessen the demand for bleaching; and then, if you increase the bleach works to the extent to meet any temporary demands, you take up a greater amount of capital, and consequently you must enhance the cost of bleaching; and as I said before, giving a premium to the foreign competitors.

7141. It has been stated to the Committee that the necessity for this pressure upon the bleacher is, in some degree, mitigated now by the increased facilities afforded by more vessels sailing to those distant markets than there used to be. What is your opinion upon that?—I think it does not tell exactly in our India and China business, because it is done upon a large scale. When you go into the operation, it is not exactly with a view to the profits to be realised in the foreign market upon any particular shipment, but upon taking it as a whole. As regards the supply, therefore, it would not do to divide the shipment, which has a value, merely when taken in the lump. They put 5, 10, 15, or 20, or even as much as 70,000*l.* to one shipment, with a view to a particular operation; and they would not think of
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putting smaller lots into each ship, which they must do if you put such restrictions upon bleaching as will not enable a quantity to be brought forward in a certain time.

7142. Are not some of the foreign markets season markets?—Yes, Bombay particularly.

7143. Are not you compelled, as regards those markets more especially, to forward the goods at the earliest opportunity?—China is, to an extent, the same, because the object is to get out the goods for them to get the new tea and silks.

7144. Of course, in your desire to forward the goods by the earliest vessel, a pressure is frequently put upon the bleacher?—Frequently.

7145. When Mr. Tremenheere was in the country, I think you saw him?—Yes.

7146. And he has made a short note of a conversation which took place between you?—I have read that report, but he must have misunderstood me. He has not stated it according to the impression upon my mind of what I stated to him; and also, I observe that he has mentioned that I confirmed his printed statement; I never saw it in writing; if he called upon me I never saw him; I believe he saw Mr. Cowan, but Mr. Cowan never mentioned to me that he had called. However, Mr. Cowan, my partner, attended more to the counting-house department, and it is quite possible that it may have been read to him, and he might have made no remark; but if that statement had been read to me, I should have corrected the impression, and if I had made a wrong impression, I should have asked him to alter the statement.

7147. The impression conveyed by the evidence of Mr. Tremenheere is, that "foreign competition is not a very important matter; in this case the legislation would not add much to the difficulties, either of the bleacher or the merchants, with regard to any additional cost put upon them." Is that your impression?—I could have no such impression, because I have always given my opinion strongly that we have had a great deal too much legislation, and we find that this legislation is often taken up with a view of applying it to manufacturers by people who do not thoroughly understand it. It appears to me that it is fettering a trade that they ought rather to encourage; in any statement that I may have made to the contrary, I must have expressed myself badly.

7148. So that whatever may be the tendency of Mr. Tremenheere's evidence as reported with regard to yourself, you did not mean to convey the impression that you were favourable to legislation?—Certainly not. I recollect he put the question to me, "Do you approve of children and females working so long as 16 hours a day?" I said, "Certainly not; and I do not think that any master bleacher approves of it either." He said then, "Would you legislate to prevent it?" and I said, "No, I would not, because I think it is quite an exceptional case, and that you might create a greater evil to destroy a lesser evil." I think, so far as I remember, that was the purport of what I said. I do not approve at all of inspectors going about the works or warehouses, and that the tendency was to set the employed against the employers, and to create the belief that they had different interests.

7149. Mr. Tremenheere says that you considered that when the trade got accommodated to the new system (of course he refers to legislation), these difficulties would diminish, and that the greater regularity in the arrangements of the bleachers would enable them to conduct their business with very little additional cost; is that the impression which you wish to convey to him?—No, certainly not. I stated very positively to him that I considered that the bleacher would then require an additional price, or you would be giving, as I have before stated, a premium to the foreign competitor.

7150. Are you of the same opinion as the former witness, who stated that he would rather see a limitation of the hours of work brought about by a general arrangement, such as took place in Manchester in the years 1845 and 1846?—My impression certainly is that it would be more satisfactory. I think the tendency with all employers now is to reduce the hours of labour as much as they possibly can. I know that in my own house in Manchester it has been my great study; and I have endeavoured in every possible way to make my arrangements such as would enable the work to be done within ordinary hours. I do not approve of long hours, if they can be avoided; but I think to legislate to restrict them is a power which ought not to be given.

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7151. Has not the Saturday half-holiday, which has been established for the last three years in Manchester, been entirely a voluntary arrangement?—Yes.

7152. Has it not been very willingly concurred in by both parties?—Yes.

7153. Should you have any difficulty in applying the same principle to the hours in bleach works?—I think not. I do not see any great difficulty. I believe it is the ambition of every bleacher to get orders out of hand as quickly as possible. I do not think that he has any object in working his people an hour longer than is absolutely necessary, and the tendency has been among the bleachers during the last ten years to accommodate themselves to any extended trade that might come. By doing so they have materially lessened the hours of the work-people.

7154. Is it your opinion that it is not desirable for the Legislature to interfere in this kind of labour?—I think not at the present time, when competition is becoming so strong abroad. We should have no restrictive legislation, as it is only tying the manufacturer's hands behind his back, and prevents him giving full effect to the free trade measures so happily established in this country.

7155. *Chairman.*] Did I rightly understand you to say that, in your opinion, the hours of labour in bleach works might be successfully reduced by an arrangement between the employers and the employed?—No.

7156. Will you explain what you mean by an answer which you gave to the Honourable Member for South Lancashire, as to such an arrangement being made to prevent the Legislature interfering?—The explanation that I would give is, that the bleach works are getting into this position. For any particular finish they generally make arrangements, by extending the machinery, so as to get a greater return of work for the same amount of labour. It is to some extent an arrangement which would be obtained by superior mechanical facilities.

5157. What is the meaning you attach to the answers you gave to the questions to the Honourable Member for South Lancashire as to the possibility of settling the questions in dispute in the bleaching trade as to the half-holiday that you state was settled in Manchester by arrangements that were voluntary on the part of the employed and the employers: do you mean that an arrangement should be entered into for a limitation of the hours of labour in bleach works?—I believe that it is possible that the bleachers might make certain arrangements, but those arrangements would be liable to be put aside when extreme pushes came upon them; for instance, orders very often come in, causing largely increased demand, and that demand may be only temporary, extending over a fortnight or a month, and the next month they may be comparatively very quiet and still. They might have a system arranged pretty much upon the same principle that we have the half-holiday upon Saturday. There would be a certain rule, but the rule would be open to being put aside at times when a pressure came upon them, as it is in warehouses now.

7158. I understand that you are a commission merchant, and therefore may be called of late almost an employer of the master bleachers?—Quite so.

7159. Do the pushes that they are subject to come, in point of fact, from you?—From us, or rather from the merchants through us.

7160. Can you tell the Committee what facilities you would be disposed to give to the master bleachers for carrying out these amicable arrangements between themselves and their employers?—If we had an order for 20,000 pieces, and the vessel is chartered to sail on a certain day, we say to the bleacher, "Can you make arrangements for the quantity of goods to be bleached by a certain time; if you cannot do them by a certain time, I am obliged to substitute the grey goods for them." The order is put aside altogether, and the answer, he is engaged at the moment and he cannot execute the order. And if they cannot execute the order the order is lost, and the benefit accruing from that order is lost to the district; not only lost to the employer, but lost to the employed as well.

7161. Then are the Committee to understand that you do not see your way towards giving any facilities to the master bleachers for entering into an arrangement with the people they employ?—It is rather a difficult matter for me to lay down any rules whereby the bleacher ought to manage his works; my own impression is that a bleacher, or any man having a large amount of machinery which is worked at a considerable expense, will not keep that machinery working a minute longer than he believes is necessary. He will not make it necessary to
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keep people about the works beyond the fixed hours; I am not quite aware of all the detail of the management of bleach works, I merely speak of the condition that I am in as an employer of the bleacher. I merely come to the point that if they cannot execute the orders that I give them within the time, that is so much loss to the trade; that is what I want the Committee to understand.

7162. Is the Committee to understand that you are of opinion that an arrangement should be entered into between the master bleachers and their work-people, but that that arrangement must always be liable to be set aside when the commission merchant gives an order to be executed?—Yes; I do not see any difficulty in it.

7163. Would not the arrangement which you would propose in lieu of legislative interference always be at the mercy of the employer of the master bleachers?—Yes; I make the reservation that I do not think that it is for the interest of the master bleacher to work the machinery for longer hours than is necessary.

7164. But you as a commission merchant would not be able to judge of the necessity?—It is my object to execute every order that I receive if I can execute it in the time; if I cannot execute it then I say that the order is lost. That is just playing into the hands of our competitors.

7165. Did I rightly understand you to say that Mr. Tremenheere did not bring his version of the communication that had taken place between you for your sanction?—No; I never saw Mr. Tremenheere in my place but once; he brought an introduction to me from a bleacher; I went over the establishment with him, and I answered the different questions that he put to me, and gave him some little information, that upon the whole there appeared to me great objection to legislative interference.

7166. Did you say that Mr. Cowan was your partner?—Yes, at that time.

7167. Did I rightly understand you to say that you asked Mr. Tremenheere to call at your office again?—No, I was not aware that he had called until I read a statement in his evidence that he had called; I was not aware of it until to-day.

7168. Have you had no communication with Mr. Cowan upon the subject?—Mr. Cowan never mentioned it to me.

7169. Did not it strike you that his report ought to have been communicated to you, and did you never communicate with your partner upon the subject?—When that document was sent to me, giving an account of the evidence I had given, I stated then that it was not the evidence which I had given; I stated that to some party who called upon me, Mr. Blair, I think.

7170. With respect to Mr. Cowan, must the Committee still remain in ignorance as to what he stated to Mr. Tremenheere?—Mr. Cowan's department in the business is to attend almost entirely to money matters. If Mr. Tremenheere called upon Mr. Cowan, and stated that I had made this statement to him, Mr. Cowan would take it for granted that I had made the statement to Mr. Tremenheere (the party calling) and would confirm it, presuming that what Mr. Tremenheere had said was correct. But I was not made aware by Mr. Cowan that he had called.

7171. Is the Committee to understand that you believe the bleaching business is now carried on in India and China?—I believe that we send a great quantity of our calicoes to those countries in the gray state; and they wash them themselves; they have water and sun to bleach them. They do buy bleached goods to a certain extent, but if you enhance the value of bleaching you add to the cost of an article of which the consumer is only earning a penny halfpenny or two pence a day; it tells at once against the consumption of the article, and hence it tells upon the bleachers in Lancashire. My experience is that in India and China (I am only speaking of my own trade, which I have watched very closely) there is a very considerable decrease in the demand for bleached goods compared with what the demand was something like ten years ago in proportion to gray goods.

7172. Mr. Butt.] Unbleached goods are sent instead of bleached goods?—Yes.

7173. Chairman.] Are they bleached when they get out there?—They bleach them in the course of wearing, but we find that the natives do buy the white calicoes as well, they trim it up with different colours themselves.

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7174. Is the Committee to understand that there are bleach greens established in China and India?—I am not aware of any; I want to show that if you enhance the value of bleached cloth in this country, you diminish the consumption abroad, where labour is cheap; the people bleach themselves.

7175. Is the Committee to understand people of India and China have no objection to buy and use the goods in an unbleached state?—Yes, and they are not disposed to pay any increased expense.

7176. Mr. Butt.] And that any addition to the price of bleaching would have the effect of limiting it?—It would have the effect of limiting it.

7177. In fact, that is the case as between unbleached goods and bleached?—Yes.

7178. You stated that you have lost an order if you could not get the bleacher to execute it in time?—Yes.

7179. Has that frequently occurred?—Frequently. I can give you one instance in dyed goods: after we had had the goods from three or four months in the dyer's hands, there was just a particular push for those calicoes; and if the dyer had been more restricted in his power of producing it, it would have been even more the case. If we buy calicoes in the gray from the manufactory, and send them to the bleachers to bleach or dye, and if we lose the order, of course the manufacturer to some extent is a sufferer as well as the bleacher.

7180. In point of fact, are orders frequently lost, because you cannot get them bleached in time?—Frequently.

7181. Mr. Turner.] Is it not necessary for carrying on large transactions in such a place as Manchester that every facility should be given that possibly can be for getting a large amount of goods finished to ship them expeditiously for certain vessels?—Clearly so. I think it is very important that every facility should be given. The tendency of the trade is very much for the merchants to put a large quantity in one ship. The trade, after all, being to a great extent, particularly with China, a barter trade. If there is an order to have 20,000 *l.* or 50,000 *l.* worth of silk or tea, they may want to put 25,000 *l.* worth of goods and 25,000 *l.* worth of bullion; but they could not send the 25,000 *l.* worth of goods during a period extending over six months. They want them all at once.

7182. Mr. Barbour has mentioned to us that it would not be very inconvenient if the orders fail to be ready for certain vessels, inasmuch as in the course of a fortnight or two other vessels would be going to certain ports of the Continent, and the orders could be so sent to them; and it has been found in most instances in such transactions that the giver of the orders who originated the transaction is the part owner or the charterer of the vessel, and must have all the goods ready to be shipped in his own vessel?—It is frequently the case; and therefore, if a quantity of goods, say 50,000 *l.* of property, have to be shipped to China or the East Indies, and the charterparty of the goods should not be completed in the proper proportion as they would wish it, would they have to take a part of the goods in case you were not to complete the whole?—That is generally the case.

7183. Therefore they have bleaching gardens in India and China; or, as you say, that they bleached the goods in the course of wearing, does not it equally affect the interest of the bleacher here if the bleaching of part of the cargo is remitted?—Clearly so.

7184. It is of no consequence whether the operation of bleaching is carried on as a trade, or merely in the manner which you have described?—It makes no difference, the money is lost to the bleacher.

7185. Therefore, if additional incumbrances were placed upon the bleacher going on at that rate in this country, and he was able still less than he is now to get his work done in time, must not he and his workpeople necessarily suffer to a larger extent than they do now?—Clearly so; my own impression, from what I know of the fluctuations of bleaching and dyeing is, that if the bleachers and dyers of Lancashire were to double their establishments to-day, so as to meet these pushes, I do not think that they would do a greater amount of business than they are doing at the present moment; and the consequence of that would be, that the operatives would have half wages instead of the full wages that they have now; I think that it would tell against the operatives quite as much as the employer.

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7186. Many of the complaints which have been made as regards the overworking in bleach works, have applied not so much to the bleaching operations as to the finishing operations, and the bleachers would be subjected to these restrictions in their finishing operations because they are bleachers; are there not a number of establishments in Manchester where, without being bleachers, the owners of those establishments are finishers?—Yes.

7187. Therefore the evils would apply to those establishments as much as they would to bleaching establishments?—Quite as much. In my own establishment I have never heard of complaints from the people being overworked in any way; all the calico presses are worked by steam machinery. The work now, as compared with 10 years ago, in the Manchester shipping warehouses, is comparatively easy; the workpeople have their wages steadily, and if they are sick there is nothing kept off them, and if there is any holiday they do not pay; on the other hand, they always work cheerfully if there is any pressure of work. But there is this consideration over and above their ordinary day's wages, they get a certain consideration for the piece-work which renders them perfectly content.

7188. In order to do justice to the bleacher, if he is subject to this legislation in his finishing department, would not it be necessary to extend the Legislative interference to such establishments as yours where you make up, calender, and finish just as the bleachers do?—Of course I completely object to the thing altogether; I think, to extend to such businesses as ours, would be a most improper interference; I think that interference would be completely telling me how I ought to use my capital, and how I am to use my intelligence in working my business. It would be a system, I believe, that would drive many men out of the business altogether. For my own part, if I were to be subject to persons coming in and superintending all my operations,—probably they have no real knowledge of it,—I think I should shut up warehouse altogether.

7189. Would not it be necessary to put you under the same regulations in order to do justice to the bleachers?—I think, as we are both packers and makers-up, if you subject the bleachers to it, in fairness you must subject us also; at the same time I entirely disapprove of it.

7190. Then I go on and ask you whether it would not be almost ruinous to the successful carrying on of business in Manchester, if the large warehouses were put under the jurisdiction of inspectors?—I think it would be the beginning of the end of the Manchester trade.

7191. Then is it not, such being the case, very unjust to put the calendering and making-up establishments of the bleachers under a restriction, when they have to compete with you?—I think so, for two reasons; in the first place, I think, it would be unjust to single them out; and again it is interfering with the merchant's operations, the tendency of which is to drive him to adopt other modes of laying down his funds abroad, so that the trade of the country suffers.

7192. Are you aware that the export of silver to the East has been a great financial difficulty with this country for some time?—Clearly.

7193. Do not manufactured goods, to a very large extent, compete with silver, as a remittance to the East, China, and the East Indies, as well as being articles of export from this country?—It is a calculation with the merchant which would be the most profitable, calico or silver, for laying down his funds in India or China. At the present moment silver is safer, accounting to a certain extent for the large export of silver. As we are now contending against high-priced cotton, any restriction put upon manufacturers still further enhances the value of the manufactured article, and throws the balance still further in favour of silver.

7194. Will not increased prices of bleaching, and increased impediments put in the way of bleaching operations, be in a degree as efficacious in that direction as any interference with cotton?—It tells exactly in the same way. It does not matter whether it is cotton that is the cause, or whether it arises from other causes; if the value of the goods is enhanced, it comes to the same thing.

7195. Does the export of bullion from this country tend to create a dearth of money in this country?—Clearly.

7196. Therefore it is not the bullion here?—Clearly.

7197. If bullion is exported, and displaces the export of calicoes, does not the export of bullion also throw impediments in the way, by creating a dearth of money in the operations of trade?—Quite so.

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7198. And everything tending to impede the progress of British manufacture increases the evil?—There is no doubt about it.

7199. Mr. *Cheetham*.] Mr. Tremenheere has been examined before this Committee, and I find, in answer to a question that was put to him, he makes this reply; “I remember that with regard to Mr. Pender’s evidence, I went twice to that gentleman’s warehouse; the second time for the purpose of submitting to Mr. Pender the evidence that he had previously given me; he was absent, and I read it over to Mr. Cowan; and in the last paragraph of that evidence, I said, ‘Mr. Pender and Mr. Cowan, consider,’ and I gave it as the evidence of Mr. Pender and Mr. Cowan,” and so on; does not that reply of Mr. Tremenheere corroborate the statement you have given to the Committee this morning?—Quite so; I was not aware that Mr. Tremenheere had called to read the statement to me until I read in his evidence, that he had done so.

7200. Mr. *Crook*.] You were asked with reference to regulating orders. Have you heard of any proposal to attempt to regulate orders?—I have not heard of any proposal of that kind. I do not think that it is a thing that comes at all within the province either of the bleacher or of the commission agent, or of the merchant in this country. He is instructed by his house abroad what assortment of goods they want; that assortment may contain 20,000 or 30,000 pieces of bleached goods, or it may only contain 5,000, and he is bound to carry out the instructions of the foreign house; and, therefore, if a house in London receives an order, they are bound to carry it out strictly according to the instructions received from abroad, or to omit the order. We are simply agents in carrying it out.

7201. Are you aware of any proposal to attempt to regulate orders?—I am not aware of any; I think it would be rather a difficult thing to make a Chinaman or a Hindoo wear calicoes by Act of Parliament, and to tell him the class of calico he should wear.

7202. Did you lend your sanction to the half-holiday regulations in Manchester?—Yes, I did; I always hailed with great pleasure a holiday when it comes, just as much as any of my workpeople.

7203. Have you found any inconvenience as a bleacher from stopping at one o’clock on Saturday? Have you lost any orders in consequence, or have you had any complaints in consequence of that arrangement?—I am not aware of having lost any; certainly not; we have increased facilities during the week, and on Saturday I am not bound by Act of Parliament not to send any goods forward; I can violate the understanding if I choose, but it is an understanding that we have found to work so well that we are uncommonly anxious not to interfere with it. I have myself exceeded the hours on Saturday; I have had my warehouse open perhaps during the last 10 years two or three times, perhaps half-a-dozen times, but that has arisen very much in this way; we have a vessel in London with nine-tenths of her cargo on board, and we receive at the last moment two or three thousand pieces of goods which we require to pack and despatch perhaps on the Saturday afternoon, so as not to keep the vessel on demurrage, or detain her unduly; but it is a thing that does not occur frequently, we all endeavour to maintain the half-holiday as intact as possible.

7304. You say the tendency generally is to reduce the hours of labour?—That is my own impression.

7205. Are you favourable to a reduction of the hours of labour where they exceed 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ a day?—Of course I am in favour of it if we could so arrange it as to compete with other countries. If we could work six hours a day and still beat our foreign competitors, I have no objection to it at all; I do not think there is any object in working long hours unnecessarily. At the same time we must bear in mind that if we are to keep the trade of this country we must take into consideration the competition that we have to meet with, and we must regulate our hours accordingly.

7206. Have you any reason to apprehend an injurious effect from competition, judging by the Factory Act?—I do not think that the Factory Act applies at all to the case that is now under consideration. In the Factory Act the machinery is in constant motion from morning till night, and the producer, that is, the spinner or manufacturer, if he has no orders at one time, can stock his goods if he thinks proper. The bleacher is in a different position, he has to work when he gets orders to do; he cannot stock bleached goods for any particular market; we find

find the markets continually changing; we find that they want one finish to-day and a different finish to-morrow; therefore, of course, no bleacher will keep a large stock of bleached goods. Besides I do not think it is desirable, if such a trade were to exist, and the merchant were to hold a stock of bleached goods, still he must have a profit in some cases; it costs money to hold them, and that adds to their value, and therefore places those goods at a disadvantage in foreign competition.

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7207. Supposing that the hours of labour in bleach-works should be regulated by mutual arrangement, and should be limited, so that the employment of women and children should not exceed 10½ hours a day, do you think that would be injurious to trade?—I think so. If you make such restrictions as will enhance the value of the bleaching, as I before stated, I think that you are giving a premium to foreign competitors.

7208. May I understand you to decline to give an opinion as to the desirability of restricting the hours of labour, provided the arrangement is made voluntarily?—Were I a practical bleacher, I would answer more to your satisfaction. I do not think that I am entitled to draw any inference at all any further than this; that if you in any way restrict the labour, or take away a portion of cheap labour, you enhance the value of the article produced; and therefore it tells in competition with other countries. You enhance the value of the production, and you give a premium to foreign competitors.

7209. Are you aware that, under the factory system, the hours of labour have been regulated, and that the manufacture has been extended notwithstanding; are you aware that there is more work done in 10½ hours than there used to be in 12 hours?—I have been told so.

7210. Do not you think that in bleach-works the same results might possibly follow?—I am not sufficiently practical to answer that question. I should say, from the little I have observed, that it is a different system altogether. There is a great deal of manual labour connected with the machinery, the carrying from one machine to another, that I do not think it is possible to increase it. You may increase mechanical speed; but I do not think it is possible to increase the speed of the manual labour connected with it to the same degree.

7211. You have favoured the Committee with the opinion that we have had a great deal too much legislation; had that been in reference to the employment of women and children?—Yes, and to the interference with capital generally.

7212. Can you give the Committee any instance in which legislation has had that effect?—I am not quite prepared to go into the different cases; but I have had occasion before now to be questioned a good deal about legislation as applying to the commerce of the country and to the manufactures of the country, and the impression has always been upon my mind that the tendency of it is to fetter trade.

7213. Has that impression followed any particular event?—I am not quite prepared to go into the subject.

7214. Have you any recollection of any complaints from capitalists who are affected by legislation?—I have had complaints from shipowners frequently.

7215. Have there been any complaints made, or has there been any evidence given to Parliament, of the injurious effect of legislation as regards labour?—I am perfectly aware that there is a great deal existing, but I am not quite prepared to give any specific case at this moment.

7216. You stated to the Committee that goods were sometimes three or four months in the hands of the dyers?—Yes.

7217. Have you had any experience of that sort?—Yes.

7218. Were those orders lost?—They were lost to a very great extent; they were lost so far as the object that was in view at the moment; and we have had to hold the bleachers and the dyers, in several instances, responsible for it, so far as their interest was concerned. But I could give you one instance. At the time that the Chinese rebellion broke out first, we had orders in the hands of the dyers; in that we were about three months behind time; and I remember that those goods had to be held over in Manchester for two years at a very serious loss.

7219. Had that loss reference to the goods being kept in the hands of the dyer three or four months?—Of course it had reference to the goods not being

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delivered at a particular time; they were thrown upon my hands, and, although I was not bound to do so, I interposed, acting as an agent; I thought that it was a great hardship to the merchant, he having given me the order, and I having committed the order to the hands of parties, who, I believed, would send them back in time. The merchant would not receive the goods, and I took them, therefore, myself; not that I was bound to do so, still I did it because I thought that it would be unjust upon the merchant to force the goods upon him. As far as the merchant was concerned, the order was lost; the dyers certainly got their order, but I was a loser by it.

7220. You say that if the bleacher cannot finish the goods in the time that you fix, it is a loss to the trade; what guide have you in fixing the time for the bleacher to bleach a certain amount of goods?—I generally allow 10 days; as far as possible from seven to ten days.

7221. Can they bleach them in seven days?—Yes, I believe so.

7222. You say that, as a rule, you make an allowance to the extent of 10 days?—We generally consider from seven to ten days a fair time to allow them.

7223. Would it make as much as the difference between seven and ten days, if they were debarred from employing women and children beyond six o'clock at night?—It depends a great deal upon the circumstances under which we are placed at the time, although I should say from seven to ten days; it is quite possible that an immediate order might arrive from India, and that we should have just seven days, or perhaps less than that, and the instructions might be to add a certain amount to this order, 5,000 or 10,000 pieces of bleached goods, if those goods could be done in time to go along with the other order, and therefore this is what I would call a push; if we cannot have those goods finished in the time, of course the order is not executed.

7224. Can you give the Committee any data by which they may judge of foreign competition in bleaching?—I only speak from my own experience; I have before stated, that I find that our export of goods in our own particular business to India and China is less than it used to be.

7225. You have stated to the Committee, that they can bleach cheaper abroad than at home; will you give any reason why they can bleach cheaper?—I think if a man is earning 1½d. a day, he can do it at a smaller rate.

7226. Is that the best evidence that you can give the Committee of the nature of foreign competition?—I am speaking with regard now to the shipments made to India and China. The trade in which I am more particularly engaged, the demand for bleached goods is rather going backward than otherwise, and I impute it to the Hindoo and the Chinaman beginning to use the calico gray, and washing it as he uses it.

7227. Can you inform the Committee, that they can bleach cheaper abroad; was that both in the near or distant markets?—I state now what I stated before, I think in almost the same words; I stated that the Hindoo or Chinaman can bleach cheaper than we can in this country.

7228. Do you know the cost of bleaching in the English bleaching-works?—I have a pretty good idea; I know what I pay for it, and I know that, looking to the sum that I pay, there cannot be a great margin of profit.

7229. Do I rightly understand you to say, that you do not know the cost of bleaching in England?—No, I do not know the nett cost.

7230. Do you know the cost of bleaching abroad, either in near or distant markets?—I think I have stated to you the nature of bleaching abroad.

7231. Is the Committee to understand, that you are not acquainted with the cost of bleaching in either near or distant foreign markets?—I should say, if you want a direct answer to that, the only answer that I could give to it is, that the cost of bleaching abroad is nothing, and the cost of bleaching in England of course is something; I cannot go into the figures.

7232. You say that if a Bill is carried which prohibits women and young persons from being employed beyond six o'clock at night, that it would be telling you how to use your capital; do you consider that the moral obligation, not to work beyond six o'clock on Saturday, is telling you how to use your capital?—As I said before, we are not bound down; we do it from a desire to give more recreation to our working people, but we are not bound to do it; and I feel that, given in the way that we give it, we create a much better feeling on the part of the employed, than giving it by constraint; I consider it much more tending to create

create a good feeling between the employers and the employed than by doing it by Act of Parliament.

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7233. Do you consider the moral effect of it beneficial to those employed?—That is very much a matter of opinion; my own opinion is, that if it is properly used, it is a very great benefit; but I have been told, and told by men whose judgment I respect, that, at all events for a considerable time, the tendency was not that way, that the half-holiday was abused instead of tending to their moral advancement.

7234. Will you give your own opinion as to its effect?—My own impression is, that, in my own establishment, the tendency is to the improvement of the people.

7235. Do you think that your establishment differs in that respect from the majority of establishments in Manchester where young people are employed?—I think to some extent it does. Every man has his own particular hobby in working his business; my great object in working my business is to give the workpeople as great facilities as possible, and to attach them to me by liberal treatment; that is the course that I pursue, and I believe that it is the interest of employers generally to pursue the same course, and I believe it is generally pursued in Manchester.

7236. Do you think that in the majority of cases in Manchester the arrangement of a Saturday half-holiday has been beneficial to the people?—I am disposed to think it is; but, as I have stated before, there are other men who hold a different opinion, therefore I merely give my own opinion.

7237. In the evidence stated by Mr. Tremenheere to have been given by your house, it is said that the hours of labour in the bleach-works are, "at times, much too long;" do you still think that is correct?—Mr. Tremenheere must have misunderstood me; the question he put to me, as far as my memory serves me, was, whether I approved of females and children working 16 hours a day consecutively, and I said, "certainly not."

7238. Have you read the evidence given by young girls and boys to Mr. Tremenheere of the hours of labour?—I have glanced at it.

7239. You are aware that there are such statements as these: "I have been at this work three or four years, and I have been generally from seven to 10, sometimes 11, including two hours for meals." Do you think that working from seven till 10, and sometimes till 11, for three or for years together, are not unnecessarily long hours?—I think that for children to work for four years consecutively from six till ten is very long.

7240. Do you think it right for a girl to be worked from seven o'clock in the morning till 10 or 11 at night?—No, I do not think it is right.

7241. Then, if that is true, do you think it is too long?—Yes; but at the same time, my own impression is that those are exceptions to the rule, and that those exceptions might be removed without putting the works under Government supervision; I think they might be removed without an Act of Parliament, in a much more simple manner; I think there is no bleacher that would not at once declare that it was not either his interest or his wish to work, in general, such a number of hours.

7242. Do you think it desirable that those exceptions should be remedied?—Yes, I think it is desirable that they should be remedied; but I have before stated that I think they are so exceptional, that they can be remedied perfectly well without an Act of Parliament.

7243. Are not you aware that according to this report there are hundreds of people at times working those hours?—I am not aware that the rule is that those hours are worked; all the statements that I have seen have gone to prove that the average labour is very far short of that.

7244. Do you not think that if those cases are exceptional, that is a powerful reason why those exceptions should be done away with?—My view is, that, as I before stated, you may create a greater evil, and an evil that will tell more upon the operatives as a body than you seek to remove; that the cases that are exceptional you may remove without bringing in a greater amount of what we must call privation, because it would amount to that if you interfere with the working people, so as to reduce their wages and limit their employment; I think that you may save a girl or two, which I think could be done without

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an Act of Parliament, whereas the Act of Parliament would place the people in such a position that I think of necessity their wages would become reduced.

7245. Does it strike you that any injury would result to the merchants?—The injury would result to the merchants in the same way; we are all links in the chain; if the value of the commodity is enhanced, the merchant is the man who suffers in the first place; if he cannot get the article as cheap as other countries can provide it; and the manufacturer in the second, and the operatives in the third; so that we all form links in the same chain.

7246. Since your objection is to interference by law, what method would you recommend the Committee to adopt to remedy those exceptions?—I think you must leave it very much to the character of the employers. There is no doubt at all that it is the interest of the employers to have a contented class of work-people and to have a healthy class of workpeople, and I should have very little respect for a man who, from purely selfish motives, would work his people in such a way that they would become useless to themselves and him at the same time.

7247. If you had a daughter 20 years of age working, for four or five years together, from seven o'clock in the morning till 10 or 11 o'clock at night, should you be contented with that arrangement?—The variety of occupations in Lancashire is so great, that if I found it to be a rule I should remove her to some other employment.

7248. Then, as far as that goes, you would not be content with that institution?—No; I have stated before that I do not approve of that system.

7249. Mr. Kirk.] Do not you think that if there is this pressure in bleaching-works, and there is lighter labour and shorter hours in other works, the people employed in the bleaching-works can go from them to some other employment?—Yes, I think there is no doubt about it; a man's labour is his capital, and he can take it to the work where he finds the best remuneration and the easiest work.

7250. With reference to the Manchester half-holiday; is not it your opinion that the Manchester half-holiday works better, because it is a spontaneous act of the employers, than it would have done had it been enforced by Act of Parliament?—I am not quite clear about that. I have no hesitation in saying that the reason why it has worked well is the way in which it is granted by the employers.

7251. Is not it accepted as a boon instead of being demanded as a right?—No doubt about it, and I think very properly appreciated by the working people.

7252. You have been asked a good many questions as to the social and moral improvement of the young men who have been mainly concerned in this half-holiday. Is it the fact that there is quite as much if not more practical immorality and practical social evil among the young men employed as there was before the half-holiday?—I regret to say that I think there is nothing that has thriven so much in Manchester for the last few years as haunts for young men to go to, dancing places and singing places, and things of that kind, that have sprung up like mushrooms in Manchester.

7253. Have you ever been in the lower parts of the city of Manchester on a Sunday evening from six o'clock to nine?—No, I have not, though I have been in Manchester a good many years.

James Burton, Esq., called in; and Examined.

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7254. Chairman.] WILL you state to the Committee how many years you have been in business?—About 55 or 56 years.

7255. Have you recently retired?—Yes.

7256. The businesses with which you have been practically conversant are calico printing, cotton spinning and bleaching, and shipping goods as a merchant?—I first began the calico printing with the Messrs. Peel, Yates & Co.; after I left them, with Mr. Thompson, also a calico printer; and then I went into business myself.

7257. You have had therefore considerable experience in those several departments of business?—Yes.

7258. As a calico printer, you first became acquainted with the processes of bleaching and dyeing?—Yes.

7259. And I suppose your attention at that time was drawn to the working people

people employed in those operations?—At that time there was no Act of Parliament interfering with the print-works or bleaching. J. Burton, Esq.

7260. From your experience in that business, what do you consider the employment of workpeople in bleaching and dyeing; is it a healthy one?—From my own experience, I never saw a difficulty as to health or any general complaints, but they always looked healthy and well, very active in their business. 28 July 1857.

7261. What did you observe with reference to their education and condition, compared to other classes of labour?—At that time there was not much chance for education; we had Sunday schools founded, and night schools occasionally.

7262. Are you practically acquainted with the operation of the Factory Act, as regards spinning and weaving?—Yes.

7263. Do you think that an Act of Parliament, similar in its powers to that, could be applied as satisfactorily to bleach and dye works?—I think it would lead to considerable difficulty, as far as the orders for bleaching and finishing are concerned; of course, in a factory, the work is more certain and regular.

7264. Do you think that the irregularity in the bleaching works could be restrained by Act of Parliament with advantage to the workpeople on the one hand and the masters on the other?—No; I think it would act most decidedly against both the masters, and, in the long run, against the workpeople.

7265. In your experience as a shipper, how did you act in giving out your orders; have you expected the bleacher to complete them in the shortest possible time?—We always arrange with the bleachers; when we know the vessel which is to take the goods is fixed upon as to time, we then arrange with the bleacher that he must finish them in that time.

7266. Could the bleacher, therefore, divide the lots delivered to him generally, and send one for one ship and one for another?—No; we always make up assortments, and the bleacher has to carefully preserve that assortment, and to finish it according to the order, so as to be shipped at the time fixed on.

7267. In the desire of the bleacher to meet the orders of the merchant, he has to work these irregular hours in his establishment?—We do not interfere with his time of working in any way; if he engages to do them in a certain time we expect them to be done.

7268. I suppose you do not, as a merchant, in accepting orders, first consult the bleacher as to whether he could execute those orders by the time the vessel sails?—No; from our experience of what we have had done before, we calculate that he ought to do the same again in the same time.

7269. From your experience, are you of opinion that legislation cannot be applied advantageously to bleaching and dyeing works?—I think not.

7270. Do you think that they are less healthy in that operation than other branches of the cotton manufacture?—In bleach works, from having worked in bleaching, and from what I have seen of the workpeople in both kinds of work, they always appeared to me healthy, and lively, and clean, and comfortable, and quite contented.

7271. It has been suggested to the Committee that if any legislation is wanted it should extend to the establishments in Manchester in which bleaching, calendering, and packing are carried on; what is your opinion as to that?—We do not do anything in that way, excepting in packing. We have goods bleached and delivered by the bleachers, and we pack them. We do not do anything further with them; but I should be very sorry if any interference should be carried so far as to place any restrictions upon the time of packing.

7272. Do you think it fair towards the bleacher to subject him in his packing and finishing departments to a legislation which you would not subject the independent finisher and packer to?—No, I do not think so. I do not know that we ever carried it so far as to interfere in anything of that kind.

7273. The opinion, as I understand, that you wish to convey to the Committee is, that you deprecate legislative interference as regards bleaching and dyeing?—Decidedly so.

7274. Mr. Crook.] Have you had to do lately with the sending off the goods. Have you had the superintendence of the delivery of them?—Not lately. I have not had to do with business for 18 months; I have given it over to my sons entirely.

7275. How many years do you suppose it would be since you had the active superintendence of the delivery of the orders?—I should say two years.

7276. During the time that you had the management and despatch of orders,
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have you never found orders that it was impossible to send off all at once?—That might be the exception, but I should think there was not anything of the sort done, because it is contrary to rule and contrary to what is likely to suit the customers.

7277. Do you think that you never had an order for which you had not the goods ready manufactured?—We had them ready manufactured, and we frequently got what we had not got in our own manufactory; we have to make up the lot by purchase.

7278. You said that, if a bleacher delivered goods in a certain time, you expected him to do the same again?—Yes.

7279. In what time did you at that time expect him to deliver the goods?—In the same time as he had done before.

7280. Is your delivery of goods always in precisely a uniform time?—Not exactly so; sometimes we have goods which we could give him a little more time for; if it is intended for the home trade, we keep an assortment, and we have more time for those.

7281. Do you mean the Committee to understand that you left the time to his convenience?—Yes, in goods for the warehouse, to be shown and exposed to the home customers, not for export.

7282. What time do you give the bleacher for goods for export?—I cannot speak to that.

7283. Do you know that you had any limit?—Yes, we had a limit from what we knew we had done before.

7284. You do not know what the limit was?—No, I cannot speak positively to that.

7285. Have you a warehouse in Manchester?—Yes.

7286. Do you conform to the half-holiday movement on Saturday in that warehouse?—Yes, I think we do.

7287. Supposing that, by voluntary arrangement, the bleachers were to agree to shut up at six o'clock every night, do you apprehend that any injurious results would follow to the merchant?—I should think that they would, if it was a fixed rule that they were to give over at that time.

7288. If it were the rule to give over at six o'clock, what sort of inconvenience would result?—We might be disappointed in goods being brought in at the time that we expected, according to what they had done before.

7289. If this system became a rule, would not you fall into it just as you do now under the present arrangement?—If we were forced into the rule by Act of Parliament as we have been by the Factory Act, we might, but I should be very sorry that such a system should ever be forced upon us.

7290. Have you any reason, from the working of the Factory Act, to be sorry for such a result?—There is some interference in the Factory Act which I should be grieved at, if it should be the law of the country.

7291. Has it been any cause of grief in its bearing upon women and children?—No; more particularly with respect to the interference of the inspectors.

7292. Can you inform the Committee that the Act would interfere with the workpeople disadvantageously?—I cannot say as to that.

7293. Can you give the Committee any proof that it interferes with the workpeople to their disadvantage?—No, I do not know that I can from my experience upon the point.

7294. Is the Committee to understand that the influence of the Factory Act only clashes with the prejudice of the master millowners?—No, I cannot speak as to that.

7295. Can you tell the Committee in what way it does operate disadvantageously?—There has frequently been unpleasantness with the manufacturers.

7296. Have you had anything unpleasant yourself?—Yes.

7297. *Mr. Turner.*] Do not you know that the millowners detest the very sight of an inspector or sub-inspector about their premises?—As far as I myself was concerned, I was so disgusted with it that I gave it up to the manager entirely.

7298. Are not you aware that a very unpleasant feeling generally exists in the minds of the master spinners with regard to legislative interference?—I think there is a very general feeling of dissatisfaction.

7299. Do they not consider themselves treated with great injustice, as a class, by being put under legislative interference?—They feel that the interference by the inspectors is, as I should say, overbearing and tyrannical in the manner of the inspection.

7300. I think

7300. I think you say that you are not quite aware of the operations of the Factory Act; you only give it as a general opinion?—I give it as a general opinion, for I gave it up to the manager, and now my sons have taken it in hand.

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7301. Would it not be easy to summon 50 or 100 factory owners here who would give a decided opinion upon this subject?—I have heard very little of it, and I have not wished to come in contact with them, but they interfered so far, that the manufacturers could not submit.

7302. Were not they at last compelled to resort to that which was very unpleasant to them; to associate themselves together in order that, by combined action, they might do themselves justice?—It ended in that, and I do not wonder at it.

7303. *Mr. Crook.*] Had that any reference to the inspectors?—Yes; I have a case that I had to do with myself. A factory inspector came into my mill, and insisted upon a spinner being sent for into the warehouse; I objected to the spinner being sent for and taken from his work, I having to be answerable for his work, and to pay him his wages, and I was determined that he should not come, and the inspector did submit, but very angrily.

7304. *Mr. Cheetham.*] I believe the factory inspectors are not a very popular class in Lancashire?—No.

7305. *Chairman.*] Do you say that the factory inspectors are unpopular among all classes, including the working people?—No; among the masters in particular.

John Nutall Slater, Esq., called in, and Examined.

7306. *Mr. Cheetham.*] Do you carry on business in Dunscair?—Yes.

J. N. Slater, Esq.

7307. Have you worked yourself in several departments of it?—I have worked in every department, from 15 years to 26 as a workman.

