

Royal Commission of Inquiry into the Condition of the Hand-Loom Weavers in England and Wales (1837-41):

Gloucestershire Section by W A Miles

Introduction

A royal commission of inquiry in the period 1815-70 could be composed of a single commissioner with no subordinate staff or of a large group of commissioners backed up by assistant commissioners to gather information in the country, a secretary to conduct correspondence and a body of clerks to assist him. The subject of inquiry could range from the management of an individual prison to the provision of primary education throughout England and Wales [1].

Four Commissioners were appointed in 1837 to inquire into the condition of the unemployed handloom weavers in Great Britain and Ireland and to report whether any measures could be devised for their relief. As the Commissioners were non-salaried they were authorised to appoint up to five Assistant Commissioners to visit and collect information in the districts where handloom weavers were employed. In June 1838 they were permitted to appoint a further five Assistant Commissioners, but chose instead to appoint only four and to use the money set aside for one of the additional Assistants to meet the expenses of sending two of the Assistant Commissioners to the continent and the Secretary to the Midlands to collect information [1].

The Commissioners received no remuneration. The Assistant Commissioners were awarded an allowance of £100 for their services in addition to their actual travelling expenses and an expenses allowance of one guinea a day while travelling. The reports of the Assistant Commissioners were printed and presented to Parliament as they became available between 1839 and 1841 [1].

Gloucestershire

William Augustus Miles was appointed on 30 December 1837 as the Assistant Commissioner to report on the West of England and Wales [1]. Miles spent 10 months in Stroud during 1838 and his report was possibly first printed in 1839 and appeared in the House of Lords papers for 1840 [2]. He remained in Stroud during 1839 getting deeper into debt and without a job. He was eventually offered the post of Commissioner of Police in Sydney, Australia, a post he held between 1841 and 1848 when he was dismissed from this position. He died in Sydney in April 1851 aged 55 [3].

References

- [1] J.M. Collinge. "Introduction." Office-Holders in Modern Britain: Volume 9: Officials of Royal Commissions of Inquiry 1815-1870 (1984): 1-8. British History Online. Web. 09 November 2013. <<http://www.british-history.ac.uk/report.aspx?compid=16907>>
- [2] The Sessional Papers Of The House Of Lords, 1840, (3 & 4 Victoriae) Vol. XXXVIII page 373 (sic).
- [3] Hazel King, 'Miles, William Augustus (1798–1851)', Australian Dictionary of Biography, National Centre of Biography, Australian National University, <http://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/miles-william-augustus-2452/text3275>, accessed 10 November 2013. This article was first published in hardcopy in Australian Dictionary of Biography, Volume 2, (MUP), 1967

N.B The photocopy that has been digitised was supplied more than 20 years ago and its provenance is uncertain. The original is possibly the House of Lords sessional paper of 1840 but the starting page number (p. 357) does not appear to match that given in the index to the House of Lords sessional papers of 1840 (p. 373).

West of England.

REPORT from W. A. MILES, Esq., on the Condition of the Hand-Loom Weavers of Gloucestershire, &c.

To Nassau William Senior, Samuel Jones Loyd, William Edward Hickson, and John Leslie, Esquires, Her Majesty's Commissioners for Inquiring into the Condition of the Hand-Loom Weavers in the United Kingdom.

Gentlemen,

IN compliance with your instructions (which I found more ample than my means for their exact fulfilment)* I proceeded on the duties of the commission with which I had the honour to be intrusted, and have in the course of my investigations visited North Wales (flannel), Kidderminster (carpets), Witney (blankets, waggon tilts, &c. &c.), Hereford (coarse linen), Ludlow (flannel), Bristol (sacking and tarpauling), and Gloucestershire (woollen cloths);—my colleague, Mr. A. Austin, proceeded through the South of England.

I have extended my inquiries among master manufacturers, operative weavers, clergymen, dissenting ministers, tradesmen, relieving officers, and other persons either practically acquainted with the trade or with the districts.

My attention has been closely directed to ascertain, as correctly as possible, first, the truth of alleged distress, and its consequent effects, not only upon the weaver, but also upon property and the local trade in general. Secondly, the causes of that distress (if ascertained to exist). Thirdly, to ascertain what remedial measures might be suggested by various parties, and to examine how far they might be practically adopted. My inquiries have been directed to the following subjects:—

- | | |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. Trade. | 9. Embezzlement. |
| 2. Wages. | 10. Benefit-clubs. |
| 3. Condition of the Weavers. | 11. Education. |
| 4. Power-loom. | 12. Boards of Trade. |
| 5. Shop-loom. | 13. Apprentices. |
| 6. Combinations and strikes. | 14. Corn Laws. |
| 7. Truck. | 15. Allotments. |
| 8. Beer-shops. | 16. Migration and Emigration. |

I have endeavoured to prepare the most accurate tables, containing statistical and other information, in order to refute or confirm the opinions offered to me, and in submitting them to your inspection in their proper places in this Report, I trust they will be considered useful. I have found distress to exist in the woollen manufacture, owing, as far as I could ascertain, to the surplus of labour and the fluctuation of trade.

My attention has been chiefly directed to the situation of the out-door weavers in Gloucestershire, as the condition of the factory weaver, averaging 11s. 9d. per week, is far above that of the out-door workman.

The evidence I have received concerning the shop-loom system has been of a most contradictory nature, arising from prejudice of the weavers who are removed from their cottages to work in the factories, which they consider an interference with their trade, and with their domestic comforts. Their pecuniary condition is much better than that of the out-door weaver.

The carpet trade is fluctuating, but wages are steady—though employment is uncertain.

* I cannot but regret the extreme labour imposed upon me, by the denial of a clerk. My tables, and their detail in this Report, will prove the assertion.

Gloucestershire.

Report from
W. A. Miles, Esq.

INTRODUCTORY
REMARKS.

Report from
H. A. Miles, Esq.

SUMMARY OF
REPORT.

The strike at Kidderminster, 1828, has injured the weavers, and the town in general; it has also generated a feeling of dislike between master and man, and severed all feelings of mutual interest.

The Witney trade in blankets, waggon tilts, &c., is steady, and the workmen, though at moderate wages, are perfectly contented. The same is the case at Bristol.

Unlike other districts, I have found a cordiality existing at Witney among masters and men. This excellent feeling arose from the kindness of the masters towards their workpeople, and the interest they took in their welfare. I have heard workmen say they could be happier upon low wages if treated as men, than receive higher wages, and be treated like brutes.

In Gloucestershire I found an acrid feeling existing among the workmen towards their masters. I studiously endeavoured to obtain every information without causing any excitement; a result rather dreaded on my arrival in the district, but which I took great care to prevent. I have received thanks from the magistrates, manufacturers, and workpeople, for my discretion.

The summary of my remarks and quoted evidence concerning the cloth trade may be thus stated:—

1st.—The manufacture of woollen cloths fluctuates annually to a great extent, but if taken in longer periods, say quinquennially, it is very steady, being about 340 yards variation on nearly 1,800,000 yards, the average annual quantity produced. *Vide* page 365.

The chief causes of distress are the commission houses, and severe competition in the home market. It is much to be doubted if this competition causes to any class a benefit in proportion to the distress it entails in the manufacturing districts; but it is evident that the manufacturers, while competing with each other, carry on the contest at the cost of labour. *Vide* page 401.

In this state of competition it would be fallacious to suppose that increased quantities of production would indicate an increased prosperity. The reverse is the case: it is from large quantities that small profits are now derived.

Owing to the introduction of machinery and power, the facilities of production are increased: formerly a mill could only produce a certain quantity; the productive power of that mill and of the manufacturer was limited. The supply of cloth did not exceed the demand, and prices were steady; now the power of production is in a measure unlimited, the supply exceeds the demand, and sales must be effected at any cost.

The manufacturers, generally speaking, have not sufficient capital to produce those quantities, and yet to hold enough capital in hand in order to meet a succession of adverse contingencies. Their money is embarked; they are at their full stretch in the race, and any sudden check upsets them: hence the failures of so many firms.

The manufacture of woollen cloth requires great care and skill, but there is no trade more intricate, more contradictory, or more uncertain, even in any state, from the sorting of the wool to the sale in the market. Unlike any other trade, a manufacturer in Gloucestershire (with the exception of some of the larger firms) cannot make out his own invoice for the London mart. The buyer, or cloth-factor, sends the cloth to a cloth-worker, who rigidly perches each piece, and for every blemish he can detect, puts down a proportionate deduction in the length—thus, a quarter of a yard for a hole, half a yard for a “through” or rent, a quarter of a yard for a “brack” or speck, or for bad colour, and so forth. The amount of this deduction is subtracted from the length, and the manufacturer receives for the remainder; so that even to the last process there is uncertainty in the trade.*

* The Yorkshire makers send their cloths occasionally to a cloth-worker to be assessed, and then send them so assessed into the market; some, however, assess their own cloth, and admit of no interference.

It might be well if the Gloucestershire manufacturers were to send their cloths to a cloth-worker to be assessed and ticketed before they are offered in the London market, by which means the value of the cloth would be determined at the time of sale. Under the present system a sale is nominally made, but the amount is unknown until the buyer has sent his purchase to the cloth-worker, who might make such heavy deductions that the manufacturer would be a severe loser by the transaction.

For the benefit of all parties, if no undue advantages are sought, the value of the purchase ought to be determined at the time; and if the cloth be previously assessed and ticketed by the cloth-worker, the imperfections of the cloth would be stated, and the buyer would be protected from imposition. In the first and second years of the reign of Henry VII. the farmers of the Ulnage, that is, cloth-measurers, in Gloucestershire, paid 16l. 15s. towards the expenses of the Royal Household. This officer of the Ulnage measured and sealed the cloths before they were exposed to sale; it was his duty to examine the cloth with great care before he passed it and sealed it, because he was liable to a very severe fine if he ventured to put his seal to any articles that were defective, either with regard to make, colour, or material, without specifying such defects.

This uncertainty unsettles wages; the manufacturer is uncertain of his profits; and the same spirit of uncertainty pervades the whole of the trade. The wages of the weaver are the largest in amount, and consequently the manufacturer, when contemplating a reduction, fixes upon that larger amount as being a sum which could better suffer a diminution.

Owing to this uncertainty of profits, and the fluctuating state of trade, there are periods when the market is brisk, then there is a demand—so when the market slackens there is a surplus of labour. A busy time induces a hope of steady trade, and during a slack time there is a hope that trade will soon revive—therefore men linger on, and the labour market does not properly adjust itself to the supply; consequently wages are tending to the minimum, and there is a mass of weavers struggling for existence, hardly one shade above pauperism. Another evil resulting from the present state of trade in Gloucestershire is, that the petty shop-keepers and others, who flourished when trade and wages were steady, are not only impoverished by the decrease of capital and wages, but they have moreover to contribute to the maintenance of a manufacturer's workmen when trade is slack.

2nd.—The condition of the out-door weaver is depressed without any prospect of remedy;* for if a demand for labour should arise from any change in the trade, wages will not be allowed to exceed in any great degree the cost at which power can perform the work. The lowness of the out-door weavers' wages and earnings are fully attested, and show his condition to be below that of any other labouring class, where skill or knowledge of a trade is requisite, women and young persons have been found adapted to the work, and the market is overrun. *Vide* page 403.

3rd.—Education (*vide* page 480) is checked by the low state of wages. It is in the evidence of many persons well acquainted with the districts that the parents cannot supply decent clothing to the children.

The average proportion receiving education is one in thirteen on the total population; in those parishes where wages are under the average, namely, 10s. for a family of five, the proportion of children are in a less degree educated; and in parishes about or above the average of wages, the proportion is more favourable. *Vide* page 487.

4th.—Wages and earnings vary according to the terms of the manufacturer. (*Vide* page 382.) They are too low in reference to the quantity of labour given, because, by reason of the surplus of labour and the fluctuations of trade, men undersell each other. High wages are not a proof of high earnings, because there are many deductions among some masters which reduce the apparent high amount to no greater sum than is paid by the lower paying master, who names a straightforward sum and pays it nett.

The earnings of some weavers are reduced by the advantages taken by the masters. The long warping bar is a fraud upon labour. The due and proper length of the warping bars might be regulated and occasionally examined by the factory inspectors. The letting of cottages at enormous rents, the high charge for hire of looms, either in the factories or at the cottages, and above all, the connexion of a master or a wool loftman with a shop, are all of them means to abstract a profit from the labourers' earnings—a system which does not compensate the master for the misery it entails upon his workmen, who have no interest in common with the masters, and who too frequently look upon embezzlement as retaliation.

It is much to be regretted that in many cases the manufacturers leave the management of their working men to their head servants. (*Vide* Evidence of Richard Stiff, page 550). The result is, that the working man has no interest in the prosperity or well-doing of his employer, and the employer or manufacturer scarcely knows his men. The wool loftmen and other persons at the head of the different departments exercise a rigid and arbitrary control, which too frequently blunts the better feelings of the men, who are thus made the vassals of the underlings, and in some cases are compelled to deal at shops secretly supported by them.

* Weavers have always been poor and depressed. I cannot speak, however, of those operatives who wove the linen in which the mummies have been rolled from time beyond history. The learned Professor Heyne, of Göttingen, left the loom for the classics. His father was a weaver, suffering great distress. In his Memoirs, the Professor says, "Went was the earliest companion of my childhood! I well remember the painful impressions made on my mind by witnessing the distress of my mother when without food for her children! How often I have seen her on a Saturday evening weeping and wringing her hands as she returned home from a unsuccessful effort to sell goods which the daily and nightly toil of my father had manufactured."

Gloucestershire.

Report from
W. A. Miles, Esq.SUMMARY OF
REPORT.

Mr. Rasher, an intelligent farmer at Stanley, and a guardian of the parish, confirms this statement. Captain Thompson, at Coaley, also complained of the system, as being injurious to the moral and better condition of the weavers.

Beer-shops are said to be injurious to the working classes; it is a temptation which can be best met or overcome by small allotments, or by encouraging the labouring man, by education and by other habits, to seek other means of recreation or amusement than in the settle of a beer-house. The poor man has no other resource to employ his leisure time, or to derive amusement after his day of toil. *Vide* page 464.

Combinations and strikes have proved detrimental to the weavers. (*Vide* p. 448.) In 1825 the weavers, secretly instigated by some higher paying manufacturers, attempted to cause an equality in the prices of weaving. In 1828 the masters struck against the men by attempting to lower wages, and a general price was agreed to, but not long upheld. Since this period there has been a constant tendency to reduce, and the weavers have gradually become lower and lower in condition.

Embezzlement (*vide* page 473) is not of sufficient magnitude to molest wages; the law is not sufficiently stringent; a rural police has already done good in suppressing it by seeking out the receivers.