7308. Is the work now as hard or laborious as it was when you began?—Nothing like it.

7309. Were your works visited by Mr. Tremenheere?—They were.

7310. Have you a list of the persons employed at your works?—I have a paper with me; I have examined it; he has taken the evidence of four girls, and there are no such names in our employ, nor ever have been, and the evidence he has taken as regards myself is not correct.

7311. Mr. Tremenheere professes to have examined Amelia Wood, a worker at your works; have you any person of the name of Amelia Wood in your works, or had you at that time?—No, nor ever had.

7312. Had you a person named Mary Greenhalgh employed in your works?—No.

7313. Had you a person of the name of Mary Ann Vickers?—No.

7314. Or Mary Ann Smith?—No.

7315. There are four persons whom Mr. Tremenheere professes to have examined at your works that you say never entered your works?—No; there is one girl, Mary Ann Greenhalgh, she is described as Mary Greenhalgh; but the evidence he gave is not the evidence she gave in my presence, nor did he state the whole that she said. After he had asked her himself, I asked her a question myself. I asked if she had not been turned away from our employment at one time, and she admitted that she had, and that she went to the mill just below us and worked there for a time; and I asked her again whether she did not leave that mill to come to us. I said, "Did not you come as soon as you had an opportunity back to our employ?" and she said, "Yes." He has not stated the whole of that evidence.

7316. Will you inform the Committee of the mode in which Mr. Tremenheere examined her?—The mode of his examination was to get evidence in support of the Bill, taking no evidence which was against it.

7317. Did you interpose and examine her yourself in Mr. Tremenheere's presence?—I did, and in his hearing.

7318. Did you elicit from her the fact that she had been discharged for idleness from your works?—Yes.

7319. And had gone to a mill, but had returned as soon as she heard of a vacancy in your works?—It is so.

7320. With regard to what you said to him yourself, has Mr. Tremenheere, in your opinion, misstated what you said?—He has, and has given great offence by

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so doing in the neighbourhood; Messrs. Chadwick, Phillips & Company have a mill below us, and they have made and maintained a park where all the workmen in the neighbourhood were allowed to go so long as they behaved themselves; he has made me state that I called that a public park; I did not say so; it has given great offence to them.

7321. Have you read the evidence given by Mr. Hardcastle and Mr. Blair to this Committee?—I have read Mr. Hardcastle's evidence, but not Mr. Blair's.

7322. Do you agree with what Mr. Hardcastle has stated?—I do.

7323. Have you yourself chapels and schools established in connexion with your works?—We have; and we have contributed largely towards them; I think the chapel and school have cost in all about 3,000 *l.* to our family, which, if it had to be done now, would not be done.

7324. Why would it not be done now?—Because there is a bad feeling existing between men and their employers; they seem to take everything as a right.

7325. Is that in consequence of this agitation?—Yes, a great part of it.

7326. Is it the fact, that in consequence of this agitation, you yourself do not entertain quite so cordial a feeling towards your work people as you did?—We do not, nor do they to us, I believe.

7327. Have you a library connected with your works?—We have, and the men are subscribers to the library. We subscribe considerably ourselves to the library to keep it up, and they have a good collection of books at the library.

7328. Is it much used?—It is.

7329. Can most of your workpeople write?—I know none but what can.

7330. Can most of them read?—They can.

7331. Did you ever mark a quittance paper given to John Waring, and prevent him from getting work?—I never marked a quittance paper in my life, and I never saw one marked by any one. I know of no such thing.

7332. You do not know that any such practice prevails among master bleachers?—No; I am certain it does not, or I should have known it.

7333. Mr. *Cheetham*]. How many girls have you in your works?—Thirty-five.

7334. From what ages?—Two of 14, seven of 15, one of 16, two of 17, one of 18, and 12 above 19 years of age.

7335. Mr. *Turner*.] Have you any under eleven?—Not in that department; that is, the hookers' department. In the beetling department we have one boy of 13, one of 14, five of 16, four of 17, one of 18, one of 19, two of 20, and six above 21 years of age. In the crofts where machinery is now being adopted we have one of 9, two of 10, four of 11, two of 12, six of 13, two of 14, one of 15, one of 17 (and six above 21 years of age. Two of them employed in looking after the boys), and four in the bleaching of counterpanes.

7336. How many have you under 11?—We have seven at 11 and under.

7337. In the crofting department, is not the work all in the day time?—All in the day time and by day work.

7338. How many hours do those boys work?—They should work on an average throughout the year 10 hours a day; but I do not think they average more than eight.

7339. How many hours do they ever work?—Sometimes we have to keep one or two of them later at night to bring down the gray cloth, and if they stop till eight o'clock they come at eight the morning after.

7340. The extra hour that they remain at night is deducted in the morning?—The extra hour is deducted in the morning. The same applies to our finishing department, where we have to keep one or two hands to get up odd lots; they come later in the morning following.

7341. Mr. *Butt*.] Did I rightly understand you to say that as to your evidence given before Mr. *Tremenheere*, the only complaint you make is that at the close of it he states, "Our people can all read, and all can write more or less; we have a lending library, and the books are much read. We have also a public park, and various amusements are much entered into by our people"?—It is not a public park, it was made and maintained by the manufacturers whom I have mentioned, but our workpeople and ourselves are allowed to go in, and they could stop us at any time.

7342. Is that the only inaccuracy in your evidence as stated by Mr. *Tremenheere*?—I think it is.

7343. The rest is accurate?—Yes.

7344. Then

7344. Then follows the evidence of four witnesses, Mary Ann Smith, Amelia Wood, Mary Greenhalgh, and Mary Ann Vickers?—Yes. J. N. Slater, Esq.

7345. Did I rightly understand you to say that Mary Ann Smith does not work for you?—No, she does not. 28 July 1857.

7346. Nor Amelia Wood?—No.

7347. Mary Greenhalgh does work with you; but her name is Mary Ann?—There was a Mary Ann Greenhalgh at our works, but her evidence does not correspond with that attributed to her by Mr. Tremenheere.

7348. And that you have no one named Mary Ann Vickers in your works?—No.

7349. Is there anything in the evidence to show that Mr. Tremenheere reports them as being in your works?—Nothing further than this: that we take it for granted, as they follow my evidence in all other cases, it is so.

7350. You succeeded your father in those bleach works?—I did.

7351. How long ago is it that you succeeded your father?—I believe four or five years since.

7352. Have there been at any time, in your works, women and children at work as late as 10 and 11 at night?—There have.

7353. Beginning at nine in the morning?—Yes, but not lately; the thing is changing, and will change.

7354. Is not there a gradual change going on in your bleaching works?—It is; the thing does not exist now. As I stated before, as people working till eight or nine o'clock at night, if we did so continuously, they would leave us.

7355. *Chairman.*] Have there, at any time within the last five years, been women and children working so late as 10 or 11 at night?—I do not think they have since the putting up of machinery, which has lessened the hours of labour considerably.

7356. Is it not the fact that soon after you began work you put up improved machinery?—We did; I am partner with my uncle.

7357. That has shortened the hours of labour?—It has, very much indeed.

7358. Before the machinery was put up, had there been anything like working so late as 10 or 11 o'clock at night?—I believe it was irregular before that.

7359. And beginning at six in the morning?—It was not regular one day with another at that time.

7360. Have there been cases in which they have worked from six in the morning till one at night?—Not within these 10 years, I should think.

7361. They have done so?—They have done so.

7362. Has it ever occurred that they have worked all day and all night?—No, no one can do that.

7363. Has it not been done occasionally?—No, I do not believe it.

7364. *Mr. Crook.*] Is there not a park in your neighbourhood?—Yes.

7365. Would there be any objection to anybody walking in that park?—I think not.

7366. You have not personal proprietary in that park?—No, we have no interest in it.

7367. Upon what footing is the library of which you have spoken?—Each subscriber to the library may make use of it; and we were called upon to subscribe, but we subscribe far beyond what the others do, to make a library for the workpeople.

7368. Do you subscribe on behalf of your workpeople?—No; we subscribe for ourselves, and the workpeople on their own account.

7369. Is their right to this library derived from their own subscriptions?—It is altogether on their own account, although we subscribe more than they do, it is not in proportion to the subscription at all.

7370. The right to the use of it is a return for the subscription?—It is.

7371. Every workman who goes to the library must individually subscribe?—Every one.

7372. Is it a library in which you have any proprietary right?—I do not know how it would be supposing it were broken up; I do not know where the books would go to; it is done for the benefit of the workpeople.

7373. In whose premises is the library kept?—It is kept on the premises of Messrs. Chadwick, Phillips & Co., it is in a part of the school built for their own mill; the library is held in a part of it.

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7374. Mr. Butt.] That is the factory mill?—That is the factory mill. But there are other schools, chapels and church in the neighbourhood, and many subscribers to the library as well as ourselves.

7375. Are those chapels and schools public institutions?—Certainly.

7376. Do you know a person of the name of John Waring?—No, I do not, only from the report.

7377. The Honourable Member for Manchester asked you a question about Waring, do you know of such a man?—I do not know him individually.

7378. Have you ever had that man in your employ?—I cannot tell, some one said we had; but if he had been in our employ it had not been for a long time.

7379. It is not to your knowledge that he was in your employ?—It is not.

7380. If this Bill passes would it interfere with your hours of labour much?—Not much; but it would interfere with them, we could not carry on our business under it at all, because we could not fetch up any odd pieces which were dirtied and displaced; we frequently have to keep one or two of the hands to clean pieces that get dirtied, and if they stop an hour or two after the rest, they come so much later in the morning.

7381. Could not you have these odd pieces done by men above 18 and adult males?—We could not put men to hooking, which girls do, they are not fitted for it.

7382. Are the Committee to understand that it is only as regards the odd pieces that this law will affect you?—It only affects us in that way.

7383. You have informed the Committee that the hours of labour are much reduced by machinery, and other things, since you have been in the trade?—It is so.

7384. Can you give the Committee any evidence to show any injurious effect as resulting to the merchants, or to the trade generally?—I have nothing to do with the merchants, I speak of the bleach trade only.

7385. Has it affected you injuriously?—It has not been brought into operation, it cannot affect us yet.

7386. You informed the Committee that there has been a great reduction in the hours of labour since you have known the trade?—There has.

7387. Can you give the Committee any evidence to show that this reduction in the hours of labour has operated injuriously upon your trade, or upon the merchants connected you?—No, it cannot; but I cannot see how that bears upon the matter.

7388. Mr. Cheetham.] Will you explain what you mean by a reduction in the hours of labour?—We can get our work done in less time than we used to do, by applying machinery instead of manual labour.

7389. So that by the aid of machinery which you have introduced, you have saved a great quantity of manual labour, and a great number of hours?—Yes.

7390. Consequently you have relieved the workmen to a greater extent than they were before?—Yes, we have taken off all the laborious part of the work. Formerly we used to lift the pieces up which now are removed by machinery; they are hoisted up to the level, and then taken away on trucks or waggon.

7391. Where machinery is in operation, reducing the number of hours, is it enabling you to employ the workpeople more continuously and regularly?—Yes.

7392. What is your opinion in respect of the prospects of the introduction of this improved machinery generally in the bleaching trade?—I think it has, and will, lessen the hours of labour without legislation.

7393. If that goes on without legislation, would not other establishments following in your track reduce the hours of labour as you have done?—There is no doubt of it.

7394. Will not that result be, in your opinion, better carried out by means of machinery, or by voluntary arrangements between the masters and the men, than by legislation?—It would.

7395. You stated to the Committee that, in your opinion, the agitation for legislation has created a worse feeling between masters and men than existed before?—That is my decided opinion.

7396. Supposing that agitation consummated by an Act of Parliament, would it strengthen that feeling, or reduce it?—It would make it worse; even talking about it has made it worse than it was before.

7397. So

7397. So that, upon that view of the case, as well as upon other considerations, you deprecate any interference by legislation?—I do. J. N. Slater, Esq.

7398. Mr. Butt.] Did I rightly understand you to say that legislation, such as we are now considering, would promote the introduction of improved machinery?—No doubt it would; we should try to do without women and children as far as we could. 28 July 1857.

7399. If an Act like this were passed, the effect would be that bleachers generally would improve their machinery?—They would employ machinery as much as possible. I think that if they would take my advice, they would give a premium to any improvement that could be made.

7400. May I ask how far your establishment at Dunscair is from Bolton?—Three miles.

7401. Do you know that there is another gentleman of your name who has an establishment at Bolton?—Yes; his name is Mr. John Slater; but mine is John Nutall Slater.

7402. Then if any of John Waring's statements apply to your namesake at Bolton, of course you are not able to say whether they are true or not?—I am certain that they are not true, so far as the quittance paper is concerned. If there were such things, I should know it. If a person came to me, and I asked him for his quittance paper, if there were such a mark upon the quittance paper, I should know something about it.

7403. Are the Committee to understand you distinctly to deny that it is the habit to grant quittance papers with a private mark?—I am positive it is not the case.

7404. Mr. Kirk.] May I ask whether you yourself have worked at any of these processes?—I have worked at all of them; I worked in the works from 15 years to 26.

7405. Was it injurious to health?—I do not know whether it is injurious to health, but it was hard work, because the machinery was not applied to it at all, particularly with ourselves, because our goods are heavy when wet, and it is heavy, laborious work to move them.

7406. Mr. Butt.] Were you at work from six o'clock in the morning till 11 at night?—Yes, I have, and the man who was my master is a pensioner of ours; he never worked anywhere else. He was apprenticed to my grandfather, and he is in good health still.

7407. Mr. Cheetham.] What age is he?—Seventy-three. I could have wished to have brought him here that the Committee might have judged for themselves.

7408. I believe you are the patentee of some of the improved machinery introduced in bleachworks?—Yes.

7409. Are you of opinion that many improvements are likely to be discovered in the various processes of bleaching?—I am.

7410. Would you advocate an Act of Parliament to further the improvement of machinery?—I do not think you can make an Act of Parliament to affect it at all. As to my patent, it paid the expenses of obtaining it, but I found it so troublesome, from people coming to ask my opinion, and from having to look after the thing, that I gave it up, and have lost sight of it altogether.

7411. Accepting your statement, that by the improvement of machinery adapted to bleaching processes you may reduce the hours of labour, would you permit an Act of Parliament to enforce you to employ that machinery?—No, I would not.

7412. Mr. Kirk.] Is it your opinion that the improvements made by you and others, whether patented or otherwise, have tended to reduce the amount of labour required in bleachworks?—They have done so very much indeed with ourselves, I do not think that we have two-thirds of the workpeople that we had, taking into account the amount we do now and the amount we did then. We have perhaps as many hands, but our work has much increased.

7413. Mr. Cheetham.] May the Committee understand that you have not more than two-thirds of the number of labourers, taking into account the increased quantity done?—We have reduced our hands one-third.

7414. Will you state to the Committee the proportionate amount of reduction of labour of each individual?—I think the same proportion would represent it; viz., one-third of the manual labour; because we have reduced our men, not so much our children; we have children to do what the men used to do; for instance, the crofters are little lads that have nothing to do but to stand at the machine and see that it works right; if anything is wrong he corrects it himself,

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J. N. Slater, Esq. or else he calls out to the man who looks after them to come to it; he has nothing to do but to overlook the machinery.

28 July 1857. 7415. Do not those improvements which you have introduced give you an advantage over those men who have not introduced them?—I think they could not carry their works on without those improvements.

7416. Will not the time come when the individuals who have not followed in your steps must withdraw from the trade?—Yes.

7417. So that in the natural course of things those improvements must take place?—Yes.

7418. Was not the benefit that you have spoken of as resulting to the work-people, brought about without interference?—Yes.

7419. Would not you advocate the natural course of events being left to work itself out without interference?—I would.

A P P E N D I X.

LIST OF APPENDIX.

Diagrams referred to in the Evidence of *S. Blair, Esq.*, 7 July 1857.

Paper delivered in by *S. Blair, Esq.*, 7 July 1857 - - - - - p. 179

Paper delivered in by *S. Blair, Esq.*, 21 July 1857 - - - - - p. 180

Paper delivered in by *S. Blair, Esq.*, 24 July 1857 - - - - - p. 182

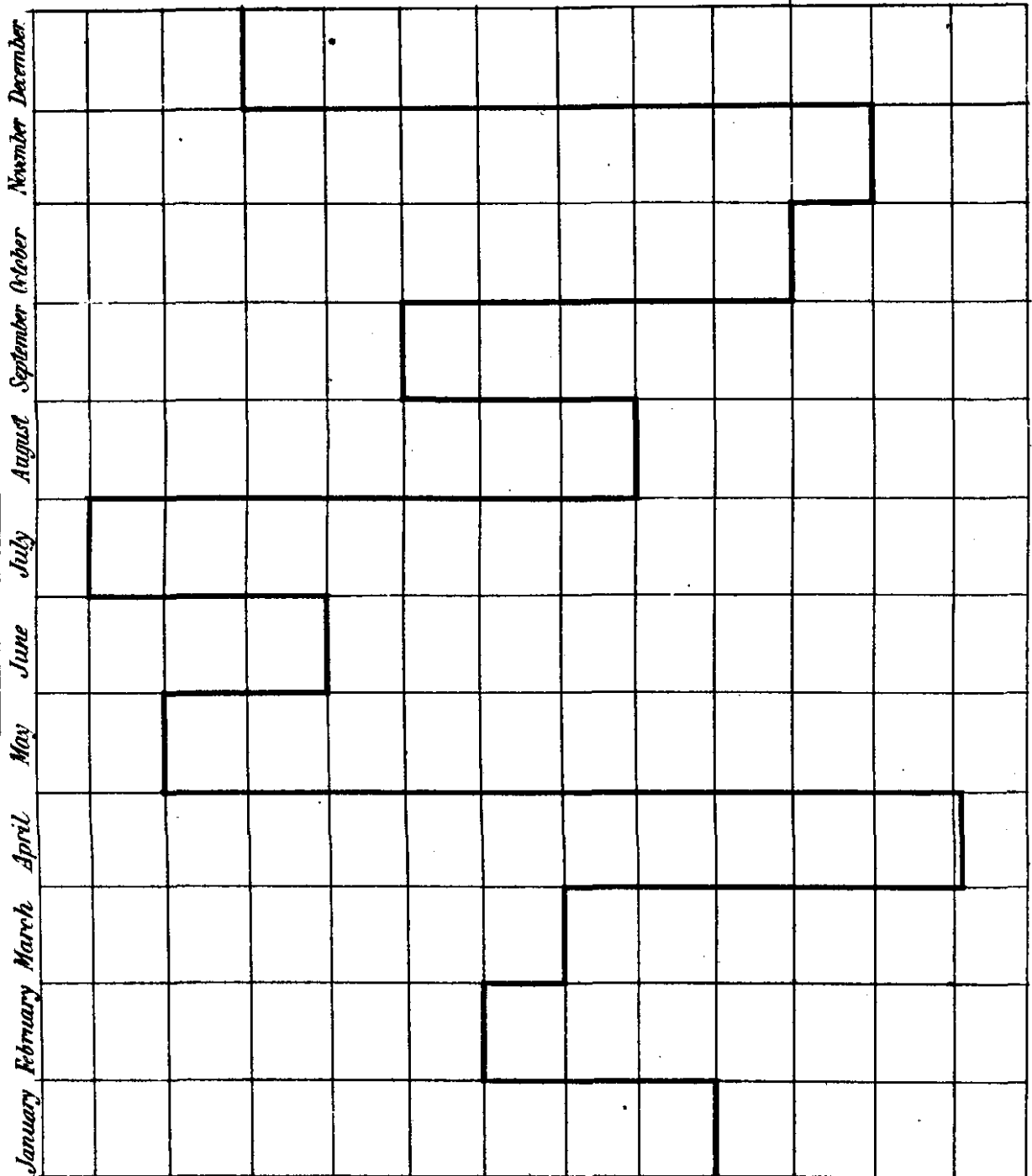
D I A G R A M

Referred to in the Evidence of Stephen Blair, Esq^r, 7th July, 1857.

TABLE OF VARIATIONS.

SCALE FOR THE YEAR 1854.

Difference per Cent. between the highest and lowest quantity this year is 57.64.



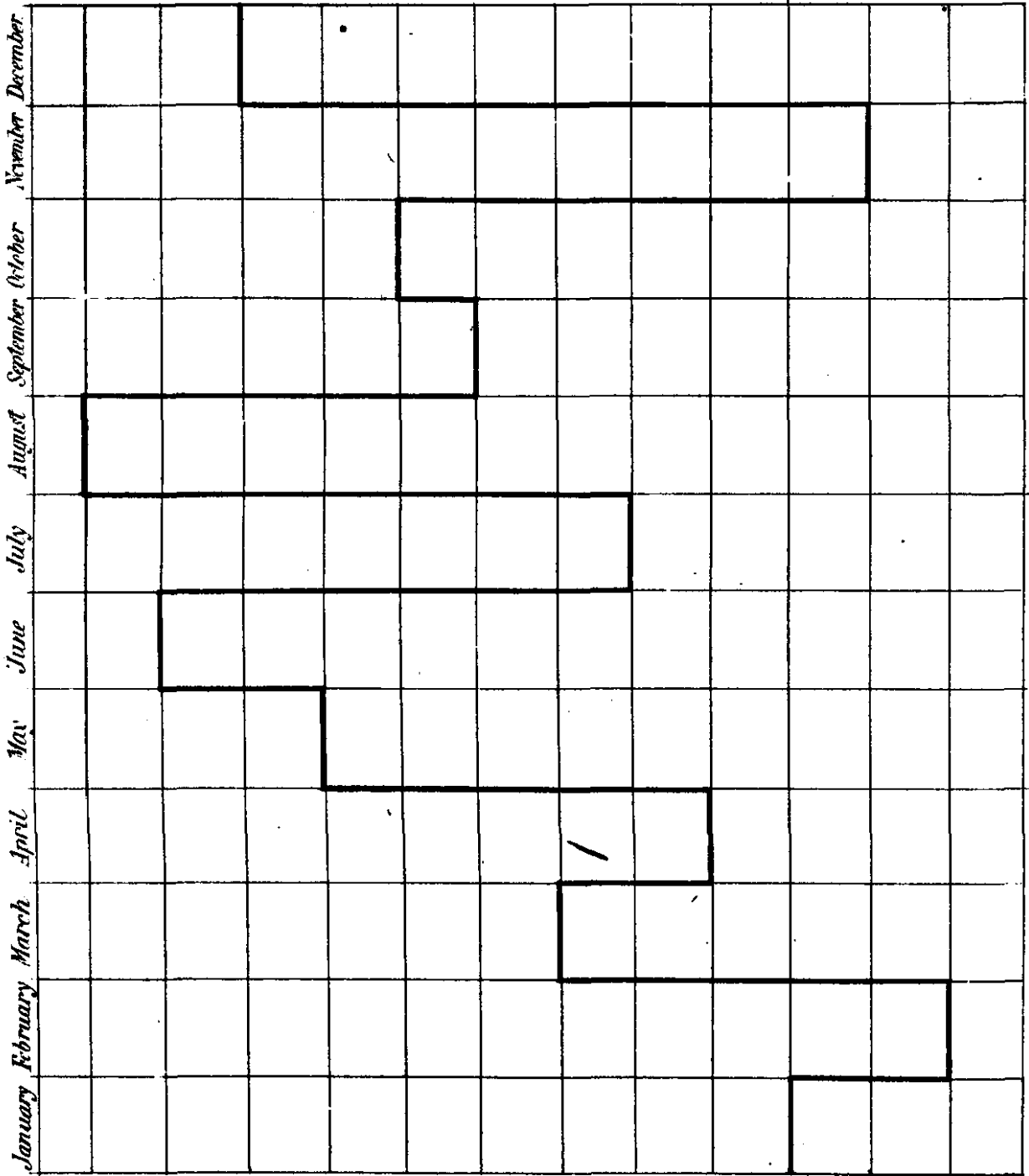
D I A G R A M .

Referred to in the Evidence of Stephen Blair, Esq., 7th July, 1857.

TABLE OF VARIATIONS.

SCALE FOR THE YEAR 1855

Difference per Cent. between the highest and lowest quantity this year is 92.37.



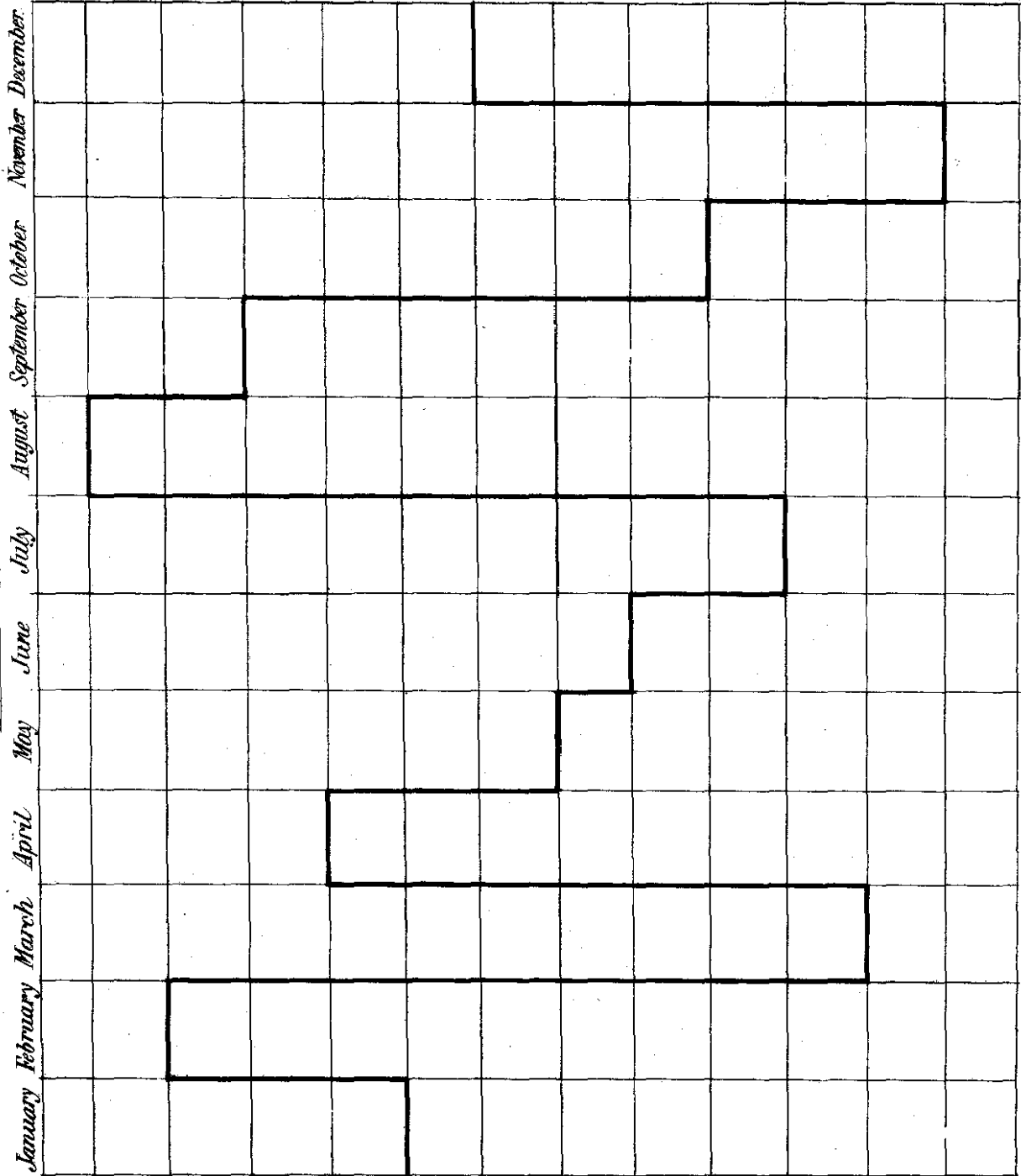
D I A G R A M

Referred to in the Evidence of Stephen Blair, Esq^r. 7th July, 1857.

TABLE OF VARIATIONS.

SCALE FOR THE YEAR 1856.

Difference per Cent. between the highest and lowest quantity this year is 86.17.



A P P E N D I X.

Appendix.

PAPER delivered in by *S. Blair, Esq.*, 7 July 1857.

THE following is a statement of the average working hours in the undermentioned departments at Messrs. Blair & Sumner's Mill Hill Bleach Works, from the 1st of June 1856 to the 31st of May 1857, both dates inclusive, viz. :—

	Hours.	Days.		Hours.	Divided by 311 Days would be
Stitching gray cloth - -	2,907	÷ 307	-	Average 9·469 per day,	9·347
Bleaching - - -	3,214	÷ 307	-	„ 10·469 „	10·334
Mangling and stiffening -	3,214	÷ 307	-	„ 10·469 „	10·334
Stoving - - -	3,254	÷ 307	-	„ 10·599 „	10·463
Calendering, damping, &c.	3,431½	÷ 307	-	„ 11·177 „	11·033
Making up, packing, &c. -	3,388½	÷ 307	-	„ 11·037 „	10·895

In the above we deduct 52 Sundays, Good Friday, Christmas-day. Two days allowed for recreation at the beginning of January, and two days at Whitsuntide, viz., 365 days in the year, minus 58 days, equals 307 working days.

Appendix.

PAPER delivered in by *S. Blair, Esq.*, 21 July 1857.

RECAPITULATION.

	NUMBERS EMPLOYED.				
	Men, Full Age, 21 Years.	Women, 18 and Above.	Boys.	Girls under 18.	Total.
Machine Stitching, Gray-room, and Dressing Departments, viz.:					
2 Men, full age	2	6	2	5	—
1 Boy, 18 years					
1 Boy, 16 years					
6 Women, above 18 years					
5 Girls, under 18 years					
The age of the youngest in this department is 15 years.					
Crofting Department, viz.:					
2 Men, full age	2	—	17	—	—
1 Boy, 19 years					
1 Boy, 17 years					
2 Boys, 16 years					
2 Boys, 15 years					
3 Boys, 14 years					
1 Boy, 13 years					
6 Boys, 12 years					
1 Boy, 11 years					
The youngest in this department is 11 years.					
Mangling and Stiffening Department, viz.:					
8 Men, full age	8	2	11	1	—
2 Boys, 18 years					
1 Boy, 17 years					
4 Boys, 16 years					
2 Boys, 15 years					
2 Boys, 14 years					
2 Women, above 18 years					
1 Girl, 16 years					
The youngest in this department is 14 years.					
Tinning Department, viz.:					
2 Men, full age	2	—	2	—	—
1 Boy, 19 years					
1 Boy, 18 years					
The youngest in this department is 18 years. The hands in this department are only casually employed.					
Stoving Department, viz.:					
6 Men, full age	6	—	7	—	—
1 Boy, 20 years					
1 Boy, 19 years					
1 Boy, 18 years					
2 Boys, 16 years					
1 Boy, 14 years					
1 Boy, 12 years					
The youngest in this department is 12 years.					
Damping and Calendering Department, viz.:					
5 Men, full age	5	—	4	—	—
1 Boy, 19 years					
1 Boy, 17 years					
1 Boy, 16 years					
1 Boy, 15 years					
The youngest in this department is 15 years.					
Carried forward	25	8	43	6	—

	NUMBERS EMPLOYED.				
	Men, Full Age, 21 years.	Women, 18 and Above.	Boys.	Girls under 18.	Total.
Brought forward - - -	25	8	43	6	—
Hooking, making up, and Packing Department, viz.:					
14 Men, full age - - - - -	14	10	7	14	—
1 Boy, 20 years - - - - -					
1 Boy, 19 years - - - - -					
1 Boy, 18 years - - - - -					
1 Boy, 16 years - - - - -					
1 Boy, 15 years - - - - -					
1 Boy, 14 years - - - - -					
1 Boy, 12 years - - - - -					
10 Women, above 18 years - - - - -					
3 Girls, 17 years - - - - -					
2 Girls, 16 years - - - - -					
2 Girls, 15 years - - - - -					
3 Girls, 14 years - - - - -					
3 Girls, 13 years - - - - -					
1 Girl, 12 years - - - - -					
The youngest in this department is 12 years.					
TOTAL number of hands employed by the piece - - - - -	39	18	50	20	127
We also employ Datal Hands, as under, viz.:					
Bookkeepers and manager - - - - -	4	—	—	—	—
Carter - - - - -	1	—	—	—	—
Manchester agent and porters - - - - -	5	—	1	—	—
Engineer and Firemen - - - - -	4	—	—	—	—
Millwrights, &c. - - - - -	8	—	1	—	—
Watchman - - - - -	1	—	—	—	—
Farm - - - - -	1	1	—	—	—
Spademen - - - - -	4	—	—	—	—
	67	19	52	20	158

The ages are all taken last birthday.

We have also employed at present 11 men boring for water, not named in the above recapitulation.

	Read and Write.	Read.	Cannot Read or Write.	TOTAL.
Machine stitching - - - - -	6	9	- - -	15
Crofting department - - - - -	9	10	- - -	19
Mangling and stiffening - - - - -	15	5	2	22
Tinning department - - - - -	2	2	- - -	4
Stoving department - - - - -	8	3	2	13
Damping and calendering - - - - -	7	- - -	2	9
Hooking, making up, and packing - - - - -	31	7	7	45
	78	36	13	127

Robert Hardman came to work at Mill-hill two weeks before the first election for Bolton in 1832.

Edward Quin came to work at Mill-hill 4th September 1836.

AGES.

Result:—Total 9—8 boys, 1 girl under 13 ; of these 1 boy is 11, a second boy 12, and 1 girl 12.

Appendix.

PAPER delivered in by *S. Blair, Esq.*, 24 July 1857.

Dear Mr. Blair,

Mill Hill Bleach Works,
Bolton, 22 July 1857.

As requested in your letter to Mr. Sumner, received this morning, I now send you particulars of each day's work, from November 18th, 1854, to January 18th, 1855, both dates inclusive, viz:—

		Time of Starting.		Time of Leaving Work.		
1854:						
November	18	-	-	-	-	Stopped for repairs.
	20	-	-	6 o'clock, a.m.	7 o'clock p.m.	13.
	21	-	-	6	7	13.
	22	-	-	6	5½	11½.
	23	-	-	6½	4	9½.
	24	-	-	6½	4	9½.
	25	-	-	6	5	11.
	27	-	-	6½	7½	13.
	28	-	-	8	6	10.
	29	-	-	8	8	12.
	30	-	-	6	9	15.
December	1	-	-	6	8	14.
	2	-	-	6	6	12.
	4	-	-	6	7	13.
	5	-	-	6	9	15.
	6	-	-	6	8	14.
	7	-	-	7	7	12.
	8	-	-	7	8	13.
	9	-	-	6	7	13.
	11	-	-	6	10	16.
	12	-	-	6	9	15.
	13	-	-	6	9½	15½.
	14	-	-	6	9½	15½.
	15	-	-	6	10	16.
	16	-	-	6	7	13.
	18	-	-	6	9	15.
	19	-	-	6	9	15.
	20	-	-	6	10	16.
	21	-	-	6	10	16.
	22	-	-	6	8	14.
	23	-	-	6	7	13.
	25	-	-	-	-	Do not work at all.
	26	-	-	6	6	14.
	27	-	-	6	8	14.
	28	-	-	6	8	14.
	29	-	-	6	9	15.
	30	-	-	6	6	15.
1855:						
January	1	-	-	-	-	Do not work at all.
	2	-	-	-	-	Do not work at all.
	3	-	-	6	8	14.
	4	-	-	6	9	15.
	5	-	-	6	9	15.
	6	-	-	6	9	15.
	8	-	-	6	7½	13½.
	9	-	-	6	8	14.
	10	-	-	6	8	14.
	11	-	-	6	8	14.

		Time of Starting.	Time of Leaving Work.		
1855 :					
January	12	- - 6 o'clock a.m.	- 8 o'clock p.m.	-	14.
	13	- - 6 " - -	- 4 " - -	-	10.
	15	- - 6 " - -	- 8 " - -	-	14.
	16	- - 6 " - -	- 8 " - -	-	14.
	17	- - 6 " - -	- 8½ " - -	-	14½.
	18	- - 6 " - -	- 8 " - -	-	14.

The hours given include meal times, which are ½ an hour, from 8 o'clock to 8½ o'clock, a.m.
 1 " " 12 " a.m. 1 " p.m.
 ½ " " 5 " p.m. ½ " p.m.
 Also stoppages during the day, as before explained.

I am, &c.
 (signed) Thomas Glaister.

Two hours per day will have to be deducted for meals off.

Hours per Day on the Ground.

9	10	11	11½	12	13	13½	14	14½	15	15½	16	
2	2	1	1	3	8	1	14	1	10	2	4	= 570½ hours.

From 18th November 1854 to 18th January 1855, is 62 days
 Deduct 9 Sundays - - - 9

53 working days.

53) 570½ (10·754.

53

40·0

371

290

265

250

212

38

Average per day 10·754
 Deduct 2 hours for meals 2

8·754, including waiting for work.

I N D E X.

ANALYSIS OF INDEX.

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I N D E X.

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A.

ACCIDENTS. There are probably fewer accidents in bleach-works than in cotton mills; but in the former case they are mostly of a very serious character, *Robinson* 653—Fewer accidents in bleach-works than in factories, *Garstang* 791, 792—Few accidents in the stoves at Lisburn, *Kelso* 4194—Accidents in bleach-works are very infrequent, save through negligence, *Leeper*, 4278.

Adult Labour. Interference with the labour of grown-up men and women is very questionable policy, *Barbour* 2135—Probable effect of a limit as regards the hours of labour of women and children upon the hours of labour of adults, *Scott* 2236-2243.

Interference with adult male labour, if the labour of women and children be restricted, *Mackinley* 4407, 4448-4451; *Hardcastle* 5805; *Blair* 6228—Witness is opposed to the Bill on account of its interference with the hours of labour of boys, such interference preventing also the continued labour of men, *Henchy* 4458-4463, 4493, 4494—Regularity of the hours in witness's works adverted to with reference to the extent to which the Bill would interfere with the employment of the boys; such interference would be an obstruction to the labour of the men, and to the process generally, *Kirk* 4685-4698, 4715-4717.

Partial interference with the labour of the adults if the labour of the boys and girls be limited to ten hours daily *John Burton*, 5279-5283, 5289-5297—Necessity of the employment of the juveniles going on simultaneously with that of the adults, *Keely* 5357-5361, 5406, 5407, 5430-5432—Way in which restriction upon the labour of the boys and females would necessarily interfere with the labour of the men, *Ripley* 5875-5878, 5899-5904, 5911-5913, 5934-5937.

See also *Commission of Inquiry. Health. Hours of Labour. Legislative Interference. Operatives. Wages.*

AGE OF EMPLOYMENT:

1. *Practice as to the Age at which Children commence Work.*
2. *Considerations as to the expediency of Legislative Restriction.*

1. *Practice as to the Age at which Children commence Work:*

In most of the works, witness found several very young children, *Tremenheere* 48-52—In Ireland, the young persons rarely begin to work before they are thirteen years of age, *J. Waring* 435, 436—Ages of the boys and young females at Bolton, &c., who work occasionally for sixteen hours daily; the boys and sometimes only nine years old, *ib.* 993-1004—Many children at Bolton begin work under nine years of age, *ib.* 1074, 1075.

Practice lately adopted by Mr. Hardcastle not to employ children under twelve years of age, *Miller* 1230, 1243-1249—Children are not now taken at Mr. Bridson's works under ten years of age, *Mather* 1330, 1359, 1360—The girls and boys at Halliwell began work at the age of nine and ten, and worked the same number of hours as the adults, *Milton* 1403, 1404, 1406, 1407, 1440, 1441—Mr. Ainsworth and witness, in the first instance, worked the children have not commenced till ten years of age, and subsequently on account of the overwork; and also of witness, at Mr. Ainsworth's, commenced to work at the age of ten years, *Price* 1879-1882—Children at Bolton begin work at the age of nine years, *Crook* 2457.

Witness commenced work when eight years old, for was then quite uneducated, *Shelbourne* 2784-2787—Ten or eleven years old, *Betts* 2919-2921—The young persons from the age of twelve or thirteen upwards, *Kelso* 4195—Boys are not employed under fourteen years of age, *Leeper* 4278—Fourteen years of age are not taken into witness's works, *Kirk* 4685-4698, 4715-4717.

0.37—Sess. 2.

A A 3

5. *Views*

AGE OF EMPLOYMENT—continued.

1. Practice as to the Age at which Children commence Work—continued.

There are eight girls and two boys under seventeen years of age in witness's employment, but none under the age of thirteen, *Harrison* 4992, 4993. 5009. 5010. 5031-5035. 5078-5080—The ages of the young persons in witness's employment vary from nine to seventeen, *John Burton* 5155, 5156—Number of children in witness's employment who are only nine or ten years of age; earliest age at which taken, *ib.* 5195-5197. 5284-5288—The youngest persons employed by witness are one female under thirteen, and two boys between ten and eleven; employment of these explained, *Hardcastle* 5515, 5516.

Witness employs 127 hands, of whom only nine are under thirteen years of age, *Blair* 5809-5811—Objection of witness to employ girls under eleven years of age, *ib.* 5839, 5840—Witness employs 491 persons, of whom only thirteen are women and seventy-five are boys between thirteen and eighteen years of age, *Ripley* 5870-5872—As a rule, children under thirteen are not employed, *ib.* 5873. 5962, 5963—Doubt as to there being any females so young as fifteen at witness's works, *ib.* 5985, 5986.

The employment formerly of children so young as nine or ten does not apply now, machinery tending to displace such labour altogether, *Blair* 6037—Children under eleven years of age have only been employed by witness at the parents' request, *J. Slater* 6241, 6242. 6281-6284—There is only one person under eleven years of age at Halliwell, who was taken in under peculiar circumstances, *Morris* 6336-6339—Number and ages of the boys and girls employed by witness; there are seven at or under eleven, *J. N. Slater* 7333-7336.

2. Considerations as to the Expediency of Legislative Restriction:

Great improvement, if it were practical, to keep children from the bleaching-works till they were thirteen years old, and to educate them up to that time, *Robinson* 573-575. 656 *et seq.*—If children in bleach-works only worked for half a day, or six hours, they should be allowed to work at eight years old, as in factories, *ib.* 583, 584. 674. 680-682—Advantage if children could not work in bleach-works till ten or twelve years of age, *Garstang* 794-798—Children should not be employed in the bleaching-works till they are twelve or thirteen years of age, *H. Waring* 1069. 1083-1089; *Brownbill* 3068; *O'Brien* 4150—Advantage if children did not work till they were eleven or twelve years of age, *Miller* 1257.

On the score of education it is very desirable that some restriction should be imposed in regard to the age of employment of children in bleach-works, *Barbour* 1965-1967. 2135-2153; *Slagg* 2323-2326. 2355-2359. 2382-2391—Children should not be employed till they were twelve or thirteen years old, and till they had attained a certain education, *Slagg* 2382. 2385—Witness told Mr. Tremeneheere, and is still of the same opinion, that he was opposed to the employment of girls under thirteen years of age, *Hardcastle* 5529, 5530—Approval of a prohibition upon the labour of all children under twelve years, without any exception as to the character of the employment, *Ryland* 6509. 6547-6549. 6602-6608—Objection to the employment of children at eight years of age in bleach-works, *Southworth* 6848-6850.

Strong objection to the employment of children when eight years old in factories, as being injurious both mentally and morally, *Packer* 6723—It would be well if children under twelve were prohibited from working in factory mills, *Packer* 6724-6729.

See also *Education. Factory Act. Parents.*

Agitation. Exceptions taken to the term "agitators," as applied to the witnesses, *Waring* and *Pearce*, delegates of the men, *Tremeneheere* 4800-4802. 4870-4875.

See also *Operatives.*

Agricultural Labourers. Better condition of the people employed in witness's bleach-works than of his agricultural labourers; necessary long hours occasionally of the latter, *Hardcastle* 5544-5546. 5570-5571.

See also *Wages.*

AINSWORTH, MR. (HALLIWELL BLEACH-WORKS.)

1. Hours of Labour at Halliwell Bleach-works.

Number of Hands Employed.
View in regard to the Education and Religious Instruction.

Views of sundry Witnesses as to the character of the Inquiry; Exceptions to the Report

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Schunck, Souchay & Co - - - -

Mr. Ainsworth in regard to the Effect of Regular Hours upon the Orders.
of a general nature.

Dismissal from Employment
Quittance Paper

at Halliwell Bleach-works:
very long hours for which Mr. Ainsworth's workpeople, including females, occasionally worked, *Milton* 1395-1407—Instance of work

A I N S W O R T H, M R. (HALLIWELL BLEACH-WORKS)—continued.

1. Hours of Labour at Halliwell Bleach-works—continued.

work by women and children for 107 hours in the week, or, deducting meal-time, ninety-five hours, *Milton* 1396, 1397—Circumstance of witness having spoken at a public meeting at Bolton in depreciation of the long hours of labour, *ib.* 1419, 1420, 1569-1572—Witness also spoke from the pulpit relative to the hours of labour, *ib.* 1421, 1422. 1515-1517—Up to the time of witness's leaving Halliwell he saw no amelioration of the hours of labour; he cannot speak to the state of things for the last seven years, *ib.* 1442-1448—Concurrence of the local clergymen with witness in regard to the evil of the long hours of labour, *ib.* 1565-1568.

Witness is employed in the finishing and packing department at Halliwell; has been in the same employment for nearly forty-two years, *Price* 1813-1821—The hours of labour varied very much, but were at times excessively long, *ib.* 1825-1831. 1842. 1858-1860—The average hours have been from fourteen to sixteen hours daily, *ib.* 1825, 1826, 1829—Witness and others have worked all night, *ib.* 1827. 1830, 1831—Since the present agitation there has been an improvement in the hours, *ib.* 1832-1836—The females and boys work the same hours as the men, *ib.* 1842.

Over-fatigue of the boys and girls in consequence of the long labour; they are constantly falling asleep at their work, *Price* 1843-1851—Serious effect of the long hours upon the health of a daughter of witness, *ib.* 1853-1857—Witness has often not been twenty hours in bed for the whole week, and has been working the rest of the time; one week he never went to bed at all, *ib.* 1859-1861.

Particulars as to the hours of labour at Halliwell; long hours occasionally, *Morris* 6352-6353. 6391, 6392. 6435, 6436. 6443-6451—Inaccuracy of a statement by Samuel Price that he worked for fifteen or sixteen hours a day throughout the year, *ib.* 6358—Belief that no females or boys now work later than nine at night, *ib.* 6435, 6436. 6451—Reference to some complaints by girls to Mr. Tremenheere with reference to the long hours, *ib.* 6449-6455.

2. Particulars as to the Number of Hands Employed:

Doubt as to the number of females and boys now at Halliwell works; when witness gave evidence before Mr. Tremenheere there were eighty females and fifty boys, *Price* 1837-1841—There are 574 persons now employed, of whom eighty-nine are women and girls, and forty-seven boys under eighteen years of age, *Morris* 6335.

3. Conduct of Mr. Ainsworth in regard to the Education and Religious Instruction of his Workpeople:

Statement reflecting on the conduct of Mr. Ainsworth, four or five years ago, relative to the children in his employment going to a school at Halliwell, *H. Waring* 1151-1158.

The church at Halliwell, of which witness was incumbent, was built and endowed by Mr. Ainsworth, *Milton* 1417. 1450, 1451—Mr. Ainsworth also built large schools, and was joint founder of St. Peter's Church, and did a great deal for the benefit of his people, *ib.* 1418. 1463-1467. 1530-1533. 1599-1601—Statement as to Mr. Ainsworth having forbidden the people connected with his works to attend the church, *ib.* 1423-1434. 1449. 1509. 1510—Witness cannot distinctly say that Mr. Ainsworth threatened his workpeople with dismissal if they attended church, *ib.* 1425-1434.

Mr. Ainsworth, in whose establishment such long hours of labour occur, is a very honourable gentleman, and has done a good deal for his workpeople in the way of providing schools and churches, *Price* 1862-1864. 1910. 1911—Mr. Ainsworth is a strict disciplinarian, *Morris* 6419—Liberal and benevolent character of Mr. Ainsworth; attention paid by him to the education and social improvement of his people, *ib.* 6420-6424, 6465 *et seq.*—Liberality of Mr. Ainsworth in providing funds for the erection of schools and churches for his workpeople and in bestowing charity to those in need, *Packer* 6636. 6677, 6678. 6722—He has spent about 15,000 *l.* in building two churches, and 3,000 *l.* in building three schools, *ib.* 6678.

4. Quarrels between Mr. Ainsworth and the late Incumbent of St. Paul's, Halliwell:

Particulars relative to some quarrels between Mr. Ainsworth and witness, in the first instance about the demeanour of the former in church, and subsequently on account of witness's remonstrances, privately and in his sermons, against the overwork; and also of the mode of conduct of Divine Service in consequence of the quarrel with the patron, and the newspapers with reference thereto, *ib.* 1537-1562.

1537	Two sons	17. 1537-1562. 1569-1589
1538	Two sons	ness in consequence of the
1539	Two sons	ness went to a church in Der-
1540	Two sons	f a quarrel with the patron,
1541	Two sons	the newspapers with refer-
1542	Two sons	th, <i>ib.</i> 1537-1562.

5. Views

AINSWORTH, MR. (HALLIWELL BLEACH-WORKS—continued.)**5. Views of Mr. Ainsworth in regard to the Effect of Regular Hours upon the Completion of Orders :**

Statement showing that Mr. Ainsworth does not attribute much importance to the foreign orders of the merchants in regard to the time taken in executing them, *Crook* 2471.

6. Other Evidence of a general nature :

Very bad moral effects consequent upon the system of overwork, the young men and women sometimes lying down together when resting from work, *Milton* 1411, 1412—Doubt whether the bleachers ever left Mr. Ainsworth's to work in the neighbouring cotton mills, *ib.* 1497-1501.

Long periods for which the people remain in Mr. Ainsworth's employment, *Morris* 6340, 6341—Inaccuracy of Mr. Milton's statement, as to the young men and women lying down to rest in the same room, *ib.* 6416, 6417.

Part of Mr. John Ainsworth's works are in witness's parish, the population of which comprises about an equal number of bleachers and of factory hands, *Packer* 6630-6635—Morality of the bleachers; evidence hereon opposed to statements by Mr. Milton, *ib.* 6653-6655. 6664, 6665. 6679-6682. 6719—Suitable character of the rooms at Mr. Ainsworth's works; witness never heard of the boys and girls resting and lying down together in the same room, *ib.* 6666-6674—Witness, who succeeded Mr. Milton at St. Paul's, was suggested to the bishop by Mr. Ainsworth, *ib.* 6692-6697—Since hearing of the Bleaching Bill witness has not had any direct discussion upon its merits with Mr. Ainsworth or others. *ib.* 6698-6718.

See also *Age of Employment*, 1. *Greenhalgh, Sisters.* *Health*, 1. 3. *Truck System.* *Wuges.*

Alcock, William. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Bleacher and finisher of cotton and merino hosiery, near Nottingham, 5299, 5300—Employs about seventy workpeople; number and ages of the females and boys, 5301-5303—The regular hours of labour are from six to seven in the summer, and from seven to seven in winter, there being occasionally overtime to the extent of not more than two hours, 5304-5307. 5338, 5339—Steam machinery is worked only by the adult men, 5308-5311—The temperature of the rooms is at a comfortable heat, 5312.

Objection to the Bill before the Committee as likely to interfere with the interests of the workpeople, by lessening on the whole their average hours of labour, and their average earnings, 5313-5315—Undue interference of the Bill with the masters, as under it they must in pressing times either do less work or enlarge their premises and employ considerably more hands, the latter being difficult to procure, 5316-5320. 5340-5348.

Witness was one of the masters who entered into the voluntary arrangement proposed by the men in regard to overtime and prices; he still abides by it, 5317-5322. 5332-5335—Equally healthy employment in the bleach-works as on farms, 5323-5328—Much better wages in the bleach-works than on farms, 5329-5331. 5336-5339.

B.

Bancroft, Siffred Nevil. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Surgeon at Bolton; in practice there thirty-one years, 6740-6743—The deaths of two of the Greenhalgh family, who worked for Mr. Ainsworth, of Halliwell, were in no way expedited by work; cause of their death, 6744-6749. 6761-6766—Employment in bleaching is very healthy, much more so than employment in cotton-spinning, 6750-6758. 6767-6785—Factory employment is very unhealthy; causes thereof, 6752-6758. 6767-6782—A person could work fourteen hours a day in bleach-works with less injury than ten hours and a half in a cotton mill, 6757. 6781-6785—Restriction upon the hours in bleach-works is not necessary, 6758, 6759.

Barbour, Robert. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Commission merchant at Manchester, 1954—Gave evidence before Mr. Tremenheere, 1955—Grounds upon which witness stated to Mr. Tremenheere that "he did not think the merchants as a body would be affected by, or would raise any objection to legislative restriction of the hours of work for females and boys in bleaching-works," 1956 *et seq.*

Greater facilities at present than some years ago for exporting goods for foreign orders, 1956. 1959, 1960—Tendency of a limitation of the hours of labour in bleach-works to induce merchants to give out orders to the bleach-master more promptly than they now do, 1956, 1957. 1968, 1969. 1987. 2019-2028—Difficulties in the way of merchants giving out their orders more promptly than they have hitherto done, 1958. 1962-1964. 2013-2028.

Strong objection to any law which should compel the merchant to keep in store a certain quantity of goods, or to give so many days' notice to the bleacher whenever an

Reports, 1857—continued.

Barbour, Robert. (Analysis of his Evidence)—continued.

an order was to be executed, 1964. 2029-2033. 2125-2128—Expediency of applying legislative restrictions upon trade in cases of crying evils only, and with great caution 1965, 1996. 2073-2079. 2095-2099. 2128. 2134, 2135—Approval of legislative interference in the case of boys and young females in bleach-works, 1965-1967. 2135-2153—Recommended restriction upon the age at which children are employed, with a view to their education, 1965-1967. 2135-2153.

Particulars as to the packing, &c., carried on in witness's establishment, and in the establishments of other merchants at Manchester; inexpediency of legislative interference with the hours of labour in these departments, the employment differing very much from the employment in bleach-works, 1970-1983. 1986. 2037-2054. 2092-2099—Tendency of feeling both of employers and employed to shorten the hours of labour, 1983-1985. 2068. 2100-2106—Considerable curtailment of the hours of labour in Manchester, 1985. 2100-2106.

To a considerable extent the bleacher is the servant of the merchant, and cannot help himself in regard to the long hours of labour, 1987-1994. 2001-2004. 2013-2017. 2034-2036. 2065, 2066. 2107-2124—Injury to the goods if hastily finished or packed improperly; doubt whether this would be rendered worse by a restriction upon the hours of labour, 1987. 1997-2000. 2005-2013. 2018-2025—In the event of restriction the bleacher must either extend his machinery and works, or decline to take more orders than he can execute in the given time, 1995, 1996. 2013-2015. 2018, 2019. 2028. 2032. 2108. 2126—Obstacle to the bleacher holding a quantity of stock of bleached goods in hand, 1997-2000. 2080-2082.

Difficulty at present in calculating how long it may take the bleacher to execute orders given by the merchant, 2013-2017. 2029. 2057-2064. 2080, 2081. 2127—The question of long or short hours does not operate upon the merchant in giving his orders, 2020-2028. 2107-2113. 2118, 2119—The merchant would soon accommodate himself to the restrictions upon the bleacher, and neither party would be much inconvenienced, 2026-2028. 2114-2117—At one time the bleachers used to be held liable to penalties for delay in the execution of orders, 2034, 2035—Shortening of the labour in the packing department of bleach-works if restrictions be placed on the other departments, 2054-2056.

If the hours of labour were regulated the merchant would have a clearer knowledge of the capabilities of the bleacher 2057-2064—Tendency of competition in trade to lead to long hours unless there be a legal restriction, 2065-2067—Question as to the ability of the workpeople by means of combinations to bring about a permanent shortening of the hours of labour, 2067-2072. 2083-2091—The work of bleachers is more steady than it used to be, but there will always be pushes in the trade, 2120-2124.

Distinction between linen-bleaching in Ireland and cotton-bleaching in England; in Ireland stocks of goods are kept, but overwork is also necessary, 2129-2134—Expediency of legislative interference with Irish bleach-works if young females and boys are employed there for long hours, 2134, 2135—Interference with the labour of grown-up men and women is very questionable policy, 2135.

Barbour, Mr. Witness concurs generally in the evidence of Mr. Barbour, *Scott* 2163, 2164. 2263, 2264.

Beetling Process. Probable employment of adults only on the beetling engines in Ireland as in England, *J. Waring* 445, 446—Very long hours in Mr. Hardcastle's beetling department; witness has worked there for thirty-six hours at a time, resting only for meals, *Miller* 1221. 1233-1236—Explanation of the beetling process as at Mr. Hardcastle's; the labour is almost continuous, *ib.* 1287-1292—Fault of the witness, Thomas Miller, if, for the greed of gain, he worked for thirty-six hours continuously in witness's beetling-rooms, *Hardcastle* 5786—Belief that there are no women in witness's beetling department, *ib.* 5788, 5789.

Frequent instances of late hours in the case of the beetlers in Scotland, whose work however is not heavy or unhealthy, *Boase* 3647. 3668-3675. 3683-3698. 3705. 3710-3725—Correctness of the statements made to Mr. Tremenheere by Mr. Forbes and Mr. Turnbull, in regard to the occasionally long hours of beetlers in Scotland, *ib.* 3668-3675—Long hours at the beetling process in Perthshire as well as elsewhere, *ib.* 3683-3687—There are probably not more than seventy or eighty women employed at the beetling process in Scotland, *ib.* 3701-3703—Nature of the work performed by the persons attendant on the beetling engines, *ib.* 3714-3722.

No women, and very few boys, are employed by witness's firm at the beetling engines, *Richardson* 3827—Beetling is the last process applied to linen goods; it is severe work, but there are long intervals of rest, *O'Brien* 4051-4056—Practice as to the employment of boys to attend to the beetling engines at Keady; the work is light and healthy, *Leeper* 4268-4275. 4285, 4286—Employment of machinery instead of boys for turning the beetling frames at Messrs. Charley's, at Seymour Hill, *Henchy* 4479-4482.

Beetling Process—continued.

Hours of labour at witness's beetling mills; there are two sets of men and boys, who work alternately day and night, *Kirk* 4551. 4563. 4564—Explanation of the beetling process, as carried on by machinery, at witness's works, *ib.* 4551-4553—Moderate heat in witness's beetling department, *ib.* 4587.

Remarks in confirmation of the evidence given before witness, by Mr. Daniel Forbes, as to operatives in the beetling rooms in Scotland falling down and going to sleep, *Tremenheere* 4722.

See also *Hours of Labour. Legislative Interference.*

Belgium. Illustration of the progress being made in Belgium in the bleaching of cotton goods, *Hardcastle* 5665, 5666. 5690-5692—Frequent instances of operative bleachers leaving this country for employment in Belgium, *ib.* 5666, 5667. 5690-5692.

Encouragement given by the Belgian Government to the extension of bleach-works, *M'Adam* 6919—Explanation as to the advantages of the Belgian manufacturer over the Irish manufacturer, and the considerable extent to which the former is superseding the latter in the supply of linen to other countries, *ib.* 6938-6946. 6950. 6976-6983. 7114-7119—Remarks on the higher duty paid on Irish linens than on Belgium linens in going into France, *ib.* 6939-6943. 6976-6983—Large use made in Belgium of Irish improvements in machinery, *ib.* 6945, 6946—In Belgium the bleachers work for long or short time in accordance with the amount of business on hand, *ib.* 6950. 6958, 6959.

See also *Foreign Competition.*

Bell, John. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Resides at Belfast; is concerned in the linen and diaper trade, and is also a flax-spinner, 4331-4335—Mode of ventilation used in flax mills in Ireland; the windows are very rarely made to move up and down, 4336, 4337. 4383, 4384—The great bulk of the flax-spinning in Ireland is wet spinning, 4338-4340—Necessity of the ventilation being from the top of the rooms where wet spinning is carried on, 4341, 4342.

Evidence relative to the lapping-rooms, to the effect that restriction upon the hours of labour is not necessary on the score of health, and would be extremely inconvenient to the trade, 4343-4375—Hours of employment in the lapping-rooms of witness's firm; there is no grievance to be redressed 4353-4356. 4361-4375—Objection to a Government inspection of the lapping-rooms, 4357—Proportion of women and children employed in the lapping-rooms; there is no complaint, 4358, 4359, 4363.

The work in the lapping-rooms is very light, 4360. 4363—Under the Factory Bill as many hours' labour might be obtained weekly by witness's firm as is now the case, but there is no necessity for legislation, 4366-4375—Employment of from 150 to 200 women and children by witness's firm in flax-spinning, 4376, 4377—The process requiring the thread to pass through hot water is carried on in only one room, there being two preparation rooms, 4378-4382.

Betts, George. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Bleacher at Mr. Tebbet's, Old Baisford, 2915-2918—Commenced work when ten or eleven years old, 2919-2921—Extremely long hours of labour in the trade when witness entered it thirty-two years ago, 2922-2929—Injurious effect of the long hours upon the health of the females and boys, 2927—The hours at Mr. Tebbet's are now from six to six in summer, and from seven to seven in winter, there being rarely any overtime, 2930, 2931. 2971-2976—Mr. Tebbet is one of the few masters who has abided by an agreement entered into some few years ago for shortening the hours of labour, 2931-2933—Very long hours still adopted by most of the bleachers at Old Baisford, 2934-2939.

General feeling of the operative bleachers in Nottingham in favour of regular hours, that is, from six to six, with two hours for meals, and no overtime, 2944-2948. 2955-2959. 2962-2967. 2976-2999—Instances of people leaving establishments where the hours were too long, 2949-2953—Willingness of Mr. Tebbet that witness should attend the Committee, 2954—Difficulty in men obtaining employment when they leave any place through the long hours, 2960, 2961—Probability of lower earnings if there be no overtime; willingness of the operatives to make this sacrifice, 2978-2999.

Blackland Mill, Paisley. Witness had for ten years exclusive medical charge of Blackland Mill, one of the largest bleaching establishments in the neighbourhood of Paisley, belonging to Messrs. Edward Hamilton and Son, *Richmond* 3157-3161—There were about 300 women and boys employed at this mill, *ib.* 3159, 3160. 3213-3216—They were exposed to four different evils as regards the effect of their occupation upon their health, *ib.* 3162 *et seq.*

Injury to the health of the women and young females in Blackland Mill in their being constantly employed standing; varicose veins are one result of this evil, *Richmond* 3162. 3173-3194. 3299. 3314-3317—Injury to the health in consequence of the great artificial heat of some of the rooms; particulars hereon, *ib.* 3162, 3163. 3173. 3193. 3196-3216. 3271-3275. 3299, 3300—Injury to health in consequence of the sudden transition from heat to cold, that is, from the heated rooms to the open air, *ib.* 3164. 3173. 3299—

Injury

Reports, 1857—continued.

Blackland Mill, Paisley—continued.

Injury to health in consequence of the long hours of labour; particulars on this point, *Richmond* 3164-3166. 3173-3176. 3195. 3271-3275. 3299. 3300—Though witness has not preserved any statistics relative to Blackland Mill and the health of the operatives, he can vouch for the bad effect generally of the work upon the health, *ib.* 3177. 3291-3300.

Small number of children under twelve years of age at Blackland Mill, *Richmond* 3217-3224—Necessity of the children working, *ib.* 3220-3225—Witness resigned his appointment at Blackland Mill, but has no objection to the character of the employment, *ib.* 3306-3309.

See also *Women's Houses*.

Blair, Stephen. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Partner in the firm of Blair & Sumner, bleachers and finishers at Bolton; has been engaged in the trade since 1819; 5806-5808—Employs 127 hands, of whom only nine are under thirteen years of age, 5809-5811—Increased introduction of machinery by witness of late years, and effect thereof in rendering the hours of labour shorter and more regular, and in displacing manual labour, 5812-5818. 5823. 5824. 5838. 5858—Tendency of legislation to increase the use of machinery, and thereby to displace manual labour, 5815, 5816.

Extent of variation in the work done and the hours of labour at witness's establishment at different periods; paper delivered in (*App. p.* 179) containing particulars hereon, 5819-5838—Means of recreation during the intervals in the work, 5831. 5856—Industry of the females during the intervals between the work 5831. 5856, 5857—Objection of witness to employ girls under eleven years of age, 5839, 5840—Neglect of the children's education by their parents, 5840. 5863.

There is a stove in witness's works, but the women are not employed in it; when the others are in it the heat is not great, 5841, 5842—Good health of witness's workpeople, 5843, 5844—Healthful character generally of employment in bleaching, 5845—Good ventilation and moderate temperature of the rooms where the young persons are employed, 5846—The longer hours of witness's people than of the factory operatives are an attraction to the latter, 5847.

Explanation as to some of the girls in witness's employment having complained to Mr. Tremenheere of sore feet; this was through wearing clogs, which have since been abolished, 5848—Facility given by witness to Mr. Tremenheere in his visit to the works, 5849—His visit was made without the previous knowledge of witness, but the men were evidently aware of his coming, 5849. 5853, 5854—Exception taken to the manner in which Mr. Tremenheere reported the evidence of a boy named Thomas Spencer, 5849-5852.

Statement of the several processes in bleaching and finishing, showing that the labour is not continuous, 5858—The labour not being continuous is a strong argument against legislation, 5858-5860—Out of 127 persons employed by witness, only thirteen can neither read nor write, 5861, 5862—Local opportunities for the education of the children, 5863—The pushes in the trade are in consequence of pressure from the merchants, 5864—Increased foreign competition if the proposed restrictions are enacted, *ib.*—Explanation by Mr. Cross of a statement by John Waring that he (Mr. Cross) worked on Sundays, 5865, 5866—Inaccuracy of the evidence of Mr. Robinson as to grass-bleaching having been the practice at Bolton when he first came there thirty-four years ago, 5867, 5868.

[Second Examination.]—Further statement as to bleaching in the open air having been given up at Bolton before Mr. Robinson settled there, 6024-6028—Necessity of bleaching linen on grass instead of by means of drugs, 6026-6028—Explanation of a statement by Henry Waring as to there being no difficulty about leaving certain processes suspended at the Christmas and Whitsuntide holidays; this cannot be done without special preparation, 6029, 6030—Witness's people have never been dismissed for refusing to work long hours, 6033—The men are always very willing to work extra time, 6033. 6051. 6053—During the last twelve months the earnings of the men have averaged 4*s.* 6*d.* a day, and of the women 1*s.* 10*d.* a day, 6033.

Explanation as to the quitance papers given to the men on dismissal, 6034, 6035—When grass-bleaching was in practice at Bolton the hours were probably more regular 6036—The employment formerly of children so young as nine or ten does not apply now, machinery tending to displace such labour altogether, 6037—Large displacement of adult labour by machinery in witness's works, 6038—Explanation as to machinery having displaced such labour as that of John Waring, 6039.

Further statement as to the existence of schools, and the opportunities for education at Bolton, and in the neighbourhood, 6040, 6041—Witness does not now employ any person who cannot read and write, 6041—Impracticability of the bleachers or merchants distributing the work equally throughout the year, 6042-6044. 6065, 6066. 6073. 6135. 6140-6142—Impropriety of applying the proposed restrictions to bleaching, including calendering and making-up, without at the same time applying them to warehouses in Manchester where calendering and making-up are done, 6045-6050. 6146-6170—Shorter hours in witness's calendering department through speeding the machinery, 6045. 6193-6195.

Blair, Stephen. (Analysis of his Evidence)—continued.

Opportunities for the employment of men who are opposed to overtime, 6051-6053 —Preference given by operatives to employment in bleach-works as compared with cotton factories, 6053. 6177-6179 —Further statement as to the system and amount of wages in witness's works, 6054-6059. 6075-6096 —Healthy condition and appearance of operative bleachers further adverted to, 6060-6062. 6113-6115 —The operatives are by no means unanimous in favour of legislation, 6063 —The master bleachers are generally opposed to interference, 6064.

Further apprehension of an injurious increase of foreign competition if the proposed restrictions be adopted, 6065, 6066. 6142. 6197, 6198 —Statement delivered in (*App. p.* 180, 181), containing particulars as to the labour, hours of employment, &c. of the men, women, boys, and girls at witness's works, 6067, 6068 —The children are employed chiefly at the desire of the parents, 6069, 6070 —Measures being adopted by witness for superseding, by machinery, the employment of children, 6069. 6129.

Distinction between the objections to the Factory Act and the objections to the proposed Bill, 6072-6074 —Tendency of improved machinery to substitute the labour of boys for adult labour, 6097-6100 —Examination relative to evidence given to Mr. Tremenheere by some of the young females in witness's employment as to their hours of labour in 1854 and 1855; witness is not prepared to deny that they may occasionally have worked "from five in the morning till eight or nine at night," or "from twelve at night till eight or nine the following evening." 6101-6129.

Successful efforts made by witness since, and in consequence of, Mr. Tremenheere's visit to reduce and render more regular the hours of labour in his establishment, 6120, 6121. 6126. 6129. 6156-6168. 6191, 6192 —Further statement as to the continuous character of the processes in bleaching, &c.; practicability, however, of stopping work at any time (as well as on Sunday) if there were no pressure on the part of the merchant, 6130-6143 —In the bleaching process witness employs only seventeen boys and two men, 6144 —The manager in each room fixes the hour for commencing work in the morning, 6145.

Comparative worthlessness of the Bill, inasmuch as the restrictions upon calendering, &c., when in connexion with bleach-works, would be evaded by the carrying on of such business in separate buildings, and the restrictions upon bleaching would be met by the increased introduction of machinery, and the displacement of the labour of boys and females, 6146-6190 —Belief that the masters generally, as well as witness, are opposed to over-working boys, and will, without any legislative restriction, take steps for abridging the hours, 6156-6168.

Witness's main objection to the Bill is that it interferes to regulate hours, which are necessarily irregular, 6196-6198. 6227 —The work has, of late years, been done in more regular hours, and the merchants have not been put to inconvenience, 6199-6203 —Witness further contends that, under a ten hours' system, it would be impracticable for the merchant as well as for the bleacher to conduct trade without injury and loss of business, 6203-6228 —Exception taken to the evidence of Mr. Barbour, in regard to the power of the merchants to distribute their orders regularly, 6204-6208.

Interference with adult labour, if the labour of the women and children be restricted, 6228 —Further statement that witness's stove is never hot when the people are in it; there are no women in it at all, 6229-6234 —Liberty, generally, of witness's people to leave his employment without notice being insisted on, though, nominally, a fortnight's notice is required on either side, 6236.

[Third Examination.] Paper delivered in (*App. p.* 182, 183), containing details of each day's work at witness's establishment from the 18th November 1854 to the 18th January 1855; average of 8½ hours a day, 6475, 6476.

Boase, Henry Samuel. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Managing partner of the Claverhouse Bleaching Field, near Dundee, 3617-3620 —Concurs generally in the evidence of Mr. Drimminie, 3621 —Healthy, happy, and contented state of the operative bleachers under witness, and throughout the west of Scotland, 3622-3627. 3639-3646. 3653. 3681, 3682. 3723-3725 —Dissent from the conclusions arrived at in the report of Mr. Tremenheere, relative to Scotland, 3628-3633. 3654-3674 —The report gives only a general idea; it should have investigated more minutely, 3629, 3630.

Understanding in the Claverhouse works that there is to be no excessive overtime, 3633. 3684 —Necessity occasionally of overtime, on account of unfavourable weather, and other causes, 3634-3636. 3687-3700 —Tendency of legislative restrictions to drive the cotton population of the bleaching fields into towns, 3637, 3638 —Good health of the women and children as well as of the men, 3641-3645. 3706-3708 —Considerable improvement in regard to overtime in the Scotch bleach-fields within the last twenty years; oppressively long hours when witness first went to Scotland nineteen years ago, 3647. 3726-3751.

Reports, 1857—continued.

Boase, Henry Samuel. (Analysis of his Evidence)—continued.

Improvement going on in regard to the hours of labour on account of the better feeling and understanding between master and man, 3648, 3649. 3752-3754—Frequent instances of late hours in the case of the beetlers, whose work however is not heavy or unhealthy, 3647. 3668-3675. 3683-3698. 3705. 3710-3725—Check to undue overtime in the greater independence of the operatives of late years, 3648. 3704—Rare instances of employing children under the age of thirteen in witness's works, 3650, 3651—Educated state of the children when they begin to work, 3652.

Unreliable character of portion of the evidence given before Mr. Tremenheere by Mr. Daniel Forbes, of Cairnfield, near Perth, 3654-3669—Correctness of statements by Mr. Forbes and Mr. Turnbull in regard to the occasionally long hours of beetlers, 3668-3675—In the stoves in witness's establishment men only are employed, 3677. 3680—Recent erection by witness of a patent stove, whereby the men are exempt from feeling the heat at so high a temperature, 3677-3679. 3707—Long hours at the beetling process in Perthshire, as well as elsewhere, 3683-3687—Accommodation provided when the men and women work all night at beetling; occasional immorality, 3688-3697.

At the Clavehouse works the hours average about sixty a week, 3699—There are probably not more than seventy or eighty women employed at the beetling process in Scotland, 3701-3703—Doubt whether continuous employment of women in the stoves is very unhealthy, 3707-3709—Nature of the work performed by the persons attendant on the beetling engines, 3714-3722—Payment of wages in witness's establishment by the piece and by the day; earnings under each system, 3755.

Bolton. See *Age of Employment.* *Ainsworth, Mr.* *Commission of Inquiry.*
Education. *Employment.* *Health.* *Hours of Labour.* *Legislative Inter-*
ference. *Masters.* *Operatives.* *Slater, John.* *Wages.*

Bowley, Albert. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Bleacher, in the employment of Messrs. Spencer & Harrison, of Nottingham, 2611-2615—From fifty to sixty persons are employed, of whom about a dozen are females under the age of eighteen; there are scarcely any boys, 2616-2618. 2661-2664—Extremely long hours of labour, occasionally, of these females, as well as of the other operatives, 2619-2629—Injurious effect of the long hours upon the health of the females, 2629, 2630. 2642-2645—During the last twelve months the hours have not been so long, 2631-2633.

Unwillingness of the masters to reduce the hours unless, as a body, they be compelled to do so, 2633, 2634—General feeling of the Nottingham operative bleachers in favour of legislative restriction upon the hours, 2635. 2659—Witness does not know the nature of Mr. Tremenheere's report in regard to Nottingham; he was not aware of his visit to that town, 2636, 2637. 2658-2660—In the finishing department of Messrs. Spencer & Harrison rollers are used, 2638, 2639.

The heat in the rooms where the young females work varies from 80 to 110 degrees, and is very injurious to health, 2640-2645—Uneducated state of the young females in the employment of Messrs. Spencer & Harrison; this is mainly the fault of the parents, 2647-2652. 2666-2669. 2764-2766. 2772. 2779—Inability of the workpeople to attend places of worship on Sunday on account of over-fatigue, 2653-2657. 2716. 2774, 2775—Wages of the young females; irrespective of overtime, they get about 2s. 6d. a week, 2670-2677. 2700-2715—Nine hours and a half, that is, from eight till seven o'clock, less time for meals, constitute a day's work, 2678-2686.

Witness's wages are 3s. a day, or, if he work from eight in the morning till twelve at night, 5s. 2d.; 2687-2690. 2700—It is compulsory on the workpeople to work long hours, otherwise they would be discharged, and might remain out of work, 2690-2695. 2717-2746—Witness has been threatened by Mr. Harrison with dismissal unless he worked the required time, 2725-2743—The wages of the men at Nottingham vary very much according to their capabilities for work, 2747-2752—Further statement as to the earnings of the young females, 2753-2763—In many instances the masters require the parents to send their children to the works, 2763. 2767-2771—There is generally pretty full work at Messrs. Spencer & Harrison's throughout the year, 2776-2778.

Bowley, Albert. Character of the witness Bowley adverted to; denial of the accuracy of some of his statements with reference to witness's works, *Harrison* 4952 *et seq.*

Bradford Chamber of Commerce. Witness represents the feelings not only of the Bradford dye trade, but also of the Bradford Chamber of Commerce, by whom he has been deputed to attend the Committee, in opposition to the proposal for legislative interference, *Ripley* 6020.

Bradford Dye Trade. Statement of the total number of hands employed in the principal dye-houses in the Bradford stuff trade; total of 3,174 males above eighteen, of 683 males under eighteen, and of 117 females, *Ripley* 5881-5883—Circumstance of Mr. Butt having promised to exclude the stuff dyers from the operation of the Bill, *ib.* 6023.

Reports, 1857—continued.

Breakage of Machinery. In the case of cotton works witness suggests that there be some provision for making up time lost by the breakage of machinery, *Tremenheere* 4935-4949.

Brownbill, Thomas Frederick. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Surgeon at Salford; is medical inspector of the Salford Union Workhouse, and has had considerable experience in regard to operatives in dye-works, &c., 3000-3003, 3033, 3059-3063—Decidedly injurious effect of the long hours of labour, and the high degrees of heat in dye-works, upon the health and physical condition of the females and young persons employed therein; 3004 *et seq.*—The hours vary from twelve to eighteen daily in the case of young persons in the dye-works at Salford, 3008-3010—An average of ten or ten hours and a half daily is quite enough for persons under eighteen years of age, 3011, 3064-3066.

About two years ago witness and all the medical men in Salford signed a petition, praying for legislative interference with the hours of labour in dye-works, &c., 3014—Witness is still an advocate for legislative interference with the hours of labour of young persons in bleaching and dyeing works, and in other works involving unhealthy confinement, 3015-3017, 3037, 3038, 3058-3074—Frequent instances of bad health in the case of factory children, 3018-3026—Few females engaged in the dye-works at Salford 3027—Considerable number of boys in these works; their ages, 3027, 3028, 3039.

Improvement in the health and physical condition of the factory operatives since the Ten Hours Act, 3029-3033, 3051-3057—Instances of factory operatives disabled from work by the system formerly pursued, 3031, 3046-3049—Girls engaged in dye-works do not wish for employment in factories, but sometimes leave to work in silk-mills, 3040—More healthy character of the employment in dye-works than in factories, 3041-3045, 3050—In bleaching and dyeing works children should not work under twelve or thirteen years of age, 3068—Parents are frequently blameable for the overwork of their children, 3075-3077.

Burton James. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Has been in business about fifty-five years as calico printer, cotton spinner and bleacher, &c., 7254-7259—Healthy and cleanly character of employment in bleaching and dyeing, 7260, 7270—Less opportunity formerly than at present for the education of the operatives, 7261—Witness objects to legislative restriction upon the hours of labour in bleach and dye-works, as interfering with the completion of orders, which are constantly required to be executed by a given time, 7262-7289.

Belief that restriction would injure the employed as well as the employers, 7264—Objection to interference with the hours in the Manchester packing-up warehouses, 7271, 7272—Strong objection to the system of inspection under the Factory Act; general dissatisfaction of masters on the subject, 7289-7305.

Burton, John. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Gasser, bleacher, and trimmer, near Nottingham, 5150, 5151—Employs 126 men, 115 women, and 119 young persons, 5152-5154—The ages of the young persons vary from nine to seventeen, 5155, 5156—The ordinary hours of labour of the men are from six to six, and of the women from seven to seven, two hours being allowed for meals, 5157-5160—The hours of the adults sometimes are extended till nine in the evening, and are paid for as overhours, 5161-5167—Nature of the gassing business, 5168—The temperature in the rooms is about 70°; 5170—Machinery is employed in bleaching, but not for the trimming or finishing, 5170.

Explanation relative to the arrangement about the hours of ordinary labour and about overhours and prices which were in operation between witness's firm and their men, and between several other masters and their men, at the time of Mr. Tremeneheere's inquiry, 5173 *et seq.*—The present practice as regards hours of labour at witness's establishment may be considered similar to that in force during Mr. Tremeneheere's visit, 5175-5178, 5190, 5206, 5207—Absence of difficulty to witness's firm and others, in carrying on their business under the arrangement limiting the hours, including overtime, from six to eight or nine, 5179-5189, 5225-5230, 5246-5248.

Impression as to some establishments at Nottingham occasionally continuing work up to eleven or twelve at night, 5190-5194, 5208—Number of children in witness's employment who are only nine or ten years of age; earliest age at which taken, 5195-5197, 5284-5288—The hours of the younger children are generally limited to six in the evening, witness objecting to their working for a longer time than ten hours, 5198-5203, 5249-5251, 5289-5294—The parents are anxious for their children's employment, and do not complain of their being hardly worked, 5204, 5205, 5215, 5216—There have been one or two instances of adults leaving witness's employment on account of the restriction upon the overhours, 5209-5211, 5245.

The employment of the boys is very much in the nature of mere domestic work, 5212—The proposed Bill would seriously interfere with the masters in time of pressure, as they would require enlarged premises, and a greater number of workpeople, whom they might

Reports, 1857—continued.

Burton, John. (Analysis of his Evidence)—continued.

might not be able to maintain, 5217 *et seq.*—Voluntary character of the former arrangement between some of the masters and their men as to overtime and prices; difficulty in the adoption generally of any voluntary system, 5233-5240. 5244. 5246, 5247. 5267-5273—Belief that it would be better, for both masters and men, if, including overtime, the hours could, by arrangement, be limited to from six to nine, 5242, 5243.

Demand at present for women's labour at Nottingham, 5258, 5259-5274, 5275—The work of the women at witness's establishment is not laborious, 5264-5266—Objection of the women to be obliged to leave off work at six in the evening, 5276-5278—Partial interference with the labour of the adults if the labour of the boys and girls be limited to ten hours daily, 5279-5283. 5289-5297—Light work on which the younger children are employed, 5284-5286—Healthful character of employment in the bleaching of cotton, hosiery, and lace, 5297, 5298.

Burton, Mr. (Old Baisford). Very long hours of labour at Mr. Burton's establishment, near Nottingham, for some few years after witness joined it, about ten years ago, *Shelbourne* 2801-2808—Mr. Burton never allows his people to work after nine at night, *ib.* 2814—Employment of very young boys, as well as adults, in the bleaching department; hours of labour of these boys, *ib.* 2819-2828. 2836-2846—Strong opinion expressed by Mr. Burton against the hours of labour in other establishments, *ib.* 2829.

Mr. Burton employs about 400 people, several of whom are females, *Shelbourne* 2830-2832—When a pressure comes, all the departments, and the young as well as the adults, work for very long hours, *ib.* 2833-2835. 2891-2893—Ordinary hours at Mr. Burton's, *ib.* 2838-2841. 2897-2907—Light work on which the young boys are engaged, *ib.* 2842-2846—Statement as to Mr. Tremenbeere having visited Mr. Burton's establishment, and having been told that the extreme hours were from six till nine, *ib.* 2847-2860.

C.

Calendering. See *Evasion of Legislative Restrictions.* **Warehouses.**

Charley, John and William. The ordinary hours of labour at Messrs. Charley's, of Seymour Hill, are from six in the morning to six in the evening, two hours being allowed for meals, *Henchy* 4455-4467—Employment of some women at the works, *ib.* 4498-4501—There are six boys in the lapping-rooms and ten in the bleach-works, *ib.* 4502, 4503—Way in which the Bill would injuriously affect the time of labour of young persons at Messrs. Charley's, &c., *ib.* 4507-4533—As regards the employment of women in the stoves, witness has never heard any complaint, *ib.* 4534-4540.

Charlton, Robert & Sons. Statement, as prepared by Thomas Bracken, a maker-up in the establishment of Messrs. Robert Charlton & Sons, of Manchester, relative to the overtime in that establishment; explanation as to this statement; its accuracy, *Fletcher* 1720-1729. 1739-1750. 1778-1789.