Truck (*vide* page 458) is not common among the manufacturers, but is injurious where it exists.

The weavers are in favour of the Boards of Trade, though they cannot define how it will benefit them; yet they acknowledge where it will injure them. I have examined two of the leading men of the body of weavers upon the subject, and I refer to their evidence. *Vide* page 505, *et seq.*

The Corn Laws are almost unanimously allowed to be the cause of distress. I have a Table of Wages from 1820 to 1838, in periods of different years, with the average prices of corn. I find wages have been reduced 30 per cent., and corn is 3d. a quarter dearer (*vide* p. 398). I therefore do not see that the wages of the woollen weaver are affected by the price of corn. It is surplus of numbers that places the weaver in a different position to his fellow-workmen.

The allotment system is valuable if in small portions, and if not allowed to be the chief means of support, otherwise it entails pauperism.

Emigration, as a partial aid in a district extremely depressed by any sudden failure, is beneficial, but it is too expensive a remedy for large and general adoption. I should beg to recommend facilities for emigration or migration to the stripe weavers in Bisley, Horsley, and Hampton parishes, where, by unavoidable circumstances, the trade has been lost. Migration is the mildest and best remedy; it is the remedy the weavers find best suited to their purposes and wishes, and, if facilities were afforded, might be in some cases advantageously adopted.

The weavers are not an intelligent class of persons; they have lived in their lone cottages, and are scarcely able to understand the machinery of commerce; they hold up their hands in favour of open trade—trade free as air—but at the same time most strenuously urge that every sort of restriction should be adopted to secure a monopoly of their own calling: for instance, they urge that power-looms should be put down, either by “law” or by a tax amounting to prohibition; that factories should be abolished; that no man shall have more than three looms in his possession; and that the apprenticeship system be again adopted.

You will perceive that many of the subjects above mentioned open a wide and extensive field of investigation, involving subjects of the deepest moment, and requiring a greater measure of time, means, and of ability than I possess; I therefore deem it my duty to report faithfully the opinions of others rather than to advance my own.

My attention has been chiefly directed to the condition of the out-door weaver in the county of Gloucester, because within the last few years the trade and system of manufacture has been altered, and with this alteration the condition of the weaver has been changed. In the North, power has outstripped the hand-loom weaver in cottons, and in Gloucestershire the unequal race has just commenced in woollens.

The following table shows the state of the British woollen trade and prices of wheat from 1820:—

Prices of Wool, each Year, per Quarter.	Selling average Price at full- price Bakers in London.	Date.	Cloths of all sorts.		Napped Contings or Duffels.		Kersey- mores.	Baizes.	Stuffs, Woolen or Worsted.	Flannels.		Blanketing.	Carpets and Carpeting.	Woolens mixed with Cotton.		Hosiery.	Sundries.	Declared Value.	WOOL.		
			Pieces.	Pieces.	Pieces.	Pieces.				Pieces.	Yards.			Yards.	Yards.				Dozens.	£.	£.
65 10	..	1820	288,700	59,644	78,944	37,183	828,900	2,569,105	1,268,409	526,124	407,716	59,960	39,337	5,586	138	9,975,605	64,585	7,691,773			
54 5	..	1821	375,464	69,622	91,402	41,610	1,072,342	3,504,851	1,424,238	764,922	627,800	107,779	38,986	6,462	866	16,622,567	291,318	15,898,353			
43 3	..	1822	420,497	67,737	95,870	43,447	1,078,428	4,503,612	1,926,711	884,922	1,120,326	136,597	47,042	6,488	167	19,038,080	233,872	16,256,924			
51 9	..	1823	356,027	54,226	94,344	41,531	1,050,133	4,311,997	2,131,632	778,426	918,469	106,420	44,619	5,636	586	19,366,725	200,776	18,787,329			
62 0	..	1824	407,720	51,585	108,012	47,105	1,242,403	5,105,961	1,990,011	848,942	1,393,443	113,123	43,361	6,034	051	22,562,485	419,594	23,995,458			
66 6	..	1825	384,890	45,268	126,448	47,100	1,138,809	2,959,594	2,162,834	888,924	1,793,301	106,498	45,335	6,185	648	43,816,906	678,034	41,101,636			
56 11	..	1826	328,559	41,800	86,038	36,862	1,125,308	2,432,120	1,082,582	903,597	531,517	71,922	37,223	4,966	879	15,989,112	888,651	17,868,551			
56 9	..	1827	371,965	51,690	122,049	47,574	1,258,667	2,518,887	1,899,600	1,195,939	846,769	148,117	49,559	5,245	649	30,236,059	760,109	27,943,244			
60 5	10 1/4	1828	335,042	40,646	84,524	49,567	1,301,853	2,539,766	2,097,542	1,197,947	981,152	159,463	48,314	5,069	741	39,236,049	872,249	31,031,377			
66 3	11 1/2	1829	363,075	16,186	83,465	52,777	1,307,558	1,572,920	1,839,961	811,536	1,074,077	91,285	41,948	4,587	606	21,516,649	406,566	22,614,550			
64 3	10 1/2	1830	388,289	22,377	24,714	49,164	1,252,512	1,613,099	2,176,391	672,869	1,099,518	111,146	54,034	4,728	666	32,305,314	659,242	31,522,859			
66 4	11	1831	436,143	13,892	29,650	30,259	1,497,404	1,572,558	2,546,329	678,656	1,000,004	143,774	64,618	5,232	013	31,652,029	1,025,962	29,669,908			
58 8	9 1/2	1832	396,661	23,453	40,984	34,874	1,800,714	2,304,750	1,681,840	690,042	1,334,072	152,810	55,443	5,244	478	28,028,973	555,014	27,666,350			
52 11	8 1/4	1833	597,159	19,543	31,795	43,036	1,690,559	2,055,072	3,128,106	667,377	1,605,056	232,766	78,236	6,294	432	38,046,087	442,696	39,066,620			

1812	.	.	.	136
1816	.	.	.	235
1820	.	.	.	304
1824	.	.	.	324

		Value. £.	
Cloth, fine	• • • • • yards	1,181,647	1,661,691
" middling	• • • • • "	391,710	220,337
" coarse	• • • • • "	3,943,111	665,399
Kerseymer, Merino, &c.	• • • • • "	198,639	44,693
Divers Cloths	• • • • • "	101,928	5,733
Shawls and Handkerchiefs	• • • • • pieces	15,416	3,371
Blanketing	• • • • • "	• • •	12,750
			In 1820, value imported, 977,816
			In 1824, value imported, 402,356

Table of Woollen
manufactured
Goods exported, &c.
and the price of
Wheat in each
Year.

W A Miles ~ Hand-Loom
Weavers Report c.1839
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TRADE OF GLOUCESTERSHIRE.

Gloucestershire.

Report from
W. A. Miles, Esq.

TRADE.

The manufacture of woollen cloth was established at Cirencester as early as the period of Henry IV., who granted a charter to a body of weavers in that town.

The streams which pour through the vales of Avening, Rodborough, Chalford, and Painswick, all concentrating near Stroud, appear to have been long rendered available to manufacture, because houses of the Elizabethan, and even of an earlier period, are scattered in every direction near these brooks.

The fine cloth is the principal fabric in the West of England; cloth of coarser descriptions are manufactured, but the superiority of the Gloucestershire cloth is in the finest qualities. The Yorkshire manufacturer competes with the Gloucestershire manufacture in the coarser or lower sort of cloth, but not in the finest description.

About thirty or forty years ago the cloth was of thicker make, but by recent improvements it is shorn to the finest face or pile; this, however, does not employ more human labour, because the operations are performed by machinery.

Market.

The principal market for the fine trade in Gloucestershire is the home consumption, and in China for the stripe cloth.* There is, however, a severe competition among the manufacturers, and every method is now studied to improve the quality of the cloth, but until this competition occurred, many of the manufacturers were comparatively ignorant of the skilful operations of the trade, and their knowledge did not keep pace with the improvements of the times. This was not the case in Yorkshire, and much of the coarser trade has gone to the North.

There is no subject more complicated than the cloth trade, the very nature of it is unlike any other trade, and consequently it is almost impossible to arrive at any positive conclusion. This fact will be attested by any person connected with the trade.

Almost every person has a different opinion concerning the present state of the trade. Almost every manufacturer arranges and prepares his wools in some peculiar manner, exercising his skill and judgment to turn it to the best advantage. The nature of silk or cotton is not so variable, and the skill is not so essential to fabricate it; the manufacture of wool differs materially from either.

There is no certainty in the trade, high wages are by no means a test of high earnings, or low wages of low earnings, and every step of the inquiry is a contradiction.

Apparent proof of
Decrease.

The apparent proofs of a decrease in the trade are, 1st, That within the last eight years four of the largest firms have failed: 2ndly, That out of 137 cloth mills 58 have been closed: 3rdly, That cottage property and mill property have decreased at least 30 per cent. in value.

It is admitted by all that the stripe trade has greatly decreased. This sort of cloth was chiefly made in the Vale of Chalford, and out of 41 mills only 15 are now used; moreover that district suffers great distress, and the few manufacturers in it now remaining do but little trade.

With regard to the apparent evidences of a decrease in trade, it is true that certain firms failed, but firms then of minor rank have grown up to importance, so that the trade has remained, but only changed into other channels. The failure of these firms is attributed more to expensive establishments and improvident expenditure, than to any decrease in trade. Mr. Wyatt, of Stroud, Banker, &c. &c. states that, in his opinion, many of the manufacturers failed in consequence of their extravagance, and through an ambition to become large landed proprietors before they had secured sufficient capital, inasmuch as they frequently borrowed half the purchase money at 5 per cent., when the land did not yield more than 3 per cent. Mr. Charles Stanton, one of the leading manufacturers in the county, is of opinion that trade rather languishes than improves in consequence of scarcity of capital. Timothy Exell, chairman of the delegates of weavers, says, there is less money than formerly to employ labour. 2nd, The number of mills has decreased, but this does not prove a decrease in trade, because, since the introduction of steam in order to generate a moving power, these mills are dispensed with, and consequently fall in value; formerly, a fall of water was the only means to procure that power, so that a decrease of mills only shows an increase of other power, more certain and more concentrated, in the larger mills. 3rd, The decrease in the value of mill and cottage property is no test of a decrease in trade, that is, of the quantities produced,

No actual proof of
Decrease.

* A coarse but thin cloth, made especially for the China market, with a striped list, hence the term 'stripe.'

The Drap de Ray, or striped cloth, by an Act temp. Edward III., was ordained to be made in England of the same length and breadth of that which was fabricated at Ghent - vide 'Strud's vol. ii p. 193.

because, under the system of shop looms, the weavers who worked at their own houses or hired cottages (wherein they placed looms and hired journeymen) those weavers are now working in factories; the quantities are produced in those factories instead of being woven in the cottages.

The following table shows the number of inills closed and employed :—

Number of Mills in the District.	Name of District.	Number taken down.	Number used for other purposes, such as Corn-mills, List-mills, or Saw-mills.	Number void.	Total Number not used in the Cloth Trade.	Number now used in the Cloth Trade.
12	Nailsworth . .	..	..	2	2	10
41	Chalford . .	4	7	15	26	15
7	Alderley . .	..	2	..	2	5
29	Wootton . .	..	4	10	14	15
21	Stroud . .	..	2	4	6	15
18	Dursley . .	..	2	5	7	11
9	Stonehouse . .	..	..	1	1	8
137		4	17	37	58	79

Decrease in Number of Mills. .

Total Number taken down . . . 4
Total Number used for other purposes 17
Now void 37

Total Number of Mills formerly employed in the Cloth Trade . 137
Total Number of Mills not used in the Cloth Trade 58
Number of Mills now used in making Cloth 79

Decrease more than 42 per cent.

The following letters from Mr. Baker and Mr. Hall, Architects and Land Agents, relate to the decrease of property in the district :—

“ Castle Hall, Painswick, 10th November.

“ Sir—In answer to your letter I beg to state that I consider the decrease in the value of Mill property in this county, employed in the manufactory of woollen cloth, is very nearly one half, or about in proportion as three to five.

Decrease of Mill Property.

“ With regard to your question as to the assessment at a former period compared with the present valuation, it is one which I scarcely know how to answer, in consequence of not being much employed to value mill property prior to the new assessment act, but I believe the usual mode was, to value the mills at something under their annual value, and reduce that sum 50 per cent. for the assessment; whereas the present mode is to value the mills at their annual value, and reduce that sum from 25 to 30 per cent. for repairs and insurance.

“ I remain, Sir, your obedient servant,

(Signed) “ CHARLES BAKER.

“ W. A. Miles, Esq.
&c. &c. &c.”

“ Cirencester, November 8, 1838.

“ Sir,—In reply to your favour of the 6th instant, requesting information concerning the decrease of mill property which has come under my valuations in this county, I beg to inform you, that I consider the value of this kind of property has diminished generally one-half, and in every case fully one-third.

“ The different system under which the valuations for poor's rates are now made precluded me from drawing a comparison between the new and old rating.

“ The valuations were formerly made in different proportions, varying in nearly every parish, and are now uniformly rated at their full annual value.

“ I have the honour to remain, Sir,

“ Your obedient servant,

(Signed) “ RICHARD HALL.

“ W. A. Miles, Esq.
&c. &c. &c.”

W A Miles ~ Hand-Loom Weavers Report c.1839
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Having mentioned the apparent proofs of a decrease in trade, I now submit proof that there is no decrease in the total quantity produced, but on the contrary; because, if the stripe trade has decreased, the total number of yards made in each year shows no corresponding decrease, in amount; and consequently the broad or cassimere trade must have increased.

Gloucestershire.
Report from
J. J. Miles, Esq.
TRADE.

The stripe trade was chiefly supported by the East India Company,* but when the charter ceased in 1832, the Yorkshire competition took much of the trade from the district. The following return shows the quantities supplied to the East India Company, but it gives no evidence of decrease in the amounts made, because the manufacturers make and ship the stripes upon their own account to China. This is evident with regard to the Yorkshire manufacturers, who have not supplied one piece of stripe to the East India Company since 1832.

Stripes.

The QUANTITIES OF STRIPE CLOTH supplied from GLOUCESTERSHIRE, as well as from Yorkshire or other Counties, to the EAST INDIA COMPANY, from the Year 1820 to the Year 1838, distinguishing the Quantities in each Year, from Returns furnished by order of the East India Company.

Table of Quantities
of stripe supplied to
the East India
Company.