Children. See *Adult Labour.* *Age of Employment.* *Commission of Inquiry.* *Education.* *Employment.* *Health.* *Hours of Labour.* *Legislative Interference.* *Operatives.* *Wages.*

Clamping Rooms. Explanation relative to the process in the clamping-rooms; the objection which existed against the high temperature has been obviated by new inventions and improvements, *Hardcastle* 5502-5510. 5805—The clamping frames at Halliwell are worked exclusively by adult males, *Morris* 6385, 6386.

Claverhouse Bleaching Field, Dundee. Witness is managing partner of the Claverhouse bleaching field, near Dundee, *Boase* 3617-3620—Understanding in the Claverhouse works that there is to be no excessive overtime, *ib.* 3633. 3684—Necessity occasionally of overtime, on account of unfavourable weather and other causes, *ib.* 3634-3636. 3687-3700—Rare instance of employing children under the age of thirteen in witness's works, *ib.* 3650, 3651—The hours average about sixty a week, *ib.* 3699—Payment of wages by the piece and by the day; earnings under each system, *ib.* 3755.

Collieries Inspection Act. The Act for the inspection of coal mines has done harm rather than good, *Hardcastle* 5607-5610—Evidence relative to and in approval of Salter's improved spring balance as a steam-gauge, to which steam-gauge one of the colliery inspectors objected as improper, *ib.* 5610-5612. 5693-5711.

Commission Agents. See *Merchants and Commission Agents.*

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COMMISSION OF INQUIRY:

1. *General Explanation by the Commissioner as to his conduct of the Inquiry.*
2. *Views of sundry Witnesses as to the Character of the Inquiry; Exceptions taken to the Report.*

1. *General Explanation by the Commissioner as to his conduct of the Inquiry:*

Witness was appointed, in 1854, as Commissioner to examine and report upon the bleaching and dyeing works in the United Kingdom, *Tremenheere* 1. 15—Completed his inquiries about the end of March 1855, and reported on 7th June 1855, since which time he has not paid any further attention to the subject, *ib.* 2-12—Particulars as to the mode in which witness conducted his inquiries; sufficiency of the data for the conclusions and recommendations in his report, *ib.* 13 *et seq.*

Witness visited several bleach-works; in some of them he did not stay more than a few hours, *Tremenheere* 13-20—He took evidence from a considerable number of workpeople, and had such evidence confirmed by reading it over to the person in charge of each establishment at the time, *ib.* 19-24—He commenced his inquiry by taking evidence from a committee of operatives who had been promoting the movement, *ib.* 33, 34. 42-47. 141, 142—He subsequently had frequent communication with Mr. Ainsworth, and other masters, *ib.* 34, 35—He visited altogether twenty-seven establishments in Lancashire and Cheshire; names of some of these, *ib.* 35. 37. 79, 80—He examined several of the masters, *ib.* 36. 38.

Exception taken to a statement by Dr. Boase (Q. 3629. 3630), that as regards the east of Scotland, witness's report only gave a general idea of the state of things, and did not go sufficiently into particulars, *Tremenheere* 4720-4722—As regards the non-examination by witnesses of any operatives on the east coast of Scotland, he considered that his investigations in Lancashire and the west coast of Scotland already established a case for legislation with regard to boys and females, *ib.* 4723-4761.

Explanation as to witness, before entering upon his inquiries, not having considered it necessary either to frame any formal set of questions, or to include in his report the actual questions put, as well as the evidence in reply, *Tremenheere* 4762-4766. 4773-4775. 4795, 4796—Explanation as to witness having in questioning Mr. Alexander Hunter, of Doninurry, led him to infer that there was to be an Act for England and Scotland, *ib.* 4766-4772—Way in which witness took down the evidence of the masters and the men; opportunity given them to correct or object to any statement which he had recorded, *ib.* 4773-4775. 4791-4793. 4850-4852.

For the same reason that witness did not consider it necessary to examine the operatives on the east coast of Scotland, he did not deem it essential to examine the operatives in Ireland *Tremenheere* 4776-4781—As regards the way in which witness reported his conversation with Mr. Alexander Hunter, no complaint has been made by Mr. Hunter on the subject, *ib.* 4791-4794—The only objection made by any person of witness's version of his evidence, was an objection of a friendly nature, by Dr. Boase, *ib.* 4794—Reference to a discrepancy in witness's remarks upon the evidence of Mr. Richardson, as to dispensing with overtime in the case of females, *ib.* 4797.

Before witness attended the operatives' committee in Lancashire he had some slight communication with one or two of the masters, *Tremenheere* 4798—With two or three exceptions, the operatives' delegates in communication with witness were at the time employed in bleach-works, *ib.* 4799.

Statement, as to witness having visited ten establishments not on the list given him by Mr. Ainsworth on the part of the masters; the evidence obtained thereat was in contradiction of that supplied by the masters, *Tremenheere* 4804-4807—Every facility in visiting the works was afforded by the masters, *ib.* 4808—Witness had frequent communication with the delegates between his visits to the bleach-works, *ib.* 4809-4811.

Explanation as to the evidence of Mr. John Pender, relative to his warehouse, not having been read over to him, *Tremenheere* 4853—Before entering on the inquiry, witness knew nothing about the bleaching population, and was not aware of the system of excessive overtime, *ib.* 4865-4867—Before inquiring as to the means of remedy, witness considered it his duty first to inquire into the existence and nature of the evil, *ib.* 4868, 4869.

2. *Views of sundry Witnesses as to the Character of the Inquiry; Exceptions taken to the Report:*

Explanation as to the mode in which witness gave evidence before Mr. Tremeneheere, *J. Waring* 480-487—Impartiality of the proceedings of Mr. Tremeneheere, *ib.* 487, 488—According to Mr. Tremeneheere's desire the Bolton operatives furnished him with a list of bleach-works in the neighbourhood; in doing so they said nothing about Ireland, *ib.* 489-497—Witness gave evidence before Mr. Tremeneheere, which evidence is equally applicable to the present state of things, *H. Waring* 888-891.

Mr.

COMMISSION OF INQUIRY—continued.

2. *Views of sundry Witnesses as to the Character of the Inquiry, &c.*—continued.

Mr. Tremenheere's book fairly represents witness's statement to him, *Scott* 2265-2268—Partially inaccurate manner in which witness's evidence before Mr. Tremenheere is represented in his book, *Slagg* 2311, 2312. 2319-2323—Witness adheres to the evidence which he gave before Mr. Tremenheere, *Gilbroy* 3088, 3089.

Dissent from the conclusions arrived at in the report of Mr. Tremenheere relative to Scotland, *Boase* 3628-3633. 3654-3674—The report gives only a general idea; it should have gone more minutely into the investigation, *ib.* 3630—Reference to the report given by Mr. Tremenheere of his conversation with witness; inaccuracy of one portion of it, *Richardson* 3838-3849—Remarks on the circumstance of Mr. Tremenheere's report having referred to the Nottingham dyers without any mention of the more numerous dye-works in Coventry, Macclesfield, &c. *Keely* 5408, 5413-5422.

Reference to a statement made to Mr. Tremenheere by one of witness's oldest managers as to the impracticability of dispensing with the women's labour after six o'clock; this statement was not recorded by Mr. Tremenheere, *Hardcastle* 5463, 5464—Exceptions taken to the manner in which Mr. Tremenheere conducted his examination at witness's works; he seemed determined to make a case in favour of legislation if he could not find one, *ib.* 5533-5536. 5567-5569.

Mr. Tremenheere's visit to witness's works was made without the previous knowledge of witness, but the men were evidently aware of his coming, *Blair* 5849. 5853, 5854—Exceptions taken to the manner in which Mr. Tremenheere reported the evidence of a boy named Thomas Spencer, *ib.* 5849-5852.

Statement as to Mr. Tremenheere's report professing to give some evidence from Mr. Sutcliffe, the manager at witness's works, whereas such evidence was really given by Murgatroyd, then manager of the chemical department, who had not a practical knowledge of the system of labour, and made some mistakes in what he told Mr. Tremenheere, *Ripley* 5905. 5911-5913. 5938-5943. 5953-5968. 5989-5997. 6012. 6019—Opinion that Mr. Tremenheere's report does not make out a sufficient case for legislation, *ib.* 5922-5926.

Exception taken to the version given by Mr. Tremenheere of his conversation with witness; the report of the conversation was shown to witness's partner, but witness did not see it, or he should have corrected it, *Pender* 7145, 7146. 7165-7170. 7199—Witness expressed himself to Mr. Tremenheere strongly in opposition to legislative interference with the bleacher or merchant, *ib.* 7147-7150.

Inaccuracy of the report by Mr. Tremenheere of some evidence given before him by witness and by Mary Ann Greenhalgh, one of the girls in his employment; inaccuracy of the report otherwise, as regards witness's works, *J. N. Slater* 7309-7320. 7341-7349. 7364-7366.

See also *Masters. Schunck, Souchay & Co.*

Competition. Tendency of competition in trade to lead to long hours, unless there be a legal restriction, *Barbour* 2065-2067—Competition is the cause of long hours, *Slagg* 2379.—See also *Foreign Competition.*

Completion of Orders. See *Foreign Orders. Hours of Labour, II. Merchants and Commission Agents. Pushes.*

Continent, The. Absence of legislative interference with the hours of labour in continental bleach-works, *MacAdam* 6950. 6958, 6959. 6984. 7033—Good condition, socially and intellectually, of the bleaching operatives along the Rhine and in Belgium, *ib.* 6961-6964.

Continuous Labour. See *Hours of Labour, II.*

Cost of Bleaching. As regards the price of labour, of fuel, and of chemical substances respectively in this country and on the Continent, the aggregate cost is in favour of the Continent, *MacAdam* 6920-6929. 6969-6975.—See also *Foreign Competition. Prices.*

Cotton Mills. See *Factory Act.*

Crook, Joseph (Member of the House). (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Is one of the Members for Bolton, 2446—Is a cotton-spinner and manufacturer, and is not practically acquainted with the process of bleaching, 2447-2449—Very long hours for which women and children are employed in the bleach-works about Bolton, 2450-2453—Injurious effect of the long hours upon the health, 2450. 2454, 2455—Injurious effect upon the morals and intelligence, 2450. 2456—Children begin work when ten or eleven years of age, 2457.

General feeling of the Bolton operative bleachers in favour of legislative restriction upon the hours of work, 2458-2467. 2512-2516—Grounds for the conclusion that a
0.37—Sess. 2. C c system

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Crook, Joseph (Member of the House). (Analysis of his Evidence)—continued.

system of regular hours would not cause any inconvenience or detriment to the trade, 2468-2475. 2488-2490. 2578—Inability of the operatives to protect themselves; they are quite under the control of the masters, 2476-2480—Very favourable working of the Factory Act adverted to in support of a similar Act for bleach-works, 2481-2487. 2490. 2559-2563.

Belief that regular hours would be an unmixed benefit to the master bleachers, 2489—On the ground of health, morality, and education, there is an imperious necessity for legislation, 2490. 2499 *et seq.*—Growing feeling among the masters in favour of legislation, 2491, 2492—Utter inefficiency of a voluntary system of short hours, 2493-2498—Ignorance, in the shape of attachment to bad customs, is one reason of the strong opposition made by some masters to legislation; examination hereon, 2503. 2529-2540.

Inability of the bleachers to promote education or instruction among themselves in consequence of the long hours, 2505-2511. 2553, 2554. 2564-2570—General feeling of the clergy and medical men of Bolton in favour of the contemplated restrictions, 2517-2522—Feeling of merchants and commission agents in Manchester in favour of restriction, 2523-2528—Limited extent of witness's acquaintance, practically, with bleach-works, 2541-2544. 2564-2570. 2575-2579.

Feeling of necessity which induces parents to send their children to bleach-works instead of to school, 2545-2552—Benefits of a system of regular hours combined with an extension of works, 2555-2559—Probability of equally good wages if the hours were reduced, 2559-2561—Effect of free trade in giving an impetus to wages, 2562, 2563. 2603-2609—Independent feeling of operatives in regard to supplying themselves with means of instruction, instead of attending reading-rooms provided by their masters, 2570, 2571.

Satisfactory conduct of Mr. Makant's bleach-works at Bolton, 2572-2574—Feeling of Mr. Makant in favour of short hours, but in disapproval of legislative interference, 2579-2586—Reasons why the operative bleachers do not seek employment in cotton factories or mills, where the hours are regular, 2587-2602—There is a surplus population near Bolton quite sufficient to fill any new mills, 2610.

Cross, Mr. At Mr. Cross's works at Bolton the hours of labour were extremely long when witness was there, *J. Waring* 410.—See also *Sunday Labour*.

D.

Discipline. Ill effect upon the discipline in witness's works if he were in any way subject to an inspector, *Hardcastle* 5633, 5634; *J. Slater* 6255, 6324.

Dismissal from Employment. Reluctance of bleachers publicly to state their grievances through fear of dismissal from employment; case in point; the apprehension is well-founded, *Garstang* 707-712. 759-770—Penalty of non-employment in the event of a man being so independent as to refuse overwork, *ib.* 714. 717-719. 759-769—Helpless position of the men in regard to overwork, which, if they refuse to do, they are at once dismissed, *H. Waring* 925-929—It is compulsory on the workpeople at Messrs. Spencer & Harrison's to work long hours; otherwise they might be discharged and remain out of work, *Bowley* 2690-2695. 2717-2746—Witness has been threatened by Mr. Harrison with dismissal unless he worked the required time, *ib.* 2725-2743.

Some of witness's workpeople have been threatened with dismissal for irregular attendance, but not for refusing to work overtime, *Harrison* 5060, 5061. 5068-5070. 5108-5117—Witness's people have never been dismissed for refusing to work long hours, *Blair* 6033—None have ever been discharged by Messrs. Sykes for any refusal to work, *Southworth* 6875, 6876.

See also *Quittance Papers*.

Division of Work. Considerable extent to which, by proper division of work, a remedy might be found for the occasional long hours of labour, *Richmond* 3260-3270.

See also *Hours of Labour*, II.

Domestic Employments. Objections to legislative restrictions upon the hours of labour in the case of domestic or private employments, *Tremenheere* 4892-4899. 4917-4935.

Driminnie, Daniel. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Is managing partner in the firm of Daniel Driminnie & Co., carrying on Irish bleaching near Duudee, 3556, 3557—The work is chiefly in the open air, and is quite distinct from the work in Lancashire, Cheshire, and other places, 3558-3561. 3565-3574-3577—The occupation is exceedingly healthy, 3562-3565. 3589-3596—System of regular hours adopted by witness and other firms in Fifeshire, Forfarshire, and Aberdeenshire; particulars hereon, showing that the hours are

Reports, 1857—continued.

Driminnie, Daniel. (Analysis of his Evidence)—continued.

are not too long, 3566-3581. 3587. 3607-3610—Nature of the employment and hours of labour of the females and boys, 3567-3578.

Impracticability of the clause proposed by Mr. Traenenheere, allowing extra time in certain cases, 3583-3585—Impracticability of conforming in the bleach-fields to a system of regular hours, 3586—Satisfaction of the workpeople in witness's part of Scotland with the present hours of labour, 3588. 3591—Healthy and well-conducted character of the women employed in the Fifeshire bleach-fields, 3589-3596.

Bleaching in Fifeshire is to all intents and purposes an out-door occupation, 3592-3594—A limit to ten hours daily would practically be often a limit to a shorter time, 3597—Probability of legislative restrictions interfering with the class of labourers, chiefly cotters, employed in many of the bleach-fields, 3598-3604—Way in which the work is carried on in winter or severe weather, 3611-3616.

Driminnie, Mr. Witness concurs generally in the evidence of Mr. Driminnie, *Boase* 3621.

E.

Earnings. See *Wages.*

EDUCATION :

1. *Amount of Education of Operative Bleachers.*
2. *Existence of Schools in the neighbourhood of Bleach-works.*
3. *How far the Hours of Labour are a bar to Education.*
4. *How far the want of Education is the Fault of the Parents.*
5. *Considerations as to the Expediency of Compulsory Education.*

1. *Amount of Education of Operative Bleachers :*

Totally uneducated state of the great majority of the bleachers about Bolton, &c., and of their children, *H. Waring* 972, 973. 1049-1073. 1160-1172—There is now more education than there used to be, *ib.* 1072, 1073. 1117—After eight years of age witness never attended school, except on Sunday, *Mather* 1354-1358—Two sons of witness, employed at twelve years of age, had previously had some education, *Price* 1883. 1907, 1908—Education is pretty general among Mr. Ainsworth's workpeople, *ib.* 1909.

Educated state of the children at Claverhouse bleach-works when they begin to work, *Boase* 3652—Statement as to the uneducated character of the children in the spinning mills in witness's locality, *Richardson* 3870. 3872-3876. 3908-3910—Improved education among the boys in bleach-works at Keady, &c., *Leeper* 4282—Most of the boys at Messrs. Charley's can read and write, *Henchy* 4469—Education almost invariably required in the boys before witness employs them, *Kirk* 4590, 4630-4633. 4663-4666.

Out of 127 persons employed by witness, only thirteen can neither read nor write, *Blair* 5861, 5862—Education of the boys who come to witness from the factories, *Ripley* 5998, 5999—Witness does not now employ any person who cannot read and write; *Blair* 6041—Better education among the bleachers than among other operatives, *Packer* 6652. 6655. 6720—Partial education of most of those who attend witness's night school at Halliwell, *ib.* 6736-6738—The workpeople employed by witness can for the most part read and write, *J. N. Slater* 7329, 7330.

2. *Existence of Schools in the neighbourhood of Bleach-works :*

Witness does not know of any school attached to bleaching works at Bolton; school at Halliwell adverted to hereon, *H. Waring* 1150, 1151. 1159—Particulars relative to a school attached to Mr. Hardcastle's works; how attended and supported, *Miller* 1238-1242. 1251, 1252. 1267-1271—There is no school at Mr. Bridson's works, *Mather* 1329. 1352—How far the education of young persons in the bleach-works at Lisburn has been attended to, *Kelso* 4196—Great care taken by Mr. Richardson in regard to education, *ib.*—Facilities for the education of the young persons in witness's employment; nature of their education, *Harrison* 5024-5029. 5040—Considerable facilities for education in Nottingham, *Keely* 5412.

Considerable opportunities of witness's workpeople for education and religious instruction, *Hardcastle* 5465-5469—Opportunities in witness's neighbourhood for the instruction of young persons before entering his employment, as well as for their occasional instruction subsequently, *ib.* 5635-5639. 5729-5737—Duty of employers of labour and of the richer portion of the community in regard to education, *ib.* 5642.

Local opportunities at Bolton for the education of the children, *Blair* 5863. 6040, 6041—Ample provision of excellent schools at Halliwell; particulars hereon, *Packer* 6636-6645. 6722—There are schools and chapels in the immediate neighbourhood of witness's employment, *Southworth* 6892—Less opportunity formerly than at present for the education of the operatives, *James Burton* 7261—Provision of chapels and schools in witness's neighbourhood; subscriptions by witness's family thereto, *J. N. Slater* 7323. 7374, 7375.

EDUCATION—continued.**3. How far the Hours of Labour are a bar to Education :**

Impediment to education on account of the long hours of labour, *H. Waring* 974-1066-1069. 1122-1130—Want of opportunity for education simultaneously with employment, *Miller* 1237. 1242. 1262-1266—Except on Sunday, the children at Mr. Bridson's works do not attend any school, *Mather* 1353-1358.

Difficulty as regards the attendance at the night schools attached to Mr. Ainsworth's works, *Price* 1876-1878—Opportunity in slack times, but not when there is overwork, for boys to attend the schools, *ib.* 1887-1896—Inability of the bleachers to promote education or instruction among themselves, in consequence of the long hours, *Crook* 2505-2511. 2553, 2554. 2564-2570—Want of education among young females at Keady, on account of their constant employment on sewed muslins, *Leeper* 4283.

Much better attendance of the bleaching population than of the factory operatives at the schools and churches at Halliwell, *Packer* 6646-6648. 6656, 6657. 6687-6691. 6721. 6736—Particulars as to the average attendance at the several schools in St. Paul's, Halliwell, *ib.* 6649-6651—Doubt as to the regularity of the attendance at the night school, *ib.* 6687-6691.

4. How far the want of Education is the Fault of the Parents :

Wages of witness adverted to, in connexion with the circumstance of his not having educated his children, *H. Waring* 1048-1052. 1057, 1058. 1131-1141—Question as to the parents being blameable for not sending their children to school; how far there is at Bolton opportunity to do so, *ib.* 1060-1072. 1131-1172—Anxiety of the parents in Mr. Hardcastle's establishment for the education of their children, *Miller* 1250-1252. 1272-1276.

As regards the non-education of bleachers' children, the parents, doubtless, are mainly blameable in preferring to send them to work for the sake of their wages, *Milton* 1435-1439. 1494, 1495. 1536. 1563, 1564—Uneducated state of the children adverted to, as attributable mainly to the fault of the parents, *Fletcher* 1653-1660—Non-attendance at school is, in many cases, the fault of the parents, *Price* 1893-1896.

Uneducated state of the young females in the employment of Messrs. Spencer & Harrison; this is mainly the fault of the parents, *Bowley* 2647-2652. 2666-2669. 2764-2766. 2772. 2779—Neglect of the children's education by the parents, *Blair* 5840. 5863—Those whose parents receive the best wages are the worst educated, *ib.* 5840. 5863. 6041—Interference with education on account of parents sending their children to the factories for the sake of their earnings, *Packer* 6723-6728—Unwillingness of parents to go to any expense in educating their children, *ib.* 6639-6642.

5. Considerations as to the Expediency of Compulsory Education :

Grounds for the conclusion that it is not expedient to provide, by legislation, for the education of children employed in bleaching-works, *Tremenhere* 200-211—Approval of the principle of the Print Works Act being applied to the education of boys working in collieries between the ages of ten and fourteen, *ib.* 203-205—Satisfactory operation of the education clauses of the Factory Act, *ib.* 207, 208—If education clauses could be made applicable, without serious inconvenience to children in bleaching-works, witness would fully approve of them, *ib.* 209-213.

Importance of an extension to the bleaching-works of the education clauses of the Factory Act, *Garstang* 795, 796; *Robinson* 855. 663-684—Question as to the expediency of prohibiting labour until thirteen years of age, with a view to education; unwillingness of operatives to educate their children adverted to hereon, *Robinson* 575-582. 656-683.

Opportunities for, and probability of education, if the children did not work till they were twelve years old, *H. Waring* 1117-1130. 1187-1191—Expediency of legislative interference as a means of inducing education, *ib.* 1173-1175. 1187-1191—Education should be compulsory up to ten or twelve years of age, before employment in bleach-works, *Barbour* 2139-2152.

See also *Age of Employment*
and *Mechanics' Institutes.*

Ainsworth, Mr. 3.
Mental Improvement.

Factory Act.
Parents.

Libraries

Employment. Inability of witness and others of the associated operatives to obtain employment, as bleachers, from the masters, *J. Waring* 401-406—Evidence as to the reluctance of bleachers to change their occupation or to take their children from bleach-works, *Mather* 1367-1377. 1381; *Fletcher* 1705. 1707. 1711; *Hardcastle* 5471-5473; *Blair* 5847. 6053. 6177-6179; *Morris* 6342-6346; *Southworth* 6879-6882. 6890-6893—Reasons why the operative bleachers do not seek employment in cotton factories or mills, where the hours are regular, *Crook* 2587-2602—There is a surplus population near Bolton, quite sufficient to fill any new mills, *ib.* 2610.

Instances of people leaving establishments where the hours were long, *Betts* 2949-2953—Difficulty in men obtaining employment when they leave any place through the long hours,

Reports, 1857—continued.

Employment—continued.

hours, *Betts* 2960. 2961.—Girls engaged in dye-works do not wish for employment in factories, but sometimes leave to work in silk-works, *Brownbill* 3040.

Prejudicial effect of restriction upon the hours of labour in leading to irregularity of employment, *O'Brien* 4018, 4019. 4097-4100—There have been one or two instances of adults leaving witness's employment on account of the restriction upon the overhours, *John Burton* 5209-5211. 5245—Light work on which the younger children in witness's service are employed, *ib.* 5212. 5284-5286—The work for women at witness's establishment is not laborious, *ib.* 5264-5266.

Young children, after employment in the factories, frequently come to witness's works, *Ripley* 5873. 5919. 5998—The women employed by witness are chiefly engaged in stitching, and not at all on machinery, *ib.* 5987, 5988—Explanation as to machinery having displaced such labour as that of John Waring, *Blair* 6039—Opportunities for the employment of men who are opposed to overtime, *ib.* 6051-6053—Though young persons occasionally work for fifteen hours, the employment is not continuous or wearisome, *Southworth* 6902-6907.

Evasion of Legislative Restrictions. Unless all finishing establishments be included in the proposed legislation there will probably be a large evasion of the Bill, *Fletcher* 1791-1810—Comparative worthlessness of the Bill, inasmuch as the restrictions upon calendaring, &c., when in connexion with bleach-works, would be evaded by the carrying on of such business in separate buildings, and the restrictions upon bleaching would be met by the increased introduction of machinery, and the displacement of the labour of boys and females, *Blair* 6146-6190.—See also *Warehouses*.

Execution of the Work. Bad effects occasionally produced on the work through the men being so thoroughly fatigued as not to be able to attend to it, *H. Waring* 985-992—Better execution of the work if more time were allowed than is now the case during a pressure, *Price* 1871-1873—Injury to the goods if hastily finished, or packed improperly; doubt if this would be rendered worse by a restriction upon the hours of labour, *Barbour* 1987. 1997-2000. 2005-2013. 2018-2025—Better, and in some respects more economical, execution of the work, if the hours were regular and limited, *Scott* 2183-2185. 2223—Extra cost and liability to injury if the bleaching processes be executed in too limited a space of time, *ib.* 2304-2307—Better execution of the work done in regular hours, *Sagur* 2415-2418—Overtime is not profitable to the employer, and the work is not so well done in the extra hours, *Gilbroy* 3103-3109.

Extension of Trade. The extension of bleaching and dyeing in Lancashire has not been equal to the extension of cotton-spinning, *Hardcastle* 5790, 5791.

Extension of Works. See *Hours of Labour*, II. 1. 2.

F.

Factory Act. Witness has been a medical inspector of factories, and considers that the Factory Act has been extremely beneficial, both as regards the health and the education of the operatives, *Robinson* 552-558. 599-605. 633—In factories, children are admitted at eight years old, and are allowed to work full time when they are thirteen, *ib.* 674-676—Satisfactory working of the restrictive clauses of the Factory Act, *Haywood* 846. 870-873; *Scott* 2188, 2189. 2193. 2249-2255—Great improvements in the moral and social condition of factory operatives since the passing of the Ten Hours' Act, *Milton* 1413. 1518-1529. 1590-1598.

Defect of the Factory Act in not properly providing for the education of the children employed in factories, *Barbour* 1965, 1966. 2136-2139—In the case of labour in factories, witness considers that legislation has gone too far, *Slagg* 2312. 2357. 2360. 2373.

Very favourable working of the Factory Act adverted to, in support of a similar Act for bleach-works, *Crook* 2481-2487. 2490. 2559-2563—Improved feeling between master and man in consequence of the Factory Act, *ib.* 2483, 2484—Improvement in the health and physical condition of the factory operatives since the Ten Hours' Act, *Brownbill* 3018-3026. 3029-3033. 3051-3057—Instances of factory operatives displaced from work by the system formerly pursued, *ib.* 3031. 3046-3049.

Distinction between spinning and weaving as in factories and bleaching and dyeing, as regards the necessity for legislation, *Hardcastle* 5518; *Ripley* 5919. 6007, 6008; *Blair* 6072-6074. *Pender* 7206-7210—At present, factory inspectors should be done away with altogether, *Hardcastle* 5613, 5614.

Consideration of the effect of the Factory Act upon the condition of the cotton trade, and of the masters and operatives; evidence opposed to the restrictions of the Act, *Rylands* 6565-6573. 6585-6626—Belief that as a cotton-spinning country we are going downwards, and that foreign competition is largely increasing, in consequence of the Ten

Factory Act—continued.

Hours' Act, *Rylands* 6565-6567. 6585-6600. 6620-6626—Doubt as to the long hours in factories having been injurious to health, *ib.* 6609-6613—Doubt whether the Factory Act has tended to encourage habits of domestic industry on the part of the female operatives; prospectus in 1852 of a contemplated bazaar at Bolton for the exhibition of work by factory girls adverted to hereon as being to a contrary purport, *ib.* 6614, 6615.

Strong objection to the system of inspection under the Factory Act; general dissatisfaction of masters on the subject, *James Burton* 7289-7305.

See also *Flax Mills. Health. Legislative Interference.*

Fifeshire. Healthy and well conducted character of the women employed in the Fifeshire bleach-fields, *Drumminie* 3589-3596—Bleaching in Fifeshire is to all intents and purposes an out-door occupation, *ib.* 3592-3594—The hours average about sixty a week in the Fifeshire bleach-fields; sometimes more, and sometimes less, *Robertson* 3790-3792—Few boys employed in the bleach-fields in Fife, *ib.* 3796, 3797—Education generally of the bleachers, *ib.* 3798.

Finishing Departments. The complaints made to witness, in regard to ill health, had reference chiefly to the finishing work in-doors, *Tremenheere* 84-86. 167. 172. 173. 196—The general appearance of the young women and children in the finishing departments was not healthy, *ib.* 172-177. 181. 182—High temperature in the finishing rooms, in which department the work is not healthy, *Garstang* 742. 772-783.

See also *Evasion of Legislative Restrictions. Health. Warehouses.*

Firwood and Bradshaw Bleach-works. Total of 340 persons employed by witness at the Firwood works, and of 238 at the Bradshaw works; classification of these, *Hardcastle* 5433—Perfect imitation of silk and worsted goods carried on in cotton in witness's works, *ib.* 5661—The amount of witness's work varies greatly both at Firwood and Bradshaw; the possibility of being steadily and regularly employed is extremely remote, *ib.* 5738-5740. 5796-5804.

See also *Age of Employment. Commission of Inquiry. Education, 2. Hours of Labour, 1.*

Flax Mills. Inferior system of ventilation in several flax mills visited by witness, including the flax mill of Mr. Richardson, *Kelso* 4220-4242. 4250-4257—Impression that in some mills the windows open at the top, as a means of ventilation, *ib.* 4221. 4233-4239. 4250-4253.

Less healthy and cleanly character of the occupation in the Irish flax-spinning factories or cotton mills, than in the bleach-works, *Leeper* 4262-4264. 4299-4310. 4316-4330; *MacAdam* 6965-6968. 7059, 7060. 7099-7102—Impure and unhealthy atmosphere in the spinning factories; way in which it becomes loaded with dust and moisture, *Leeper* 4264. 4299-4307. 4316-4330—Boys are not taken into work at the spinning factories at Keady, &c., under thirteen years of age; their education is not therefore in any way incumbent on the factory masters, *ib.* 4279, 4280. 4288-4290—Character of the ventilation in the factory mills under witness's inspection, *ib.* 4292-4298.

Mode of ventilation used in flax mills in Ireland; the windows are very rarely made to move up and down, *Bell* 4336, 4337. 4383, 4384—The great bulk of the flax-spinning in Ireland, is wet spinning, *ib.* 4338-4340—Necessity of the ventilation being from the top of the rooms where wet spinning is carried on, *ib.* 4341, 4342—Under the Factory Bill, as many hours' labour might be obtained weekly by witness's firm as is now the case, but there is no necessity for legislation, *ib.* 4366-4375—Employment of from 150 to 200 women and children by witness's firm in flax-spinning, *ib.* 4376, 4377—The process requiring the thread to pass through hot water is carried on in only one room, there being several preparation rooms, *ib.* 4378-4382.

See also *Foreign Competition.*

Fletcher, Stewart. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Gave evidence before Mr. Tremeneheere, 1604—Was then working at Salford for Mr. John Lancaster, 1605—Is thirty-one years of age; commenced work when about twelve years old, 1606-1608—Has always worked in the making-up department 1609. 1611—Calendering or finishing is the process before making up, the process of packing being the last and the least important, as regards the hours of labour, 1610. 1678-1686. 1772-1778.

Number of men and boys employed at Mr. Lancaster's; there are only a few girls, 1613—Witness has only worked at dye-works, *ib.*—He left Mr. Lancaster's about four months ago, 1614—Some bleaching was carried on at Mr. Lancaster's, bleaching and dyeing being connected, 1616, 1617—Particulars as to the very long hours of labour of witness, and equally of young persons, at Mr. Lancaster's and other places, 1618 *et seq.*—Excessive fatigue consequent on the overwork, 1624-1631. 1661—Serious effect of the long hours upon witness's health, 1625, 1626. 1629-1631. 1648-1651.

Reports, 1857—continued.

Fletcher, Stewart. (Analysis of his Evidence)—continued.

General feeling among men and boys in favour of a Ten Hours' Act, 1626, 1627—Boys from ten years of age and women work necessarily for the same long hours as the men in dye-works, 1629. 1635-1640—Reference to Dewhurst's, of Salford, under whom witness has worked, as a firm which avoids overtime as much as possible, 1641-1643. 1663-1665—Objection of parents to the long labour of their children, although they do not oppose their working, 1644-1647. 1702-1711—At places where witness has worked, the children have not commenced till ten or eleven, 1652—Uneducated state of the children adverted to as attributable mainly to the fault of the parents, 1653-1660.

Witness left Mr. Lancaster's on account of the long hours of labour, and is now jobbing about at different places, 1667-1669—A good deal of finishing is now being done in some warehouses in Manchester, and it is essential that all finishing establishments be brought under the regulations of the Bill, 1670-1678. 1730-1732. 1758-1780. 1790-1810—The Act should, in fact, apply to all places where bleaching, dyeing, or finishing is carried on, 1674. 1678, 1760-1764—Packers connected with bleaching or finishing works should be included in the Bill; packers in warehouses need not be included, 1679-1690.

Way in which working overtime is to the interest of the masters, 1691-1700—The makers-up, but not the dyers, are paid better for overtime than ordinary time, 1701—Reluctance of bleachers to change their occupation, or to take their children from bleach-works, 1705. 1710, 1711—Doubt as to the wages of young persons in bleach-works being better than of those in cotton mills, 1706-1709—Expediency of Government interference with the hours of labour of women and children, but not of men, 1711-1720.

The evidence given generally by bleachers as to the long hours of labour has been under the mark, through fear of exaggeration, 1720—Statement, as prepared by Thomas Bracken, a maker-up in the establishment of Messrs. Robert Charlton & Sons, of Manchester, relative to the overtime in that establishment; explanation as to this statement; its accuracy, 1720-1729. 1739-1750. 1778-1789—Difficulties in the way of boys leaving work because of the overtime, 1733—It would be quite practicable, as regards the conduct of the work, that the boys should labour for a limited time, and the men for a much longer time, 1734-1738. 1751-1759.

Fluctuation in Trade. See *Hours of Labour*, II. *Foreign Orders.* *Merchants and Commission Agents.* *Pushes.*

Forbes, Daniel. Unreliable character of portion of the evidence given before Mr. Tremenhoe by Mr. Daniel Forbes, of Cairnfield, near Perth, *Boase* 3654-3669.

Foreign Competition. Notwithstanding the fluctuation consequent upon the uncertainty of orders, witness believes that, with improved arrangements, the contingencies of the foreign as well as of the home trade may be met without injury under a system of restriction upon the hours of labour, *Tremenhoe* 100-106. 122-166—Absence of danger to the trade on the ground of foreign competition, if the hours of labour be restricted, *Scott* 2249-2255.

Conclusion that the proposed restriction upon the hours of labour in linen bleach-works, will, in time, enable Prussia and France, &c., successfully to compete with Scotland and Ireland, *Kirk* 4601-4604. 4609-4611. 4644-4646. 4701-4709; *Blair* 5864. 6065, 6066. 6142. 6197, 6198; *Ripley* 5886; *J. Slater* 6320; *Marsland* 6825. 6837, 6838.

Injury to witness's trade in the competition which has sprung up in Belgium and Holland, as well as in Scotland and Ireland, *Harcastle* 5541 *et seq.*—Formidable increase of foreign competition with this country in bleaching and dyeing, *ib.* 5662-5668—Improved process being adopted in Belgium and other continental countries, where there are no legislative restrictions, *ib.* 5664-5668.

Witness has made it his particular business to inquire into the condition and progress of linen manufacture on the Continent, and has had peculiar opportunities for doing so at the several national exhibitions which have taken place since 1844, *MacAdam* 6916—Statistics showing an immense increase of late years of flax-spinning in France, Belgium, Austria, and Prussia, *ib.* 6917, 6918—Less cost of labour in spinning and bleaching in the continental countries than in Great Britain and Ireland, *ib.* 6920. 6971-6973—Cost in fuel, as used in bleaching, respectively in this country and on the Continent, *ib.* 6921-6925. 6969—Relative cost of the necessary chemical substances in this country and in foreign countries, *ib.* 6926-6929. 6969. 6970.

Frequent instances of persons coming from the Continent to Ireland in order to learn and adopt the Irish system of bleaching and flax-spinning, *MacAdam* 6930, 6931—Evidence as to the great improvements which have taken place within the last ten years or so in the quality of foreign linens; successful imitation of the Irish manufacture, *ib.*

Foreign Competition—continued.

6932-6937—Frequent instances of Irish operatives being attracted to continental factories and bleach-works, *MacAdam* 6944. 6973-6975.

Grounds for the conclusion that the proposed restriction upon the hours of labour in this country would have a most pernicious effect on the Irish linen trade, *MacAdam* 6951. 7013 *et seq.*—The restriction proposed would prevent the fulfilment of foreign orders, and would otherwise result in a great increase of the already successful and extending competition on the part of foreign countries, *ib.* 6951. 7032. 7052-7054. 7078-7080. 7104-7119—Witness's evidence applies solely to Irish bleaching; he has never seen any cotton bleach-works, or any dye-works, *ib.* 6952-6957.

Injurious encouragement to foreign competition, not only on the Continent, but in India and China (which is already very great), if the conduct of the trade by the merchant and the bleacher in this country be restricted, *Pender* 7133. 7136-7143. 7149. 7154. 7164. 7171-7177. 7207. 7208. 7224-7231—Very low cost of bleaching and dyeing in India and China, as compared with the cost in this country; argument thereon opposed to legislative interference, *ib.* 7136-7140. 7224-7231—Growing competition on the part of India and China; transmission of increased supplies of goods in an unbleached state, *ib.* 7136-7138. 7154. 7171-7177—Way in which the export of bullion to the East may be affected by any impediment to the export of bleached goods, *ib.* 7192-7198.

See also *Belgium. France. Hours of Labour, II. Prussia. United States.*

Foreign Orders. Belief that with improved arrangements the demands for the speedy completion of foreign orders may be met, under a system of regular hours, *Tremenheere* 100-106. 122-126—Examination on the question whether the sudden demands of merchants, on account of orders from abroad, would not at times necessitate long hours of labour; difficulty hereon, *Price* 1870. 1874, 1875. 1912-1953—Greater facilities at present than some years ago, for exporting goods for foreign orders, *Barbour* 1956. 1959, 1960—Grounds for concluding that the bleachers themselves do not attach much importance to the foreign orders, in regard to the time taken in executing them, *Crook* 2470, 2471.

Interference with orders for shipment of goods if the hours of labour be restricted, *Henchy* 4461. 4493, 4494. 4505, 4506—Frequent pressure on witness's firm, as regards the completion of orders for shipment, &c., adverted to, as rendering it impossible to carry on business under a system of limited hours, *Hardcastle* 5518-5520—Equal necessity for the speedy completion of foreign orders, notwithstanding the increased shipping facilities, *Hardcastle* 5521-5524; *Pender* 7141-7144. 7181, 7182.

Prevention of the completion of export orders, required to go by a certain ship, if the hours of labour be restricted, *MacAdam* 6951. 7019. 7025. 7032. 7039. 7052-7054. 7078-7080—As regards the completion of orders, the bleacher is, in fact, the servant of witness, as commission agent, in the same way that witness is the servant of the exporting merchant, in being obliged to furnish the orders by a given time, *Pender* 7134-7144. 7158, 7159. 7200, 7201—Loss of orders by the merchant and the bleacher, if they cannot be undertaken by a certain day; instances of orders lost by witness, *ib.* 7135. 7160, 7161. 7164. 7178-7185. 7200. 7216-7223.

See also *Foreign Competition. Hours of Labour, II. Merchants and Commission Agents.*

France. Statement as to the great progress made in linen bleaching and dyeing by the French since 1844, *Kirk* 4593-4597—Approval of the system of honorary distinctions, as conferred in France, for improvements in manufacture, *MacAdam* 6947-6949—Explanation as to the restriction upon the hours of labour of children in the French flax-spinning factories; prosperity of the trade adverted to hereon, *ib.* 6985-7006—Nature of the French tariff on Belgian goods; advantage thereby to the French flax-spinner, *ib.* 6999-7005.—See also *Foreign Competition.*

Free Trade. Examination on the question whether interference with long and injurious hours of labour is a violation of the principles of free trade, *Kirk* 4667-4683.

G.

Garstang, Thomas Blackledge, M.D. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Has been in practice in Bolton for fifteen or sixteen years, 691, 692—Considers that the hours of labour in the bleach-works are decidedly injurious to health, 693 *et seq.*—Has known young women to be employed frequently for seventeen or eighteen hours daily, for a week together, and adult males for sixteen, eighteen, and twenty hours daily, for considerable periods consecutively, 695-728—Particular instances of excessive overwork of male adults, 701-716. 731, 732. 738, 739.

Reluctance

Reports, 1857—continued.

Garstang, Thomas Blackledge, M.D. (Analysis of his Evidence)—continued.