Year.	Quantities of Stripe supplied.			Total Number of Pieces.
	From Gloucestershire.	From Yorkshire.	From Other Counties.	
1820	Pieces. 9,643	Pieces. ..	Pieces. 425½ Bought of London Factors.	10,068½
1821	10,460	1,250	..	11,710
1822	12,523	2,250	40 ..	14,813
1823	9,952	59	33 ..	10,044
1824	10,623	..	15 ..	10,638
1825	11,049	1,300	..	12,349
1826	14,877	607	..	15,484
1827	5,960	400	..	6,360
1828	4,774	1,946	..	6,720
1829	11,048	1,911½	5 ..	12,964½
1830	11,688	622½	..	12,310
1831	16,326	660	..	16,986
1832	15,680½	1,293	..	16,973½
1833	69½	..	..	69½
1834	60	..	..	60
1835	72	..	..	72
1836	199	..	..	199
1837	..	..	42 ..	42
1838	143½	..	..	143½
Total .	145,147½	12,299	560½	155,007

I am led to infer that the stripe trade has been gradually going into the North. It was once the support of Chalford Vale, but, as it receded, the truck system advanced; and Mr. Nat. Jones, a manufacturer of stripe in that Vale, says "he does not resort to truck from choice but from necessity, for without adopting that plan he sees no prospect of any trade being done in Chalford." He further stated, "that, instead of making for order as formerly, he is now obliged to ship his own cloth for China, and to receive tea in exchange, (obliged, as he remarked, to truck with his buyers.) He has cloth now in China unsold, and unless he has very favourable returns does not think he shall be induced to ship any more."

I infer that it is want of capital that has ruined the trade in Chalford. In Yorkshire there is more capital and more speculation. In one case, the manufacturer makes to force or find a market, in the other he waits for a demand, and then prepares the supply.

The distress of Bisley (Chalford being situate in that extensive parish) is set forth and explained in a valuable communication with which I was favoured by the Rev. H. Jeffreys, and which is inserted under the head of "Condition of the Weavers." Page 416.

By the above table there is an extreme decrease in the amount of the East India Company's orders, nor does it appear to me that there is sufficient capital in the vale of Chalford to make the usual quantity upon speculation; some of the larger and more wealthy firms in the county occasionally make stripes, but not in proportion to the presumed decrease. The average annual demand for stripes from

* The Chalford manufacturers were liable to fines by the officers who were appointed to inspect the cloths for the East India Company; and it has been reported to me that much unfairness existed in their arbitrary conduct. One manufacturer assured me that some pieces he had sent in were returned to him, on which he had to pay fines, and that he gave those same pieces to another manufacturer under contract for a better cloth than his contract, and that those returned pieces were accepted. I have many cases concerning this subject.

1830 to 1832 appears to be 12,109 pieces, averaging 36 yards each piece; and a reference to the Yorkshire trade may afford some idea of the quantity manufactured in Gloucestershire.

I now submit the total number of yards of cloth of every description made in Gloucestershire from 1823 to 1838 inclusive; wherein it will be seen that the trade has not suffered any diminution, and if one sort of fabric has decreased another sort must have increased. The following table also contains the prices of wheat in each year. In this table it will be seen that by the two last averages of five years, the trade is stationary; yet, by reference to each year, it is the most fluctuating trade. It is to this uncertainty that I attribute the distressed condition of masters and the reduction of wages.

Gloucestershire:

Report from
W. A. Miles, Esq.

TRADE.

A TABLE showing the Quantity of Cloth made from 1823 to 1838 inclusive, and also the Prices of Wheat in each Year, showing the Increase and Decrease in each Year and Periodical Averages.

Year.	Price of Wheat.	Total Number of Yards.	CLOTH.		WHEAT.		CLOTH.		WHEAT.		CLOTH.	WHEAT.
			Increase or Decrease in Reference to the Preceding Year.		Increase or Decrease in Price of Grain, in Reference to the Preceding Year.		Increase or Decrease in Reference to the Total Average Quantity.		Increase or Decrease of Wheat in reference to the Total Average Price.			
			Increase.	Decrease.	s. d.	s. d.	Increase.	Decrease.	s. d.	s. d.		
1823	51 9	1,769,762	..	..	..	..	42,459	..	5 0	5 3	..	..
1824	63 0	1,741,120	..	28,642	10 3	..	13,817	..	9 6	..	1,638,992	58 9
1825	66 6	1,750,243	9,123	..	4 6	..	22,940	..	..	0 1	..	..
1826	66 11	1,499,661	..	250,582	..	9 7	..	227,642	..	..	3 0	..
1827	66 9	1,434,173	..	65,486	..	0 2	..	293,128	..	..	..	..
1828	60 5	1,659,329	225,154	..	3 8	..	..	67,974	3 5	..	..	..
1829	64 3	1,517,252	..	142,077	5 10	..	..	210,051	9 3	..	1,785,009	63 2
1830	64 3	1,602,933	85,701	..	..	2 0	..	124,350	7 3	..	..	..
1831	66 4	1,976,622	373,689	..	2 1	..	249,319	..	9 4	..	..	..
1832	53 8	2,169,340	192,719	..	..	7 8	445,037	..	1 8	..	..	..
1833	52 11	1,436,689	..	742,651	..	5 9	..	300,614	..	4 1	..	..
1834	46 0	1,966,846	540,157	..	..	6 11	239,543	..	..	11 0	1,784,757	47 9
1835	37 0	1,864,526	..	103,320	..	9 0	137,223	..	..	20 0	..	..
1836	48 4	1,916,518	51,993	..	11 4	..	189,213	..	..	8 8	..	..
1837	54 6	1,749,268	..	167,310	..	6 2	21,905	..	..	2 6	..	..
1838	64 5	1,593,594	..	155,614	9 11	..	..	133,709	7 5	..	..	..
Average of Wheat.			Average Number of Yards.									
			57s.									
			1,727,303.									
			Average Quantity of Yards, from 1828 to 1837, both inclusive, is									
			Total Number of Yards, in 1838, is									
											1,784,923	
											1,593,594	
			Decrease compared with the average of 10 preceding Years.								191,334	

Quantity of cloth manufactured annually in Gloucestershire. Fluctuating state of the Trade, if considered annually, but steady if taken in average periods of five years. Vide page 399.

Gloucestershire:
Report from
W. A. Miles, Esq.
TRADE.

A RETURN of the Number of Pieces and Yards of WOOLLEN Cloth made in Gloucestershire (Broad or Felt, Cassimeres and Stripes), in each Year from 1822 to 1835 inclusive, so far as it can be supplied by the Records of the Excise Department.

Years.	Broad Cloth.			Narrow.			Number of Yards of Broad and Narrow Cloth, the kinds not being kept distinct.	Cassimere.			Felt.		Spanish Stripes.		Pounds of Wool.	Pounds of Worsted.	Dozens of Hose.
	Number of			Number of				Number of			Number of		Number of				
	Pieces.	Yards in such Pieces.	Yards where the Number of Pieces is not stated.	Pieces.	Yards in such Pieces.	Yards where the Number of Pieces is not stated.		Pieces.	Yards in such Pieces.	Yards where the Number of Pieces is not stated.	Pieces.	Yards in such Pieces.	Pieces.	Yards in such Pieces.			
From May 15 to Dec. 31	9,640	329,910	26,808	1,434	31,081	..	316,755	213	8,614	4,644	354	13,113	260	10,720	11,384	50	5,090
1822	29,836	987,432	61,477	4,529	150,014	7,850	441,137	825	27,663	17,624	832	28,425	361	14,880	12,324	145	13,914
1823	35,639	1,139,624	70,263	3,680	159,417	19,796	289,352	590	22,696	8,773	633	31,259	..	..	40,189	222	15,109
1824	28,479	1,063,460	120,126	3,442	147,002	12,557	322,580	910	28,152	12,980	950	37,886	..	..	128,627	66	21,367
1825	31,561	922,729	49,665	2,229	87,220	12,741	352,770	839	27,228	6,418	1,020	40,890	..	..	27,679	1,483	13,622
1826	22,817	667,984	36,924	3,008	119,236	4,812	519,914	586	26,551	..	1,418	58,724	..	..	9,598	240	17,386
1827	24,442	891,120	23,714	6,158	233,826	3,289	452,360	142	6,702	..	1,215	48,318	..	..	68,476	139	15,045
1828	25,580	902,055	12,056	5,047	195,061	3,397	355,018	378	14,753	..	745	21,298	258	9,984	29,941	..	3,196
1829	25,590	933,057	3,222	5,139	220,274	..	330,799	362	15,123	..	3,737	78,030	624	22,408	4,796	..	20,789
1830	37,104	1,278,131	5,446	8,356	330,721	..	383,122	749	21,737	..	313	12,592	813	26,272	23,829	10,960	16,206
1831	36,887	1,322,096	1,568	9,629	373,757	1,920	433,181	1,279	50,932	..	596	23,680	199	7,162	27,046	30,120	15,949
1832	28,863	1,018,159	12,474	6,102	242,693	1,920	35,550	2,632	101,510	..	119	4,760	184	6,624	37,415	30,553	164
1833	40,932	1,461,584	28,932	9,629	350,834	5,250	..	1,715	67,754	..	195	7,770	154	5,332	38,631	46,146	164
1834	33,336	1,224,283	40,830	9,329	373,757	7,680	79,909	3,917	115,709	..	50	3,200	531	19,138	17,544	31,246	..
1835	34,193	1,232,738	52,033	7,496	296,454	7,680	141,589	3,860	153,421	..	290	8,913	632	22,770	14,373	21,876	..
1836	27,032	966,683	79,174	6,941	279,587	16,498	299,876	1,789	73,251	2,740	59	4,007	745	27,392	13,491	16,640	..
1837	19,254	742,063	121,380	8,426	310,476	17,623	284,620	553	23,065	17,804	126	6,040	1,193	39,523	3,474	9,240	11,206

Excise Office, London.

(Signed)

G. A. COTTRELL, Gen.-Accountant.

The decrease of felted yards in 1838, in comparison with the averages of the previous 10 years is 191,334 yards, equal to 258,300 woven yards, so that allowing an out-door weaver to perform 837 yards per annum if at constant work, this decrease threw 308 weavers last year out of employment. In addition to the average surplus number, namely 338, to that of the total population of weavers, namely, 3000, it may be presumed that 646 last year were unemployed. This may in some measure account for the increase of 1691 pauper cases in the Stroud union in 1838 over 1837, and also of 917 cases in the Dursley union. *Vide* pages 411 and 412.

The greatest quantity of cloth was made in 1832, being 442,037 yards above the average quantity of sixteen years' produce, and 742,651 yards more than the smallest quantity. The smallest quantity produced was in 1833, being 300,614 yards less than the total average quantity. It may, however, be presumed, that as the minimum quantity follows the year of the excess produced, the speculation in 1832 forestalled the markets in the following year, and it will be found to be in a great measure correct, because the average quantity of the two years only gives a surplus of 71,712 yards. Since, however, the year 1832, three of the largest firms have failed, and the over speculation of that year was probably the cause of their downfall.

It does not follow as a consequence that the manufacturers are wealthy in proportion to the quantity produced, because formerly profits were greater, and now it is only from quantities that profits can be obtained. Mr. Millman, and Mr. Long, manufacturers at Kingswood, state, that formerly there was more profit on five ends of cloth than there is now on fifteen ends, which corroborates my previous remark, that profits must now arise from quantity more than quality, so that, unless a manufacturer has sufficient capital to make that larger quantity, he must fall back upon the wages of labour for a portion of his expected profits.

Mr. William Playne, sen., an extensive manufacturer, observes, that the larger capitalist has great advantages over the smaller manufacturer, inasmuch as he buys his own wool, he establishes his own agency in London, thereby saving the commission of the wool-broker, and the profits of the cloth factor; whereas the minor manufacturer, before he can attempt to compete with the larger manufacturer who has this advantage, must have by some means or another exacted that amount of profit from some source, and that source is generally wages of labour.

Mr. Nat. Marling, another large manufacturer, considers that the primeval cause of low wages was the reduced profits of the manufacturers, and the consequent decrease of capital in the district. Mr. Peter Playne, one of the principal manufacturers, said that the low condition and bare profits of the market cause him to reduce wages.

In corroboration of the opinion that there is a want of capital in the district, John Skelton, the sheriffs-officer in the Stroud district, informed me that he thought many manufacturers were in a tottering condition:—

"I think one half of them," said he, "are as badly off as their workpeople; with this difference, however, that they do not appear so, because they keep up an outward show, and must aim at it, in order to hold together for a time; but ruin comes upon them sooner or later. I have served many writs and executions against them."

In reference, however, to the actual and present state of trade (November, 1833), Mr. Berry, of Caineross, agent to the Commercial Inland Carrying Company, considers it to be rather reviving, probably owing to the American orders again coming into the market. He says, within the month of November considerable quantities of wool have come down by water by the Inland Carrying Company; but he does not consider this supply to be the periodical quantity, but rather from a sudden increase of trade. The carrying trade by water has not been so brisk during the preceding part of the year; neither has it been so brisk by land. The wool brought into the district during the quarter is double the quantity of the corresponding quarter last year.

Messrs. Tanner and Baylis, very extensive land carriers, state they experience no decrease in their departments.

The principal fabrics of woollen in Gloucestershire are,—felts, or broadcloths, such as undseys, ladies' pieces and stripes, and army clothing; cassimeres, or narrow, rattens, patent twill, and a new make, called doeskins or buckskins.

There are some minor manufacturers who pick out the best portions of flight or refuse, and by mixing some new wool with it, produce blankets and coffin-cloths.

Gloucestershire:

Report from
W. A. Miles, Esq.

TRADE.

Surplus of Labour.

Quantity produced
as proof of pres-
perity.

Advantages of the
large Capitalist.

Low Profits cause
of low Wages.

Quantity not de-
creased.

Fabrics.

W A Miles ~ Hand-Loom
Weavers Report c.1839
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Gloucestershire.

Report from
W. A. Miles, Esq.

TRADE.

About forty years ago a fancy cloth was made in this district for waistcoat pieces called lappett-work, in which flowers and various patterns were interwoven. None has been made of late years. A weaver named Keene stated that he worked at this work, and that he earned 30s. a-week.

The principal districts in which cloth is manufactured in Gloucestershire are, Stroud, Wootton, and Dursley. All the larger establishments have factories attached; and when trade is brisk they give chain to the out-door weavers at their own cottages. These men live scattered over a large district, generally in small houses, in lone or secluded situations, or skirting upon the edges of greens or commons, for the sake of cheaper rent. Their work is precarious; their wages low; and their condition poor in the extreme.

Messrs. Cripps, of Cirencester, have a small factory for the preparing stripe cloths. The work is all put out to be woven; price 1*l.* per piece; and it is conducted on the humane feeling of giving employment to the poor, rather than for profit.

Sacking Prices and
Earnings.

James Wood, rope-spinner and sacking-maker, at Cirencester, employs about three weavers; manufactures sacking, wool, sheeting, or bagging. His men are generally employed. The wages are, for a piece of double bed-sacking, containing twenty-seven yards and a half, 2*s.* 6*d.*, and it can be made in a day. The manufacturer pays the quilling, and finds loom and shuttle. For a piece of wool-bagging, about the same length, the wages are 2*s.* 2*d.* There has been no reduction in wages for the last twenty years; and witness has frequently paid a weaver 1*l.*, being the amount of his weekly earning.

Carpet Factory at
Cirencester.

There is a small carpet factory at Cirencester: wages regulated by the Kidderminster prices. The drawboys receive about a shilling a-week more than at Kidderminster, because juvenile labour is more scarce.

Power Looms in
Gloucestershire.
Vide page 435, et
seq.

Within the last two years power-loom have been introduced into the district. The total number is 100: girls and women attend them; with a male weaver to superintend, who can overlook a considerable number. The effect of power-loom is not materially felt, further than they have fixed the maximum price of wages for weaving; and if by any means wages are forced up, or there should be a tendency to exceed that maximum, it is probable that power will be immediately adopted. There are many opinions, however, concerning the expediency and benefit of power-loom: they are more adapted to the coarser makes, requiring coarser thread than to the fine work, the thread of which, by reason of its tenderness, can hardly bear the strike. Mr. Peter Playne says,—

“My opinion has always been that though cloth can be made by power it will not be worth the expense of extra machinery, mechanics, &c. &c. I do not consider power will greatly reduce the price of weaving, or throw the population out of employment. If it throws a weaver out of work, it employs mechanics, such as millwrights, carpenters, and blacksmiths.”

Mr. Playne also observes that the men are racing against power, and that any disturbance would cause the general introduction of power-loom.

In order to submit to you the general condition of the working classes, and the relative state of wages, I will now narrate the different operations requisite to produce a piece of felt cloth, finished ready for the market, and you will there perceive in each process the machinery now used, the cost of that machinery, the presumed amount of human labour displaced by it; and I have also set forth the amount of quantity of work that each person averages per week or day, and their consequent weekly earnings.

I beg to call your attention to the table which immediately succeeds this narrative of the manufacture, as it will be found to contain the wages of all classes of labour connected with cloth-making from 1808 to 1838. *Vide* page 374.

Process of Manu-
facture.

There are many processes in converting wool into broadcloth, and nearly every process, especially in the early state of the manufacture, is performed by distinct classes of workpeople. Formerly many hands were required to perform labour which is now done by fewer hands, aided by machinery. The various operations of the cloth-trade may be classed under four general heads, namely:—

- I. Preparing the wool.
- II. Spinning and preparing the yarn for the loom.
- III. Weaving.
- IV. Preparing the woollen material or cloth for the market.

The following are the various processes to which the wool is subjected :—

- | | |
|---|---|
| I. Preparing the wool. | {
Sorting,
Scouring,
Dyeing,
Twillying,
Beating and Picking,
Scribbling,
Carding. |
| II. Spinning and preparing the yarn for the loom. | {
Spinning abb or Slubbing,
Spinning Warp and Warping,
Reeling abb. |
| III. Weaving. | {
Sizing,
Weaving. |
| IV. Preparing the woven material or cloth for the market. | {
Scouring,
Drying,
Burling,
Picking,
Felting,
Roughing or Raising,
Cutting.
Mozing,
Cutting (again),
Roller Boiling,
(If not Wool-dyed) Dyeing,
Cutting (again),
Picking,
Marking,
Brushing,
Pressing. |

Gloucestershire.

Report from
W. A. Miles, Esq.

TRADE.

Process of Manu-
facture.

W A Miles ~ Hand-Loom
Weavers Report c.1839
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Sorting the Wool.—This work is performed by men, who by reason of the advantages arising to the manufacturers by a judicious selection of the different wools, receive good wages, in proportion to their skill. Some sorters earn as much as 2*l.*, or even 3*l.* a-week, and few less than 1*l.* 5*s.* A man and a boy can sort one pack of German wool in two days, and one pack of English wool in one day; the price is about 8*s.* 6*d.* a pack. Sorting.

Scouring the Wool.—Stale human urine, provincially called “seg,” together with a small proportion of soap, is heated, and the wool is immersed in it at a temperature rather above blood heat—in order to remove from it the animal grease. The wool is then handed over to a person called “a swiller,” who places it in a large open wire basket, and moves it backwards and forwards in a running brook, by which means the grease, already loosened by the previous operation, is effectually removed. Great attention is requisite to the temperature and the due admixture of the soap and seg; for if it be too warm, or not properly mixed, the wool would become hard and “stringy.” This work is performed by men. The price for cleansing a pack, or 240*lbs.* of wool, is 2*s.* 6*d.*; the time required is about five hours, or two packs in a day; and the respective earnings of the scourer and the swiller, who share equally, would be 15*s.* per week. Scouring.

Dyeing.—If the piece of cloth is to be “wool-dyed,” this process is now performed; if “piece-dyed,” the woven material is sent to the dyers. The wool after being cleansed is sent to the public dyers. Some few of the larger manufacturers dye their own wools. The price paid for woaded medleys is 10*d.* per pound; for wool-dyed blacks 1*s.* 1*d.*; and for blue dye 1*s.* 2*d.* to 1*s.* 6*d.* per pound. Dyeing.

When “piece-dyed,” the average price is 4*d.* per yard.

This is the sum paid to the dyers, and not referable to wages.

Twillying.—The wool is now put into a rotatory cylinder armed within with large spikes and teeth, which tear and hollow the wool into small particles, and at the same time separate from it the dust and extraneous matter of the dye-wares. Formerly this labour was done by hand; but the “Devil,” the name given to the cylinder, was invented about thirty-five years ago, and displaced about 50 per cent. of labour. The work is generally done by a man or full-grown lad. A person can twilly about one pack in a day; the earnings are about 7*s.* per week, and the cost of the machine, when new, is from 20*l.* to 40*l.*, according to the size. Twillying.

*Beating and Picking.**—The wool is beaten with wooden rods by women, after which it is placed on a wire screen or hurdle, and patted with the hands, so as to Beating.

* “Cloth that cometh from the weving is not comely to wear

Till it be fulled under fote, or on fulling stocks;

Washen well with water, and with tazers cratched.

Souked and teynted, and under Taylour's hande”

- visions of Pier's Plowman fol. 84

Gloucestershire.

Report from
W. A. Miles, Esq.

TRADE.

Process of Manu-
facture.

Oiling.

Scribbling.

Carding.

Spinning.

cleanse the wool from every particle of burs and pitch, or other dirt which falls through the screen. This operation must be carefully done, because, unless the small lumps of pitch so frequently found in wool are removed, injury would be done in the scribbling process by turning the fine wire of the cards, and thus making a groove in the barrel round which they are fastened. This work is performed by women, and their earnings are about 6s. per week.

Oiling.—A man now receives the wool and mixes it with Galipoli oil, in the proportion of 3 to 4 lbs. of oil to 20lbs. of wool. The price of oil is sixpence per pound, and the wages are three-halfpence for every 20lbs. weight of wool; and a man can oil twenty score of lbs. in a day, and earn 15s. a-week. This is a process more of trust than judgment, inasmuch as the wool is not weighed again till it have become yarn, so that it would be difficult to detect a deficiency; and, as trustworthy, steady men are selected for this work, the wages are proportionably high.

Scribbling.—The oiler then takes the wool to the scribbling-machine, which is attended by a boy or a girl, who places the wool on a cloth which is called a feeder, from whence it passes between the cylinders of the machine, by which operation the knots or lumps are broken, and the wool is rendered more tough and equal in texture. It leaves the machine in appearance resembling a thin fleece, but the wool is light and scarcely holds together. "Weak as a roller" is a provincial term, implying want of strength. This machine, together with the carding and slubbing machine, came into use about fifty years ago, and displaced male labour about 75 per cent. A scribbling machine would scribble about two packs a-week, and the wages paid for the labour of the boy or girl is about 4s. The cost of the machine, a good six-top worker, is about 75*l.*, and to clothe it with cards would cost about 75*l.* more.

Carding.—This light and gossamer wool is now transferred to a carding machine, which is similar to the scribbling machine in plan and construction, only narrower. The wool is now re-scribbled, or carded in a finer manner; and, instead of leaving the machine in a broad fleece, it presents itself in "rollers," or rolls. In order to secure a regularity in the size of the thread, which is so essential in the future operations of spinning and weaving, this machine is fed in separate quantities of wool, consisting of four ounces each. Carding, as well as scribbling, was formerly done by hand, and, like the scribbling machine, it displaced about 75 per cent. of labour. The work is now done by juvenile labour at 4s. a-week wages. This machine, a six-top worker, prepares about a pack per week, and the original cost is 40*l.* for the frame, and the cards would cost about 35*l.* more. The cards last about five to six years.

Spinning.—The rollers are next prepared either for warp or for abb. The warp is the longitudinal thread, and finer in texture than the abb, which is the transverse thread, and which gives the texture to the cloth. This is the case in broad cloth; but the reverse in cassimere. The first process in spinning is called slubbing, which completes the abb for the coarser cloth; but in order to produce the warp or finer thread, or sometimes abb for cassimere or finer goods, the process is carried on another stage, namely, spinning from the jenny, or the mule. It is requisite to use a hollow, or lightly-compressed, or less twisted thread for abb, because it is this thread which yields the principal pile or face in the dressing of cloth: (the chain is sometimes prepared from a coarser wool than the abb).

The slubber attends to the billy, or the jack, a machine which twists and lengthens the rollers into a long weak thread. He is assisted by three or four boys or girls, who dextrously piece the rollers in order to produce this continuous thread.

The slubber is paid a penny a pound, and earns from 12s. to 16s. a week; the boys earn about 3s. 6*d.* a week. The price of the machine is 17*l.*

The spinner receives the naps from the slubber, and spins the threads to the required size for weaving. It is useless to enter into details concerning the jenny or the mule: the latter, however, has in many cases superseded the jenny. It came into use in this district about 1828, and displaced jenny labour about 60 per cent. The cost of the mule, carrying 200 spindles, is 75*l.*; and the spinner earns the same wages as the slubber, namely, 12s. to 16s. per week. Formerly, when yarn was spun at the farm-houses, the cost per pound was 1s. 2*d.*; it is now spun, and better spun, for 1*d.* per pound, and a spinner can earn as much at this reduction as at the higher price, so great are the facilities given by machinery to production.

About thirty or forty years ago the yarn was distributed to various persons at their own dwellings, the families and farm servants used to weave during the evening, and the manufacturers used to employ persons called spinning-house-men, to meet the isolated spinners at various rendezvous for many miles round the county, to collect fortnightly the spun yarn.

It is presumed that the mule has superseded labour altogether in the proportion of nearly 750 per cent.

Reeling.—Is the operation of winding off the naps, and bringing the yarn into skeins. This work is generally performed by girls; their earnings are about 3s. a-week.

Warping.—The yarn is now measured upon the warping bar, in order to fix the length of the chain. It is either a circular frame, or drum, or else two posts with pegs, round which the yarn is placed, stretching from peg to peg. The space between these pegs ought to be 3 yards 3 inches, but in some cases the manufacturer places them wider apart, in order to take a fraudulent advantage of labour, by giving a longer chain than the measure specified. The following illustrates the fraud of long warping bars:—Mr. Saml. M—— had occasion to purchase some cassimeres which he knew were made by a low-paying manufacturer in the vicinity. The cassimeres of this person were found to be 5 yards longer than those manufactured by Mr. M——, and he ascertained that his wages for weaving were 7s. less per piece than his; so that this manufacturer not only had the profit on the piece of 7s., but also 5 yards woven for nothing, and also subsequently dressed for nothing: the consequence was that Mr. M—— desired that the pieces of cassimere in his factory should be worked an ell longer, and to be woven at the usual price. The fraudulent scheme of the long-warping bar is said to have been first invented or tried by a manufacturer named Jackson, at Uley, who subsequently failed. The weavers, at his sale, bought the bars, the pins of which were of an enormous circumference, and after a mock ceremony of a trial, whereat the bars were arraigned for being invaders of the public peace, they were sentenced to be burnt forthwith, which was accordingly done, amid much merriment, on Uley Green. The yarn or threads thus stretched form the chain, and the number of threads is in proportion to the intended fineness of the cloth. These threads are counted by the hundred, and form the standard by which the weaver is to be paid; there are 38 threads in a beer, and 5 beers make a hundred.

The warping and spooling is done by women, who are paid according to the hundred; the average is about 1s. 6d. per chain, and a good warper can do a chain in a-day.

The bar costs about 2l., and the circular frame, or drum, about 5l.

There is care and art required in warping, as it influences the weaving and dressing operations. Every thread should be at an equal tension, in default of which the ground of the cloth would be uneven.

At every two ells the chain is marked with ruddle, and thus, if the bars are too wide and the weaver is paid by the ell, it will be seen how he is cheated by his employer.

Sizing.—Before the chain can be turned on or fixed to the loom, it must be sized, that is, diluted glue is applied to the threads, which are then beat, and clapped together, like in starching linen.

In most cases the sizing is done at the factory by weekly labour, at 12s. a-week; it requires care: some few weavers size their own chains at home; a chain of 38 ells would take about 2½ lbs. of glue at 6d. per lb.

Weaving.—The weaver winds the chain to a circular beam at the end of his loom, called the "fore beam;" the threads are then drawn through the "harness," that is, between a certain number of perpendicular worsted loops, which are oiled, and fastened between two wooden rods, top and bottom, dependent from the top of the loom. This "harness" is worked up and down by the foot pedals, and alternately depresses and raises one-half of the number of threads in the chain; each thread of the chain passes through one loop.

The chain is now carried through the slay, an instrument composed of steel reeds, placed together like the teeth of a comb, and between each reed or tooth two threads are drawn for broad work, and four for cassimeres. The slay is made according to the width and hundred of the chain, and is fixed to the beam which the weaver moves backwards and forwards when he shoots the abb from side to side, and beats it firm together. The beam near the weaver is called the nether beam, and round it the weaver winds the cloth as it is made.*

The weaver has an assistant called a quill-winder, who prepares or winds the abb or weft upon a "quill," that is a round turned piece of wood, about four inches long, and which is placed in a shuttle. The shuttle is made of apple-tree, or other

Gloucestershire.

Report from
W. A. Miles, Esq.

TRADE.

Process of Manu-
facture.

Reeling.

Warping.