Reluctance of bleachers publicly to state their grievances, through fear of dismissal from employment; case in point; the apprehension is well-founded, 707-712. 759-770 Penalty of non-employment, in the event of a man being so independent as to refuse overwork, 714. 717-719. 759-769—The bleachers are extremely anxious for legislative interference, 720—Young women are frequently kept nearly all night in the bleaching works, 724-726—Probable immorality through the late hours at which the females leave work, 727-729.

The bleachers, as a class, are exceedingly sober, 734, 735—Bleaching is in itself a very healthy occupation, 736. 771, 772—Sickness of young persons, in consequence of coming from hot rooms late at night into the cold air, 740-742—High temperature of the finishing rooms, in which department the work is not healthy, 742. 772-783—Witness is a decided advocate for legislative interference, restricting the labour of adult bleachers, and arduous labour generally, to twelve hours daily; evidence in support of this proposition, 743-745. 748-758. 800-814.

Healthy character of occupation in dye-works, 746, 747—Suffering of the children in bleaching works, from standing for so many hours, 784-789—Fewer accidents in bleach works than in factories, 791, 792—Advantage if children could not work in bleach mills till ten or twelve years of age, 794-798—Approval of an extension to bleaching works of the education clauses of the Factory Act, 795, 796.

Gassing. Nature of the gassing business, as conducted by witness, *John Burton*, 5168, 5169.

Gibroy, James. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Manager of Messrs. James Young & Sons' works at Pollockshaws, near Paisley, 3078. 3080—There are upwards of 300 persons employed, of whom about 200 are women, 3079, 3080—The regular hours of work are from six to seven; but occasionally overwork is of necessity resorted to, and extends up to eleven and twelve at night, 3082-3087. 3092-3094—Witness adheres to the evidence which he gave before Mr. Tremeneheere, 3088, 3089—Departure by the masters from an arrangement, in force at the time of Mr. Tremeneheere's visit, not to work more than sixty-six hours a week, 3090-3095. 3111-3115. 3129-3134.

The general average of the heat in Messrs. Young's work rooms varies from 90 to 110; 3096-3099—Time allowed to the workpeople for their meals, 3100, 3101—Over-fatigue consequent on the long labour, 3102—Overtime is not profitable to the employer, and the work is not so well done in the extra hours, 3103-3109—Witness has always been in favour of a restriction upon the hours of labour, 3110—Feeling of the masters in the West of Scotland in favour of restriction, 3116-3121.

Different mode in which cotton goods are finished in the Lancashire and Cheshire bleaching works, as compared with the west of Scotland works, 3122-3126—There is now no women's house attached to any works in Pollockshaws, 3137-3139—Regular hours need not cause any damage to the goods by interrupting the processes, 3135—In the west of Scotland woollen goods comprise a large portion of the work in finishing, &c., 3142-3150—The woollen trade should be included in the Bill, 3145. 3153.

Glenmore Bleach Works, Lisburn. Witness, who is a practical bleacher, is manager of the Glenmore linen bleach works belonging to Messrs. Richardson & Co. of Lisburn, *O'Brien* 4003—Great interruption caused to the work, both in-doors as well as out of doors, by the state of the weather at different times, *ib.* 4008-4017. 4043-4050. 4064-4069—There are 244 men, 34 boys, and 140 females employed at these works, *ib.* 4004—Large proportion of the work which is out of doors, *ib.* 4005—Nature of the work out of doors, *ib.* 4006—About 120 acres are constantly covered, *ib.* 4007-4009.

Interruption caused by the weather to the work at the stoves, or the finishing process, *O'Brien* 4043-4052. 4064-4069—The stoves are confined to the finishing of cambric pocket-handkerchiefs, *ib.* 4051, 4052—Decrease in the number of females at Glenmore since Mr. Tremeneheere's visit, in consequence of the increasing employment of machinery, *ib.* 4057-4063—Nearly all the women are employed in the stoves, *ib.* 4070.

The regular hours of from six in the morning till half-past six in the evening have of late been exceeded for a few hours, about two days in the week, *O'Brien* 4071-4078—As a rule, girls under the age of twelve are not employed in the Glenmore works, *ib.* 4149—Character of the work upon which the girls are employed, *ib.* 4151-4155—The boys are not employed in hot rooms, and are all healthy, *ib.* 4155, 4157. 4162—Voluntary proceeding of the females and boys in working overtime, *ib.* 4160, 4161.

See also *Health. 2.*

Government Inquiry. See *Commission of Inquiry.*

Greenhalgh, Sisters. Statement relative to two sisters of the name of Greenhalgh, whose deaths were, as witness considers, accelerated by overwork at Mr. Ainsworth's establishment at Halliwell, *Milton* 1397-1402. 1409, 1410—Witness believes the constitution of these sisters was of an ordinary healthy character, *ib.* 1452-1460—Further statement 0.37—Sess. 2.

Greenhalgh, Sisters—continued.

ment as to the health of the Greenhalgh family, with reference more especially to a contrary statement by the father of the girls who died and the doctor who attended one of them, *Milton* 1811.

Hereditary ill-health of the Greenhalgh family, some of whom have been in Mr. Ainsworth's employment, and have died from consumption, *Packer* 6683-6686.—The death of two of the Greenhalgh family, who worked for Mr. Ainsworth of Halliwell, were in no way expedited by work; case of their death, *Bancroft* 6744-6749. 6761-6766.

H.

Half-holiday Movement. Evils of half-holidays in Manchester on Saturdays, *Rylands* 6509-6511.—Impression that the half-holiday in Manchester on Saturday has been favourable to the moral improvement of the operatives; increased immorality in Manchester adverted to hereon, *Pender* 7232-7236. 7250-7253.—The half-holiday has not injured witness's trade, *ib.* 7202, 7203.

Halliwell Bleach Works, Bolton. See *Ainsworth, Mr.*

Hand Loom Weavers. Reference to the failure of an attempt for legislative interference with the labour of hand-loom weavers, *Hardcastle* 5615-5627.

Hardcastle, James. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Proprietor of the Firwood and Bradshaw bleach works, Lancashire; has been a bleacher for forty years, and has also been extensively engaged as a dyer and printer, 5433-5442.—Total of 340 persons employed at the Firwood Works, and of 238 at the Bradshaw Works; classification of these, 5433.

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1. *Injurious Effects of Long Hours of Labour, as in Cotton Bleach Works and in Dye Works.*
2. *Good Health in Linen Bleaching or Open Air Bleaching, as in Ireland and Scotland.*
3. *Healthful character of Bleaching and Dyeing Operations generally.*
4. *Health respectively of Factory Operatives and of Operative Bleachers.*

1. *Injurious Effects of Long Hours of Labour, as in Cotton Bleach Works and in Dye Works.*

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2. Long Hours of Adults, and generally.
3. Comparative Extent now and formerly.

II. *Question as to the Expediency of a Limit :*

1. Evidence in favour of Restriction : absence of Injury to Trade thereby.
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1. Present Extent of the Hours—continued.

1. Long Hours of Women and Children—continued.

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Statement as to the very long hours of labour at times in the making up and packing departments of Mr. Harcastle's establishment: young persons and women as well as witness have worked thirty-six hours without any rest except for meals, *Miller* 1218-1223. 1228-1232—Hours of labour of a daughter of witness in the finishing department at Mr. Harcastle's; she begins at seven in the morning and is sometimes as late as ten at night, *ib.* 1277-1282—If the children work at all, they must work with their set and for the usual long hours, *Milton* 1404. 1407. 1440, 1441.

Boys from ten years of age and women work necessarily for the same long hours as the men in dye works, *Fletcher* 1626. 1635-1640—Instances of boys working in dye works from six in the morning till twelve at night, *ib.* 1633-1639—Difficulties in the way of boys leaving work because of the overtime, *ib.* 1733.

Very long hours for which women and children are employed in the bleach-works at Bolton, *Crook* 2450-2453—Women and children sometimes work for sixteen hours daily for several days in succession, *ib.* 2452, 2453—The hours vary from twelve to eighteen daily in the case of young persons in the dye works at Salford, *Brownbill* 3008-3010.

The appearance of the females in Ireland seemed as a general rule to justify the conclusion that it was not fit they should work in the hot rooms longer than the regular hours, *Tremenheere* 4780—It cannot be defended as consistent with the health and morals of the boys and young females that they should work for fourteen or sixteen hours a day, *ib.* 4858-4860.

Long hours of labour at present of the seventy-five boys employed by witness, *Ripley* 5908, 5909—Examination relative to evidence given to Mr. Tremenheere by some of the young females in witness's employment as to their hours of labour in 1854 and 1855; witness is not prepared to deny that they may have occasionally worked from five in the morning till eight or nine at night, or from twelve at night till eight or nine the following evening, *Blair* 6101-6129—Paper deposited in (*App. p.* 182, 183) containing details of each day's work at witness's establishment from the 18th November 1854 to the 18th January 1855; average of eight hours and a half a day, *Blair* 6475, 6476—Doubts as to the longest hours for which young persons may work in the Irish bleach works; necessary doubtless for their working more than twelve hours in times of pushes, *McAdam* 7010-7037.

2. Long Hours of Adults, and generally:

In a great majority of instances complaints were made to witness that the over-work and hours were generally excessive, *Tremenheere* 25-27—In consequence of the fluctuation in the demand for labour the bleachers occasionally work for sixteen or seventeen hours, or even longer, and occasionally for less than ten hours, *ib.* 32-34—Witness has himself worked for seventeen or eighteen hours at a time for six or eight months together, *J. Waring* 347-351—Shorter hours of labour at Kent's and throughout Fland than in England, *ib.* 434-440-442—There are two sets of hands at Kent's

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particular instances of excessive overwork of male adults, *Garstang* 700-711. 722. 723. 724. 725. 726—Shortness, comparatively, of the hours of labour in witness's bleach-works at Salford through slackness of business, *Blair* 6475-6476—Particulars that in very long hours of labour in bleach works at Bolton, as shown in witness's own *Perole*, *H. Waring* 925, 933 et seq.—Since the bleaching has been done under labour, it is for the last forty years or so, the master has worked the most for a piece of work, in proportion to the quantity of work on hand, *ib.* 455-456—The work

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and the labour have been rather slack of late, but even now in some of the finishing departments the labour both of young and of adults extends to fourteen or sixteen hours daily, *H. Waring* 953-969—Witness has known instances of late years of twenty-four hours' work at a time, *ib.* 959.

At Manchester witness has worked from five in the morning till eleven at night for six months together, *Fletcher* 1633—The evidence given generally by bleachers as to the long hours of labour has been under the mark, through fear of exaggeration, *ib.* 1720—In full work the hours extend up to twelve, fourteen, and even sixteen a day, for several days in succession, *Crook* 2452, 2453—Witness worked ten years with Mr. Milnes, and ten years with his successors, Messrs. Hard & Hurst, and shows that during this period the hours of labour were at times exceedingly long, *Shelbourne* 2782-2800—In some establishments at Old Baisford the people work from six in the morning till eleven or twelve at night for weeks and months together, *ib.* 2812, 2813.

Very long hours still adopted by most of the bleachers at Old Baisford, *Betts* 2934-2939—Witness has for months together worked from seven in the morning till eleven or twelve at night, and occasionally all night, *ib.* 2923-2925.

Regular hours of labour at witness's works; they do not average sixty hours a week, *Kirk* 4549, 4550, 4560, 4561, 4570, 4571, 4685-4695—Particulars as to the hours of labour at witness's works; a ten-hours' system is practically adopted, except in times of pressure, when the overtime sometimes extends the hours to eight or nine o'clock as night, *Keely* 5354-5362, 5387-5396—Explanation as to the hours of labour at witness's works; necessity of great irregularity according as business is slack or pressing, *Hardcastle* 5480-5501—Further explanation as to the hours of labour in witness's works; in May last the total employment did not exceed nine hours and a half for each person, *ib.* 5719-5726, 5783-5787—Witness cannot supply particulars as to the maximum hours at his works; the people are sometimes there for twelve hours, *ib.* 5783-5786, 5792-5795.

Extent of variation in the work done and the hours of labour at witness's establishment at different periods; paper delivered in (*App. p.* 179), containing particulars hereon, *Blair* 5819-5838—The average hours in 1856, including time for meals and other intervals, were ten hours and a half a day, *ib.* 5826-5828, 5832, 6120, 6121, 6126—The maximum hours on any day were sixteen, including time for meals and intervals between the work, *ib.* 5829-5835.

Particulars as to the hours of labour at witness's works; great and necessary variation in these according as the amount of work varies, *Ripley* 5875-5877, 5895—The average hours in witness's works throughout 1856 were not ten hours and a half daily, *ib.* 5887—The busy season has just commenced, and will last probably from eight to twelve weeks, *ib.* 5910, 5928-5932—Explanation as to a statement in Mr. Murgatroyd's evidence relative to the occasional hours of labour at witness's works; the hours may sometimes extend to ten at night, but, as a rule, nine is the latest hour, *ib.* 5964-5968.

Further statement delivered in (*App. p.* 180, 181), containing particulars as to the labour, hours of employment, &c. of the men, women, boys, and girls at witness's works, *Blair* 6067, 6068—The manager in each room fixes the hour for commencing work in the morning, *ib.* 6145.

3. *Comparative Extent now and formerly*:

Equal fluctuation in the hours of labour now as formerly, *J. Waring* 414-419—During the last ten years there has been some little amendment in the hours, *H. Waring* 938, 939—Circumstance of the work having been regulated thirty years ago without great fluctuations in the hours of labour, *ib.* 981-984—Tendency of feeling both of employers and employed to shorten the hours of labour, *Barbour* 1983-1985, 2068, 2100-2106—Gradual improvement in the hours of labour in bleach-works, and generally, *Slagg* 2375-2378, 2392-2395, 2399-2403—Extremely long hours of labour in the trade when witness entered it thirty-two years ago, *Betts* 2922-2929.

Considerable improvement in regard to overtime in the Scotch bleach-fields within the last twenty years; oppressively long hours when witness first went to Scotland nineteen years ago, *Boase* 3647, 3726-3751—Tendency in Ireland to shorten the hours of labour in the bleach-works, *Kirk* 4577, 4699, 4700—In witness's neighbourhood there has been no change in the practice of the bleach-mills for more than thirty years, *ib.* 4644.

A tendency to shorten hours does not obviate the expediency of guarding against excessive work occasionally, *Tremenheere* 4817, 4818.

Tendency of employers to shorten the hours of their own accord, *Blair* 5156-5168; *MacAdam* 7081, 7082; *Pender* 7150-7153, 7235, 7304—The hours are much shorter than they used to be in former years, and the position of the workpeople has been gradually improving, *Hardcastle* 5501—Absence of any evil to masters or men in

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3. Comparative Extent now and formerly—continued.

consequence of the shorter hours now in operation than in 1843, *Hardcastle* 5749-5756 —Successful efforts made by witness since, and in consequence of, Mr. Tremenheere's visit to reduce and render more regular the hours of labour in his establishment, *Blair* 6120, 6121. 6126. 6129. 6156-6168. 6191, 6192—Witness formerly worked as an operative; the employment was then much more laborious than it now is, *J. N. Slater* 7307, 7308. 7404-7407—Hours of labour of the women and children in witness's employment; long hours some years ago before the introduction of improved machinery, *ib.* 7337-7340. 7350-7363.

II. Question as to the Expediency of a Limit:

1. Evidence in favour of Restriction; Absence of Injury to Trade thereby:

Consideration of the fluctuating demands of the trade, upon which the masters argue that the labour must of necessity fluctuate in a like degree; belief that, with improved arrangements, the contingencies both of the foreign and the home trade may be met without the present amount of occasional overwork, *Tremenheere* 100-106. 122-166 — Impression that some masters concurred in the views of the merchants, that the evil of overwork might be avoided, *ib.* 164.

Between the ages of eight and thirteen young persons should not work more than ten or twelve hours, including therein two hours for meals, *Robinson* 560. 569. 606, 607. 648-650—After the age of eighteen girls can endure more physical labour, *ib.* 561—Belief that, with proper measures, the requirements of the bleaching trade need not involve such fluctuation in the hours of labour, *ib.* 595-599—The restrictions in factories should be extended to bleach-work, as regards labour between eight and thirteen, and it should be indispensable that education went on simultaneously with work, *ib.* 674-684—Between the age of eight and thirteen the labour should be restricted to twelve hours daily, *ib.* 674-679—Women and young persons should be restricted from working for more than ten hours daily, or ten and a half as in factories, *Miller* 1258-1260.

In the event of restriction the bleacher must either extend his machinery and works, or decline to take more orders than he can execute in the given time, *Barbour* 1995, 1996. 2013-2015. 2018, 2019. 2028. 2032. 2108. 2126—Difficulty at present in calculating how long it may take the bleacher to execute orders given by the merchants, *ib.* 2013-2017. 2029. 2057-2064. 2080, 2081. 2127—The time might be an hour and a half or two hours longer daily than in factories, *Scott* 2162. 2256, 2257—The abolition of the power which now exists and is generally acted upon of "pushing" the bleacher for the execution of work, would soon cause the manufacturers and merchants to arrange so as to get the work done within the limited hours, *ib.* 2215-2221. 2232-2238. 2244-2248. 2293-2300—Probable reason why some bleachers who work short hours do not get so much work to do as those who work long hours, *ib.* 2222-2227.

Grounds for the conclusion that a system of regular hours would not cause any inconvenience or detriment to the trade, *Crook* 2468-2475. 2488-2490. 2578—Belief that regular hours would be an unmixed benefit to the master bleachers, *ib.* 2489—Limited extent of witness's acquaintance, practically, with bleach-works, *ib.* 2541-2544. 2564-2570. 2575-2579—Benefits of a system of regular hours, combined with an extension of works, *ib.* 2555-2559.

An average of ten or ten hours and a half daily is quite enough for persons under eighteen years of age, *Brownbill* 3011. 3064-3066—Difficulty in doing so much business if the hours were limited, unless by extending the works; on the whole, there could be nearly as much done without any extension, *Lock* 3362-3366. 3370. 3389-3392 —Doubt as to the possibility of securing regularity of orders, *ib.* 3390-3392—Practicability of carrying on the trade by extending the works under a system of regular hours, *Thompson* 3441-3444—Witness considers ten hours a fair day's work, *Robertson* 3803—Variations in the amount of the masters' work are no doubt very great, *Tremenheere* 4821-4824. 4854-4857.

2. Evidence to a contrary purport:

Prejudice to witness's business if regulated by a Ten Hours' Bill, *Harrison* 5044-5048 5052-5057. 5064-5066; *J. Slater* 6327; *John Burton* 7262-7269; *J. N. Slater* 7380-7382—The proposed Bill would seriously interfere with the masters in times of pressure, as they would require enlarged premises, and a greater number of workpeople, whom they might not be able to maintain, *Burton* 5217 *et seq.*; *Allcock* 5316-5320. 5340-5348 —Increased number of juveniles which witness must employ if the hours be restricted, *Keely* 5395-5401.

Great difficulty in dispensing with the labour of women and children after certain regular hours, *Hardcastle* 5463—Before the passing of the Factory Act witness suggested that from 5.30 a. m. to 8.30 p. m. should be the definition of a day, and that legislation

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legislation should not interfere with female labour if kept between those hours, *Hardcastle* 5613—Obstacles to an extension of witness's works in order to meet restriction upon the hours of labour, *ib.* 5800, 5801.

Impracticability of meeting a system of short hours by putting on an additional number of hands during a pressure, *Ripley* 5927-5937—Necessarily injurious effect of restriction upon the condition of the boys; their labour indeed would probably be largely displaced by machinery, *ib.* 6000. 6003-6006—Impracticability of the bleachers or merchants distributing the work equally throughout the year, *Blair* 6042-6044. 6065, 6066. 6073. 6135. 6140-6142. 6203-6228—Witness's main objection to the Bill is, that it interferes to regulate hours, which are necessarily irregular, *ib.* 6196-6198. 6227.

Question as to the more regular hours of late years having been any injury to the workpeople or the merchants, *Blair* 6199-6203; *J. Slater* 6310-6319; *Morris* 6459-6474—Considerable expense in extending bleaching works, *Morris* 6407—Necessity of close application to work in order to render the progress of operations successful, *Rylands* 6539-6541—Witness would be glad to work regular hours if it were possible, but considers it impossible, *Marstand* 6816. 6829-6832—Impracticability of undertaking the expeditious fulfilment of orders, if short hours be insisted on, *Southworth* 6909-6913—Efforts of witness to make the hours of his people as regular as possible; necessity nevertheless for occasional long hours, *Pender* 7150. 7202-7205. 7232.

3. Consideration of the Effect of Restriction upon the Processes of the Trade:

Assurance given to witness by the men, that certain processes might be postponed for completion, *Tremenheere* 81-83—Practicability, with due care, of suspending work during the process without injury to the goods, *ib.* 920-922—The processes are, in fact, left in suspense at Christmas and Whitsuntide, *ib.* 921—It would be quite practicable, as regards the conduct of the work, that the boys should labour for a limited time, and the men for a much longer time, *Fletcher* 1734-1738. 1751-1759—Inconvenience in being obliged to stop the work at a certain hour; slight extra cost on this score, *Sagur* 2425-2433—Regular hours need not cause any damage to the goods, by interrupting the processes, *Gilbroy* 3135.

Impracticability, as regards the Scotch and Irish bleach-fields, of conforming to a system of regular hours; injury to the goods thereby, *Driminnie* 3586; *Richardson* 3822. 3826. 3836. 3837. 3845. 3892-3896; *McComb* 3934-3942. 3977; *Mackinley* 4406; *Heuchy* 4466, 4467. 4486-4489—A limit to ten hours daily would practically be often a limit to a shorter time, *Driminnie* 3597—There is no practical difficulty in limiting the hours of the women and the boys engaged in linen-bleaching, *Richardson* 3895-3904—The different processes in the work of linen-bleaching depend one upon the other, and the labour is not continuous; injurious effect therefore of being obliged to stop work at a certain hour, *Kirk* 4556-4563. 4577. 4634-4636. 4715-4717.

The colouring of lace, as dressed by witness, requires, in the first instance, work by daylight, *Harrison* 5064-5066. 5096—Necessity of the dyeing being done by daylight, *Keely* 5354, 5355—Impracticability of carrying on the cotton-bleaching and dyeing processes under a restriction of ten hours daily, *Hardcastle* 5491, 5492. 5518-5520; *Morris* 6393, 6394—Respect in which the bleaching process is systematic, as compared with the finishing; the former process, however, is not capable of being reduced to a regular system of hours of labour, *Hardcastle* 5741-5748.

The labour not being continuous is a strong argument against legislation, *Blair* 5858-5860—Description of the several operations in dyeing, showing that they are of a continuous character, but uncertain in completion, and do not require continuous labour, *Ripley* 5875-5877. 5901-5903. 5934—Explanation of a statement by Henry Waring as to there being no difficulty about leaving certain processes suspended at the Christmas and Whitsuntide holidays; this cannot be done without special preparation, *Blair* 6029, 6030—Continuous character of the processes; practicability, however, of stopping work at any time (as well as on Sunday), if there were no pressure on the part of the merchants, *ib.* 6130-6143.

See also *Adult Labour*. *Ainsworth, Mr.*, 1. *Breakage of Machinery*. *Competition of Inquiry*. *Competition*. *Dismissal from Employment*. *Division of Work*. *Education*, 3. *Execution of the Work*. *Factory Act*. *Foreign Competition*. *Health*. *Intervals of Rest*. *Lambeg Bleach-works*. *Lancaster, Mr.* *Legislative Interference*. *Machinery*. *Masters*. *Merchants and Commission Agents*. *Morality*. *Operatives*. *Paisley*. *Parents*. *Piecework*. *Prices*. *Pushes*. *Relations between Employer and Employed*. *Slater, John*. *Spencer & Harrison, Messrs.* *Voluntary Settlement of Hours of Labour*. *Wages*. *Warehouses*. *Water Supply (Bleaching Engines)*.

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I.

Inspection. Undue interference with the work if a system of Government inspection be established, *O'Brien* 4027-4031. 4103-4121—The proposed inspection is peculiarly objectionable, *Kirk* 4572-4575; *Keely* 5403-5405; *Hardcastle* 5633, 5634. 5711; *Ripley* 6003. 6009-6011; *MacAdam* 7083-7098—Strong objection to the proposed system of inspection as prejudicial to discipline, *Hardcastle* 5633, 5634; *J. Slater* 6255. 6324—Witness would probably shut up altogether if subject to inspection, *Hardcastle* 5757-5761; *Pender* 7188—Tendency of the proposed inspection to set the employed against the employer, *Pender* 7148.—See also *Collieries Inspection Act*.

Intervals of Rest. Opportunity for rest during continuous labour, so called, *Robinson* 565—Intervals in the work during which the workpeople can rest or amuse themselves, *Richardson* 3821. 3857. 3860, 3861. 3911; *Hardcastle* 5497, 5498; *Blair* 5831. 5856, 5857; *Morris* 6363, 6364. 6388-6392.

The occurrence of intervals for rest in addition to the hours of meals, does not justify the employment of boys and young females for fourteen or sixteen hours a day, *Tremenheere* 4819, 4820.

Ireland. See *Age of Employment.* *Beetling Process.* *Commission of Inquiry.*
Flax Mills. *Foreign Competition.* *Glenmore Bleach-works.* *Health, 2.*
Hours of Labour. *Lambeg Bleach-works.* *Lapping Rooms.* *Legislative*
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K.

Keady, Ireland. See *Age of Employment.* *Beetling Process.* *Health, 2.* *Hours of Labour.* *Linen Bleaching.* *Stoves.*

Keely, John. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Dyer of silk, cotton, and various articles, and finisher of cotton stockings, 5349—Employs from eighty to one hundred persons; classification of these, 5350, 5351—None of the boys or females are employed on machinery, 5352, 5353—Particulars as to the hours of labour; a ten-hours' system is practically adopted, except in times of pressure, when the overtime sometimes extends the hours to eight or nine o'clock at night, 5354-5362. 5387-5396—Necessity of the dyeing being done by daylight, 5354, 5355.

Way in which the restrictions of the Bill would be most injurious to dyeing masters, 5355, 5356. 5363-5374. 5377. 5397-5407. 5430-5432—Injury to the men if they cannot make up in busy times for the short labour in slack seasons, 5356. 5362, 5363—Necessity of the employment of the juveniles going on simultaneously with that of the adults, 5357-5361. 5406, 5407. 5430-5432—Objection of the men to the restrictions of the Bill, 5362, 5363. 5409-5411.

Strong objection to the lace and hosiery trade of Nottingham being affected by the Bill; statement hereon that Mr. Tremenheere did not contemplate legislation for his trade, and that Mr. Butt said he had no objection to insert a clause, excepting the trade from the Bill, 5364-5374. 5402. 5422-5429—Reasons for concluding that the proposed restrictions would be injurious to the Lancashire bleachers, as well as to dyers, 5374-5386.

Increased number of juveniles which witness must employ if the hours be restricted, 5395-5401—Strong objection to the proposed system of inspection, 5403-5405—Remarks on the circumstance of Mr. Tremenheere's report having referred to the Nottingham dyers, without any mention of the more numerous dye-works in Coventry, Macclesfield, &c., 5408. 5413-5422—Considerable facilities for education in Nottingham, 5412.

Kelso, John Johnson, M.D. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Resides at Lisburn; is surgeon of the Knockadown Dispensary, 4172-4174. 4197—Statement that employment in the stoves in the bleach-works at Lisburn is decidedly a healthy occupation, though the temperature varies from ninety to one hundred degrees, 4174-4193. 4205-4220. 4243-4249—Few accidents in the stoves, 4194—The young persons employed are from the age of twelve or thirteen upwards, 4195—How far the education of young persons in the bleach-works at Lisburn has been attended to, 4196.

Proportion of bleachers to mill-workers who have obtained relief at Knockadown Dispensary in each of the last three years, 4198-4210—Good health generally of the females and young persons employed as bleachers about Lisburn; their hours of labour adverted to hereon, 4205-4210. 4243-4249—Good character of the ventilation in the stoves, 4220, 4221. 4256—Inferior system of ventilation in several flax mills visited by witness, including the flax mill of Mr. Richardson, 4220-4242. 4250-4257.

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Kirk, William (Member of the House). (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Is Member for Newry, 4541—Has been a linen merchant, bleacher, dyer, and finisher, for fifty years, 4542-4544—In the works belonging to witness and his sons there are 240 men, eighty-one boys, and three women employed, 4545-4548. 4605-4608—Regular hours of labour at the works; they do not average sixty hours a week, 4549, 4550. 4560, 4561. 4570, 4571. 4685-4695—Interruptions caused at times by the weather to the work of linen-bleaching and dyeing, 4551. 4558. 4561, 4562—Necessity occasionally of working overtime in the lapping-rooms, 4551.

Hours of labour at witness's beetling mills; there are two sets of men and boys, who work alternately day and night, 4551. 4563, 4564—Explanation of the beetling process, as carried on by machinery, at witness's works, 4551-4553—Objections raised by witness's men to the use of improved beetling engines, which he intended to introduce, in order to save manual labour, 4553, 4554. 4626—Boys under fourteen are not taken into witness's works, 4555. 4606, 4607.

The different processes in the work depend one upon the other, and the labour is not continuous; injurious effect therefore of being obliged to stop work at a given hour, 4566-4563. 4576, 4577. 4634-4636. 4715-4717—Injury to witness and his workmen in consequence of the agitation about the present Bill having prevented him from adopting the piecework system of employment, 4560. 4592. 4699, 4700—Absence of complaint among witness's men until the witness, John Waring, came to Ireland to agitate, 4565-4569. 4637-4639.

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Moderate heat in witness's beetling department, 4587—Also in the lapping-rooms, 4588, 4589—Education almost invariably required in the boys before employment by witness, 4590. 4630-4633. 4663-4666—Pressure on the part of the parents for the employment of their children, 4591—Better wages of witness's operatives than of agricultural labourers, 4592. 4626-4629.

Statement as to the great progress made in linen-bleaching and dyeing by the French since 1844; 4593-4597—Great progress also made in Prussia of late years in the process of linen bleaching, &c.; result of personal observations by witness hereon, 4596-4601. 4640-4643—Encouragement given to linen-bleaching in Prussia; absence of restriction upon the hours of labour, 4598-4603—Conclusion that the proposed restriction upon the hours of labour in linen bleach-works will in time enable Prussia and France successfully to compete with Scotland and Ireland, 4601-4604. 4609-4611. 4644-4646. 4701-4709.

Objection to the principle of State interference with trade, 4604—Belief that there is no necessity whatever for a limitation of the hours in the Irish bleach-works, 4611. 4654—Absence of employment of women in the bleach mills generally in the north of Ireland, 4614-4616—Progress being made in cotton-bleaching in Prussia; probability of successful competition with Lancashire if the proposed Bill be enacted, 4617. 4620. 4647, 4648.

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L.

Lace and Hosiery Trade. Strong objection to the lace and hosiery trade of Nottingham being affected by the Bill; statement hereon that Mr. Tremenheere did not contemplate legislation for this trade, and that Mr. Butt said he had no objection to insert a clause excepting the trade from the Bill, *Keely* 5364-5374. 5402. 5422-5429.

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Lambeg Bleach-works (Ireland). Witness's firm employs from 300 to 400 persons at the Lambeg Bleach-works near Lisburn, *Richardson* 3817—They bleach linen almost exclusively *ib.* 3818—Healthy condition of the operatives, *Richardson* 3819, 3868, 3869; *M'Comb* 3945-3948—There are different sets of bleachers for the indoor and outdoor work, *Richardson* 3820—Regular hours in the establishment; these are adhered to as much as possible, but are occasionally of necessity departed from, *ib.* 3821-3826—The bell rings at half-past five in the morning to commence work, and at six in the evening to leave off, *Richardson* 3821; *M'Comb* 3918.

It is a rule not to allow boys to work overhours, *Richardson* 3827, 3891—Rare instances of the women working overtime, *ib.* 3829, 3844, 3860, 3887-3891—Calculation that in the course of the year the bleachers are off work one third of the time, *ib.* 3830-3832, 3853-3856—Practice in regard to ventilation in the stove-rooms, *Richardson* 3833-3835, 3905, 3906; *M'Comb* 3951-3954.

Nature of the limit placed by witness's firm upon the hours of labour of females and boys further adverted to; legislative interference would not apply, *Richardson* 3844-3852, 3887-3904—On Saturday the women and boys get away at two o'clock, *ib.* 3845—When the stoves are working the women labour for about fifty-seven hours weekly, *ib.* 3850.

Witness's firm object to employ boys under the age of fourteen *Richardson* 3870, 3871—Requirement by the firm in regard to the boys being to a certain extent educated, *ib.* 3870, 3871, 3877-3880—There are about seventy-five women, of whom about seventy are employed in the stoves, *ib.* 3881, 3883, 3884—There are not more than a dozen boys, none of whom work in the stoves, *ib.* 3882, 3885, 3886.

Regular hours in the establishment, there being however a necessary departure therefrom occasionally, *M'Comb* 3918-3926—A large proportion of the work is done out of doors, *ib.* 3920-3922—Frequent interruptions to the work by reason of the weather, *ib.* 3923-3926—Witness, and the workmen generally, signed a petition against the Bill of last year, *ib.* 3927, 3928, 3969-3971—There are from seventy to eighty men in witness's department, and a few boys, *ib.* 3960, 3961—Witness cannot speak in detail as to the women employed in the stoves, but they do not work long hours, *ib.* 3972, 3982-3985, 3997-4002—Women are not employed in the fields, *ib.* 3979—Nature of the employment of the boys, *ib.* 3980, 3981, 3986-3992.

Witness works piecework; commences at six in the morning and leaves off at indefinite hours, *Mackinley* 2390-2396—Hours of labour of the boys and young females at Mr. Richardson's works; objection to any interference therewith, *ib.* 4431-4441, 4444-4451.

Lancaster, Mr. Witness, who gave evidence before Mr. Tremenheere, was then working at Salford at the dye-works of Mr. John Lancaster, *Fletcher* 1604, 1605—Number of men and boys employed at Mr. Lancaster's; there are only a few girls, *ib.* 1613—Some bleaching was carried on, bleaching and dyeing being connected, *ib.* 1616, 1617—Particulars as to the very long hours of labour of witness, and equally of young persons, at Mr. Lancaster's, and other places, *ib.* 1618 *et seq.*—As Mr. Lancaster's witness has worked for many months from six in the morning until eleven at night, *ib.* 1619-1621—Witness left Mr. Lancaster on account of the long hours of labour, and is now jobbing about at different places, *ib.* 1667-1669.

Lapping Rooms. Evidence relative to the lapping-rooms in Ireland, to the effect the restriction upon the hours of labour is not necessary on the score of health, and would be extremely inconvenient to the trade, *Bell* 4343-4375—Hours of employment in the lapping-rooms of witness's firm; there is no grievance to be redressed, *ib.* 4353-4356, 4361-4375—Objection to a Government inspection of the lapping-rooms, *ib.* 4357—Proportion of women and children employed in the lapping-rooms; there is no complaint, *ib.* 4358, 4359, 4363—The work is very light, *ib.* 4360, 4363.

Particulars as to the nature of the employment and hours of labour of the boys in Messrs. Charley's lapping-rooms, at Seymour Hill, *Henchy* 4468-4482, 4504—Healthy character of the employment, *ib.* 4470, 4490, 4491.

Necessity occasionally of working overtime in the Irish lapping-rooms, *Kirk* 4551—The heat is very moderate in witness's lapping-rooms, *ib.* 4588, 4589.

Although the females only remained for short periods at a time in the lapping-room in Scotland, they seemed greatly wearied by the heat, *Tremenheere* 4757, 4758.

Leck, James. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Bleacher and singer, near Glasgow, 3332—Employs about 100 persons, the great majority of whom are women; there are ten or twelve children, and about fifteen men, 3333-3336—From thirty to forty women are engaged at the stoves, 3337—The temperature of the stoves varies from 90° to 120°; 3338—Nature of the employment in the stoves, 3339-3341—The usual hours of labour in the stoves is from six in the morning till seven in the evening, but in busy times the women work till ten or eleven at night, 3342-3348, 3367-3369, 3403-3406.

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Leck, James. (Analysis of his Evidence)—continued.

Great fatigue and injury to health consequent on the long hours of labour, 3349-3351. 3394—Growing feeling among employers in favour of shortening the hours, 3352. 3360. 3393—Witness would be glad to see the time reduced to ten hours daily, 3353—Character of the ventilation in the stoves, 3354-3358—How far a system of ten or ten hours and a half daily might reduce the earnings of witness's workpeople, 3361. 3371-3373. 3399-3422.

Difficulty in doing so much business if the hours were limited, unless by extending the works; on the whole, there could be nearly as much done without any extension, 3362-3366. 3370. 3389-3392—Slightly increased cost with which the bleachers would have to contend if the hours were limited; a corresponding advance in the price of goods would probably be demanded, 3374-3383. 3388. 3396-3398—Witness knows nothing of linen-bleaching, 3384-3387—Inability of the operatives to protect themselves, 3395.

Leeper, John, M.D. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Has been in medical practice at Keady, in the county of Armagh, for many years; holds some public appointments there, 4258-4260—Evidence as to the very healthy character of employment in the bleach-works at Keady, &c., 4261-4277—Much less healthy character of employment in flax-spinning factories than in the bleach-works, 4262-4264. 4299-4310. 4316-4330—Impure and unhealthy atmosphere in the spinning factories; way in which it becomes loaded with dust and moisture, 4264. 4299-4307. 4316-4330.

Practice as to the employment of boys to attend to the beetling engines; the work is light and healthy, 4268-4275. 4285, 4286—Accidents in bleach-works are very infrequent, save through negligence, 4278—Boys are not taken into work at the spinning factories under thirteen years of age; their education is not therefore incumbent in any way on the factory masters, 4279, 4280. 4288-4290—In the bleach-works boys are not employed under fourteen years of age, 4281. 4311—Improved education among the boys in bleach-works, 4282.

Want of education among young females, on account of their constant employment on sewed muslins, 4283—Character of the ventilation in the factory mills under witness's inspection, 4292-4298—Stoves are not used in witness's district, 4304-4308—Persons employed in the factories who are over sixteen years of age do not require a certificate from witness as certifying surgeon, 4312-4314.

LEGISLATIVE INTERFERENCE:

1. Evidence in favour of Restriction upon the Hours of Labour.
2. Evidence opposed to any Legislative Interference with the Trade.

1. Evidence in favour of Restriction upon the Hours of Labour:

Concurrence of masters and workmen as to the propriety of legislative interference on account of the long hours of work, *Tremenheere* 56-60. 134-137—Reference to petitions, signed by clergymen and medical men of Manchester, Salford, and Bolton, praying for legislative interference on account of the overwork, *ib.* 61-70. 170.

Statement on the part of the operatives, that protection is not sought for the adults, but only for the young persons, *First Rep.* p. 16.

Approval of legislative interference in the case of boys and young females in bleach-works, *Robinson* 560. 569. 614, 615; *Miller* 1217, 1218. 1253-1260. 1293, 1294; *Barbour* 1965-1967. 2135-2153; *Richmond* 3181, 3182. 3279, 3280. 3310-3312; *Thompson* 3445. 3472-3474. 3555—Witness is a decided advocate for legislative interference respecting the labour of adult bleachers, and arduous labour generally, to twelve hours daily; evidence in support of this proposition, *Garstang* 743-745. 748-758. 800-814—Decided approval of legislative interference, with a view to the limitation of the hours of labour as in factories, *Haywood* 827. 842. 868-880.

General feeling of the bleachers, in which witness concurs, in favour of a limitation of labour to ten hours a day, as in mills and factories, *Mather* 1331-1337. 1361-1366. 1378-1380—The prevalence of excessive hours of labour in an establishment belonging to a master so careful for his people as Mr. Ainsworth of Halliwell was, is a strong argument in favour of legislative interference, *Milton* 1599-1603—Expediency of Government interference with the hours of labour of women and children, but not of men, *Fletcher* 1711-1720.

Expediency of applying legislative restrictions upon trade in cases of crying evils only, and with great caution, *Barbour* 1965. 1996. 2073-2079. 2095-2099. 2128. 2134, 2135—Expediency of legislative interference with Irish bleach-works if young females and boys are employed there for long hours, *ib.* 2134, 2135—The experience of witness since he gave evidence before Mr. Tremenheere confirms all that he then stated in favour of interference, *Scott* 2156, 2157—Legislative interference, shortening the hours of labour in bleach-works, would be for the benefit alike of manufacturer, merchants, bleachers, and operatives, *ib.* 2158 *et seq.*—Legislation is equally desirable in bleach-works as in

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LEGISLATIVE INTERFERENCE—continued.

1. *Evidence in favour of Restriction upon the Hours of Labour*—continued.

factories, but it should at all times be carefully applied with respect to labour, *Scott* 2262-2264.

On the ground of health, morality, and education, there is an imperious necessity for legislation, *Crook* 2490. 2499 *et seq.*—General feeling of the clergy and medical men of Bolton in favour of the contemplated restriction, *ib.* 2517-2522—Feeling of merchants and commission agents in Manchester in favour of restriction, *ib.* 2523-2528.

Necessity of legislative interference, unions in the trade being an inadequate check, *Shelbourne* 2861-2869. 2876-2890—About two years ago witness and all the medical men in Salford signed a petition praying for legislative interference with the hours of labour in dye-works, &c., *Brownbill* 3014—Witness is still an advocate for legislative interference with the hours of labour of young persons in bleaching and dyeing works, and in other works involving unhealthy confinement, *ib.* 3015-3017. 3037, 3038. 3058-3074—Witness has always been in favour of a restriction upon the hours of labour, *Gilbroy* 3110.

Though labour in all bleaching works should be limited to ten hours daily, it would be difficult and impolitic to extend such restriction to domestic employment or private trades, though probably involving very long hours of labour and injury to health, *Tremenheere* 4889-4935—Objection to confining legislation to those departments in bleaching and dyeing in which the atmosphere or the processes are injurious to health, *ib.* 4900-4913.

2. *Evidence opposed to any Legislative Interference with the Trade* :

Witness has a very great objection to legislative interference, and can only approve of it in reference to labour in bleach-works, provided that a very strong case can be made out, *Slagg* 2311 *et seq.*—The health, and, to a certain extent, the morality, of children and females in bleach-works is doubtless prejudiced by the long and irregular hours of labour, but witness questions whether the remedy of legislative interference may not be worse than the disease, *ib.* 2313 *et seq.*—Expediency of caution before legislation, as in the case of the factories, where it went too far, *ib.* 2373.

Objections to a limitation by law of the hours in the Irish bleach-works, *Richardson* 3828 *et seq.*—It would be quite as reasonable to limit the hours of labour of farmers as of bleachers in Ireland, *ib.* 3830—Tendency of a system of Government inspection and short hours to prevent the employment of females and boys, and to cause the employment of adult labour only; questionable policy of a measure producing this result, *O'Brien* 4117-4148. 4158, 4159. 4163-4171—Objection to the principle of State interference with trade, *Kirk* 4604—Belief that there is no necessity whatever for a limitation of the hours in the Irish bleach-works, *ib.* 4611. 4654.

Way in which the restrictions of the Bill would be most injurious to dyeing masters, *Keely* 5355, 5356. 5363-5374. 5377. 5397-5407. 5430-5432—Reasons for concluding that the proposed restrictions would be injurious to the Lancashire bleachers as well as to the dyers, *ib.* 5374-5386.

Reference to an attempt in 1845 for regulating by legislation the labour of women and young people in bleach-works; opinions then expressed by Sir James Graham against legislative interference, *Hardcastle* 5443—Much less reason now than in 1845 for legislative interference, *ib.* 5444-5446—Bill No. 2 of last Session would, in conjunction with the Print Works Act, compel witness to close his premises, *ib.* 5447-5449. 5592-5596—Objection to the principle of class legislation, or to legislative restrictions in respect of labour, upon a principle which admits of few exceptions, *ib.* 5600-5617. 5777-5782.

With regard to the restrictions proposed in Lord Shaftesbury's Bill of 1854, they are so extensive and so complicated as to be altogether impracticable, *Hardcastle* 5643-5647—Utter impossibility of applying the provisions of Mr. Butt's Bill of 1855 to the several trades specified in it, *ib.* 5648, 5649—Impracticability also of carrying out the provisions of Bill No. 3; that is the Bill of March 1856; this must have become apparent to its promoters, for they brought in Bill No. 4 in the following month, *ib.* 5650-5652. 5670-5674—Comments on the provisions of the Bill No. 4, as being, though less grasping than those of Bill No. 3, most partial and injurious, *ib.* 5654. 5669.—On the whole, witness considers the four Bills as the finest specimen of peddling legislation ever brought before the House of Commons, *ib.* 5655.

Injurious effect of the proposed legislation upon other trades besides those of the bleaching and dyeing of cotton and linen, *Hardcastle* 5669—In the event of legislative interference witness contemplates shutting up his works, on account more especially of the annoyance, *ib.* 5757-5761.

Much less necessity for legislative interference with the labour of the boys employed by witness than of boys employed in other occupations of different kinds, *Ripley* 5881. 5919—Few women employed by witness and dyers generally; legislation would cause

witness

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2. Evidence opposed to any Legislative Interference with the Trade—continued.

witness at once to dispense with female labour, *Ripley* 5901. 5906. 5907. 5944-5947. 5978-5984—Objection, on principle, to legislative interference with the labour of boys in dye-works, &c., *ib.* 5916-5921. 5969—Witness did not come to London for the purpose of opposing the Bill, but he is strongly adverse to any legislative interference, *J. Slater* 6253-6257. 6324-6329.

Grounds for the conclusion that a restriction upon the hours of labour in bleach-works would be extremely injurious to the merchant and the bleacher, as well as to those employed by them, *Rylands* 6494 *et seq.*—Strong objection to class legislation; any restriction upon labour should be applicable generally, *ib.* 6519-6523—Restriction is not necessary, *Bancroft*, 6768, 6759.

Although in the abstract witness disapproves of the employment of young persons under eleven years of age, he strongly disapproves of prohibiting or restricting such employment by legislative enactment, *Marsland* 6805, 6806. 6815-6825—Objection generally to legislative interference with labour, *ib.* 6816. 6824, 6825—Necessity for legislative interference in bleach-works, any more than in the case of numerous other employments, has not been proved, *ib.* 6816—Decided objection to the proposed legislative interference, as tending greatly to the injury of the trade of this country, and to the advantage of the foreign trade, *Southworth* 6899-6901. 6909-6913.

Inexpediency of limiting the work of "young persons," that is, of persons between the age of eleven and eighteen years, to the hours of from six to six, on the Irish bleach-works; they could not, in fact, possibly begin at six in the winter months, *MacAdam* 7013 *et seq.* 7069-7077. 7103—Occasional long hours, of merely for some days at a time, do not justify legislative interference, *ib.* 7026-7037. 7055-7060—As regards the restriction upon the employment of "children," or persons under the age of eleven, the Bill would not affect Ireland at all, *ib.* 7061-7068.

Evidence strongly opposed to legislative interference with warehouses or bleach-works, *Pender* 7132 *et seq.*—There has been too much legislative interference already with trade, *ib.* 7147—Further objections generally to legislative interference with trade or capital, or with the labour of the operative, which is his capital, *ib.* 7211-7215. 7249.

See also *Adult Labour.* *Age of Employment.* *Beetling Process.* *Collieries*
Inspection Act. *Commission of Inquiry.* *Continent, The.* *Education, 5.*
Evasion of Legislative Restrictions. *Factory Act.* *Foreign Competition.*
Hand-loom Weavers. *Health.* *Hours of Labour.* *Inspection.* *Lace and*
Hosiery Trade. *Machinery.* *Masters.* *Merchants and Commission Agents.*
Operatives. *Prices.* *Pushes.* *Relations between Employer and Employed.*
Rural Operatives. *Skilled Labour.* *Voluntary Settlement of Hours of Labour.*
Wages. *Warehouses.* *Woollen Goods.*

Libraries and Mechanics' Institutes. Better position of the factory operatives than of the bleachers, in regard to libraries and mechanics' institutes, &c., *J. Waring* 372-382—Inability of bleachers to attend libraries, &c., or to obtain instruction, in consequence of the long hours of labour, *ib.* 378-382.

Active part taken by the master bleachers about Bolton in establishing mechanics' institutes and libraries, *Hardcastle* 5637-5641—Particulars relative to a library connected with witness's works, to which the men as well as witness subscribe, *J. N. Slater* 7327, 7328. 7367-7373.

Linen-bleaching. Few women in the linen bleach-works at Keady, Ireland, *J. Waring* 433—At one of the bleach-works in Ireland there were nearly 300 women in one room, *ib.* 436—Circumstance of linen being necessarily bleached on the grass; that is differently from cotton, *ib.* 451, 452—Employment mainly of adults in the linen bleach-fields in Ireland, *ib.* 453-455. 462—Question as to the Bill unduly interfering with the labour in the Irish bleach-fields, *ib.* 456-462.

Distinction between linen-bleaching in Ireland and cotton-bleaching in England; in Ireland stocks of goods are kept, but overwork is also necessary, *Barbour* 2129-2134—Propriety, in any legislation, of duly considering the conduct of the trade in Scotland and Ireland, *Scott* 2287-2292—Absence of employment of women in the bleach-mills generally in the north of Ireland, *Kirk* 4614-4616—Necessity of bleaching linen on grass, instead of by means of drugs, *Blair* 6026-6028.

See also *Beetling Process.* *Claverhouse Bleaching Field, Dundee.* *Commission of*
Inquiry. *Foreign Competition.* *Glenmore Bleach-works, Lisburn.* *Health, 2.*
Hours of Labour. *Lambeg Bleach-works, Ireland.* *Legislative Interference.*
Open-air Bleaching.

Lisburn, Ireland. See *Glenmore Bleach-works.* *Lambeg Bleach-works.*

Lochure, Rev. John. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Is pastor of a Congregational Church in Paisley, 3318, 3319—His congregation used to include some bleachers; there was
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Lockure, Rev. John. (Analysis of his Evidence)—continued.

nothing remarkable in the physical or moral condition of these, 3320-3323—Draw up a memorial to the master bleachers of the west of Scotland, on the part of the men, in 1853, which represents his views on the present subject, 3324-3328—Subsequently to 1853, an arrangement was promised, reducing the time of labour to sixty-six hours weekly; this does not seem to have been permanent, 3329-3331.

M.

MacAdam, James. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Resides at Belfast; is secretary to the Royal Society for the Promotion and Improvement of the Growth of Flax, in Ireland; is secretary also to the Belfast Linen Trade Committee, 6914, 6915—Has made it his particular business to inquire into the condition and progress of linen manufacture on the Continent, and has had peculiar opportunities for doing so at the several national exhibitions which have taken place since 1844; 6916.

Statistics showing an immense increase of late years of flax-spinning in France, Belgium, Austria, and Prussia, 6917, 6918—Direct aid given by the Prussian government to the extension of flax-spinning and of bleaching by machinery, 6919—Encouragement by the government in Belgium of the extension of bleach-works, *ib.*—Less cost of labour in spinning and bleaching in the continental countries than in Great Britain and Ireland, 6920. 6971-6973—Cost of fuel and of the necessary chemical substances in this country and in foreign countries, 6921-6929. 6969, 6970.

Frequent instances of persons coming from the Continent to Ireland in order to learn and adopt the Irish system of bleaching and flax-spinning, 6930, 6931—Evidence as to the great improvements which have taken place within the last ten years, or so, in the quality of foreign linens; successful imitation of the Irish manufacture, 6932-6937—Explanation as to the advantages of the Belgian manufacturer over the Irish manufacturer, and the considerable extent to which the former is superseding the latter in the supply of linen to other countries, 6938-6946. 6950. 6976-6983. 7114-7119.

Frequent instances of Irish operatives being attracted to continental factories and bleach-works, 6944. 6973-6975—Large use made in Belgium of Irish improvements in machinery, 6945, 6946—Practice of continental governments to give honorary distinctions for improved manufacture, &c.; good policy thereof, 6947-6949—Absence of legislative interference with the hours of labour in continental bleach-works, 6950. 6958, 6959. 6984. 7033—In Belgium the bleachers work for long or short hours, in accordance with the amount of business on hand, 6950. 6958, 6959.

Grounds for the conclusion that the proposed restriction upon the hours of labour in this country would have a most pernicious effect on the Irish linen trade, 6951. 7013 *et seq.*—The restriction would prevent the fulfilment of foreign orders, and would otherwise result in a great increase of the already successful and extending competition on the part of foreign countries, 6951. 7032. 7052-7054. 7078-7080. 7104-7119.

Reference to linen-bleaching in Ireland as a peculiarly healthy and cleanly occupation, 6951. 6967, 6968. 7007-7009. 7060—Witness's evidence applies solely to linen-bleaching; he has never seen any cotton bleach-works, or any dye-works, 6952-6957—Good condition, socially and intellectually, of the bleaching operatives along the Rhine, and in Belgium, 6961-6964—Less healthy and cleanly character of the occupation in the Irish flax-spinning factories, or cotton mills, than in the bleach-works, 6965-6968. 7059, 7060. 7099-7102.

Statement relative to the restriction upon the hours of labour of children in the French flax-spinning factories; prosperity of the trade adverted to hereon, 6985-7006—Doubt as to the longest hours for which young persons may work in the Irish bleach-works; necessity, doubtless, for their working more than twelve hours in times of pushes, 7010-7037—Inexpediency of limiting the work of "young persons," that is, of persons between the age of eleven and eighteen years, to the hours of from six to six, on the Irish bleach-works; they could not, in fact, possibly begin at six in the winter months, 7013 *et seq.* 7069-7077. 7103.

Occasional long hours, if merely for some days at a time, do not justify legislative interference, 7026-7037. 7055-7060—Prices would be injuriously enhanced by the proposed restrictions; what the enhanced price might be witness is not prepared to estimate, 7038-7051. 7114-7119—As regards the restriction upon the employment of "children," or persons under the age of eleven, witness believes that the Bill would not affect Ireland at all, 7061-7068.

Tendency at present towards shorter hours of labour, 7081, 7082—The proposed interference will very injuriously affect the present good feeling between employers and employed, 7083—The proposed inspection is peculiarly objectionable, 7083-7098—Belief that the linen merchants, as well as the bleachers, have a strong ground of complaint against the Bill; remarks hereon upon a contrary opinion given by Mr. Bragg, of the firm of Bragg, Dobson & Co., 7104-7113.

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M'Comb, George. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Is a working bleacher in the employment of Jonathan Richardson & Company, of Lisburn, 3915-3917. 3957-3959—Regular hours in this establishment, there being, however, a necessary departure therefrom occasionally, 3918-3926—A large proportion of the work is done out of doors, 3920-3922—Frequent interruptions to the work by reason of the weather, 3923-3926.

Witness, and the workmen generally, signed a petition against the Bill of last year, 3927, 3928. 3969-3971—Apprehended diminution of earnings if the hours of labour be restricted, 3929-3933. 3949, 3950. 3962-3968—Impracticability of regular hours, on account of the injury to the goods by suddenly stopping the processes, 3934-3939. 3977—Way in which regular hours would retard the progress of the work, 3939-3942.

Messrs. Richardson & Company's workpeople are quite satisfied with the present system, 3943, 3944—Healthy condition of the operatives, 3945-3948—Nature of the ventilation in the stoves, 3951-3954—Witness entirely concurs in the evidence of Mr. Richardson, 3955, 3956—There are from seventy to eighty men in witness's department, and a few boys, 3960 3961—Witness cannot speak in detail as to the women employed in the stoves, but they do not work long hours, 3972. 3982-3985. 3997-4002.

Interference with the labour of the women only would not affect the men's wages, 3973, 3974—In signing the petition, witness was not aware that the Bill applied only to women and children, 3975-3977. 3995, 3996—Witness is employed at the Lambeg branch of Messrs. Richardson's works, 3978—Women are not employed in the fields, 3979—Nature of the employment of the boys, 3980, 3981. 3986-3992.

Machinery. Introduction of new machinery adverted to as a means of preventing overtime, *Tremenheere*, 164-166—In consequence of new machinery at Mr. Slater's, at Bolton, several men have been thrown out of employment, *J. Waring* 413—Introduction of new machinery adverted to, as applying to the bleaching rather than the finishing department, and thereby not shortening the hours of labour in the latter works, whilst at the same time it lessens employment in the former, *ib.* 469-471. 498. 499—Belief that by improvement in the finishing machinery, and by other means, the masters could meet the requirements of a Ten Hours' Bill, *ib.* 498-502—Through improved machinery, and other causes, witness believes that extremely long hours of labour are not often required now, though such was the case some years ago, *ib.* 547-551. 654, 655.

Recent introduction of bleaching machines at Mr. Bridson's; nature and duration of the labour hereon, *Mather* 1341-1350—Effect of the agitation for a Ten Hours' Bill in introducing more machinery into the bleaching and dyeing works, *Fletcher* 1734—Opinion that a Ten Hours' Act for bleaching works would lead to the introduction of more machinery, and a more equable distribution of the work throughout the year, *Price* 1865-1869.

Objections raised by witness's men to the use of improved beetling engines, which he intended to introduce to save manual labour, *Kirk* 4553, 4554. 4626—The proposed restrictions would cause witness to dispense with the employment of all boys upon beetling engines, *ib.* 4651-4653—Machinery is employed by witness in bleaching, but not for the trimming or finishing, *John Burton* 5170—Witness' steam machinery is worked only by the adult men, *Allcock* 5308-5311—No boys or females are employed by witness on machinery, *Keely* 5352, 5353.

Increased introduction of machinery by witness of late years, and effect thereby of rendering the hours of labour shorter and more regular, and in displacing manual labour, *Blair* 5812-5818. 5823, 5824. 5838. 5858. 6038—Tendency of legislation to increase the use of machinery, and thereby to displace manual labour, *ib.* 5815, 5816—Effect of machinery in superseding adult labour, *Blair* 6038. 6097-6100; *Morris* 6389, 6390—Shorter hours in witness's calendering department through speeding the machinery, *Blair* 6045. 6193-6195—Measures being adopted by witness for superseding by machinery the employment of children, *ib.* 6069. 6129.

More regular hours of late years at Halliwell, in consequence chiefly of improved machinery, *Morris* 6355, 6356. 6459-6470—Belief as to the tendency of legislative interference to prevent mechanical improvement in the various processes of bleaching, *Rylands* 6556-6563—Effect of the increased use of machinery by Messrs. Sykes, as well as generally, to render more regular the hours of labour, and to ameliorate the condition of the workpeople, *Southworth* 6852-6860—Effect of machinery in shortening the hours of labour; anticipated further improvements in machinery, and further reduction in the hours, without the injurious necessity of complying with legislative enactments, *J. N. Slater* 7350-7363. 7383-7399. 7408-7419.

See also *Foreign Competition.*

Mackinley, William. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Working bleacher at Lambeg; is in the employment of Mr. Richardson, 4385-4389. 4425—Works piecework; commences at six in the morning, and leaves off at indefinite hours, 4390-4396—Signed the petition against the Bill on the ground of the restrictions placed by it upon the hours of labour, 0.37—Sess 2.

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Mackinley, William. (Analysis of his Evidence)—continued.

and, as a consequence, upon the amount of earnings, 4397-4402—Healthy character of the occupation in the bleach-works, 4403-4405—Impediment to bleaching operations if the hours of labour be limited, 4406.

Examination as to witness having opposed the Bill on the mistaken impression that it restricted adult labour to ten hours a day; objection to it nevertheless, as interfering with piecework, 4407-4451—Interference with the men's labour on piecework if the hours of labour of the boys be restricted to ten hours a day, 4407. 4448-4451—Hours of labour of the boys and young females at Mr. Richardson's works; objection to any interference therewith, 4431-4441. 4444-4451.

Makant, Mr. Satisfactory conduct of Mr. Makant's bleach-works at Bolton, *Crook* 2572-2574—Feeling of Mr. Makant in favour of short hours, but in disapproval of legislative interference, *ib.* 2579-2586.

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Marsland, Henry. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Proprietor of bleach-works near Stockport; employs about 100 hands, 6786-6790—The works are turned chiefly by water power, instead of by steam; explanation hereon, showing that restriction upon the hours of labour would be peculiarly injurious to witness, as the water is frequently not supplied till eleven or twelve in the day, 6791-6794. 6822-6824. 6833-6836—Necessity of frequent pushes in witness's trade, the hours of labour necessarily varying much at different times, 6795-6799. 6817. 6826-6832.

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Explanation as to a meeting between witness and the committee of masters in order to discuss, in a friendly spirit, the point of legislation; the masters, however, seemed inclined

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clined to dispute the necessity of legislation altogether, and witness did not therefore seek any other meeting with them, *Tremenheere* 4812-4816—Statement as to Mr. Hardcastle having in the first instance proposed a certain basis of legislation, and having subsequently repudiated what he had proposed, *ib.* 4813, 4814. 4926-4934—Many masters have doubtless largely exerted themselves for the religious and intellectual improvement of their workpeople, *ib.* 4833.

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Statement as to Mr. Tremehere having said that the Lancashire masters were in favour of legislation, *Hardcastle* 5714-5716—Letter from witness to Mr. J. H. Ainsworth, in January 1855, in which he disapproves of the employment of children under eleven, or females under eighteen, otherwise than in the day, namely, between 5.30 a.m. and 8.30 p.m., *ib.* 5727—Remarks relative to the Bleaching Masters' Association, and to their object of preventing prices from going too low, *ib.* 5764-5776.

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Mather, Wright. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Has been engaged at Mr. Bridson's, at Bolton, for about eighteen years; is now in the stove and drying department; 1295-1298—Gave evidence before Mr. Tremehere, 1299—Very high temperature of some of the rooms in which witness has worked; diminution of the heat in the progressive room since the date of Mr. Tremehere's inquiry, 1300-1312. 1322—Employment of young females and boys for from twelve to eighteen hours daily in rooms the temperature of which was from 100 to 150 degrees, 1313-1328. 1338, 1339—The heat did not affect witness's health, 1320.

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Meal-times. The Bill probably would not affect the meal-times at witness's works, *Kirk* 4712-4714.—See also *Hours of Labour.*

Mental Improvement. Complaints made to witness that the overwork in bleaching was a bar to mental improvement, and that in such respect the factory operatives were better off, *Tremenheere* 73-78—Absence of proper opportunity for education or mental improvement in consequence of the uncertainty of the hours of labour, *Milton* 1413-1416. 1505-1508—Independent feeling of operatives in regard to supplying themselves with means of instruction, instead of attending reading-rooms provided by their masters, *Crook* 2570, 2571—Way in which the Bill would prevent young persons from leaving work early in the afternoon, so as to have time for amusement or other occupation, *Henchy* 4516-4533.—See also *Education. Libraries and Mechanics' Institutes.*

Merchants and Commission Agents. Feeling of a majority of ten out of fourteen merchants at Manchester, as distinct from the master bleachers, that overwork, as now practised, might be avoided; the merchants thus consulted by witness were named to him by the masters, *Tremenheere* 106, 123-133. 145-158. 4854-4857—The merchants concurred generally in the opinion that legislation was necessary, *ib.* 137-140.

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Tremenheere that "he did not think the merchants as a body would be affected by, or would raise any objection to, legislative restriction of the hours of work for females and boys in bleaching works," *Barbour* 1956 *et seq.*—Tendency of a limitation of the hours of labour in bleach-works to induce merchants to give orders to the bleach-masters more promptly than they now do, *ib.* 1956, 1957. 1968, 1969. 1987. 2019-2028.

Difficulties in the way of merchants giving out their orders more promptly than they hitherto have done, *Barbour* 1958. 1962-1964. 2013-2028—Strong objection to any law which should compel the merchants to keep in store a certain quantity of goods, or to give so many days' notice to the bleacher whenever an order was to be executed, *ib.* 1964. 2029-2033. 2125-2128—The question of long or short hours does not operate upon the merchant in giving his orders, *ib.* 2020-2028. 2107-2113. 2118, 2119—The merchant would soon accommodate himself to the restrictions upon the bleacher, and neither party would be much inconvenienced, *ib.* 2026-2028. 2114-2117—If the hours of labour were regulated the merchant would have a clearer knowledge of the capabilities of the bleacher, *ib.* 2057-2064.

Merchants and their agents would soon adapt themselves to any alteration in the capability of the bleacher, *Scott* 2162—Objection to legislation compelling the manufacturer or merchant to give certain time to the bleacher for each work to be done, *ib.* 2214-2220. 2232-2235—In the event of a restriction upon the hours of labour in bleach-works the merchants would soon adapt themselves to the necessities of the case, and trade would be but slightly, if at all, inconvenienced, *Slagg* 2339-2352. 2379-2381.

Instance of witness having lost some orders through having upon one or two occasions disappointed the merchant who gave them; agitation about overwork at the time, *Hardcastle* 5521. 5712, 5713—Confusion and irregularity as regards the completion of merchants' orders if the hours in bleach-works be restricted, *ib.* 5628-5632.

Dissent from the evidence of Mr. Barbour as to the practicability of a regular distribution of the merchants' orders, *Blair* 6204-6208; *Rylands* 6495. 6507-6509. 6524-6535—Impracticability of the merchant regulating his orders and distributing them equally at different times, *Blair* 6204-6208; *Morris* 6395; *Rylands* 6495. 6497-6509; *Pender* 7200, 7201—Practice as to the acceptance of orders by the merchants; risk undertaken as to the time of completion, orders being frequently refused for want of time, *Rylands* 6487-6493. 6502-6506. 6550-6558—Frequent loss of orders by witness and other commission merchants through not being able to execute them in time; question whether these orders are lost to the home trade, *ib.* 6501-6504. 6550-6554.

Belief that the linen merchants, as well as the bleachers, have a strong ground of complaint against the Bill; remarks hereon upon a contrary opinion given by Mr. Bragg, of the firm of Bragg, Dabson & Co., *MacAdam* 7104-7114.

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Miller, Thomas. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Up to November last, had been connected for twenty-four years with the finishing department at Mr. Hardcastle's, of Bolton; is now in other business, 1212-1215—Approval of legislative restrictions upon the hours of labour of young persons in bleach-works, 1217, 1218. 1253-1260. 1293, 1294—Statement as to the very long hours of labour at times in the making-up and packing department of Mr. Hardcastle's establishment; young persons and women, as well as witness, have worked for thirty-six hours without any rest, except for meals, 1218-1223. 1228-1232.

Temporary effect of the long hours upon the health, 1224-1227—Practice lately adopted by Mr. Hardcastle not to employ children under twelve years of age, 1230. 1243-1249—Very long hours also in the beetling department at Mr. Hardcastle's, 1233-1236—Want of opportunity for education simultaneously with employment, 1237. 1242. 1262-1266—Particulars relative to a school attached to Mr. Hardcastle's works; how attended and supported, 1238-1242. 1251, 1252. 1267-1271—Anxiety of the parents in Mr. Hardcastle's establishment for the education of their children, 1250-1252. 1272-1276.

Advantage if children did not work till they were eleven or twelve years old, 1257—Women and young persons should be restricted from working for more than ten hours daily, or ten hours and a half, as in factories, 1258-1260—Opportunity for instruction under the Factory Act, 1261, 1262—Hours of labour of a daughter of witness in the finishing department at Mr. Hardcastle's; she begins at seven in the morning, and is sometimes as late as ten at night, 1277-1282—Explanation of the beetling process; the labour is almost continuous, 1287-1292.

Milton, Rev. William. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Is now curate of the parish of Little Marlow, Buckinghamshire, 1382-1385—Was formerly incumbent of St. Paul's, Halliwell, near Bolton; left it seven years ago, 1386-1390—There were very extensive bleaching-works in Halliwell, all belonging to Mr. John Horrocks Ainsworth, 1390-1393. 1405—Witness's congregation was chiefly composed of bleachers, 1394.

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Evidence as to the extremely long hours for which Mr. Ainsworth's workpeople, including the boys and young females, occasionally worked, 1395-1407—Statement relative to two sisters of the name of Greenhalgh, whose deaths were, as witness considers, accelerated by overwork, 1397-1402. 1409, 1410—Injurious effect, generally, of the overwork upon the health, 1409—Very bad moral effects consequent upon the system of overwork, the young men and women sometimes lying down together when resting from work, 1411, 1412.

Absence of proper opportunity for education or mental improvement in consequence of the uncertainty of the hours of labour, 1413-1416. 1505-1508—Great improvement in the moral and social condition of factory operatives since the passing of the Ten Hours' Act, 1413. 1518-1529. 1590-1598—The church at Halliwell, of which witness was incumbent, was built and endowed by Mr. Ainsworth, 1417. 1450, 1451—Mr. Ainsworth also built large schools, and was joint founder of St. Peter's church, and did a great deal for the benefit of his people 1418. 1463-1467. 1530-1533. 1599-1601.

Circumstance of witness having spoken at a public meeting at Bolton in deprecation of the long hours of labour at Halliwell bleaching-works, 1419, 1420. 1569-1572—Witness also spoke from the pulpit relative to the hours of labour, 1421, 1422. 1515-1517—Particulars relative to some quarrels between Mr. Ainsworth and witness, in the first instance, about the demeanour of the former in church, and subsequently on account of witness's remonstrances privately, and in his sermons, against the overwork, and also on account of Mr. Ainsworth wishing to interfere in the mode of conduct of Divine service, 1423, 1424. 1468-1476. 1484, 1485. 1511-1517. 1537-1562. 1569-1589.

Statement as to Mr. Ainsworth having forbidden the people connected with his works to attend the church, 1423-1434. 1449. 1509, 1510.—Severe measures adopted by Mr. Ainsworth towards witness in consequence of the quarrel between them, 1424—As regards the non-education of bleachers' children, the parents are doubtless mainly blameable in preferring to send them to work for the sake of their wages, 1435-1439. 1494, 1495. 1536. 1563, 1564—Up to the time of witness leaving Halliwell, he saw no amelioration of the hours of labour; he cannot speak to the state of things for the last seven years, 1442-1448.

With regard to the health of the sisters Greenhalgh, witness believes their constitution was of an ordinary healthy character, 1452-1460—On leaving Halliwell, witness went to a church in Derbyshire; he left this on the score of health, and not because of a quarrel with the parson 1477-1483—Mr. Ainsworth was very strict in not allowing Sunday work, 1486. 1600—Witness has been told that at some places the men have worked on Sunday, 1487-1490.

Extent to which witness remonstrated with parents at Halliwell for not sending their children to school instead of to work, 1492-1496. 1534-1536—Doubt whether the bleachers ever left Mr. Ainsworth's to work in the neighbouring cotton mills, 1497-1501—Larger earnings of bleachers during times of pressure than of factory operatives, 1502-1504—Explanation as to witness having written to the newspapers with reference to the overwork question, and his quarrel with Mr. Ainsworth, 1537-1562.

Concurrence of the local clergymen with witness in regard to the evil of the long hours of labour, 1565-1568—The prevalence of excessive hours of labour in an establishment belonging to a master so careful for his people as Mr. Ainsworth was, is a strong argument in favour of legislative interference, 1599-1603—Circumstance of the objectionable truck system having been in practice in connexion with the works at Halliwell, 1603.

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Morality. Probable immorality through the late hours at which the females leave work, *Garstang* 727-729—Deterioration of the bleaching population, morally and physically, by reason of the long hours, *Crook* 2450. 2456. 2499. 2505-2511—Accommodation provided in Scotland when the men and women work all night at beetling; occasional immorality, *Boase* 3688-3697—Argument that continuous employment is favourable to moral improvement and the attainment of knowledge, *Rylands* 6509. 6521—Less morality and less cleanliness of the half-time factory operatives than of the boys and girls in bleach-works, *Packer* 6724. 6730-6735.

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Morris, William. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Manager of a portion of the works of Mr. John Ainsworth, at Halliwell, near Bolton, 6330—Has been at the works about forty years, and has been seriously ill only for three weeks during that period, 6331, 6332—Witness's father has been at the works sixty-six years, and has been ill only for six weeks, 6333, 6334—There are 574 persons now employed in the Halliwell works, of whom eighty-nine are women and girls, and forty-seven are boys under

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eighteen, 6335—There is only one person under eleven years of age, who was taken on under peculiar circumstances, 6336-6339.

Respectability of Mr. Ainsworth's operatives; goodness of their moral character, 6340. 6366, 6367—Long periods for which the people remain in Mr. Ainsworth's employment, 6340, 6341—Preference given by operatives to employment in bleach-works, as compared with cotton mills, 6342-6346—Much better health in bleaching than in factory employment, 6346. 6431—Wages of the females at Halliwell works, 6347-6349.

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The clamping frames at Halliwell are worked exclusively by adult males, 6385, 6386—There are no women at the stoves, 6387—When the people are in the stoves the heat is not oppressive, 6388—Effect of machinery in superseding adult labour, 6389, 6390—Impracticability of stopping the bleaching process at any hour, 6393, 6394—Impracticability of the merchant distributing his orders regularly throughout the year, 6395.

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Nottingham. General feeling of the Nottingham operative bleachers in favour of legislative restriction upon the hours, *Bowley* 2635. 2659—Feeling of the women and children at Old Baisford, near Nottingham, in favour of legislative interference, *Shelbourne* 2877-2879—General feeling of the operative bleachers in Nottingham in favour of regular hours, that is, from six to six, with two hours for meals, and no overtime, *Betts* 2944-2948. 2955-2959. 2962-2967. 2976-2999—The working bleachers have petitioned against overtime and long hours, *ib.* 2944, 2945. 2966.

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Open Air Bleaching. Open-air bleaching, or finishing has been abandoned in Lancashire and Cheshire, *Tremeneheere* 87, 198, 199—Better health of the operatives when witness came to Bolton, thirty-four years ago, and when open-air bleaching was in practice, *Robinson* 634-644—About forty years ago, nearly all the bleaching work at Bolton, &c. was done in the open air, *H. Waring* 892-895—Shorter hours of labour, many years ago, when the work was carried on in the fields, *ib.* 930-932. 981-984.

The work of witness's firm, near Dundee, is chiefly in the open air, and is quite distinct from the work in Lancashire, Cheshire, and other places, *Drimmie* 3558-3561-3565. 3574-3577. 3592-3594—Nature of the employment and hours of labour of the females and boys, *ib.* 3567-3578—Impracticability of the clause proposed by Mr. Tremeneheere, allowing extra time in certain cases, *ib.* 3583-3585—Way in which the work is carried on in winter, or severe weather, *ib.* 3611-3616—Frequent interruption to the open-air work in Scotland, and necessarily short hours, in consequence of unfavourable weather, *Robertson* 3764-3771. 3780-3784—Necessity, at times, of long hours, in order to prevent the work being left in an improper state, *ib.* 3771-3779. 3788-3791.

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Explanation as to witness having suggested in his report that, in the case of linen or open-air bleaching, labour after the prescribed time should be allowed, in the event of work being interrupted by the weather; how this might be provided for, *Tremeneheere* 4934-4949.

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OPERATIVES:

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2. *Feeling of Operatives in Favour of Long Hours.*
3. *How far the Working Bleachers can protect themselves.*
4. *Object and Proceedings of the Operatives' Committee.*
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1. *Feeling of Operatives in Favour of Legislation.*

Desire expressed to witness, by the bleachers in Lancashire, &c. for a Ten Hours Bill, as in factories, *Tremenheere* 71, 72—Desire frequently expressed by the bleachers to come under the Ten Hours Act, *J. Waring* 367-371—The bleachers are extremely anxious for legislative interference, *Garstang* 720—Witness was requested to appear before the Committee by the men at Bolton; his own sons did not press him to come, *H. Waring* 1085. 1111-1116.

General feeling among men and boys in favour of a Ten Hours Act, *Fletcher* 1626, 1627—General feeling of the Bolton operative bleachers in favour of legislative restriction upon the hours of work, *Crook* 2458-2467. 2512-2516—The feeling at Mr. Burton's is in favour of working from six to six, except on Saturday, and then from six to four, *Shelbourne* 2894-2914—General feeling of the workpeople near Paisley in favour of shorter hours, *Richmond* 3172. 3182. 3312—Objections made to the hours of labour by many of the workpeople not employed in the stoves, *Tremenheere* 4883, 4884.

2. *Feeling of Operatives in Favour of Long Hours:*

Satisfaction of the workpeople, in witness's part of Scotland, with the present hours of labour, *Drimminie* 3588. 3591—Healthy, happy, and contented state of the operative bleachers under witness and throughout the west of Scotland, *Boase* 3622-3627. 3639-3646. 3653. 3681, 3682. 3723-3725.

Messrs. Richardson & Co's workpeople, near Lisburn, are quite satisfied with the present system, *M'Comb* 3943, 3944—In signing the petition, witness was not aware that the Bill applied only to women and children, *ib.* 3975-3977. 3995. 3996—Satisfaction of the working bleachers at Glenmore with the present system of labour, *O'Brien* 4020-4022—Examination as to witness having opposed the Bill on the mistaken impression that it restricted adult labour to ten hours a day; objection to it nevertheless, as interfering with piece work, *Machinley* 4397-4402. 4407-4451—General satisfaction of Messrs. Charley's people with the existing practice; they are all opposed to the Bill, *Henchy* 4492. 4495-4497. 4506—Feeling of witness's people that there is no necessity for legislation, *Kirk* 4649, 4650.

Willingness and anxiety of the workpeople to work overtime, *Harrison* 5058-5062; *Keely* 5362, 5363. 5409-5411; *Hardcastle* 5499, 5500; *Ripley* 5886. 6000-6002; *Blair* 6033. 6051. 6053; *Morris* 6372-6375. 6437. 6452; *Rylands* 6546; *Marsland* 6817; *Southworth* 6874—Objection, on the part of the women in witness's employment, to be obliged to leave off work at six in the evening, *John Burton* 5276-5278—There has been some little agitation and irregularity among witness's workpeople; but they have never expressed themselves to witness in favour of legislative interference, *Hardcastle* 5576-5583—Belief that none of witness's operatives, save young people, whose earnings go to their parents, would be in favour of the proposed restrictions, *ib.* 5685-5689. 5692.

The operatives are by no means in favour of legislation, *Blair* 6062—Belief that witness's people do not care for legislation, *J. Slater* 6320-6323—Feeling of the operatives at Halliwell adverted to, as being generally opposed to legislative interference, *Morris* 6372-6375. 6398-6402. 6456—Impression that the bleaching operatives are generally opposed to interference with their hours of labour, *Rylands* 6576-6584.

3. *How far the Working Bleachers can protect themselves:*

Question as to the ability of the workpeople, by means of combination, to bring about a permanent shortening of the hours of labour, *Barlow* 2067-2072. 2083-2091—Inability of the operatives to protect themselves, *Leck* 2395; *Crook* 2476-2480—Check to undue overtime in the greater independence of the operatives of late years, *Boase* 3648. 3704—Independence of the workpeople, *Henchy* 4465. 4528, 4529—Protection is needed by employers rather than by the employed, *Rylands* 6511. 6574, 6575.

4. *Object and Proceedings of the Operatives' Committee:*

Witness has been from the first a member of the operative bleachers' committee, by whom he has been deputed to give evidence on the present occasion, *J. Waring* 216. 225, 226—The operatives committee was established in May 1853, for the purpose of procuring legislative interference with the hours of labour in bleach works, *ib.* 217. 226, 227—On the notice of motion by Mr. Cobbett for inquiry into the condition of the bleachers, the operatives' committee sent a memorial, dated 20th April 1854, to various Members of Parliament, asking them to support the motion, *ib.* 259-263.

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4. *Object and Proceedings of the Operatives' Committee*—continued.

Letter or memorial written by Mr. Pearce, on the part of the operatives' committee, to several Members of Parliament, dated the 20th April 1854, urging them to vote for an inquiry into the condition of the bleachers, and recapitulating the several grievances of the bleachers, *First Rep.* p. 16.

Particulars as to the occupation of witness since he joined the operatives' committee; his expenses at present are being paid by the association, *J. Waring* 472-479—Explanation as to witness having gone to Keady in Ireland, in 1853, and communicated with the bleachers there as to the expediency of Ireland being included in the Bill, *ib.* 420-432—The Irish operatives in the first instance sent over a person named Kean, from Banbridge, with a view to the extension of the Bill to Ireland; it was in consequence of this that witness went to Ireland, *ib.* 424-426. 503-506. 520-523. 509-512—The operatives' committee have not received any application from the linen bleach works of Scotland, *ib.* 507, 508—With regard to Mr. Kean, the deputy of the Irish operatives, the operatives' committee paid him probably 5*l.* or 6*l.* for his trouble and expenses, but nothing whatever for getting up any petition, *ib.* 515-538.

There is no club at Bolton for supporting the workmen in combination against the masters, *H. Waring* 1205, 1206.

Absence of complaint amongst witness's men, until the witness, John Waring, came to Ireland to agitate, *Kirk* 4565-4569. 4637-4639.

There is nothing less honourable in the operatives having their paid delegates, than in the masters having numerous paid agents to watch the present proceedings before the Committee, &c., *Tremenheere* 4870-4875.

5. *Respectability and good Condition of the Operatives:*

The bleachers about Bolton are as a class exceedingly sober, *Garstang* 734, 735—Probable respectability of the operative bleachers as a class, *Tremenheere* 4829-4831—Respectability and intelligence of witness's people, *Hardcastle* 5469, 5470—Facility offered by witness to Mr. Cobbett, and on a recent occasion to the several members of the Committee, to visit his works, to come among his workpeople, and to judge for themselves as to their condition, *ib.* 5549-5551—Respectability of Mr. Ainsworth's operatives; goodness of their moral character, *Morris* 6340, 6366, 6367—Feeling of the bleachers that their position is superior to that of the mill hands; illustration of this feeling, *Packer* 6660-6663, 6732-6734—Superior description of the hands in the bleach works, as compared with those in the cotton mills, *Southworth* 6802-6804, 6889.

See also *Dismissal from Employment.* *Education.* *Employment.* *Health.*
Hours of Labour. *Legislative Interference.* *Masters.* *Morality.* *Nottingham.*
Parents. *Relations between Employer and Employed.* *Rural Operatives.*
Wages.

Overwork. See *Health.* *Hours of Labour.* *Legislative Restriction.* *Wages.*

P.

Packer, Reverend Arthur. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Has been incumbent of St. Paul's, Halliwell, for about two years and a half, 6627-6629—Part of Mr. John Ainsworth's works are in witness's parish, the population of which comprises about an equal number of bleachers and of factory hands, 6630-6635—Ample provision of excellent schools in witness's district; particulars hereon, 6636-6645, 6722—Liberality of Mr. Ainsworth in providing funds for the erection of schools and churches for his workpeople, and in bestowing charity to those in need, 6636, 6677, 6678, 6722.

Much better attendance of the bleaching population than of the factory operatives at the schools and churches, 6646-6648, 6656, 6657, 6687-6691, 6721, 6736—Particulars as to the average attendance at the several schools in St. Paul's, 6649-6651—Better education among the bleachers than among other operatives, 6652, 6655, 6720—Morality of the bleachers; evidence hereon opposed to statements by Mr. Milton, 6653-6655, 6664, 6665, 6679-6682, 6719.

Statements as to the excellent health of operatives in bleach works, 6658, 6659, 6664, 6665, 6675, 6676, 6679-6682, 6711-6714, 6719—Feeling of the bleachers that their position is superior to that of the mill hands; illustration of this feeling, 6660-6663, 6732-6734—Suitable character of the rooms at Mr. Ainsworth's works; witness never heard of the boys and girls resting and lying down together in the same room, 6666-6674—Hereditary ill-health of the Greenhalgh family, some of whom have been in Mr. Ainsworth's employment, and have died from consumption, 6683-6686.