Sizing.

Weaving.

W A Miles ~ Hand-Loom
Weavers Report c.1839
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* Montfaucon and Ciampini have described an ancient loom, copied from the illumination of MSS. of the 5th century. It has four treadles, the bean, the windlass, and a slay and harness. Bowditch in the Ashantee Missions describes the African loom as been nearly similar to the English loom.

Gloucestershire.

Report from
W. A. Miles, Esq.

TRADE.

Process of Manu-
facture.

hard wood; it is about a foot long, and an inch and a quarter wide, hollow in the middle for the quill, tapering at both ends, and tipped with metal. It conveys the abb between the alternate threads of the chain, and the operation of weaving is in principle the same as darning; the threads of the stocking are the chain, and the abb is the thread carried between them by the needle.

The only improvement in the hand-loom occurred about 1796, when the "spring shuttle" was introduced, and became generally adopted, diminishing labour 50 per cent. Previous to this improvement, two men sat in the broad loom, about eleven feet asunder, and threw the shuttle from one to another, but one man now seated in the middle of his loom, throws the spring shuttle from side to side with force and facility.

The outer edges of every piece of cloth have a list border about a nail wide, made of goat hair. This hair is "turned on" with the chain, and passes through the harness and slay, as the chain does, and like it, it receives the abb; the purport of this list is to protect the cloth in the future operations of cutting, milling, dressing, and racking, when it is subjected to much tension. At one of the ends of a piece is woven a head or forrell composed of goat or mohair. It takes about 4 lbs. of goats' hair for the list, and about 1 lb. for the forrell. The best goats' hair comes from Turkey or the Pyrenees.

The wages of the weavers differ, and their earnings constantly vary. Brittle chain, damp weather, frost, all materially affect the weaver's earnings, as they impede his progress.—*See Wages and Earnings.*

The cost of a new hand-loom is about 10*l.* The harness costs about 19*s.*, and the slay 1*l.*, but the slay is generally hired at the rate of 10*d.* a-piece, and very often at $\frac{1}{2}$ *d.* a-day.

Scouring.

Scouring and Washing.—The woven cloth is now purged or cleansed from the oil, and glue used in sizing and oiling. The cloth is now wetted and covered with a mixture of urine and pig's dung;—the pig, however, must be fed on grains and wash, but no meal: the price for two buckets-full varies from 3*d.* to 4*d.* The cloth is afterwards pressed between two horizontal cylinders, each revolving in a different direction, and it is then finally cleansed with fuller's earth.*

The price of a "Washer" is about 25*l.* It is attended by a millman, whose weekly wages are about 24*s.* a-week. It requires half a-day to scour a piece.

The washer was invented about thirty years ago by Mr. Lewis, of Brimscombe, previous to which it was scoured in the stocks. The washer does not abridge labour.

Burling.

Burling.—The cloth, cleansed and dried, is now taken to the burlers (women), who perch it before a strong light, and pick out irregular threads, and any dirt or filth which may remain in the fabric. The pay is 6*s.* per piece for coloured, and 3*s.* for white: the time requisite to pick or burl a coloured piece is six days, and three for white, equal to 6*s.* per week earnings.

Felting.

Felting or Milling.—After being burlled the cloth is saturated with shaved or planed soap and a little water; it is then folded up, or "torqued up," to use the technical term, and placed in a fulling mill. This mill is made of iron, though formerly it was composed of wood: it consists of an upright block, in which are inserted two shafts, called the feet of the stocks, which by alternately moving up and down on the cloth, which is in a semicircular chamber in the block, cause it to revolve till it is properly felted, or become of a proper thickness. It is essential, in order to facilitate the thickenings or milling of the cloth, that it should be kept during this process at a certain and regular temperature. The cloth from the loom generally measures 12 quarters or 3 yards in width, and about 54 yards in length; but when milled and felted, it contracts to 7 quarters, or $1\frac{3}{4}$ yard wide, and 40 yards in length.

The expense of the machine is about 20*l.* A man and a boy can attend about three pair of stocks; the pay is 3*s.* per piece, and out of that sum he pays the boy about 4*s.* per week. The time required to mill a piece is twenty-four working hours for white, and thirty-six working hours for coloured. The quantity of soap required is 7*lbs.* for white, and 10*lbs.* for coloured, at sixpence per pound; the soap is found by the manufacturer.

This is a very important branch of the trade, and requires much care.

Roughing.

Roughing and Moxing.—After the cloth has been purged of the soap used in the previous operation of milling and felting, it is then put to the gig-mill, a

* Fuller, in his 'Church History,' p. 110, says, 'Here the Dutchmen found Fuller's earth, a precious treasure, whereof England hath better than all Christendome besides; so that nature may seem to point out our land for the staple of Drapery, if the idleness of her inhabitants be not the only hindrance thereof.'

machine containing a cylinder about a yard in diameter, covered with teazles, and revolving with great rapidity between two upright posts. Above and below this cylinder are two others, round which the cloth is gradually wound, and, being kept at a certain tension, comes in contact with, or "breasts" the hooks of the teazles in the centre cylinder, whereby the smooth surface or face of the cloth is roughed up, and a pile is thereby produced, which is called the "dress." In the operation of *roughing*, the cloth is torn by the teazle both ways; by *mozing*, it is brushed in one direction.

Gloucestershire.

Report from
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TRADE.

Process of Manu-
facture.

The expense of a gig-mill, independent of the teazles, is about 45*l*.

A man and a boy generally attend one gig-mill; the wages are 10*s*. per piece; the lad or assistant is paid by the man (about 4*s*. a week, or 3*s*. 6*d*.). The time required is about two days, earnings 30*s*. a-week (from which deduct the boy's wages), nett 26*s*. per week. Some men are paid by time, namely, 4½*d*. an hour.

This is one of the most responsible duties, and requires great skill and judgment; hence, the higher rate of wages paid to the operative.

The teazles fluctuate in price; they are chiefly raised in Somersetshire, requiring a stiff clay soil; they grow about five feet high; the stems are useless. It is a tender plant of the thistle species, requiring much care and manual labour in the maturing. The head is a cone armed with numerous little hooks.

They are sold in packs containing 20,000 heads, and average about 6*l*. Some years ago the crops failed, and the price was 22*l*. per pack, (many in consequence imported from France.) Owing to this enormous high price, the market soon became stocked, and the prices fell to 3*l*.

The cylinder of the gig-mill, when loaded with teazles, contains three staves, or 1500 heads; each staff is 500 heads, and it is calculated that a piece of felted cloth, measuring 40 yards, would consume 6 staves, or 3000 heads of teazles, value 18*s*.

Shearing or Cutting.—This operation is to shear or cut the pile raised by the gig-mill to an even and a close surface. Formerly this operation was performed by shearmen, who passed the shears over the cloth, which was tightly stretched upon an inclined plane. The shears weighed from 30*lbs*. to 40*lbs*., and consisted of two blades, one, the larger blade, resting on the cloth, the other, a moveable blade, and nearly perpendicular, worked by the shearer's hand, and at each blow it removed a certain portion of the pile.

Shearing.

This labour was performed by two men whose wages were about 24*s*. a-week each man. It was a laborious operation, and only applicable to the coarse manner in which cloth was then manufactured for the market. This plan was superseded about forty years ago by an improved plan, namely, placing the shears in a frame, which travelled over the cloth, and cut or sheared it as by hand.

About fourteen years ago Mr. Lewis, of Brimscombe, invented a new machine for shearing cloth, for which he obtained a patent which has since expired; the first cost was 100*l*., the price is now 25*l*. This machine is an horizontal iron cylinder, round which is a hollow spiral blade, revolving with great velocity and cutting the pile of the cloth immediately in contact beneath it, and which is stretched upon a horizontal moving frame.

One man and a boy now attend two machines, and they are paid by the piece or kerf; sometimes weekly. A man and a boy can cut a kerf in an hour, that is, traverse the piece under the knife, the pay for which is 2½*d*.; the man pays the boy 3*d*. out of every shilling.

In former years the cloth was thinly dressed, it was not cut more than six times, but now it is cut fifteen or twenty times.

W A Miles ~ Hand-Loom
Weavers Report c.1839
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The shearmen, before the introduction of machines in that department, were notorious for their drunken and careless habits. They would sometimes refuse to work when they knew that their employer was under contract and penalties as to time, unless he gave them drink; and it was to clear themselves from these drunken dictatorial liabilities that the manufacturers eagerly adopted the use of machinery to rid themselves of the shearmen.

Patenting in Hot Boilers.—This plan was adopted about fifteen years ago. It is an operation which gives the cloth a permanent gloss, preventing it from taking the rain spots, &c. The cloth is tightly rolled round cylinders and then immersed in water for twenty-four hours at 180° Fahrenheit. The cost of the machine is about 10*l*., and average cost of labour per piece would be about 1*s*.

Patenting.

Drying.—The cloth is now stretched upon tenters or racks (in open fields generally), to be dried. The pile is brushed or mozed, and the price of wages is about 1*s*. per piece.

Drying.

Gloucestershire.

Report from
W. A. Miles, Esq.

TRADE.

Process of Manu-
facture.

Picking.

Drawings.

Marking.

Brushing.

Pressing.

Picking.—The cloth is hung over a beam called a perch, where it is carefully examined against a strong light by women who remove all blemishes, white threads, &c., &c., by means of an iron picker, or sharp pointed tweezer. It takes about a day to examine a piece, and the pay is 1s.

Drawings.—The cloth is now sent to the cloth drawers, who examine the piece and fine-draw any hole or break in the fabric. The earnings are about 2s. a-day.

Marking.—Close to the forrell or head end of the cloth, it is customary to mark in white or yellow silk the fabric of the cloth, such as "Saxony," &c. &c. &c., and also the number of the piece. Every chain is numbered and entered in the books of the weaving department when given out. It is inserted or sewn into the forrell by the weaver, and this number is the means of constant reference to the piece. The earnings of the markers are about 12s. a-week.

Brushing, Moxing, or Mossing.—The pile is again brushed between many cylinders set with brush bristles; by this operation the pile is regularly laid, and the final dressing is given to the fabric.

Pressing.—The cloth is now placed in a press (generally an hydraulic press, which costs about 70l.). Between each fold of the cloth is placed a peculiar sort of glazed paper called press papers, costing about 1s. each paper, but they serve for many years; between each piece of cloth are two iron plates, each one-half the width of the cloth, and if the cloth is required to be "hot-pressed," these plates are heated. Patenting, however, in hot water, supersedes the process of hot-pressing, which only gives a gloss, but renders the cloth more liable to spot. The earnings of the pressers are about 10s. to 12s. a-week.

A piece of cloth, or two ends (1800 make), containing forty saleable yards, requires about 2½ lbs. of wool, and the average price might be about 3s. 6d. per lb., equal to 17l. 10s. 4d. The labour to produce that piece would average about 5l. 12s. The materials used and consumed, such as teazles, oil, soap, amounts to 2l. 16s. 10d. Rent, and wear and tear, may be reckoned at 18s. per piece. The usual width of broads is from six to seven quarters: the narrows are half the width.

In centesimal proportions labour is 17 per cent. on the cost; the materials used are about 64 per cent.; and rent about 3 per cent. On coarser cloth, where less material or inferior material is used, labour forms a much greater portion than in the finer cloth above alluded to.

In reference to the decrease of wages of labour I submit the following table:—

STATEMENT of the AVERAGE EARNINGS of different CLASSES of WORKPEOPLE connected with the Manufacture of WOOLLEN CLOTH, in the County of GLOUCESTER, from the Year 1808 to 1838, showing the Decrease per Cent. in the Wages of each Class.

DESCRIPTION OF WORKPEOPLE.	By whom the labour is performed.	AMOUNT OF EARNINGS.								Total De- crease per Cent.
		1808 to 1815.	1816 to 1818.	1819 to 1825.	1829 to 1835.	1836.	1837.	1838.		
		s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.		
1. Sorters	Men	30 0	30 0	30 0	30 0	30 0	30 0	30 0		
2. Scourers	Men	15 0	15 0	14 0	13 0	13 0	13 0	13 0	13	
3. Beaters and Pickers	Women	8 0	7 0	6 0	6 0	5 6	5 6	5 6	31	
4. Engine Man	Men	..	..	24 0	24 0	24 0	24 0	24 0	
5. Feeders to Scribblers	Children	4 0	4 0	3 6	3 0	3 0	3 0	3 0	25	
6. " " Carders	Children	4 0	4 0	3 6	3 6	3 6	3 6	3 6	12.5	
7. Roller Joiners	Children	3 0	3 0	3 0	3 0	2 6	2 6	2 0	34	
8. Slubber or Abb Spinner	Man	24 0	23 0	22 0	21 0	20 0	20 0	20 0	17	
9. Spinner at the jenny	Women	14 0	14 0	12 0	10 0	8 0	7 0	6 0	57	
10. Mule Spinners*	Men	..	..	25 0	25 0	22 0	22 0	22 0	12
11. Mule Piecers	Women	..	..	6 0	5 0	5 0	5 0	5 0	16
12. Warpers	Women	10 0	9 0	8 0	7 0	7 0	7 0	7 0	30	
13. Master Weavers †	Men	16 0	16 0	13 0	12 0	11 0	10 0	10 0	37.5	
	Women									
14. Millmen	Men	21 0	21 0	20 0	20 0	20 0	20 0	20 0		
15. Burlers	Women	10 0	10 0	10 0	7 0	6 0	6 0	6 0	40	
16. Rowers or Roughers	Men	21 0	24 0	24 0	24 0	24 0	24 0	24 0		
17. Dyers	Men	24 0	24 0	20 0	18 0	16 0	14 0	12 0	50	
18. Cutters	Men	21 0	20 0	20 0	18 0	16 0	14 0	13 0	38	
19. Brushers	Men	15 0	15 0	15 0	14 0	14 0	14 0	14 0	7	
20. Markers and Drawers	Women	10 0	10 0	9 0	9 0	8 0	8 0	8 0	20	
21. Pressers and Packers	Men	18 0	18 0	16 0	14 0	13 0	13 0	13 0	28	

* The mules have superceded the jennies.

The factory weaver averages about 11s 9d per week and the outdoor master weaver 8s 1d. Average of the two 9s 11d including all play or waiting time.

Wages from 1808 to 1835.