Witness, who succeeded Mr. Milton at St. Paul's, was suggested to the bishop by Mr. Ainsworth, 6692-6697—Since hearing of the Bleaching Bill, witness has not had

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Packer, Rev. Arthur. (Analysis of his Evidence)—continued.

any direct discussion upon its merits with Mr. Ainsworth or others, 6698-6718—Strong objection to the employment of children, when eight years old in factories, as being injurious both mentally and morally, 6723—Interference with education on account of parents sending their children to the factories for the sake of their earnings, 6723-6728—It would be well if children under twelve were prohibited from working in factory mills, 6724-6729—Less morality and less cleanliness of the half-time factory operatives than of the boys and girls in bleach works, 6724. 6730-6735—Partial education of most or those who attend witness's night school, 6736-6738.

Packing Departments. Packers connected with bleaching or finishing works should be included in the Bill; packers in warehouses need not be included, *Fletcher* 1679-1690—Shortening of the labour in the packing department of bleach works, if restrictions be placed on the other departments, *Barlow* 2054-2056.

See also *Evasion of Legislative Restrictions.* *Warehouses.*

Paisley. The average hours of labour near Paisley have been reduced to about eleven hours a day, and other friendly concessions have been made on the part of the masters; the hours were much longer in witness's experience, *Richmond* 3165-3168. 3182. 3303—Belief as to the willingness of the master bleachers in the neighbourhood of Paisley to limit the time of work to ten hours daily, *ib.* 3168, 3169. 3172. 3280. 3311.

See also *Blackland Mill.* *Wallace, William & Son.*

Parents. Parents feel in a great measure under the necessity of sending their children to work when young, *Robinson* 570-573; *Crook* 2545-2552—Objection of parents to the long labour of their children, although they do not oppose their working, *Fletcher* 1644-1647. 1702-1711—Pressure on the part of the parents for the employment of their children, *Slagg* 2366-2372. 2383, 2384. 2390; *Brownbill* 3075-3077; *Henchy* 4464, 4465; *Kirk* 4591; *John Barton* 5204, 5205. 5215, 5216; *Blair* 6069, 6070; *Southworth* 6849. 6851.

Explanation as to a certain occurrence about seven or eight years ago, which induced witness to say that he would discharge the parents of children between eleven and thirteen years old, unless the latter were sent to his works instead of being allowed to idle about, and get into mischief, *Hardcastle* 5552, 5553—Legislative interference is chiefly required to protect the children from their parents' cupidity, *Scott* 2286—In many instances the masters require the parents to send their children to the works, *Bowley* 2763. 2767-2771.

See also *Education*, 4.

Pearce, Richard. Mr. Richard Pearce has been secretary to the operatives' committee since about four months after its establishment, *J. Waring* 228-230. 256—Letter from Mr. Pearce, on the part of the operatives, to several Members of Parliament, dated 20 April 1854, urging them to vote for an inquiry, and recapitulating the grievances of the bleachers, *First Rep.* p. 16—The secretary to the committee is also the treasurer, *J. Waring* 513, 514.—See also *Agitation.*

Pender, John. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Commission agent and merchant at Manchester; extensive nature of his business, 7120-7125—Employs about 120 people in the warehouse, whose ages are from thirteen upwards, 7126, 7127—The average hours are about ten a day, but they necessarily are somewhat irregular, 7128, 7129—The wages are based upon a system of piece-work, as an inducement to the men to shorten the hours as much as possible, 7129—The work is carried on in large airy rooms, 7130—Character of the education of the men and boys, 7131.

Evidence strongly opposed to any restriction upon the hours of labour in the Manchester warehouses or in the bleach works, 7132 *et seq.*—Injurious encouragement to foreign competition, not only on the Continent but in India and China (where it is already very great), if the conduct of the trade by the merchant and the bleacher in this country be restricted, 7133. 7136-7143. 7149. 7154. 7164. 7171-7177. 7207, 7208. 7224-7231—As regards the completion of orders, the bleacher is in fact the servant of witness, as commission agent, in the same way that witness is the servant of the exporting merchant, in being obliged to furnish the orders by a given time, 7134, 7135. 7144. 7158, 7159. 7200, 7201.

Loss of orders by the merchant and the bleacher if they cannot be undertaken by a certain day; instances of orders lost by witness, 7135. 7160, 7161. 7164. 7178-7185. 7200. 7216-7223—Very low cost of bleaching and dyeing in India and China, as compared with the cost in this country; argument thereon opposed to legislative interference, 7136-7140. 7224-7231—Equal necessity for the speedy completion of foreign orders, notwithstanding the increased shipping facilities, 7141-7144. 7181, 7182.

Exception taken to the version given by Mr. Trementheere of his conversation with witness; the report of this conversation was shown to witness's partner, but witness did not see it, else he should have corrected it, 7145, 7146. 7165-7170. 7199—Witness expressed

Pender, John. (Analysis of his Evidence)—continued.

expressed himself to Mr. Tremeneere strongly in opposition to legislative interference with the bleacher or merchant, 7147-7150—Tendency of the proposed inspectors to set the employed against the employers, 7148.

Much greater advantage of a voluntary arrangement for reducing the hours in bleach works and warehouses than of a legislative enactment; practicability of such arrangement, from which, however, there must be occasional deviation, 7150-7164. 7203-7205. 7207, 7208. 7232—Tendency of employers to shorten the hours of their own accord, 7150-7153. 7235. 7304—Efforts of witness to make the hours of his people as regular as possible; necessity, nevertheless, of occasional long hours, 7150. 7202-7205. 7232—Loss to the operatives, as well as to the bleachers, if through restrictions upon labour orders cannot be undertaken, 7183-7185. 7245.

Injustice to bleachers, if the operations of finishing, &c., as carried on in the Manchester warehouses, continue to be exempt from all restriction, 7186-7191—Way in which the export of bullion to the East may be affected by any impediment to the export of bleached goods, 7192-7198—Impracticability of the merchant regulating his orders to the bleachers, 7200, 7201—Difference between bleach works and cotton mills as regards the propriety of short hours, 7206-7210.

Further objection generally to legislative interference with trade or capital, or with the labour of the operative, which is his capital, 7211-7215. 7249—Impression that the half-holiday in Manchester on Saturday has been favourable to the moral improvement of the operatives; increased immorality in Manchester adverted to hereon, 7232-7236. 7250-7253—Opinion that the instances of injuriously long hours reported by Mr. Tremeneere are exceptional occurrences, the remedy of which had better be left to voluntary action than to compulsory enactment, 7237-7249.

Piece Work. Wages at bleach works are paid according to the quantity of work done, *H. Waring* 1176-1180—Way in which working overtime is to the advantage of the masters, *Fletcher* 1691-1700—The makers up, but not the dyers, are paid better for overtime than ordinary time, *ib.* 1701—Inducement to the operative bleachers to work long hours, inasmuch as they work by the piece, *Scott* 2276-2285—Disadvantage of restriction to the workpeople themselves, as they are paid by the piece, *Richardson* 3830, 3831.—See also *Wages*.

Price, Samuel. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Gave evidence before Mr. Tremeneere, 1812—Is employed in the finishing and packing department at Mr. Ainsworth's of Halliwell; has been in the same employment for nearly forty-two years, 1813-1821—Great heat occasionally of the packing-room, 1822-1824. 1906—The hours of labour varied very much, but were at times excessively long, 1825-1831. 1842. 1858-1860—Since the present agitation there has been an improvement in the hours, 1832-1836.

Number of females and boys at Mr. Ainsworth's, 1837-1841—Over-fatigue of the boys and girls in consequence of the long labour; they were constantly falling asleep at their work, 1843-1851—Serious effect of the long hours upon the health of a daughter of witness, 1853-1857—Mr. Ainsworth, in whose establishment these long hours of labour occur, is a very honourable gentleman, and has done a good deal for his workpeople in the way of providing schools and churches, 1862-1864. 1910, 1911.

Opinion that a Ten Hours' Act for bleaching works would lead to the introduction of more machinery, and a more equable distribution of the work throughout the year, 1865-1869—Examination on the question whether the sudden demands of merchants, on account of orders from abroad, would not at times necessitate long hours of labour; difficulty hereon, 1870. 1874, 1875. 1912-1953—Better execution of the work if more time were allowed than is now the case during a pressure, 1871-1873.

Difficulty as regards attendance at the night schools attached to Mr. Ainsworth's works, 1876-1878—Two sons of witness at Mr. Ainsworth's, commenced to work when about twelve years of age, 1879-1882—They had previously had some education, 1883-1907, 1908—When twelve years old they earned each about 4s. a week, 1884-1886—Opportunity in slack times, but not when there is overwork, for boys to attend the schools, 1887-1896—Good health of witness as a bleacher, 1898-1904—Education is pretty general among Mr. Ainsworth's workpeople, 1909.

Cause of the dismissal of Samuel Price from Halliwell, *Morris* 6414.

Prices. If a restriction upon the hours of labour increased by ten per cent. the price of bleaching, it would not on the whole have any injurious effect upon the trade, *Scott* 2165-2171. 2174-2187—The reduction would not add so much as ten per cent. to the cost of bleaching; in fact, it would add nothing to the ultimate cost, *ib.* 2172. 2185-2191—Regular working is the cheapest, *Sagar* 2424—A rise of ten per cent. on the bleaching would not affect the foreign trade, *Slagg* 2347-2352—Any slight rise in the cost of bleaching, consequent on regular hours, would not have the slightest effect in checking trade, *Crook* 2473-2475.

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Prices.—continued.

Slightly increased cost with which the bleachers would have to contend if the hours were limited; a corresponding advance in the price of goods would probably be demanded, *Leck* 3374-3383, 3388, 3396-3398—Slight margin for legislation as regards prices and master's profits, *Hardcastle* 5761—Effect of legislation to raise prices, *ib.* 5762, 5763—Prices would be injuriously enhanced by the proposed restrictions; what the enhanced price might be witness is not prepared to estimate, *M'Adam* 7038-7051, 7114-7119.

Print Works Act. Reference to the Print Works Act, as being almost obsolete, *Hardcastle* 5605, 5606—Less stringency of that Act, which was sought to be extended to bleach and dye works, than of the proposed Bill, *ib.* 5675-5679.

Proceedings of the Committee. *Second Rep.* p. iv-vii.

Processes of Bleaching, &c. Explanation of the several processes in bleaching cotton goods, *H. Waring* 896-919—Calendering or finishing is the process before making up, the process of packing being the last, and the least important as regards the hours of labour, *Fletcher* 1610, 1678-1686, 1772-1778—Statement of the several processes in bleaching and finishing, showing that the labour is not continuous, *Blair* 5858, 6029, 6030, 6130-6143; *Ripley* 5875-5877, 5901-5903, 5934.

See also *Hours of Labour*, II. 3.

Processes, Interruption of. See *Adult Labour.* *Foreign Orders.* *Hours of Labour*, II. 3. *Pushes.*

Provident Societies. Belief that there are no clubs or provident societies at Bolton for the purpose of a provision in old age; there are, however, some sick clubs, *H. Waring* 1195-1211.

Prussia. Great progress made in Prussia of late years in the process of linen bleaching, &c.; result of personal observation by witness hereon, *Kirk* 4596-4601, 4640-4643—Encouragement given to linen bleaching in Prussia; absence of restriction upon the hours of labour, *ib.* 4598-4603—Progress being made in cotton bleaching in Prussia; probability of successful competition with Lancashire if the proposed Bill be enacted, *ib.* 4617-4620, 4647, 4648.

Direct aid given by the Prussian Government to the extension of flax spinning and of bleaching by machinery, *M'Adam* 6919.

See also *Foreign Competition.*

Pushes. Complaint was made to witness by the master bleachers that the occasional overflow of work was thrust upon them, and was disadvantageous to them, *Tremenheere* 155—Continuous labour when there are "pushes," that is, when the work is urgent and must be finished in a certain time, *J. Waring* 277-284; *H. Waring* 980, 1067—Ordinary hours of work when there are no "pushes," *H. Waring* 979, 1067.

To a considerable extent the bleacher is the servant of the merchant and cannot help himself in regard to the long hours of labour, *Barlow* 1987-1994, 2001-2004, 2013-2017, 2034-2036, 2065, 2066, 2117-2124—At one time the bleachers used to be held liable to penalties for delay in the execution of orders, *ib.* 2034, 2035—The work of bleachers is more steady than it used to be, but there will always be pushes in the trade, *ib.* 2120-2124.

Pressure from the manufacturer or commission agent under which the bleacher is obliged to work overtime, *Scott* 2194 *et seq.*—Particulars as to witness's firm ("Jones Brothers & Co.") having charged Messrs. Bridson & Co., of Bolton, with interest on some goods which they failed to bleach and return in the time specified, *ib.* 2204-2213, 2301-2305—In winter there is always a great push to get work done, and in summer there is not enough to do, *Leck* 3344, 3390—The pushes in the trade are in consequence of pressure from the merchants, *Blair* 5864; *Ripley* 5875, 5876, 5895; *J. Slater* 6280; *Southworth* 6863-6868, 6909.

Pressure upon the bleacher to complete the merchant's order in a certain time, the merchant himself being subject to similar pressure, *Morris* 6376-6380—Explanation as to some orders of Mr. Crook, which were pressed for completion at Halliwell by a certain time, *ib.* 6381-6384—Practice as to the collection of orders by the bleachers' agents from the merchants; necessary refusal of many orders, *Rylands* 6483-6486, 6544, 6545—Necessity of frequent pushes in witness's trade, the hours of labour necessarily varying at different times, *Marsland* 6795-6799, 6817, 6826-6832.

See also *Foreign Orders.* *Hours of Labour*, II. *Merchants and Commission Agents.*

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Quittance Papers. Explanation as to the quittance papers given to the men on dismissal, *Blair* 6034, 6035—Witness only gives quittance papers when asked for, and then without any secret mark, *Marsland* 6814—Witness never heard of quittance papers with secret marks upon them being given to discharged men, *Southwick* 6877—Witness never gave a quittance paper with a secret mark upon it to John Waring, *T. N. Slater* 7331, 7332, 7376-7379, 7400-7403.

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Re-appointment of Committee. Recommended re-appointment of the Committee at the commencement of the next session, *Second Rep.* p. iii.

Regular Hours. See *Hours of Labour*, II. *Legislative Interference.* *Prices.* *Sumner, Dewhurst, & Co.* *Tebbet, Mr.* *Voluntary Settlement of Hours of Labour.*

Relations between Employers and Employed. Friendly relations between the masters and the men at Paisley in consequence of the reduction in the hours, *Richmond* 3170, 3182, 3276-3278, 3310-3312—Improvement going on in regard to the hours of labour in Scotland on account of the better feeling and understanding between master and man, *Bouse* 3648, 3649, 3752-3754—Injury to witness and his workmen in consequence of the agitation about the present Bill having prevented him from adopting the piecework system of employment, *Kirk* 4560, 4592, 4699, 4700—Reference to some speeches made at a dinner recently given by witness to his workpeople; evidence therein of their health and intelligence, and of the proper relations existing between them and witness, *Hardcastle* 5475-5479—The proposed legislative interference will very injuriously affect the present good feeling between employers and employed, *M'Adam* 7083; *Rylands* 6559, 6573-6575; *Pender* 7148—Bad feeling between employers and employed in consequence of the present agitation; worse feeling if the Bill pass, *T. N. Slater*, 7323-7326, 7395-7397.

Religious Instruction. Illustration of the want of religious instruction among the bleachers and their children, *H. Waring* 973, 974, 1142-1150, 1171, 1172.

See *Ainsworth, Mr., 3.* *Education.*

Richardson, Jonathan (Member of the House). (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Is member of the firm of Richardson & Company, Lambeg Bleach Works, Lisburn, Ireland, 3815—Has been engaged more than 35 years in bleaching, 3816—Employs from 300 to 400 persons, 3817—Bleaches linen almost exclusively, 3818—Very healthful character of the occupation in the linen bleach fields in Ireland, 3819, 3868, 3869—There are different sets of bleachers for the in-door and out-door work, 3820.

Regular hours in witness's establishment; these are adhered to as much as possible, but are of necessity occasionally departed from, 3821-3826—Resting time given to the women at the stoves, 3821, 3857, 3860, 3861, 3911—Impracticability of stopping some of the processes at regular hours every day, 3822, 3826, 3836, 3837, 3845, 3892-3896—Frequent interruptions occasioned by the weather to the progress of the work, 3823-3825—No women and very few boys are employed by witness's firm at the beetling engines, 3827—It is a rule not to allow boys to work overhours, 3827-3891.

Objections to a limitation by law of the hours in the Irish bleach works, 3828 *et seq.*—Diminished employment of women at the stoves in witness's works, accordingly as machinery is increased, 3829, 3858, 3907—Rare instances of the women working overtime, 3829, 3844, 3866, 3887-3891—Advance in the wages of women near Lisburn when the stoves were first opened by witness's firm; tendency to decreased wages as the number employed decreases, 3829, 3862-3864.

Calculation that in the course of the year the bleachers are off work one-third of the time, 3830-3832, 3853-3856—Practice in witness's works in regard to ventilation in the stove-rooms, 3833-3835, 3905, 3906—Reference to the report given by Mr. Tremheere of his conversation with witness; inaccuracy of one portion of it, 3838-3849—Nature of the limit placed by witness's firm upon the hours of labour of the boys and females further adverted to; legislative interference would not apply, 3844-3852, 3887-3904.

The heat of the stoves is rarely above ninety degrees, 3865—Belief that working in the stoves is not prejudicial to health, 3867, 3868, 3913, 3914—Witness's firm object to employing boys under the age of fourteen, 3870, 3871—Requirement by the firm in regard to the boys being, to a certain extent, educated, 3870, 3871, 3877-3880—Statement as to the uneducated character of the children in the spinning mills in witness's locality, 3870, 3872-3876, 3908-3910.

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Richardson, Jonathan (Member of the House). (Analysis of his Evidence)—continued.

Witness's firm employ about seventy-five women, of whom about seventy are employed in the stoves, 3881. 3883, 3884—There are not more than a dozen boys, none of whom work in the stoves, 3882. 3885, 3886—There is no practical difficulty in limiting the hours of the women and boys, 3895-3904.

Richardson, Mr. Witness, who is in the employment of Mr. Richardson, entirely concurs in his evidence, *M'Comb* 3955-3956.

Richmond, Daniel. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Has practised as surgeon in Paisley for twenty-three years, 3154-3157—Was at one time medical inspector of factories at Paisley, 3157. 3281-3290—Had for ten years exclusive medical charge of Blackland Mill, one of the largest bleaching establishments in the neighbourhood of Paisley, belonging to Messrs. Edward Hamilton & Son, 3157-3161—There were about 300 women and girls employed at this mill, 3159, 3160. 3213-3216—They were exposed to four different evils as regards the effect of their occupation upon their health, 3162 *et seq.*

Injury to the health of the women and young females in Blackland Mill, in their being constantly employed standing; varicose veins are one result of this evil, 3162. 3173. 3194. 3299. 3314-3317—Injury to the health in consequence of the great artificial heat of some of the rooms; particulars hereon, 3162, 3163. 3173-3193. 3196-3216. 3271-3275. 3299, 3300. 3317—Injury to health in consequence of the sudden transition from heat to cold, that is, from the heated rooms to the open air, 3164. 3173. 3299—Injury to health in consequence of the long hours of labour; particulars on this point, 3164-3166. 3173-3176. 3195. 3271-3275. 3299, 3300.

The average hours of labour near Paisley have been reduced to about eleven hours a day, and other friendly concessions have been made on the part of the masters; the hours were much longer in witness's experience, 3165-3168. 3182. 3303—Belief as to the willingness of the master bleachers in the neighbourhood of Paisley to limit the time of work to ten hours daily, 3168, 3169. 3172. 3280. 3311—Friendly relations between the masters and the men in consequence of the reduction in the hours, 3170. 3182. 3276-3278. 3310-3312—General feeling of the workpeople in favour of shorter hours, 3172. 3182. 3312.

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Ripley, Henry William. (Analysis of his Evidence).—Dyer, in conjunction with his father, of worsted and mixed goods at Bradford, 5869—Employs 491 persons, of whom only thirteen are women, and seventy-five are boys between thirteen and eighteen years of age, 5870-5872—As a rule children under thirteen are not employed, 5873. 5962, 5963—Young children after employment in the factories constantly come to witness's works, 5873. 5919. 5998—The boys are divided over the entire works, 5874. 5934—Particulars as to the hours of labour; great and necessary variation in these accordingly as the amount of work varies, 5875-5877. 5895—Pressure upon the dyer in consequence of pressure on the merchant, 5875, 5876. 5895.

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—Statement of the total number of hands employed in the principal dye-houses in the Bradford stuff trade; total of 3,174 males above eighteen, of 683 males under eighteen, and of 117 females, 5881-5883—General objection of the masters in the Bradford dye trade, as well as of witness, to legislative interference, 5884, 5885. 6020—Anxiety of the men and boys to work long hours, 5886. 6000-6002—Injury to the workpeople as well as to the masters if the hours be restricted, *ib.*

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Statement as to Mr. Tremeneere's report professing to give some evidence from Mr. Sutcliffe, the manager at witness's works, whereas such evidence was really given by Murgatroyd, then manager of the chemical department, who had not a practical knowledge of the system of labour, and made some mistakes in what he told Mr. Tremeneere, 5905. 5911-5913. 5938-5943. 5953-5968. 5989-5997. 6012-6019.

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Impracticability of meeting a system of short hours by putting on an additional number of hands during a pressure, 5927-5937—Explanation as to a statement in Mr. Murgatroyd's evidence relative to the occasionally hours of labour at witness's works; the hours may sometimes extend to ten at night, but as a rule nine is the latest hour, 5964-5968—Doubt as to there being any females so young as fifteen at witness's works, 5985, 5986—The women are chiefly engaged in stitching, and not at all on machinery, 5987, 5988.

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Robertson, James. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Linen yarn bleacher, at Rothe's works, in Fifeshire, 3756, 3757—Has been a bleacher upwards of thirty years, and has found the occupation very healthy, 3758-3763—Frequent interruption to work, and consequent short hours in the bleach fields, in consequence of unfavourable weather, 3764-3771. 3780-3784—Necessity at times of long hours in order to prevent the work being left in an improper state, 3771-3779. 3788-3791—Absence of complaint by the females and boys at Rothe's works in regard to the present system of labour and overtime, 3785-3802—Few boys employed in the bleach fields in Fife, 3796, 3797—Education generally of the bleachers, 3798—Witness considers ten hours a fair day's work, 3803.

Robinson, John Marshall. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Has practised as a surgeon in Bolton for thirty-four years, 539, 540—Healthy character of occupation in bleaching and dyeing works, 542. 555-569. 593. 633-644—Injury to the health of bleachers, more especially of the young, if their labour be very long protracted, 542-555—How far witness's experience shows that young persons in bleach works at Bolton suffer from overwork, 543-551. 562-569.

Circumstance of witness having signed a petition in 1854, stating, among other things, that "females and young persons laboured for fourteen, sixteen, eighteen, and twenty hours a day, and frequently for days and nights consecutively, without intermission, except for meals;" belief as to the accuracy of this statement as applied to a former period, though of his own knowledge witness cannot vouch for it, 545-551. 616-632.

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Rural Operatives. Probability of legislative restrictions interfering with the class of labourers, chiefly cotters, employed in many of the bleachfields in Scotland, *Drummond* 3598-3604; *Boase* 3637, 3638.

Rylands, John. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Merchant and warehouseman at Manchester; was for more than thirty years largely engaged in bleaching and dying works, 6477-6482—Practice as to the collection of orders by the bleachers' agents from the merchants; necessary refusal of many orders, 6483-6486. 6544, 6545—Practice as to the acceptance of orders by the merchants; risk undertaken as to the time of completion, orders being frequently refused for want of time, 6487-6493. 6502-6506. 6550-6558.

Grounds for the conclusion that a restriction upon the hours of labour in bleachworks would be extremely injurious to the merchant and the bleacher, as well as to those employed by them, 6494 *et seq.*—Impracticability of the merchant regulating his orders and distributing them equally at different times, 6495. 6497-6509—Frequent loss of orders by witness and other commission merchants through not being able to execute them in time; question whether these orders are lost to the home trade, 6501-6504. 6550-6554—Dissent from the evidence of Mr. Barbour as to the practicability of a regular distribution of the merchants' orders; practice of Mr. Barbour, as to his own orders, adverted to hereon, 6507-6509. 6524-6535.

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Sagar, Henry. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Partner in the firm of Sumner, Dewhurst & Co., carrying on the Broughton Dye and Bleachworks, near Salford, 2404, 2405—Class of goods operated upon at these works; there is no packing done, 2406-2409—System of regular hours adopted at these works, 2410-2414. 2423—Very favourable working, in many respects, of this system, which is attended with but few disadvantages, 2415-2445.

Salford Dyeworks. Few females engaged in the dyeworks at Salford, *Brownbill* 3027—Considerable number of boys in these works; their ages, *ib.* 3027, 3028. 3039.

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Schunck, Souchay & Co. Exception taken to the inference drawn by Mr. Tremenheere, in his report, that Messrs. Schunck, Souchay & Co., and other merchants, were in favour of legislation, *Hardcastle* 5566. 5596-5599.

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Scott, William. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Manufacturer at Manchester, 2154—Gave evidence before Mr. Tremenheere, 2155—His experience in the meantime confirms all he then stated, 2156, 2157—Considers that legislative interference, shortening the hours of labour in bleach works, would be for the benefit alike of manufacturers, merchants, bleachers, and operatives, 2158 *et seq.*—Merchants and their agents would soon adapt themselves to any alteration in the capabilities of the bleacher, 2162—The time might be an hour and a half or two hours longer daily than in factories, 2162. 2256, 2257—Witness concurs generally in Mr. Barbour's evidence, 2163, 2164. 2263, 2264.

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Probable reasons why some bleachers who work short hours do not get so much work to do as those who work long hours, 2222-2227—Probable effect of a limit as regards the labour of women and children upon the hours of labour of adults, 2236-2243—Legislation is equally desirable in bleach works as factories, but it should at all times be very carefully applied with respect to labour, 2262-2264—Mr. Tremenheere's book fairly represents witness's statements to him, 2265-2268

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Distinction to be drawn between the calenderer and the packer up in Manchester, as regards legislative interference, 2269-2275—Inducement to the operative bleachers to work long hours, inasmuch as they work by the piece, 2276-2285—Legislative interference is chiefly required to protect the children from their parents' cupidity, 2286—Propriety in any legislation of duly considering the conduct of the trade in Scotland and Ireland, 2287-2292—Extra cost and liability to injury, if the bleaching processes be executed in too limited a space of time, 2304-2307.

Shelbourne, John. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Finisher of hosiery at Mr. Burton's of Old Baisford, near Nottingham, 2780-2783—Witness commenced work when eight years old, for Mr. Milnes of New Baisford; he was then quite uneducated, 2784-2787—He worked for ten years with Mr. Milnes, and for ten years with his successors, Messrs. Hard & Hurst, and shows that during this period the hours of labour were at times exceedingly long, 2788-2800—Very long hours of labour in Mr. Burton's establishment for some five years after witness joined it about ten years ago, 2801-2808.

Reference to a union formed by the work people in the Old Baisford district about five years ago, not to work beyond certain hours; of all the masters, only Mr. Burton and one other have continued to abide by the hours then agreed upon, 2807-2814—In some establishments at Old Baisford the people work from six in the morning till eleven or twelve at night for weeks and months together, 2812, 2813—Mr. Burton never allows his people to work after nine at night, 2814—Injurious effect of the former long hours upon the health, 2815, 2816—Employment of very young boys as well as adults in the bleaching department at Mr. Burton's; hours of labour of these boys, 2819-2828. 2836-2846.

Strong opinion expressed by Mr. Burton against the hours of labour in other establishments, 2829—Mr. Burton employs about 400 people, several of whom are females, 2830-2832—When a pressure comes, all the departments, and the young as well as the adults, work for very long hours, 2833-2835—Ordinary hours at Mr. Burton's, 2838-2841. 2891-2893. 2897-2907—Light work on which the young boys are engaged, 2842-2846—Statement as to Mr. Tremenheere having visited Mr. Burton's establishment, and having been told that the extreme hours were from six till nine, 2847-2860.

Further reference to the union at Baisford, by which, for four or five years, the hours were regulated, and general satisfaction given, 2854-2869. 2876-2890—Necessity of legislative interference, unions in the trade being an inadequate check, 2861-2869. 2876-2890—The women at Mr. Burton's earn about 8*s.* or 9*s.* a week, 2870-2875—The boys earn from 4*s.* 6*d.* a week upwards, 2872—Feeling of the women and children at Baisford in favour of legislative interference, 2877-2879—The feeling at Mr. Burton's is in favour of working from six to six, except on Saturday, and then from six to four, 2894-2914.

Skilled Labour. Tendency of restriction to send skilled labour away from the country, Ryland 6511. 6564.

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In the event of a restriction upon the hours of labour in bleach-works, the merchants would soon adapt themselves to the necessities of the case, and trade would be but slightly if at all inconvenienced, 2339-2352. 2379-2381—The parents, rather than the masters, are blameable for the long hours of labour of the children, 2366-2372. 2383, 2384. 2390—Expediency of caution before legislating for bleach-works, 2373—Gradual improvement in the hours of labour in bleach-works, and generally, 2375-2378. 2392-2395. 2399-2403—Competition in trade is the cause of long hours, 2379—Improvement, without legislative interference, in the education of Manchester operatives, 2386, 2387. 2396-2398.

Slater, John. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Is not now actually employed in bleaching, but has been forty years in the trade as an operative and a master; his sons now conduct the business, 6237, 6238—Concurs generally in the evidence of Mr. Hardcastle and Mr

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Examination with reference to the evidence of John Waring as to the occasionally long hours of labour at witness's establishment; how far witness is prepared to contradict this evidence, 6243-6252—Witness did not come to London for the purpose of opposing the Bill, but he is strongly adverse to any legislative interference, 6253-6257. 6324-6329—Good health of witness's operatives, 6253. 6313-6317—Strong objection to the proposed system of inspection, as prejudicial to discipline, 6255. 6324.

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Slater, John. Extremely long hours of labour in Mr. Slater's establishment at Bolton when witness used to work there several years ago, *J. Waring* 267 *et seq.*—At one time, at Mr. Slater's, the women and boys used to work for sixteen hours, and rest eight hours, *ib.* 270-274—Instance of continuous labour recently at Mr. Slater's, throughout all day and night of Friday, and till four o'clock in the afternoon of Saturday, *ib.* 325-327—Circumstance of the work being slack for the last year or two, *ib.* 411, 412.

Witness, who has worked for forty-two years as a bleacher, was turned off by Mr. Slater about three years ago as being too old; he was then sixty-two years of age, *H. Waring* 881-885. 976-978. 1192-1194—Witness worked for Mr. Slater for thirty-eight years, *ib.* 886, 887—Witness has known his wife to work for a week without taking off her clothes or going to bed; this was many years ago, *ib.* 949-952. 1005-1014—Circumstances under which one of witness's children commenced work when about eight years of age; inability of witness to have prevented this, as it was the wish of Mr. Slater and his foreman, *ib.* 1076-1082. 1090-1099. 1103-1110. 1181-1186—Statement as to witness having been threatened with dismissal by Mr. Joseph Slater unless one of his daughters left other employment for that of Mr. Slater, *ib.* 1100-1102.

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How far witness is prepared to contradict the evidence of Henry Waring as to the labour of himself, his wife and children at witness's works, and as to his having been threatened by witness's son with dismissal unless he brought a young daughter to work, *J. Slater* 6261-6277. 6281-6284. 6298-6304—Henry Waring's wife was not regularly employed, and if she worked for very long hours it was at her own option, *ib.* 6261-6264—Henry Waring may have worked sixteen hours a day, but not continuously for eleven years, *ib.* 6265—Henry Waring's children were employed at his own desire, *ib.* 6281-6284.

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Number and ages of the boys and girls employed by witness; there are seven at or under eleven, 7333-7336—Hours of labour of the women and children; long hours 0.37—Sess. 2. some

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 —Serious effect of the Bill in obstructing witness's business, 7380-7382—Further reference to the effect of machinery in shortening the hours of labour; anticipated further improvements in machinery, and further reduction in the hours, without the injurious necessity of complying with legislative enactment, 7383-7399. 7408-7419.

Sore Feet. Witness has not particularly noticed that the young persons are troubled with sore feet, *Robinson* 565. 567—Suffering of the children in bleaching works from standing for so many hours, *Garstang* 784-789—Explanation as to some of the girls in witness's employment having complained to Mr. Tremenheere of sore feet; this was through wearing clogs, which have since been abolished, *Blair* 5848.

Southworth, James. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Manager of Messrs. Sykes & Company's bleach-works, near Stockport; has been forty years in the trade, 6839-6841—These works were not visited by Mr. Tremenheere, 6842, 6843—There are 206 persons employed at the works, none being under eleven years of age, 6844-6849—Objection to the employment of children at eight years of age, 6848-6850—Pressure on the part of parents to get their children employed when very young, 6849. 6851.

Effect of the increased use of machinery by Messrs. Sykes as well as generally to render more regular the hours of labour and to ameliorate the condition of the work-people, 6852-6860—The average hours at Messrs. Sykes & Co.'s works are about ten hours a day, but sometimes extend to fifteen hours a day, 6861, 6862—Impracticability of avoiding the present irregularity in the hours, it being imperative to complete orders in a given time, 6863-6868. 6909.

System of payment by the piece at Messrs. Sykes's works; good earnings occasionally, 6869-6872—Willingness of the operatives to work long hours, 6874—None have ever been discharged for any refusal to work, 6875, 6876—Witness never heard of quitance papers, with secret marks upon them, being given to discharged men, 6877—Peculiarly good health of bleachers, 6878. 6885—Facility for obtaining labour in bleach-works; unwillingness of the people to leave the employment, 6879-6882. 6890, 6891. 6893.

Large and lofty rooms in which Messrs. Sykes's people work, 6883—Nature of the employment in the stoves; the stovers are a very healthy class, 6884-6887. 6908—Greater respectability of bleachers than of mill hands, 6889—There are schools and chapels in the immediate neighbourhood of witness's employment, 6892—Inaccuracy of the evidence given by Richard Partington to Mr. Tremenheere as to his hours of labour at Messrs. Sykes's, 6894-6896—The operatives are very much employed together in families, 6897.

Decided objection to the proposed legislative interference, as tending to the great injury of the trade of this country, and to the advantage of the foreign trade, 6899-6901. 6909-6913—Though young persons occasionally work for fifteen hours, the labour is not continuous or wearisome, 6902-6907—Impracticability of undertaking the expeditious fulfilment of orders if short hours be insisted on, 6909-6913.

Spencer & Harrison, Messrs. Witness is a bleacher, in the employment of Messrs. Spencer & Harrison, of Nottingham, *Bowley* 2611-2615—From fifty to sixty persons are employed, of whom about a dozen are females under eighteen years of age; there are scarcely any boys, *ib.* 2616-2618. 2661-2664—Extremely long hours of labour occasionally of these females as well as of the other operatives, *ib.* 2619-2629—The average time, including meals, is about fifteen hours, *ib.* 2620—The young people sometimes work for two or three days with slight intercession, *ib.* 2627, 2628—During the last twelve months the hours have not been so long, *ib.* 2631-2633—In the finishing department rollers are used, *ib.* 2638, 2639—Inability of witness and others to attend places of worship on Sunday on account of over-fatigue, *ib.* 2653-2657. 2716. 2774, 2775—There is generally pretty full work throughout the year, *ib.* 2776-2778.

Hours of labour at witness's lace works; the average time, including overwork, is from twelve to thirteen hours daily, and not fifteen hours, as stated by *Bowley*, *Harrison* 4957-4967. 4985-4989. 4999-5008. 5063. 5091, 5092—The hours have not been shortened of late in consequence of the expectation of legislation, *ib.* 4965-4967—Explanation relative to a statement by *Bowley* that the long hours prevented his attendance at chapel on Sundays, *ib.* 4970-4975—Occasional pressure of work and scarcity of labour under which witness's establishment is at times obliged to work for unusually long hours, *ib.* 4976. 4997-5007. 5030. 5052-5056. 5122—The ordinary or regular time is nine and a half hours daily, *ib.* 4987-4989—Inaccuracy of *Bowley's* statement that the females have remained on the premises through the night and gone on working after a few hours' rest; *Bowley* himself has on a few occasions stayed all night at the works, *ib.* 4978-4981. 4995-4998.

Parents have not complained to witness about their children being overworked, and have not been threatened with loss of work if they took their children away, *Harrison* 4991. 4994. 5018-5022—Witness, as a lace-dresser, has nothing to do with bleaching,
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Spencer & Harrison, Messrs.—continued.

Harrison 5071-5073. 5129-5140—There are about thirty-two females at witness's works, and about a dozen men and boys, *ib.* 5082. 5083. 5148, 5149—The stiffening and clearing of the lace is mostly done by the females, standing or walking, *ib.* 5088-5090.

Stock of Goods. Obstacle to the cotton bleacher holding a quantity of stock or bleached goods on hand, *Barbour* 1997-2000. 2080-2082.

Stoves. From thirty to forty women are engaged in witness's stoves, *Leck* 3337—Nature of the employment in the stoves, *ib.* 3339-3341—The usual hours of labour in the stoves is from six in the morning till seven in the evening, but in busy times the women work till ten or eleven at night, *ib.* 3342-3348. 3367-3369. 3403-3406—Witness has seen several cases of fainting at the stoves, *ib.* 3350—Character of the ventilation of the stoves, *ib.* 3354-3358—Witness has frequently known the women to faint away in the stoves from excessive heat, *Thompson* 3503-3511. 3804-3813.

In the stoves in witness's establishment in Scotland men only are employed, *Boase* 3677. 3680—Recent erection by witness of a patent stove whereby the men are exempt from feeling the heat at so high a temperature, *ib.* 3677-3679. 3707—Doubt whether continuous employment of women in the stoves is very unhealthy, *ib.* 3707-3709.

Resting time given to the women at witness's stoves, near Lisburn, *Richardson* 3821, 3857. 3860, 3861. 3911—Diminished employment of women at the stoves in witness's works accordingly as machinery is increased, *ib.* 3829. 3858. 3907—Belief that working in the stoves in Ireland is not prejudicial to health, *ib.* 3867, 3868. 3913, 3914.

Statement that the employment in the stoves in the bleach works at Lisburn is decidedly a healthy occupation, though the temperature varies from 90 to 100 degrees, *Kelso* 4174-4193. 4205-4220. 4243-4249—Good character of the ventilation in the stoves at Lisburn, *ib.* 4220, 4221. 4256—Adult males only are employed in witness's stoves, and they only at intervals; high temperature in these stoves, *Kirk* 4578-4584. 4612, 4613. 4621-4625. 4661, 4662.

High temperature of the stoves in the linen bleach works on the east and west coasts of Scotland; the operatives, however, are engaged on these stoves only for short periods, the process not at all requiring continuous labour, *Tremenheere* 4732-4758.

As regards the drying stoves at witness's works the temperature seldom exceeds eighty degrees, and young females or boys are not employed in them when the steam is on, *Hardcastle* 5511-5513. 5517—There is a stove in witness's works, but women are not employed in it; when the others are in it the heat is not great, *Blair* 5841, 5842. 6229-6234—There are no women in the stoves at Halliwell, *Morris* 6387—When the people are in the stoves at Halliwell the heat is not oppressive, *ib.* 6388—Nature of the employment in the stoves at Messrs. Sykes & Co's.; the stoves are a very healthy class, *Southworth* 6884-6887. 6908.

See also *Temperature.*

Stuff Warehouses, Bradford. Information relative to the mode of employment and hours of labour of the boys in the stuff warehouses in Bradford, *Ripley* 6020-6023.

See also *Bradford Dye Trade.*

Sumner, Dewhurst & Co. Reference to the firm of Dewhurst of Salford, under whom witness worked, as one which avoids overtime as much as possible, *Fletcher* 1641-1643. 1663-1665—Witness is a partner in the firm of Sumner, Dewhurst & Co., carrying on the Broughton dye and bleach works, near Salford, *Sagar* 2404, 2405—Class of goods operated upon at these works; there is no packing done, *ib.* 2406-2409—System of regular hours adopted at these works, *ib.* 2410-2414. 2423—Very favourable working, in many respects, of this system, which is attended with but few disadvantages, *ib.* 2415-2445—Larger share of work obtained in consequence of the system, *ib.* 2416-2418.

Sunday Labour. Instances of bleaching work on Sunday at Mr. Cross's, at Bolton, and at other places; this has not been so much the case of late years, *J. Waring* 383-393—Witness has heard that some mills at Bolton carry on bleaching, of necessity, on Sunday, *Robinson* 608-611—Mr. Ainsworth, of Halliwell, was very strict in not allowing Sunday work, *Milton* 1486. 1600; *Morris* 6404-6406—Witness has been told that at some places the men have worked on Sunday, *Milton* 1487-1490.

Explanation by Mr. Cross of a statement by John Waring, that he (Mr. Cross) worked on Sundays, *Blair* 5865, 5866—Mr. Cross explains that the only occasion of his working on Sunday was in the case of a Government order for some goods urgently required for the Crimea, *ib.*

Sykes & Co., Messrs. The works of Messrs. Sykes & Co., near Stockport, were not visited by Mr. Tremenheere, *Southworth* 6842, 6843—There are 206 persons employed at the works, none being under eleven years of age, *ib.* 6844-6849—The average hours are about ten a day, but sometimes extend to fifteen hours a day, *ib.* 6861, 6862—Large and lofty rooms in which the people work, *ib.* 6883—Inaccuracy of the evidence given by Richard Partington to Mr. Tremenheere, as to his hours of labour at Messrs. Sykes's, *ib.* 6894-6896—The operatives are very much employed together in families, *ib.* 6897.

T.

Tebbet, Mr. The hours at Mr. Tebbet's bleach-works at Old Baisford are now from six to six in the summer, and from seven to seven in winter, there being rarely any overtime, *Betts* 2930, 2931. 2971-2975—Mr. Tebbet is one of the four local masters who have abided by an agreement entered into some years ago for shortening the hours of labour, *ib.* 2931-2933—Willingness of Mr. Tebbet that witness should attend the Committee, *ib.* 2954.

Temperature. Prejudice to health through the high temperature of some bleaching-rooms, *Tremenheere* 108. 172. 177-179—The temperature in the stoves in England varies from 90 to 120 degrees; it is sometimes higher, *ib.* 178—With regard to the bleaching and dyeing works of Renfrewshire and Lanarkshire the temperature in the stoves is very high, and a large proportion of young persons are employed, *ib.* 214—In some parts of the bleaching process the temperature is very high, and is injurious to health, *Robinson* 567, 568.

Very high temperature of some of the rooms in which witness has worked at Mr. Budson's; diminution of the heat in the progressive room since the date of Mr. Tremeneheere's inquiry, *Mather* 1300-1312. 1322—Employment of young females and boys from twelve to eighteen hours daily in rooms the temperature of which was from 100 to 150 degrees, *ib.* 1313-1328. 1338, 1339—The heat did not affect witness's health, *ib.* 1320—As far as high temperature is concerned, the same necessity does not exist for limiting the hours in a finishing-room as in a bleaching-room, *Fletcher* 1765-1771—Great heat occasionally of the packing-room at Halliwell, *Price* 1822-1824. 1906—The heat in the rooms at Messrs. Spencer & Harrison's where the young females work varies from 80 to 110 degrees, and is very injurious to health, *Bowley* 2640-2645.

The general average of heat in Messrs. Young's work-rooms, near Paisley, varies from 90 to 110 degrees, *Gillroy* 3096-3099—The temperature of witness's stoves varies from 90 to 120 degrees, *Leck* 3338—Witness has occasionally known the temperature at 140 degrees in the stove-rooms at Paisley, *Thompson* 3503, 3504—The heat has been so great as to render the nails in the floor unbearable, unless by the women working in shoes or slippers, *ib.* 3505-3510.

The heat of witness's stoves is rarely above 90 degrees; the extreme heat is 100, *Richardson* 3865—Ample ventilation in the stoves at Glenmore works; degrees of heat in this department adverted to hereon, *O'Brien* 4040-4042. 4079-4096—Temperature of witness's lace dressing-rooms; it varies from 65 to 84 degrees, the average heat being about 75 degrees, *Harrison* 4955, 4956, 5015, 5016. 5049-5051. 5074-5077. 5084-5087.

The temperature in witness's rooms is about 70 degrees, *Burton* 5170—The temperature of witness's rooms is at a comfortable heat, *Allcock* 312—Good ventilation and moderate temperature of witness's rooms where the young persons are employed, *Blair* 5846—Measures adopted at witness's works in order to provide for ventilation and a moderate temperature in the rooms, *Ripley* 5879, 5880. 5896-5898.

See also *Stoves*.

Ten Hours' Bill. See *Factory Act. Hours of Labour, II. Legislative Interference.*

Thompson, James. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Manager of Messrs. Brown's bleaching works at Burnbank, near Paisley; was till lately engaged in the establishment of Messrs. Wallace & Son, 3423-3430. 3476-3478—There were about one hundred persons at Messrs. Wallace's establishment, of whom thirty and forty were women; there were only a few children, 3431-3433—Very long hours of labour occasionally in Messrs. Wallace's establishment, 3434-3438. 3443-3546—Great fatigue and injury to health consequent upon the long hours of labour, 3439. 3493. 3541, 3542. 3547-3550.

Inability at times of the operative to do the proper quantity of work on account of the fatigue, 3439, 3440—Practicability of carrying on the trade by extending the works under a system of regular hours, 3441-3444—Witness is in favour of legislative interference for reducing the hours of labour, 3445. 3472-3474. 3555—Remarks on the bleaching and dyeing respectively of woollen and cotton goods; expediency of applying legislation to woollen bleaching, 3446-3459.

Belief that the masters generally in the west of Scotland are favourable to legislative interference, 3460-3466. 3470-3475—Witness can give no information relative to woman's house attached to Messrs. Hamilton's works near Paisley, 3480-3483. 3517—Information relative to and condemnatory of the woman's house attached to Messrs. Wallace's works, 3484-3502. 3518-3526. 3534-3537—Proof of the great injurious heat at times in the stove-rooms, 3503-3511.

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Thompson, James. (Analysis of his Evidence)—continued.

Reference to a woman's house at Messrs. Cochrane's, at Barr Head, near Paisley where the Irish and Scotch women sometimes have had quarrels, 3527-3533—Circumstance of a system of regular hours having been voluntarily adopted in the lapping-rooms about two years ago, and having worked exceedingly well, 3537-3540. 3551-3554—Less injury to health if the work were limited to sixty-six hours weekly, 3547-3550.

[Second Examination.]—Witness has frequently known the women to faint away in the stoves from the excessive heat, 3804-3813.

Trade. See *Competition.* *Extension of Trade.* *Factory Act.* *Foreign Competition.* *Foreign Orders.* *Hours of Labour, II.* *Legislating Interference.* *Merchants and Commission Agents.* *Prices.* *Pushes.*

Tremenheere, Hugh Seymour. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Was appointed in 1854 as Commissioner to examine and report upon the bleaching and dyeing works, 1. 15—Completed his inquiries about the end of March 1855 and reported on 7 June 1855, since which time he has not paid any further attention to the subject, 2-12—Particulars as to the mode in which witness conducted his inquiries; sufficiency of the data for the conclusions and recommendations in his report, 13 *et seq.*

Witness visited several bleach-works; in some of them he did not stay more than a few hours, 13-20—He took evidence from a considerable number of workpeople, and had such evidence confirmed by reading it over to the person in charge of each establishment at the time, 19-24—In a great majority of instances complaint was made that the overwork and hours were excessive, 25-29.

Witness commenced his inquiry by taking evidence from a committee of operatives who had been promoting the movement, 33, 34. 42-47. 141, 142—He subsequently had frequent communication with Mr. Ainsworth and other masters, 34, 35—He visited, altogether, twenty-seven establishments in Lancashire and Cheshire; names of some of these, 35. 37. 79, 80—He examined several of the masters, 36. 38.

In most of the works witness found several very young children, 48-52—The children complained of the long hours of work and that their health was affected thereby, 52-54—Unhealthy appearance of a considerable number of the children in the finishing department, 55. 110, 111. 172, 173—Concurrence of masters and workmen as to the propriety of legislative interference on account of the long hours of work, 56-60. 134, 135—Reference to petitions signed by the clergymen and medical men of Manchester, Salford, and Bolton, praying for legislative interference on account of the overwork, 61-70. 170—Witness examined some medical men at Bolton, who testified to the effect of overwork in bringing on complaints, 65-69. 107. 169, 170.

Desire expressed by the bleachers for a ten hours' Bill, as in factories, 71, 72—Complaint made that the overwork was a bar to mental improvement, and that in such respect the factory operatives were better off, 73-78—Assurance given by the men that certain processes might be postponed for completion, 81-83—The complaints had reference chiefly to the finishing work in-doors, 84-86. 167. 172. 173. 196—Open-air bleaching or finishing has been abandoned in Lancashire and Cheshire, 87. 198, 199.

Conclusion that the women and children are frequently overworked, 88-94—In consequence of the fluctuation in the demand for labour the bleachers occasionally work for thirteen or fourteen hours, or even longer, and occasionally for less than ten hours, 92-100—Consideration of the fluctuating demands of the trade upon which the masters argue that the labour must, of necessity, fluctuate in a like degree; belief that with improved arrangements the contingencies both of the foreign and the home trade may be met without the present amount of occasional overwork, 100-106. 122-166.

Feeling of a majority of ten out of fourteen merchants at Manchester, as distinct from the master bleachers, that overwork, as now practised, might be avoided; the merchants thus consulted by witness were named to him by the masters, 106. 123-133. 145-158—Prejudice to health through the high temperature of some bleaching-rooms, 108. 172. 177-179—Evidence in support of the statement that the children and young females suffer in health through the occasional overwork, even though at times they may work for less than ten hours daily, 110-121. 167-182.

The masters concurred generally in the accuracy of the statements first submitted to witness by the committee of operatives, 136—The merchants concurred generally in the opinion that legislation was necessary, 137-140—Complaint was made by the master-bleachers that the occasional overflow of work was thrust upon them, and was disadvantageous to them, 155—Impression that some masters concurred in the views of the merchants that the evil of overwork might be avoided, 164—Introduction of new machinery adverted to as a means of preventing overtime, 164-166.

Healthy appearance of the adults in the bleaching department, but not of those in the finishing department, 167. 171, 172. 180-182—It transpired that many of the children were obliged to discontinue work through ill-health, 167. 174, 175. 191—Average temperature in the bleaching stoves, 178, 179—Witness's evidence hitherto has

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been confined to Lancashire and Cheshire, 184—With regard to woollen dyeing work, his inquiries showed that the employment is healthy, and that there is not the same necessity for legislation as in the case of the Lancashire and Cheshire bleaching works, 185-189.

Grounds for the conclusion that it is not expedient to provide by legislation for the education of children employed in bleaching works, 200-211—Approval of the principle of the Print Works Act being applied to the education of boys working in collieries between the ages of ten and fourteen, 203-205—Satisfactory operation of the education clauses of the Factory Act, 207, 208—If education clauses could be made applicable without serious inconvenience to children in bleaching works, witness would fully approve of them, 209-213.

With regard to the bleaching and dyeing works of Renfrewshire and Lanarkshire, the temperature in the stoves is very high, and a large proportion of young persons are employed, 214.

[Second Examination.] Exception taken to a statement by Dr. Boase (Q. 3629, 3630) that, as regards the east of Scotland, witness's report only gave a general idea of the state of things, and did not go sufficiently into particulars, 4720-4722—Instances of deviations in Scotland from arrangements in regard to not working overtime, 4722. 4756. 4885-4888—Remarks in confirmation of the evidence given before witness by Mr. Daniel Forbes, as to operatives in the beetling-rooms falling down and going to sleep, 4722.

As regards the non-examination by witness of any operatives on the east coast of Scotland, he considered that his investigations in Lancashire and the west coast of Scotland already established a case for legislation with respect to boys and females, 4723-4761—High temperature in the stoves in the linen bleach-works on the east and west coasts of Scotland; the operatives, however, are engaged in these stoves only for short periods, the process not at all requiring continuous labour, 4732-4758.

Explanation as to witness, before entering on his inquiries, not having considered it necessary either to frame any formal set of questions, or to include in his report the actual questions put, as well as the evidence in reply, 4762-4766. 4773-4775. 4795, 4796—Explanation as to witness having, in questioning Mr. Alexander Hunter of Dunmurry, led him to infer that there was to be an Act for England and Scotland, 4766-4772—Way in which witness took down the evidence of the masters and the men; opportunity given to them to correct or object to any statement which he had recorded, 4773-4775. 4791-4793. 4850. 4852.

For the same reasons that witness did not consider it necessary to examine the operatives on the east coast of Scotland, he did not deem it essential to examine the operatives in Ireland, 4776-4781—Distinction between the lapping-rooms in Ireland and the warehouses in Manchester, as regards the propriety of legislative interference, 4782-4790.

As regards the way in which witness reported his conversation with Mr. Alexander Hunter, no complaint has been made by Mr. Hunter on the subject, 4791-4794—The only objection made by any person to witness's version of his evidence was an objection of a friendly nature by Dr. Boase, 4794—Reference to a discrepancy in witness's remarks upon the evidence of Mr. Richardson as to dispensing with overtime in the case of females, 4797.

Before witness attended the operatives' committee in Lancashire he had some slight communication with one or two of the masters, 4798—With two or three exceptions, the operatives' delegates in communication with witness were at the time employed in bleach-works, 4799—Exception taken to the term "agitators," as applied to the witnesses Waring and Pearce, delegates of the men, 4800-4802. 4870-4875—Statement as to witness having visited ten establishments not on the list given him by Mr. Ainsworth on the part of the masters; the evidence obtained thereat was in contradiction of that supplied by the masters, 4804-4807—Every facility in visiting the works was afforded by the masters, 4808.

Witness had frequent communication with the delegates between his visits to the bleach-works, 4809-4811—Explanation as to a meeting between witness and the committee of masters, in order to discuss in a friendly spirit the point of legislation; the masters, however, seemed inclined to dispute the necessity for legislation altogether, and witness did not therefore seek any other meeting with them, 4812-4816—Statement as to Mr. Hardcastle having, in the first instance, proposed a certain basis of legislation, and having subsequently repudiated what he had proposed, 4813, 4814. 4926-4934.

A tendency to shorter hours does not obviate the expediency of guarding against excessive work occasionally, 4817, 4818—The occurrence of intervals of rest in addition to the hours of meals does not justify the employment of boys and young females for fourteen or sixteen hours a day, 4819, 4820—Variations in the amount of the masters' work are no doubt very great, 4821-4824. 4854-4857—The objections raised by witness, as regards the ill effects upon the health of the boys and young females, apply to the
excessive

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excessive hours of labour rather than to the atmosphere in which they work, 4824-4828. 4858-4860. 4876-4882. 4900-4916.

Probable respectability of the operative bleachers as a class, 4829-4831—Necessity of healthy constitutions in order to stand the long hours of labour, 4832. 4834—Many masters have doubtless largely exerted themselves for the religious and intellectual improvement of their workpeople, 4833—Further reference to the unhealthy appearance presented by many of the female operatives in the hot stoves, &c., 4835-4840. 4876-4878—As regards the operations carried on in Manchester warehouses, it was not witness's province to make any inquiry into their effect upon the health of those employed therein, 4843-4849. 4851—Explanation as to the evidence of Mr. John Pender relative to his warehouse not having been read over to him, 4853—Further statement as to the merchants having stated that the present overtime in the bleach-works was not necessary for the proper conduct of the trade, 4854-4857.

It cannot be defended as consistent with the health and morals of boys and young females that they should work for fourteen or sixteen hours a day, 4858-4860—Expediency of attempting to legislate separately for bleaching and dyeing works without reference in the same Bill to Manchester warehouses, &c., 4861-4864—Before entering on the inquiry witness knew nothing about the bleaching population, and was not aware of the system of excessive overtime, 4865-4867—Before inquiring as to the means of remedy witness's duty was first to inquire into the existence and nature of the evil, 4868, 4869—There is nothing less honourable in the operatives having their paid delegates than in the masters having numerous paid agents to watch the proceedings before the Committee, &c., 4870-4875.

Objections made to the hours of labour by many of the workpeople not employed in the stoves, 4883, 4884—Though labour in all bleaching works should be limited to ten hours daily, it would be difficult and impolitic to extend such restriction to domestic employment or private trades, though involving probably very long hours of labour and injury to health, 4889-4935—Objection to confining legislation to those departments in bleaching and dyeing in which the atmosphere or the processes are injurious to health, 4900-4913.

Explanation as to witness having suggested in his report, that in the case of linen-bleaching, labour after the prescribed time should be allowed in the event of work being interrupted by the weather; how this might be provided for, 4934-4949—In the case of cotton-works, witness suggests that there be some provision for making up time lost by the breakage of machinery, 4935. 4949.

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Truck System. Circumstance of the objectionable truck system having been in practice some time since in connexion with the works at Halliwell, *Milton* 1603.

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United States. Successful competition in bleaching on the part of the United States, *Hardcastle* 5663. 5680—Hours of labour in the bleach-works in the United States, *ib.* 5681-5684.

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Voluntary Settlement of Hours of Labour. Communication between the operatives' committee and the masters in Lancashire and Cheshire in 1853 and 1854, with a view to a voluntary settlement of the hours of labour; failure thereof, *J. Waring* 230-259—Circumstance of five masters having expressed their willingness to alter the hours if the rest of the trade would do so, which, however, they thought could not be effected without legislative interference, *ib.* 238-251.

System of regular hours adopted by witness's firm; its advantages on the whole, *Sagur* 2415-2445—Witness's firm avoid "pushes" by taking only so much work as they can do in the regulated time; loss on this score, *ib.* 2419-2422. 2435-2444.

Utter inefficiency of a voluntary system of short hours, *Crook* 2493-2498—Reference to a union formed by the workpeople in the Old Baisford district, about five years ago, not to work beyond certain hours; of all the masters, only Mr. Burton and one other have continued to abide by the hours then agreed upon, *Shelbourne* 2807-2814—Further reference to the union at Baisford, by which, for four or five years, the hours were regulated, and general satisfaction given, *ib.* 2854-2869. 2876-2890—Departure by the masters at Paisley from an arrangement in force at the time of Mr. Tremenheere's visit, not to work more than sixty-six hours in a week, *Gilbroy* 3111-3115. 3129-2134.

Witness drew up a memorial to the master bleachers of the west of Scotland on the part of the men in 1853, relative to the time of labour, *Lockure* 3324-3328—Subsequently

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quently to 1853 an arrangement was promised, reducing the time of labour to sixty-six hours weekly; this does not seem to have been permanent, *Lockure* 3329-3331.—The violation of agreements to work regular time proves the necessity of legislation, *Thompson* 3472-3475.—Circumstance of a system of regular hours having been voluntarily adopted in the lapping-rooms near Paisley, about two years ago, and having worked exceedingly well, *ib.* 3537-3540. 3551-3554.—System of regular hours adopted by witness and other firms in Fifeshire, Forfarshire, and Aberdeenshire; particulars hereon showing that the hours are not too long, *Drimminie* 3566-3581. 3587. 3606-3610.

Instances of deviations in Scotland from arrangements in regard to not working overtime, *Tremenheere* 4722. 4756.—In the west of Scotland there was an arrangement between the masters and men for doing away with long hours, but it did not continue, *ib.* 4885-4888.

The ordinary hours of labour of the men employed by witness are from six to six, and of the women from seven to seven, two hours being allowed for meals, *John Burton* 5157-5160.—The hours of the adults are sometimes extended till nine in the evening, and are paid for as overhours, 5161-5167.—Explanation relative to the arrangement about the hours of ordinary labour, and about overhours, and prices which were in operation between witness's firm and their men, and between several other masters and their men, at the time of Mr. Tremenheere's inquiry, *ib.* 5173 *et seq.*—The present practice as regards hours of labour at witness's establishments may be considered similar to that in force during Mr. Tremenheere's visit, *ib.* 5175-5178. 5190. 5206. 5207.

Absence of difficulty to witness's firm and others in carrying on their business under the arrangement limiting the hours, including overtime, from six to eight or nine, *John Burton* 5179-5192. 5225-5230. 5246-5248.—The hours of the younger children are generally limited to six in the evening, witness objecting to their working for a longer time than ten hours, *ib.* 5198-5203. 5249-5251. 5289-5294.—Voluntary character of the former arrangement between some of the masters and their men at Nottingham, as to overtime and prices; difficulty in the adoption generally of any voluntary arrangement, *ib.* 5233-5240. 5244. 5246. 5247. 5267-5273.—Belief that it would be better for both masters and men if, including overtime, the hours could by arrangement be limited to from six to nine, *ib.* 5242, 5243.

The regular hours of labour at witness's works are from six to seven in the summer, and from seven to seven in winter, there being occasionally overtime to the extent of not more than two hours, *Allcock* 5304-5307. 5338. 5339.—Witness was one of the masters who entered into the voluntary arrangement proposed by the men in regard to overtime and prices; he still abides by it, *ib.* 5317-5322. 5332-5335.

Advantage of a voluntary arrangement of the hours of labour rather than of legislative interference, *Rylands* 6601, 6602. 6616-6619; *Marsland* 6818, 6819.—Much greater advantage of a voluntary arrangement for reducing the hours in bleach-works and warehouses than of a legislative enactment; practicability of such an arrangement, from which however there must be occasional deviation, *Pender* 7150-7164. 7203-7205. 7207, 7208. 7232.—The instances of injuriously long hours reported by Mr. Tremenheere are exceptional occurrences, the remedy of which had better be left to voluntary action than to compulsory enactment, *ib.* 7237-7249.

See also *Sumner, Dewhurst & Co. Tebbett, Mr.*

W.

WAGES :

1. *Present Earnings of Operatives under the Piecework System.*
2. *Probable Earnings if the Hours of Labour be restricted.*

1. *Present Earnings of Operatives under the Piecework System :*

A bleacher sometimes may earn 30s. a week and sometimes not 15s., *H. Waring* 1048. 1132.—Larger earnings of bleachers during times of pressure than of factory operatives, *Milton* 1502-1504.—Doubt as to the wages of young persons in bleach-works being better than of those in cotton mills, *Fletcher* 1706-1709.—Two sons of witness, when twelve years old, each earned about 4s. a week, *Price* 1884-1886.

Wages of the young females at Messrs. Spencer & Harrison's; irrespective of overtime, they get about 2s. 6d. or 3s. a week, *Bowley* 2670-2677. 2700-2715. 2753-2763.—Nine hours and a half, that is, from eight till seven o'clock, less time for meals, constitute a day's work at Messrs. Spencer & Harrison's, *ib.* 2678-2686.—Witness's wages are 3s. a day; increase if he work from eight in the morning till twelve at night, *ib.* 2687-2690. 2700.—The wages of the men at Nottingham vary very much, according to their capabilities for work, *ib.* 2747-2752.

The women at Mr. Burton's, of Old Baisford, earn about 8s. or 9s. a week, *Sherbourne* 2870-2875.—The boys earn from 4s. 6d. a week upwards, *ib.* 2872.

Better

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WAGES—continued.

1. *Present Earnings of Operatives under the Piecework System*—continued.

Better wages of bleaching operatives than of agricultural labourers, *Kirk* 4592. 4626-4629; *Allcock* 5329-5331. 5336-5339; *Hardcastle* 5544-5546. 5570-5575.

The women, above seventeen years of age, in witness's employment, earn from 7s. 6d. to 10s. to 12s. a week, *Harrison* 4968, 4969. 5012. 5123-5126—Earnings and hours of labour of the girls under seventeen years of age; the lowest weekly earnings are 3s., but, including overtime, the earnings of the girls are about 4s. 6d. a week, *ib.* 4982-4990. 5011-5014. 5097-5107. 5114, 5115—Varying earnings of the men in witness's employment, *ib.* 5127, 5128.

Explanation as to the wages earned at witness's works; the piecework system is almost exclusively adopted, and the prices have been the same since 1830, a fair day's wages being now earned in about seven hours and a half, *Hardcastle* 5482-5500. 5537-5540—Advantage to the workpeople in the continuance of the system adopted by witness in 1830, *ib.* 5540.

System of payment adopted by witness as affected by the hours of labour; practice to pay for ten hours as a day's work, six hours counting for a day on Saturday, *Ripley* 5888-5894. 6054-6059. 6075-6096—During the last twelve months the earnings of witness's men have averaged 4s. 6d. a day, and of the women 1s. 10d. a day, *Blair* 6033—Opportunity at witness's works, under the system of piecework, for earning several days' wages in one day; particulars hereon, *J. Slater* 6278-6280. 6285-6297—Wages of the females at Halliwell works, *Morris* 6347-6349—System of payment by piecework at Halliwell; explanation hereon as to the earnings under the system, *ib.* 6350, 6351. 6368-6371—System of payment by the piece at Messrs. Sykes's works; good earnings occasionally, *Southworth* 6869-6872.

2. *Probable Earnings if the Hours of Labour be restricted:*

Witness told the Irish operatives that if the hours of labour were reduced their wages would be more, as was the case with the factory operatives; further expression of this opinion, *J. Waring* 431, 432—With the English operatives it is not a question of wages, *ib.* 432—Probability of equally good wages if the hours were reduced, *Crook* 2559-2561—Effect of free trade in giving an impetus to wages, *ib.* 2562-2563. 2603-2609.

Impression that the men would be willing to give up the extra wages if the extra hours were given up, *Shelbourne* 2912-2914—Probability of lower earnings if there be no overtime; willingness of the operatives to make this sacrifice, *Betts* 2978-2999—How far a system of ten or ten hours and a half daily might reduce the earnings of witness's workpeople, *Lech* 3361. 3371-3373. 3399-3422—Advance in the wages of women near Lisburn when the stoves were first opened by witness's firm; tendency to decreased wages as the number employed decreases, *Richardson* 3829. 3862-3864.

Apprehended diminution of earnings if the hours of labour be restricted, *M'Comb* 3929-3933. 3949, 3950. 3962-3968; *Henchy* 4484, 4485; *Allcock* 5313-5315; *Hardcastle* 5802, 5803; *Ripley* 5886. 6000-6002; *Pender* 7183-7185. 7245; *James Burton* 7264—Interference in Ireland with the labour of the women only would not affect the men's wages, *M'Comb* 3973, 3974—Question as to the effect upon wages if the employment of females and boys should cease or greatly diminish, *O'Brien* 4131-4142. 4158, 4159—Injury to the men if they cannot make up in busy times for the short labour in slack seasons, *Keely* 5356. 5362, 5363.

See also *Piecework*.

Wallace, William, & Son. Witness was till lately engaged in the establishment of Messrs. William Wallace & Son, of Paisley, *Thompson* 3425, 3426—There were about 100 persons at Messrs. Wallace's establishment, of whom between thirty and forty were women; there were only a few children, *ib.* 3431-3433—Very long hours of labour occasionally in Messrs. Wallace's establishment, *ib.* 3434-3438. 3443-3446—Great fatigue and injury to health consequent upon the long hours, *ib.* 3439. 3497. 3498. 3541. 3542. 3547-3550—Inability at times for the operatives to do the proper quantity of work on account of over-fatigue, *ib.* 3439, 3440—The workpeople used frequently to lie in bed the greater part of Sunday on account of the overwork, *ib.* 3497, 3498. 3541, 3542—Proof of the great and injurious heat at times in the stove-rooms, *ib.* 3503-3511. 3804-3813.—See also *Women's Houses*.

Warehouses. A good deal of finishing is now being done in some warehouses in Manchester, and it is essential that all finishing establishments be brought under the regulations of the Bill, *Fletcher* 1670-1678. 1730-1732. 1758-1780. 1790-1810—The Act should, in fact, apply to all places where bleaching, dyeing, or finishing is carried on, *ib.* 1674. 1678. 1760-1764.

Particulars as to the packing, &c. carried on in witness's establishment, and in the establishments of other merchants at Manchester; inexpediency of legislative interference with the hours of labour in these departments, the employment differing very much from

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the employment differing very much from the employment in bleach-works, *Barbour* 1970-1983. 1986. 2037-2054. 2092-2099—Distinction to be drawn between the calenderer and the packer-up in Manchester as regards legislative interference, *Scott* 2269-2275—The Manchester warehouseman does not require legislative interference with the hours of labour, *ib.* 2272-2275.

Distinction between the lapping-rooms in Ireland and warehouses in Manchester, as regards the propriety of legislative interference, *Tremenheere* 4782-4790—As regards the operations carried on in Manchester warehouses, it was not witness's province to make any inquiry into the effect upon the health of those employed therein, *ib.* 4843-4849. 4851—Expediency of attempting to legislate separately for bleaching and dyeing works without reference in the same Bill to Manchester warehouses, *ib.* 4861-4864.

Impropriety of Bill No. 2 exempting operations in the finishing warehouses at Manchester whilst it controls similar operations in witness's works, *Hardcastle* 5459-5462—Less robust persons required in bleach-works than in the callender houses and packing-up rooms in Manchester, *ib.* 5526. 5527—Impropriety of applying the proposed restrictions to bleaching, including calendering and making-up, without at the same time applying them to warehouses in Manchester, where calendering and making-up are done, *Blair* 6045-6050. 6146-6170.

Varying hours of labour in witness's warehouse; impracticability of making them uniform, *Rylands*, 6512-6518—Witness employs about 120 people in the warehouse, whose ages are from thirteen, upwards, *Pender* 7126, 7127—The average hours are about ten a day, but they necessarily are somewhat irregular, *ib.* 7128, 7129—The wages are based upon a system of piecework as an inducement to the men to shorten the hours as much as possible, *ib.* 7129—The work is carried on in large airy rooms, *ib.* 7130—Character of the education of the men and boys, *ib.* 7131.

Evidence strongly opposed to any restriction upon the hours of labour in the Manchester warehouses, as in the bleach-works, *Pender* 7132 *et seq.*—Injustice to the bleachers if the operations of finishing, &c. carried on in Manchester warehouses continue to be exempt from all restriction, *ib.* 7186-7191—Witness's people never complain of the hours, *ib.* 7187—Beginning of the end of the Manchester trade if the warehouses be put under the proposed restrictions, *ib.* 7190.

Objection to interference with the hours in the Manchester packing-up warehouses, *James Burton* 7271, 7272.

See also *Charlton, Robert, & Son. Evasion of Legislative Restrictions. Finishing Departments. Packing Departments. Stuff Warehouses.*

Waring, Henry. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Has worked as a bleacher for forty-two years, 881, 883—Was turned off by Mr. Slater about three years ago as being too old, 883-885—Worked for Mr. Slater's, near Bolton, for thirty-eight years, 886, 887—Gave evidence before Mr. Tremenheere, which evidence is equally applicable to the present state of things, 888-891.

About forty years ago, nearly all the bleaching was done in the open air, 892-895—Explanation of the several processes in bleaching cotton goods, 896-919—Practicability, with due care, of suspending work during the processes without injury to the goods, 920-922—Witness was foreman for fourteen years under Mr. Cocker, of Bolton, 922-924—Particulars as to the very long hours of labour in bleach-works, as shown by witness's own experience, 925. 933 *et seq.*

Helpless position of the men in regard to overwork, which, if they refuse to do, they are at once dismissed, 925-929—Shorter hours of labour many years ago, when the work was carried on in the fields, 930-932. 981-984—Since the bleaching has been done under cover, that is, for the last forty years or so, the master has worked the man, like a piece of machinery, in proportion to the quantity of work on hand, 933-969.

During the last ten years there has been some little amendment in the hours of labour, 938, 939—Long and continuous labour of boys and girls; illustration in the case of witness's own children, 940-949. 993-1040—Witness has known his wife to work for a week without taking off her clothes, or going to bed; this was many years ago, 949-952. 1005-1014—The work and the labour have been rather slack of late, but even now in some of the finishing departments the labour, both of young and adults, extends to fourteen or sixteen hours daily, 953-969.

Physical depreciation consequent upon the long hours of labour, 970-972—Totally uneducated state of the great majority of the bleachers and of their children, 972, 973. 1049-1073. 1160-1172—Illustration of the want of religious instruction among bleachers and their children, 973, 974. 1142-1150. 1171, 1172—Bar to education on account of the long hours of labour, 974. 1066-1069. 1122-1130—Further reference to the circumstance of witness having been dismissed from Mr. Slater's employment on the ground of his age; he was then about sixty-two years old, 976-978. 1192-1194.

Ordinary hours of work when there are no "pushes," 979—It is only when there are pushes that the labour is so unduly long, 980. 1067—Circumstance of the work having

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having been regulated thirty years ago without great fluctuations in the hours of labour, 981-984—Bad effects occasionally produced upon the work, through the men being so thoroughly fatigued as not to be able to attend to it, 985-992.

Ages of the boys and young females who work occasionally for sixteen hours daily; the boys are sometimes only nine years old, 993-1004—Long hours for which a daughter of witness, who is about twenty-two years old, is employed, entailing the necessity of her constantly returning home late at night, 1018-1027. 1032-1040—Good health generally of witness and his wife, 1041-1047—Wages of witness adverted to in connexion with the circumstance of his not having educated his children, 1048-1052. 1057, 1058. 1131-1141.

Witness is father of John Waring, the delegate of the working men, 1053—Children should not be employed in the bleaching works till they were twelve or thirteen years of age, 1059. 1083-1089—Question as to the parents being blameable for not sending their children to school; how far there is at Bolton opportunity to do so, 1060-1072. 1131-1172—There is more education than there used to be, 1072, 1073. 1117.

Many children at Bolton begin work under nine years of age, 1074, 1075—Circumstances under which one of witness's children commenced work when about eight years of age; inability of witness to have prevented this, as it was the wish of Mr. Slater and his foreman, 1076-1082. 1090-1099. 1103-1110. 1181-1186—Witness was requested to appear before the Committee by the men of Bolton; his own sons did not press him to come, 1085. 1111-1116—Circumstance of witness having been threatened with dismissal by Mr. Joseph Slater, unless one of his daughters left other employment for that of Mr. Slater, 1100-1102.

Opportunities for and probability of education, if the children did not work till they were twelve years old, 1117-1130. 1187-1191—There is no school attached to any of the bleaching works at Bolton, 1150, 1151. 1159—Statement reflecting on the conduct of Mr. Ainsworth, four or five years ago, relative to the children in his employment going to a school at Halliwell, 1151-1158.

Expediency of legislative interference as a means of inducing education, 1173-1175. 1187-1191—Wages at bleach-works are paid according to the quantity of work done, 1176-1180—Belief that there are no clubs or provident societies at Bolton for the purpose of a provision in old age; there are, however, some sick clubs, 1195-1211—There is no club for supporting the workmen in combination against the masters, 1205, 1206.

Waring, John. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Has been employed for nineteen years in bleaching and dyeing works, 215-224—Has been from the first a member of the operative bleachers' committee, by whom he has been deputed to give evidence on the present occasion, 216. 225. 256—The operatives' committee was established in May 1853, for the purpose of procuring legislative interference with the hours of labour in bleach-works, 217. 226, 227—Mr. Richard Pearce has been secretary to the committee since about four months after its establishment, 228-230. 256.

Communication between the operatives' committee and the masters in Lancashire and Cheshire in 1853 and 1854, with a view to a voluntary settlement of the hours of labour; failure thereof, 230-259—Circumstance of five masters having expressed their willingness to alter the hours if the rest of the trade would do so, which however they thought could not be effected without legislative interference, 238-251—On a subsequent notice of motion by Mr. Cobbett, for inquiry into the condition of the bleachers, the operatives' committee sent a memorial, dated 20 April 1854, to various Members of Parliament asking them to support the motion; this memorial read, 259-263.

Consideration of a statement in the memorial of April 1854, that very young persons frequently work for fourteen, sixteen, eighteen, or even twenty hours daily, 264 *et seq.*—Extremely long hours of labour in Mr. Slater's establishment at Bolton when witness used to work there several years ago, 267 *et seq.*—Instances, not very frequent, of women and young persons working for two, or three, and even four days and nights continuously, without going home, and with only a few hours rest in the night, 276-284. 294-346. 356-366.

Continuous labour when there are "pushes," that is, when the work is urgent and must be finished in a certain time, 277-284—Instance of continuous labour recently at Mr. Slater's throughout all day and night of Friday and till five o'clock in the afternoon of Saturday, 325-327—Witness has been told that about three years ago the people at Mr. Robert Hayward's, at Crescent Mill, near Manchester, worked for four days and nights without going home, 328-335.

Witness has himself worked for seventeen or eighteen hours at a time for six or eight months together, 347-351—He has also seen women and boys work for sixteen or eighteen hours daily for several months, 351-356—Desire frequently expressed by the bleachers to come under the Ten Hours' Act, 367-371—Better position of the factory

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operatives than of the bleachers in regard to libraries and mechanics' institutes, &c. 372-382—Inability of bleachers to attend libraries, &c., or to obtain instruction, in consequence of the long hours of labour, 378-382.

Instances of bleaching work on Sunday at Mr. Cross's, at Bolton, and at other places; this has not been so much the case of late years, 383-393—Particulars as to the occupations of witness since he joined the operatives' committee; his expenses are at present being paid by the association, 394-409, 472-479—Inability of witness and others of the associated operatives to obtain employment as bleachers from the masters, 401-406.

At Mr. Cross's, as well as Mr. Slater's, the hours of labour were extremely long when witness was there, 410—Circumstance of the work being slack at Mr. Slater's for the last year or two, 411, 412—In consequence of new machinery at Mr. Slater's, several men have been thrown out of employment, 413—Statement that Mr. Slater does not intend to oppose the contemplated Bill, 413—Equal fluctuation in the hours of labour now as formerly, 414-419.

Explanation as to witness having gone to Keady in Ireland, in 1853, and communicated with the bleachers there as to the expediency of Ireland being included in the Bill, 420-432—The Irish operatives in the first instance sent over a person named Kean, from Banbridge, with a view to the extension of the Bill to Ireland; it was in consequence of this that witness went to Ireland, 424-426, 503-506, 509-512, 520-523—Circumstance of some of the Scotch bleach-masters having objected to the Bill because Ireland was not in it, 427-429.

Witness told the Irish operatives that if the hours of labour were reduced their wages would be more, as was the case with the factory operatives; further expression of this opinion, 431, 432—With the English operatives it is not a question of wages, 432.

Few women in the bleach-works at Keady, 433—Shorter hours of labour at Keady, and throughout Ireland, than in England, 434, 440-442—In Ireland the young persons rarely begin to work before they are thirteen years of age, 435, 436—At one of the bleach-works in Ireland there were nearly 300 women in one room, 436—There was no complaint at Keady about the work in the bleach-fields, 442, 463—There are two sets of hands at Keady 443.

Probable employment of adults only on the beetling engines in Ireland as in England, 445, 446—Witness's evidence has been confined to cotton bleach-works, 449, 450—Circumstance of linen being necessarily bleached on the grass, 451, 452—Employment mainly of adults in the linen bleach-fields in Ireland, 453-455, 462—Questions as to the Bill unduly interfering with the labour in the Irish bleach-fields, 456-462—As regards the linen bleach-fields on the east coast of Scotland witness has no information to offer, 465-468.

Introduction of new machinery adverted to as applying to the bleaching rather than the finishing department, and thereby not shortening the hours of labour on the latter work, whilst at the same time it lessens employment in the former, 469-471, 498, 499.

Explanation as to the mode in which witness gave evidence before Mr. Tremenheere, 480-487—Impartiality of the proceedings of Mr. Tremenheere, 487, 488—According to Mr. Tremenheere's desire, the Bolton operatives furnished him with a list of bleach-works in the neighbourhood; in doing so they said nothing about Ireland, 489-497.

Belief that by improvement in the finishing machinery and by other means, the masters could meet the requirements of a Ten Hours' Bill, 498-502—The operatives' committee have not received any application from the linen bleach-works of Scotland, 507, 508—The secretary to the committee is also the treasurer, 513, 514—With regard to Mr. Kean, the deputy of a Irish operatives, the operatives' committee paid him probably 5*l.* or 6*l.* for his trouble and expenses, but nothing whatever for getting up any petition, 515-538.

Water-Supply (Bleaching Engines). Injurious effect of the proposed limits upon the hours of labour in the case of works like those of witness, where the supply of water for driving the machinery is uncertain, *Kirk* 4654-4660, 4710, 4711; *Hardcastle* 4555-4558; *Marsland* 6791-6794, 6822-6824, 6833-6836.

Weather. See *Linen-Bleaching*.

Women. See *Adult Labour* *Commission of Inquiry.* *Employment.* *Health.*
Hours of Labour. *Legislative Interference.* *Linen-Bleaching.* *Operatives.*
Stoves. *Wages.*

Women's Houses. Particulars relative to the "women's house," at Blackland Mill, Paisley, erected by Messrs. Hamilton, and attached to their works, as a means of lodging the women and young females close to the works, instead of their going all the way to Paisley and back again; recommended inspection or control over these houses, with a view

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view to their proper conduct, *Richmond* 3176-3186. 3227-3252—The women's house at Blackland Mill was frequently much over-crowded, and was very injurious to health, but has since been somewhat remedied, *ib.* 3178-3181. 3240-3243—The erection of the women's house was dictated by motives of humanity on the part of Messrs. Hamilton, *ib.* 3182. 3227-3230. 3237, 3238.

Information relative to and condemnatory of the women's house attached to Messrs. Wallace's works at Paisley, *Thompson* 3484-3502. 3518-3526. 3534-3537—Crowded state of the woman's house at Mr. Wallace's, *ib.* 3493-3495. 3500—It is voluntary on the part of the women to go to the house, but if they go they must pay a slight rent, *ib.* 3518-3524—Reference to a woman's house at Messrs. Cochrane's, at Barrhead, near Paisley, where the Irish and Scotch women sometimes have had quarrels, *ib.* 3527-3533—The woman's house is attached to the works, and is sometimes within the works, *ib.* 3534-3537.

Woollen Goods. With regard to woollen dyeing works, the inquiries of witness showed that the employment is healthy, and that there is no necessity for legislation, as in the case of the Lancashire and Cheshire bleaching works, *Tremenheere* 185-189—If, however, the Legislature should deem it expedient to include woollen dye-works in a general measure, there would be no great difficulty in the way of their conforming to it, *ib.* 187.

In the west of Scotland woollen goods comprise a large portion of the works in finishing, *Gilbroy* 3142-3150.—The woollen trade should be included in the Bill, *ib.* 3145. 3153—Remarks on the bleaching and dyeing respectively of woollen and cotton goods; expediency of applying legislation to woollen bleaching, *Thompson* 3446-3459—Comments on the exemption of woollen and mixed fabrics from the provisions of Bill No. 2, *Hardcastle* 5450-5454—The operation of bleaching woollen is less healthy than that of bleaching cotton, *ib.* 5454.

Y.

Young, James, & Sons. There are upwards of 300 persons employed at the works of Messrs. Young & Sons, near Paisley, of whom about 200 are women, *Gilbroy* 3079, 3080—The regular hours of work are from six to seven, but occasionally overwork is of necessity resorted to, and extends up to eleven and twelve at night, *ib.* 3082-3087. 3092-3094—Time allowed to the workpeople for their meals, *ib.* 3100, 3101—Over-fatigue consequent on the long labour, *ib.* 3102.

Young Persons. See *Adult Labour.* *Age of Employment.* *Commission of Inquiry.*
Education. *Employment.* *Health.* *Hours of Labour.* *Legislative*
Interference. *Operatives.* *Wages.*