W A Miles ~ Hand-Loom Weavers Report c.1839
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It will be seen, on reference to the preceding table, that out of the twenty-one different working classes engaged in the manufacture of cloth only four classes have continued at the same rate of wages, namely, the sorter, the engine-man, the rougher or rowler, and the millman. The reason of this is, that much depends upon the judgment and skill of these operations: the sorters, moreover, by combination, prevent the influx of too many hands, and require a person to have been a given time with a master sorter before he can enter the trade or calling. The next class who have suffered the least reduction are the brusher, 7 per cent., and the scourers, 13 per cent.: these operations also require skill and judgment. In none of the above-mentioned branches does female compete with male labour; but in the next decrease, namely 17 per cent., is the slubber. Here we find the effect of machinery and female labour; for when the mules were invented the jenny-spinners fell into the slubbing market of labour; and numbers were also displaced by female labour at the jennies; so that the slubbers would probably have remained nearly stationary but for these causes. The overstock of labour in the work at the spinning jennies is caused by the mule, and proved by the excessive decrease of wages, namely, 57 per cent.

The decrease per cent. on labour, in reference to the different classes, will be better shown in the following manner:—

Sorters.	} no decrease.			
Engine-men.				
Roughers.				
Mill-men.				
Male Labour		Female Labour.		Juvenile Labour.
Brusher,	7 pr. ct. decrease.	Mule Piecer,	18 per cent.	Carder Boy, 12·5 per ct.
Mule Spinner,	12 „	Marker,	20 „	Scribbler Boy, 25 „
Scourer,	13 „	Warper,	30 „	Roller Joiner, 34 „
Slubber,	17 „	Beater,	31 „	
Packer,	28 „	Weaver,	37·5 „	
Weaver,	37·5 „	Burler,	40 „	
Cutter,	38 „	Jenny Spin-		
Dyer,	50 „	ner,	57 „	

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From this it will be seen that the average decrease of wages is thus:—More than 33 per cent. on female labour, more than 25 per cent. on male labour, and less than 24 per cent. on youthful labour.

I found great difficulty in arriving at the actual earnings of a weaver. I allude more especially to the out-door weaver. The men have always endeavoured to depreciate their condition before me, and the masters to make it appear better. I have been supplied with the wages nominally given and paid to the weaver; but even this is no proof, because different masters make various deductions; and my object has been to ascertain how much a weaver (when he has finished his chain) puts into his pocket, for food, rent, rates, &c. &c. &c. I therefore obtained the deductions of each master, and I refer you to the tables of wages, under the head of "wages and earnings." *vide* page 390.

The weavers have a great objection that any person should know in what time they can weave a chain. There is a regulation existing among the men in one factory that no weaver should take his cloth in under ten days: this feeling proves the effect of a surplus population; for it is founded on the dread that if employers find a man can earn more in a given time than is actually required for subsistence, their wages will be inevitably lowered. Other trades are not at the mercy of their masters; nor would the weaver dread the fiat of his employer as to wages, if, like other trades, there was no surplus of labour.

It is this surplus of labour that would render any board of trade abortive, and not only ineffectual but even injurious to the weaver, inasmuch as the result of such a measure would be to lower wages, and render his condition still more deplorable; for if the actions of such a board interfered with the manufacturer, he would introduce steam, and dispense with the services of the weaver.

The following is a table of the number of power, the number of hand-looms employed in the different factories in the county of Gloucester, together with the number of weavers employed both in hand and power-looms:—

Gloucestershire.

Report from
W. A. Miles, Esq.

TRADE.

Name of the Manufacturer.	Name of Mill.	Power- Looms, by Steam and Water.		Hand-Looms.		Totals.		
		Employed.	Unemployed.	Employed.	Unemployed.	Total number of Steam & Water-power Looms.	Total number of Hand- Looms.	General total of Looms.
		At the time of Inquiry.	At the time of Inquiry.	At the time of Inquiry.	At the time of Inquiry.	At the time of Inquiry.	At the time of Inquiry.	At the time of Inquiry.
Apperley, J. and D.	Dudbridge Mills	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Austin, H.	Alderley	..	..	27	32	..	59	59
Barnard and Son	Nailsworth	2	..	38	31	2	69	71
Bowerbank, D.	Capels	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Brown and Tucker	Lightpill	..	..	..	2	..	2	2
Cam, J. T.	Cam	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Counsell and Co.	Nind	..	..	10	10	..	20	20
Cumley, George	Nibley	..	..	8	..	..	8	8
Dartnall, Henry	Cam	..	..	13	3	..	16	16
Dauncey, James	Uley	..	..	15	..	..	15	15
Davies, R. S. and Co.	Stonehouse	..	..	18	..	..	18	18
Derrett, R.	Wootton	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Derrett, R., Jun.	Ditto	..	..	22	4	..	26	26
Fletcher, H. and Son	Mead	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Fluck, William	Pitchcombe	3	..	33	2	3	35	38
Francis and Flint	Frogmarsh	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Gazard, Cornelius	Nibley	..	..	2	6	..	8	8
Harris, S. and Co.	Dursley	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Helme, W. and Co.	New	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Hooper, C. and Co.	Eastington	..	..	59	..	..	59	59
Howard Brothers	Dursley	..	..	13	2	..	15	15
Howard, John, Jun.	Ditto	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Hunt, William	Dye-House	8	..	22	..	8	22	30
Jones, Nathaniel	Chalford	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Lewis and Dutton	Wootton	..	..	42	8	..	50	50
Lewis, W. and Co.	Brimscombe	1	..	31	29	1	60	61
Lewis, John F.	Oil	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Long, S. and W.	Charfield	..	..	16	..	..	16	16
Marling, J. F.	Ebley	..	..	42	29	..	71	71
Marling, N. S.	Vatch	6	..	55	..	6	55	61
Marling, T. and S.	Ham	45	..	17	12	45	29	74
Partridge, J. and Co.	Bowbridge	..	..	1	1	..	2	2
Playne and Smith	Dunkirk	2	..	67	4	2	71	73
Playne, W. and Co.	Longford	1	..	80	10	1	90	91
Smith, R. P. and Co.	Stroud	4	..	..	..	4	..	4
Smith, Samuel	Uley	..	..	2	2	..	4	4
Stanton and Sons	Stroud	24	4	67	21	28	88	116
Stephens, C. and Co.	Stanley	..	..	90	10	..	100	100
Webb, John	Bourne	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
White, Mr.	Monks	..	..	8	6	..	14	14
Wight, J. and Co.	Sheepscomb	..	..	8	..	..	8	8
Wise, Mr.	Bonds	1	..	..	..	1	..	1
Woodward and Bird	Southfields	18	6	..	24	24
Total		97	4	824	230	101	1054	1155

W A Miles ~ Hand-Loom
Weavers Report c.1839
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The following is an analysis of the above table:—

FACTORIES.

Statement concerning Power-Looms, Shop Hand-Looms, number of Weavers, &c. &c. &c.

Of 43 manufacturers, 11 employ power-loom; the total number of power-loom is 101, and the first introduction was in 1836.

The total number of persons employed on these power-loom are 18 men, 72 women, and 11 children; total number of persons engaged in weaving and attending to 101 power-loom, 101.

Gloucestershire.
Report from
W. A. Miles, Esq.
TRADE.

Period of the Introduction of Power-Looms.	Number of Weavers thrown out of Employ by Steam or Water-power.	Average Number of Weavers Employed in								General Total.	Average number of the Hundreds in the Chain, Woven by	
		Steam and Water-power Looms.				Hand-Looms.					Steam and Water.	Hand.
		Men.	Women.	Children.	Total employed by Power.	Men.	Women.	Children.	Total employed by Hand.			
..	..	..	..	..	..	27	..	..	27	27	..	1800
Jan., 1835.	1	1	..	2	3	54	15	..	69	72	..	1800
..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1800
..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1300
..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1800
..	..	..	..	..	..	10	..	..	10	10	..	1800
..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1800
..	..	..	..	..	..	12	1	..	13	13	..	1300
..	..	..	..	..	..	15	..	..	15	15	..	1800
..	..	..	..	..	..	16	..	..	16	16	..	1800
..	..	..	..	..	..	16	6	1	23	23	..	1800
..	..	..	..	..	..	16	6	1	23	23	..	1800
May, 1838.	1	4	9	14	30	8	..	..	36	52	1800	1500
..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1800
..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1300
..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1800
..	..	..	..	..	..	52	7	..	59	58	..	1400
..	..	..	..	..	..	9	4	8	21	21	..	1800
..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1800
Jan., 1836.	5	3	..	6	7	15	..	..	22	30	1600	1700
..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1600
..	..	..	..	..	..	26	15	1	42	42	..	1800
..	1	..	..	1	31	16	15	..	62	62	..	1800
..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1800
..	..	..	..	..	..	16	..	7	23	23	..	1700
..	..	..	..	..	..	25	17	30	72	72	..	1800
Oct., 1838.	..	..	..	..	..	55	..	..	55	55	1800	1300
Sept., 1836.	..	45	..	45	17	4	..	..	21	66	1800	1800
..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1300
March, 1838.	1	1	..	2	40	27	..	..	67	69	1800	1800
March, 1838.	1	..	..	1	70	10	..	..	80	81	1800	1600
Dec., 1837.	3	1	..	4	..	..	..	..	4	4	1800	..
..	..	..	..	..	1	1	2	..	4	4	..	1800
July, 1836.	5	18	..	23	67	..	..	..	67	90	1800	1800
..	..	..	..	..	70	20	42	132	132	132	..	1800
..
..	..	..	..	..	6	5	..	13	13	13	..	1800
..	..	..	..	..	6	4	4	16	16	16	..	1800
April, 1837.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1800
..	..	..	..	..	10	6	6	24	24	24	..	1500
	6	18	72	11	101	694	184	116	994	1094		

3 manufacturers have	1 loom each	total	3
2	..	..	4
1	3	..	3
1	4	..	4
1	6	..	6
1	8	..	8
1	28	..	28
1	45	..	45

11 number of manufacturers.

101 total number of looms.

The hundred made by power is 1800, except in one case, where it is applied to 1600.

W A Miles - Hand-Loom
Weavers Report c.1839
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378 REPORTS FROM ASSISTANT COMMISSIONERS,

Gloucestershire.

Hand-Looms in Factories.

Report from
W. A. Miles, Esq.
TRADE.

Of 43 manufacturers, 29 have hand-loom in their shop factories. The total number of shop-loom is 1054; of which 824 were employed at the period of the returns, and 230 were unemployed. The employed looms afford labour to 694 men weavers, 184 women, and 116 children.

Manufacturers employing looms.	Total.	Manufacturers employing looms.	Total.
2 2	4	1 29	29
1 4	4	1 35	35
3 8	24	1 50	50
1 14	14	1 55	55
2 15	30	2 59	118
2 16	32	1 60	60
1 18	18	1 69	69
1 20	20	2 71	142
1 22	22	1 88	88
1 24	24	1 90	90
1 26	26	1 100	100

Total number of power-loom 101
 " " hand-loom 1054

Total amount of shop-loom . 1054

1155 total of looms in factories.

In conclusion I submit the following tables of the value of mill property in the different manufacturing districts in the county of Gloucester:—

VALUATION and ASSESSMENT of MILL PROPERTY in the Parish of STROUD.

Name of Mill.	Former Occupier.	Annual Value, 1822.	Assessment, 1822.	Present Annual Value, 1838.	Present Assessment, 1838.	Present Occupier.	REMARKS.
Puck's Hole Mill .	Ellary .	..	£. s. d. 68 0 0	£. s. d. 42 0 0	£. s. d. 31 0 0		
Sands . . .	Stanton .	..	77 0 0	100 0 0	75 0 0	Void	
Arundell's . . .	Gordon .	..	138 0 0	230 0 0	172 10 0	Smith & Co.	
Capel's . . .	Capel .	..	177 0 0	230 0 0	172 10 0	Bowerbank	
Badbrook . . .	Barnfield	..	87 0 0	70 0 0	52 10 0		
Toadsmore . . .	Evans .	..	39 0 0	120 0 0	90 0 0	Evans	
Winn's . . .	Winn .	..	59 0 0	80 0 0	60 0 0		
Bourne . . .	Harris .	..	115 0 0	200 0 0	150 0 0		
Brimscombe . . .	Lewis .	..	222 0 0	500 0 0	375 0 0	Lewis	
Ham . . .	Wathen .	..	169 0 0	500 0 0	375 0 0	Marling	
Griffin's . . .	Wood .	..	151 0 0	280 0 0	210 0 0	Baylis .	Timber Cutting
Stafford's . . .	Stanton .	..	226 0 0	500 0 0	375 0 0	Stanton	
Mason's at Vatch . . .	Mason .	..	66 0 0	120 0 0	105 0 0		
Vatch . . .	Wyatt .	..	110 0 0	475 0 0	356 5 0	N. Marling	
New . . .	Helme .	..	130 0 0	130 0 0	113 15 0	Helme	

Gloucestershire.

Report from
W. A. Miles, Esq

TRADE.

VALUATION AND ASSESSMENT OF MILL PROPERTY in the Parish of WOOTON-UNDER-EDGE,
in the Year 1837.

Names of Mills.	Gross Estimated Rental.			Assessment to Poor-Rate.			Present Occupier.
	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.	
Folly Mill .	12	0	0	8	0	0	Void
Sym Lane .	12	0	0	8	0	0	Void
Huntingford .	60	0	0	40	0	0	Brinkworth
Park .	90	0	0	60	0	0	John Smith
Old Town .	33	0	0	22	0	0	Henry Beavan
Steep .	120	0	0	80	0	0	Void
Water Lane .	16	10	0	11	0	0	Void
..	69	0	0	46	0	0	Thomas Palser
Dudley .	45	0	0	30	0	0	S. and W. Long
Pound's Ground .	74	0	0	49	0	0	Void
..	62	10	0	41	13	4	Lewis and Dutton
Holywell .	42	0	0	28	0	0	W. Strange
Monk's .	135	0	0	90	0	0	Thomas White

VALUATION AND ASSESSMENT OF MILL PROPERTY in the Parish of WOODCHESTER,
in the Year 1838.

Name of Mill.	Annual Value.			Assessment to Poor-Rates.			Present Occupier.
	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.	
Woodchester Mill .	300	0	0	240	0	0	Void
Southfields and Churches .	250	0	0	190	0	0	Woodwark and Bird
Frogmarsh .	180	0	0	135	0	0	Francis and Flint
Playne's Little .	90	0	0	75	0	0	Playne and Co.

VALUATION AND ASSESSMENT OF MILL PROPERTY in the Parish of MINCHIN HAMPTON.

Name of Mill.	Present Rental.			Assessment to Poor-Rates.			Present Occupier.
	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.	
Holcombe Mill .	207	0	0	138	0	0	Barnard and Son
Longford's .	578	0	0	382	10	0	Playne and Co.
Addition to Do. .	33	15	0	22	10	0	..
Iron .	99	0	0	66	0	0	..
Brimscombe .	157	10	0	105	0	0	W. Lewis
St. Mary's .	247	10	0	165	0	0	Samuel Clutterbuck
Wimberley .	90	0	0	60	0	0	John Webbs
Dark Mill .	60	15	0	40	10	0	Thomas Jones
Spring's .	157	10	0	105	0	0	N. and J. Jones
Ballinger's .	121	10	0	81	0	0	H. and J. Davis
Barnard's .	261	0	0	174	0	0	Barnard and Son
Haycock's .	108	0	0	72	0	0	William Hunt
Dunkirk .	405	0	0	270	0	0	P. Playne and Smith
Addition to Do. .	11	5	0	7	0	0	..
Dye House .	38	5	0	25	10	0	William Hunt
Iles .	121	10	0	81	0	0	Thomas Jones

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TRADE.

VALUATION AND ASSESSMENT OF MILL PROPERTY in the Parish of RODBOROUGH

Name of Mill.	Old Valuation.	Present Valuation.	Old Assessment.	Present Assessment.
	£. s. d.			
King's Mill .	138 18 0			
Halliday's ,, .	119 5 10			
Additional Do. .	53 11 6			
Lodgemore ,, .	210 8 0			
Smith's ,, .	135 14 3			
Lightpill ,, .	112 17 1			
Frigg's Mill ,, .	66 15 9			
Rooksmoor ,, .	98 18 9			
Hope ,, .	164 2 0			

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VALUATION AND ASSESSMENT OF MILL PROPERTY in the Parish of ULEY.

Name of Mill.	Valuation in 1831.	Assessment in 1831.	Valuation in 1838.	Assessment in 1838.	REMARKS.
	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	
Sheppard's Mill .	513 0 0	342 13 4	90 0 0	72 0 0	Void, except a part used as an Iron Foundry.
Dauncey's ,, .	130 0 0	93 6 8	90 0 0	72 0 0	In occupation by Mr. Dauncey.
Adey's ,, .	181 0 0	120 0 0	50 0 0	72 0 0	Partly occupied by Mr. S. Smith.
Jeen's ,, .	48 12 0	32 8 0	Void.	Void.	
Leonard's ,, .	107 11 0	71 14 0	70 0 0	52 0 0	Now used as a corn-mill and sawing mill by Mr. Leonard.

The following is an ALPHABETICAL LIST of the PRINCIPAL MANUFACTURERS of WOOLLEN CLOTHS in the County of GLOUCESTER:—

Name.	Address.	Name.	Address.
Apperley, J. and D. . . .	Dudbridge Mills	Jeens, Henry	Uley
Austin, H.	Alderley Mills	Jones, Nathaniel	Chalford
Barnard and Son	Nailsworth ditto	Jones, Thomas	Ditto
Bowerbank, D.	Capel's Mill	Lewis and Dutton	Wootton
Brown and Tucker. . . .	Lightpill ditto	Lewis, J. F.	Ebley Oil Mill
Cam, J. T.	Cam Mills	Long, S. and W.	Charville
Cox, Daniel	Chalford	Marling, John	Ebley Mills
Counsell and Co.	Niud Mill	Marling, N. S.	Vatch Mills
Cripps, Messrs.	Cirencester	Marling, T. and S. . . .	Ham Mills
Cumley, George	North Nibley	Palling, William	Painswick
Dartnall, H.	Cam Mills	Partridge, Joseph	Bowbridge
Dauncey, James	Uley	Playne and Smith	Dunkirk Mills
Davies, R. S. and Co. . . .	Stonehouse	Playne, W. and Co. . . .	Longford Mills
Derrett, R.	Wootton	Shipway, Thomas	Badbrook
Derrett, R., jun.	Ditto	Smart, William	Chalford
Fletcher, H. and Son	Mead Mill	Smith, R. P. and Co. . . .	Wallbridge
Fluck, William	Pitchcombe	Stanton and Sons	Stafford's Mill
Foxwell, Mr.	Painswick	Stephens, C. and Co. . . .	Stanley Mills
Francis and Flint	Frogmarsh	Wathen, Joseph	Rock Mills
Harris, S. and Co.	Dursley	Webb, John	Wimberley Mill
Helme, W. and M.	New Mills	White, W.	Monk's Mill
Hooper, Charles	Eastington Mills	Wight, Messrs.	Sheepscombe
Howard Brothers	Dursley	Wise, Mr.	Bond's Mill
Howard, John, jun.	Ditto	Woodwark and Bird	Southfield's Mills
Hunt, William	Dye House Mills		

Gloucestershire.

Report from
W. A. Miles, Esq.

TRADE.

LIST of the PRINCIPAL MANUFACTURERS of WOOLLEN CLOTH in the different Districts in the
County of GLOUCESTER.

District.	Name of Manufacturer.	Address.
CHALFORD . . .	Cox, Daniel	Chalford
	Jones, Nathaniel	Ditto
	Jones, Thomas	Ditto
	Smart	Ditto
	Webb, John	Ditto
CIRENCESTER . .	Cripps, Messrs.	Cirencester
DURSLEY . . .	Cam, J. T.	Cam Mills
	Cumley, George	North Nibley
	Dartnall, Henry	Cam
	Dannock, James	Uley
	Harris, S. and Co.	Dursley
	Howard Brothers	Ditto
	Howard, John, jun.	Ditto
NAILSWORTH . .	Jones, Henry	Uley
	Barnard and Son	Nailsworth
	Brown and Tucker	Lightpill Mills
	Francis and Flint	Frogmarsh ditto
	Hunt, William	Dyehouse ditto
	Playne, W. and Co.	Longford's ditto
	Playne and Smith	Dunkirk ditto
PAINSWICK . . .	Woodward and Bird	Southfield's ditto
	Foxwell	Painswick
	Palling, William	Ditto
STONEHOUSE . .	Wight, Messrs.	Sheepscomb
	Davies, R. S., and Co.	Stonehouse
	Fletcher, H., and Co.	Mead Mill
	Hooper, Charles	Eastington
	Lewis, J. F.	Oil Mills
	Marling, J. F.	Ebley Mills
	Stephens, C., and Co.	Stanley Mills
STROUD	Wise	Bond's Mill
	Apperley, J. and D.	Dudbridge Mills
	Bowerbank, D.	Capel's Mill
	Fluck, William	Pitchcombe
	Helme, W. and M.	New Mills
	Marling, N. S.	Vatch Mills
	Marling, T. and S.	Ham Mills
	Partridge, Joseph, and Co.	Bowbridge
	Shipway, Thomas	Badbrook
	Smith, R. P., and Co.	Wallbridge
WOOTTON-UNDER- EDGE	Stanton and Sons	Stafford's Mill
	Wathen, Joseph	Rock Mills
	Austin, Humphrey	Alderley
	Counsell and Millman	Kingswood
	Derrett	Wootton
	Derrett, jun.	Ditto
	Lewis and Dutton	Ditto
	Long, S. and W.	Charville
	White, T.	Monk's Mill

Gloucestershire.

Report from
W. A. Miles, Esq.

WAGES.

WAGES.

I have already stated that every step of inquiry in the woollen fabrics involves a contradiction. The following remarks upon wages, and subsequently on the state of the trade, will confirm the assertion.

The amount of wages paid for any specified hundred is no criterion of earnings, because good or bad yarn requires more or less time, and the weaver is paid piece-work, and not time wages.

Amount of Wages
no proof of
Amount of Earn-
ings.

I have returns from two factories, where, on the same work, one pays 2*l.* 3*s.*, and the other 1*l.* 8*s.*, and yet the weekly earnings of some of the best workmen under the lower-priced master are as much as the average of the higher-priced manufacturer: then again the nominal amount of wages is no criterion of the weaver's actual earnings, because some manufacturers, under the pretence of paying good wages, impose heavy and arbitrary deductions. Factory weavers have frequently stated their wages in the gross amount, and then say, "*Out of that we pay our master 5*d.* in the shilling,*" besides 3*s.* per loom, and 6*d.* for light, weekly, as the case may be. This is a method calculated to confuse all inquiries, and even the weaver. Some manufacturers pay a certain sum clear of all deductions, but this is not usual in the district.

The weaver whose wages per piece are higher may earn less money, not through idleness or want of skill, but on account of the tenderness of the chain, or the fineness of the abb; in one case taking more time to piece, and in the other more shoots in an inch, consequently more time is required, while a man at lower wages, with firmer and thicker abb, may earn a greater amount with less labour.

This is one of the most serious and unavoidable evils against which the weaver has to contend, because, when he takes a chain, the uncertainty of the period to weave it causes an uncertainty in the amount of his earnings.

The amount of earnings, moreover, depends upon the period that a weaver may have to wait between each chain, owing to the occasional scarcity of work.

The earnings, however, of the factory weaver I have correctly ascertained from the books of the employers. Average all the year round 11*s.* 9½*d.* weekly. Some men average 17*s.* a-week, and occasionally earn 1*l.*

The earnings of the out-door weaver cannot be so easily obtained, because his work is less regular than in the factory, and he may obtain chain from different manufacturers.

The amount of earnings is therefore best obtained by averages.

Test of Earnings by
Averages.

The average length of a chain, cassimere and broad, is 54 yards, or 1944 inches; there are 50 shoots in an inch; upon the average "make," a quick and steady workman will throw the shuttle, that is, place 30 shoots in a minute, so that if the threads did not break, and his arm went with the regularity of steam, a piece of cloth would be woven in 54 hours; but the average time is 150 hours, so that 96 hours of the time are occupied in piecing and attending to the loom.

S. Pearce, a weaver of Chalford, complained of the brittleness of chain, which he says makes a difference of nearly a quarter of his time, and a consequent diminution of his earnings. Edward Smith, a weaver at Wootton-under-Edge, makes a similar observation.

In corroboration of these remarks I quote the following evidence upon the quantity of cloth that a man *can* weave. Some of the cases I admit to be extreme, but they will lead to a general average. The evidence of Thomas Cole, a weaver, is clear and satisfactory. He also states that weavers endeavour to conceal from their employers the time that is required to weave a chain, as they imagine it would tend to the reduction of wages. I have invariably found the same feeling among the weavers; and, in nearly every case, directly I touched upon the subject of the requisite time or average period to weave a chain, the most extreme cases have been cited in order to mislead me. Many aver that a month is the average time to weave a chain. This, however, is not the case, 20 days being the average time for the out-door weaver, and 15 for the factory weaver.

Thomas Cole a weaver says that a man by close application for one hour, could weave 6 nails of 1800 work, 50 shoots to the inch but to do this the chain must be very good; cons-

others it would be more than a man would do for 10 hours consecutively, yet a good workman might do it in that time, which would be equal to 4 yards a day, but it must be good work to accomplish this.

"Formerly the weavers were jealous that a manufacturer should know how quick the work *could* be done, but the weavers cannot now help themselves, as the manufacturer has his looms at home. In the factories more work is done, as the men are emulating each other, which was not the case when they worked at home. Looms are in much better order in the shop factories than they were at the houses of the weavers; people years ago had not the notion of putting them in order; a man can earn more now at a loom than formerly, from the improvements in the tackle; at a good loom three-fourths of a yard more may be now woven than could formerly; there is no stopping in the improved looms to wind the cloth on the reeler beam, it being done by weights regulating both the fore and the reeler beam. The weavers did not like the masters to know in what time a chain could be woven, because they considered if the master knew that they could earn a given sum in a short time, the price of the next chain would be lowered.

"Does not think the work is done better in the factory, but the men *are better off* than when they worked at the master-weavers'; their tools are kept better in order, and the work more regular; has been a factory weaver, but did not continue, in consequence of some strife with the foreman; was formerly a master weaver, and kept two looms, but went into the factory because his employer put out but little work.

"The greatest injury, witness thinks, in the factory system, is the walking to and fro to the shop; but the men do earn more money than they could out; in short, they settle their minds more to work than ever they did under the old system; they did not use to be so active at work in the master weavers' houses; they often would get out of the loom and dandle their time, and have a drop of beer, &c. Thinks the factory system has given the men more settled habits, and there is not so much time spent in the public-houses as used to be; has heard many of the shop weavers say that if the wages were a little higher, they would be much more content to work in a factory than out of it; has heard many of the men who work for Mr. Playne say so; Isaac Kaynton and Joseph Cole, my son, are of the same opinion."

Mr. Weeks, at Stanley Mills, says,—

A good weaver, not an extraordinary one, if he has good white felt chain, can weave six yards a day: he could do this work all the year round without bodily injury, if such chain could be given to him, but it is rare to have such chain. The same man on another chain, though working as industriously, might not weave more than three yards; the greatest impediment in bad chain is the tenderness and irregularity of the thread. On average chain he would weave four yards a-day; there are many weavers who do this amount of work daily, but they are not general, say one in ten; some are sickly, some are less skilful in the work, and the generality have not that quickness and energy which other classes of labouring men possess. The weavers are a listless set, which is attributable in some measure to the undisciplined manner in which they were first trained to work."

Mr. Peter Playne, an extensive manufacturer, says,—

"That in consequence of the improvements in the loom of the fly shuttle, one man can now do more in 10 hours than two could formerly do in 12 hours. Formerly two men worked in a loom, and shared the amount of their wages between them—say 2*l.* for a Spanish stripe. He states that he has timed the number of shoots in the present loom, and found them to be repeatedly from 45 to 48, and even 50, in a minute."

This, however, cannot be a fair criterion of labour, as the weaver would work under the immediate glance of his master at a more furious rate than he could maintain for a lengthened period.

As to the amount of earnings, it is requisite to observe that there are three different classes of weavers; 1st, the shop-loom weaver; 2nd, the out-door master-weaver; 3rd, the out-door journeyman weaver; and the average earnings of each class vary.

1st.—*Factory, or Shop-loom Weavers.*

The following is a statement of the average amounts of prices paid by the manufacturers for weaving a piece of 54 yards, or 36 eils, long (1,500 felt and 1,400 cassimere).—*Vide* Tables of Wages, page 390:—

Coloured	£ 2 0 0
White	1 12 7½
Cassimere	1 11 7

3)5 4 2½

Average . . . £ 1 14 8½ say £ 1 14 9

Gloucestershire.

Report from
W. A. Miles, Esq.

WAGES.

Gloucestershire.

Report from
W. A. Miles, Esq.

WAGES.

There are various deductions to be made from these sums, such as winding, &c. These expenses average thus:—

Coloured . 6s. 10d. | White . 4s. 11d. | Cassimeres . 3s. 11½d.
Average of deductions 5s. 3d.

Shop-loom
Weavers' Earnings
per week.

Price Paid by Manufacturer per Piece of 36 Ells.	Deductions, &c. &c., per Piece.	Net Sum Earned per Piece.	Net Amount Earned per Week, Averaging 15 Days to a Piece.
£. s. d.	s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
Coloured . . . 2 0 0	6 10	1 13 2	0 13 3
White . . . 1 12 7½	4 11½	1 7 7½	0 11 0
Cassimeres . . 1 11 7	3 11½	1 7 7½	0 11 0
3)5 4 2½	3)15 9½	3)4 8 5	3)1 5 3
Averages . . 1 14 8½	5 3	1 9 5½	Per week 0 11 9

It is proper to observe that, on coloured work, a weaver actually earns less than on white, inasmuch as it requires longer time, and he is not always so long as 15 days weaving white work. I find the average, however, to be correct, as it agrees within three-farthings of the average of factory earnings, supplied by the manufacturers from their wages' books, namely 11s. 9¾d. *vide* p. 387.

Mr. Weeks states that—

"A person of common capacity could learn to be a weaver in twelve months as well as in twelve years. He considers that a factory man ought to earn never less than 10s. a-week, at 10 hours a-day, that is, 2d. per hour, and that in 12 months a person could become sufficient master of his trade to earn that amount."

An agricultural labourer has only 8s. a-week, but he has comparative advantages; he may have a pig, some poultry, a plot of ground, and so forth, but the factory weaver must buy everything that he requires, and that too in small quantities, at a consequently heavy price.

Relative to the effect of the factory system upon the habits and improvement of the weavers (a system which they invariably deprecate), Mr. Weeks continues to observe—

"The factory system decidedly tends to improve the men, to break through the sluggish habits for which weavers have been so notorious; it tends to make the men at once punctual and industrious. This I know to be the case. Many weavers, to my knowledge, have been taken into shop-factories as indifferently-skilled weavers, and in 12 months have become first-rate weavers, which would never have been the case if they had remained as out-door weavers.

Corroboration of
computed Average.

A low-paying manufacturer, near Stroud, informed me, that within the last week his men required an advance of wages, when he offered, instead of paying them by the piece, to pay them weekly wages amounting to 11s. per week, at 12 hours a-day, and to allow one hour for meals out of that time. No weaver offered to accept the proposition, or to enter into any bargain of the sort, except one man, who offered to come at 12s. a-week wages. The average earnings, I calculate, for shop-weaving, to be 11s. 9d. a-week: the offer was below the mark, and I consider that the refusal of the offer confirms my computed average.

2nd.—Out-door Master Weaver.

The following is a statement of the average amounts of prices paid to out-door weavers, by the manufacturer, for weaving 1,800 fells and 1,100 cassimeres (the usual hundreds made in the district):—

Coloured, 36 ells	£ 2 4 9
White, 36 ells	1 17 0
Cassimeres	1 12 0
3)5 13 9	
Average per piece	£ 1 17 11

There are, however, many deductions to be made from these respective sums, which must be incurred by the master weaver before he can return his chain as cloth, such as glue, winding, hire of stay, candles, &c. &c. &c., and the average of these deductions are—

7s. 0d. on coloured chains,
6 2½ on white,
3 7½ on cassimere.
<hr/>
3)16 10.
<hr/>
5 7½ Average deductions on a piece;

(Or thus, in tabular form:—

Price paid by Manufacturer per Piece of 36 Ells.	Deductions.	Net amount per Piece earned by Master Weaver.	Net Amount Earned per Week, Averaging 20 Days to a Piece.
£. s. d.	s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
Coloured . . . 2 4 9	7 0	1 17 9	0 11 3
White . . . 1 17 0	6 2½	1 10 9½	0 9 3
Cassimeres . . 1 12 0	3 7½	1 8 4½	0 8 6
<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
3)5 13 9	3)16 10	3)4 16 11	3)1 9 0
<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Averages . . . 1 17 11	5 7½	1 12 4	Per week 0 9 8

Out-door Master
Weavers average
Earnings per week
when in work.

3rd.—Journeyman Out-door Weaver.

There is, however, another class of weaver, namely, the journeyman, who works for the master weaver, and suffers a deduction of fivepence in the shilling, which the master weaver charges for winding, rent of loom, harness, stay, candles, &c. &c. &c. This deduction is made from the gross amount paid by the manufacturer, and the wages of the journeyman are as follow:—

Amount paid by Manufacturer.	Deductions of 5d. in 1s.	Net Amount received by Journeymen.	Net Amount Earned per Week, Averaging 20 Days to a Piece.
£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
Coloured . . . 2 4 9	0 18 7½	1 6 1½	0 7 10¾
White . . . 1 17 0	0 15 5	1 1 7	0 6 4½
Cassimeres . . 1 12 0	0 13 4	0 18 8	0 5 7½
<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
3)5 13 9	3)2 7 4¾	3)3 6 4½	3)0 19 10¾
<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Averages . . . 1 17 11	15 10 Say 42 per cent.	1 2 1½	Per week 0 6 7½

Out-door Journey-
man Weaver's
average Earnings
per week, when in
work.

The above averages of prices paid, and the deductions, are calculated from the returns of prices and deductions made, chiefly from personal inquiry of every manufacturer in the district.—See Table of Wages, pages 390 and 391.

The deductions of the master weaver, of five pence out of the shilling in the journeyman's wages, are in the following proportions:—

Quilling	1d.
Glue	0½
Harness and slay	0¼
Rent of loom	0½
Peckers, babbins, oil, and shuttle	0¼
Candles	0½
Firing, in winter	0½
<hr/>	<hr/>
To master weaver, for fetching and carrying home work, &c. &c.	2
<hr/>	<hr/>
	5d.

Deductions.

REPORTS FROM ASSISTANT COMMISSIONERS,

Gloucestershire.

Mr. Weekes states, that—

Report from
W. A. Miles, Esq.
Weavers.

"The journeyman is always in so depressed a state, that the moment the master weaver employs him he is obliged to give him his daily food; and hence, in a great degree, the origin of truck. The master weavers, in some cases, have taken as much as 6d. out of 1s.—always 5d; not for the food, which is charged extra, but for rent of loom and technical assistance, such as tying on, quilling, and attending to the loom. The master weaver brings home and carries back the chain, and is responsible for all damages. Mr. Weekes has known master weavers pay 2l. and 3l. for damages done by journeymen."

Surplus of Out-door
Weavers.

Thus far I have been enabled to show you the average amount of earnings, presuming that the weavers are in full employment; this, however, is not the case, more especially with the out-door weavers.

Every weaver is subject to loss of time, but neither manufacturer or workman were enabled to furnish me with data as to the amount of time thus lost.

I have endeavoured to supply it from the following data, 1st, the excise returns of the quantities woven; 2nd, the population of weavers.

The following is the quantity of cloth woven in Gloucestershire in 1833-4-5-6-7.

1833	felted yards	1,126,680	woven yards	1,926,970
1834	"	1,066,846	"	2,655,242
1835	"	1,864,525	"	2,517,169
1836	"	1,916,518	"	2,587,239
1837	"	1,749,218	"	2,361,144

Average quantity of felted yards 1,754,760, woven yards 2,403,965

The average number of unfelted yards is 2,400,422; the population of weavers is considered to amount to 3,000.

A factory male weaver averages 3 yards, 1 foot, 1 inch, per diem, or 1,044 yards in 310 days. A female factory weaver averages 3 yards per diem, or 930 per annum.

By returns supplied from the manufacturers, I am furnished with the number of weavers employed in the manufactories, viz. 911.

The following statement will show the presumed quantity annually woven in the factories, and the quantity of yards to be woven by the out-door weavers:—

			Yards.
	655 male weavers, 10 1/4 yards per man . . .		683,820
	167 female weavers, 930 yards per female . .		155,310
	89 persons attending 100 power looms, say		
	1,044 yards per loom		104,400
Factory weavers	911		
Total of weavers	3,000	Total quantity woven in factories . .	943,530
		Average quantity woven in the county,	
Total of out-door weavers	2,089	calculated from excise returns of last	
		5 years	2,409,422
		Total quantity to be woven by the out-	
		door weavers	1,465,892

It now remains to be seen what quantity of labour is requisite to produce this surplus quantity, namely, 1,465,892 yards.

The out-door weaver, whose cottage does not afford the same facilities as the weaver experiences in the factories, does not return his chain, upon an average, under 20 days or 200 working hours; this difference of time between that of the factory weaver may be attributed chiefly to inferior looms and the time lost in bringing home and carrying back his work, and also to the ill-regulated temperature in his cottage. Thus the out-door weaver produces 2 yards, 2 feet, and one inch per diem, or 835 yards in 310 days, so that 1,755 (instead of 2,089) out-door weavers are sufficient to perform the work. The following statement will show the surplus of labour in the district:—

		Yards.
911 Shop-loom weavers, &c. weave per annum		943,530
1,755 Out-door weavers		1,465,892
2,666 { No. of weavers requisite to produce the cloth.	Average annual No. of yards woven in the county of Gloucester . . . }	2,409,422

2,000 Total number of weavers in the county of Gloucester.

351 Surplus number of weavers, or 16 per cent. on the out-door weaving population, namely, 2,089.

Gloucestershire.

Report from
W. A. Miles, Esq.

WAGES.

Surplus of Labour

This surplus of labour injures the earnings of the out-door workman, in the same proportion, viz. 16 per cent: and, after deducting that amount from the earnings already arrived at of the master out-door weaver and the journeyman, the average amount of the weekly earnings is obtained thus:—

	s.	d.	Net Average per week.	
Average of master weaver's earnings when at work per week	9	8		Master Weaver.
Deduct 16 per cent	1	6½		
			8 1½	
Average of journeyman weaver's earnings when at work per week	6	7½		Journeyman Weaver.
Deduct 16 per cent	1	0½		
			5 7	
			2)13 8½	
Average amount of the weekly earnings of the out-door weaver	6	10½		Consequent Amount of Earnings.

This average amount, namely, 6s. 10½d., is confirmed by the statements personally made of 1,135 weavers. (*Vide* tables of "income and expenditure," page 406.) The average there stated by the weavers is 6s. 6d. (*Vide* table 2, page 406.) This average amount is also confirmed by relieving officers and persons well acquainted with the district.

Confirmed.

The following table exhibits a summary of wages and net earnings:—

GENERAL AVERAGE OF WAGES (supplied by the Manufacturers, p. 382), and AVERAGE EARNINGS OF WEAVERS.

	Sum paid by the Manufacturer per Piece.	Deduction for Quilling and other requisite Expenses.	Net Amount to the Weaver per Piece.	Average Amount of Earnings per Week.	
Factory Wages.	£. s. d.	s. d.	£. s. d.	s. d.	
1800 { Coloured	2 0 0	6 10	1 13 2	13 3	} Factory Weavers, 11s. 9d
{ White	1 12 7½	4 11½	1 7 7½	11 0	
{ Cassimeres . . .	1 11 7	3 11½	1 7 7½	11 0	
Averages	1 14 8½	5 3	1 9 5	11 9	<i>Vide</i> Returns from Factories, page 379.
Out-Door Masters' Wages.					
1800 { Coloured	2 4 9	7 0	1 17 9	11 3	} Out-Door Master Weaver.
{ White	1 17 0	6 2½	1 10 9½	9 3	
{ Cassimeres . . .	1 12 0	3 7½	1 8 4½	8 6	
Averages	1 17 11	5 7½	1 12 4	9 8	Deduct for Surplus Population s. d. 16 per Cent. 1s. 6d. . . . 8 1½
Out-Door Journeyman's Wages.					
{ Coloured	2 4 9	18 7½	1 6 1½	7 10	} Out-Door Journeyman.*
{ White	1 17 0	15 5	1 1 7	6 4	
{ Cassimeres . . .	1 12 0	13 4	0 13 0	5 7	
Averages . . . .	..	13 10	1 2 1	6 7	Deduct for Surplus Population 16 per Cent. 1s. 0½d. . . . 5 7
* The deductions of the Out-Door Journeyman are 5d. out of the 1s. † <i>Vide</i> Table 2, p. 406.					Total Average of Out-Door Weavers † 6 10½

Table of Wages, Deductions and Earnings of Factory Weaver, Out-door Master Weaver, and Out-door Journeyman.

I here subjoin returns from some of the principal manufacturers, showing the amount of earnings of their weavers in the factories.

With regard to the factory weavers, though they rank among the lowest paid mechanics, they are far above the distressed condition of the out-door weaver, inasmuch as they have more constant employment, with good looms, &c.; shops well regulated in temperature, which is a material point in the weaving woollen threads.

Gloucestershire.

Report from
W. A. Miles, Esq.

WAGES.

The prejudice against the shop-loom system is extreme, and it is fostered by the out-door master weaver, who is ruined by the manufacturer having taken the trade out of his hands.

Mr. Lewis, of Brimscombe, has informed me that his factory weavers weave a piece of felt, coloured, in 12 working days, that the pay is 2*l.* for the piece minus 6*s.* for quilling and other deductions, but that the weavers nett 1*l.* 14*s.* in 12 days. The occasional slackness of trade is of course injurious, but, with these earnings, and where there may be collateral income from a wife and some of the family, I cannot give way to the prejudices of factory weavers who are doing so well, when their fellow workmen, the out-door weavers, are in such deep distress.

STATEMENT CONCERNING Factory Weavers' EARNINGS from the RETURNS supplied by Manufacturers, including working time, &c. &c. &c.

Factory Weavers' Earnings.

Name of Mill.	No. of Men.	No. of Weeks.	Amount Paid.	Deductions.	Net Sum.	Weekly Earnings.
			£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
Eastington . . .	12	52	479 0 6	39 18 10	440 1 8	0 14 1
Lodgemore . . .	11	50	372 18 0	31 1 6	341 16 6	0 12 5
Stanley . . .	14	52	476 12 7	39 14 4	436 18 3	0 12 0
Iron Mills . . .	20	52	663 8 8	No deductions.	663 8 8	0 12 9
Ditto . . .	22	26	326 0 5		326 0 5	0 11 5
Dunkirk Mills . .	16	52	488 18 5		488 18 5	0 11 9
Ditto . . .	16	52	483 10 0		483 10 0	0 11 7½
Ditto . . .	16	52	429 10 6		429 10 6	0 10 3½
Ditto . . .	16	26	210 17 11		210 17 11	0 10 1½
	143	414				5 6 5
				Average Weekly Earnings		0 11 9¾

Skilled Workman with a Family.

In reference to the above table they are the averages of earnings of the factory weavers, but it is proper to observe that the earnings range from 9*s.* 11*d.* to 15*s.*; and, in a few extreme cases of extraordinary skilled or quick and industrious workmen, the nett earnings amount to 16*s.* 6*d.* per week, for the 12 months, including all the play or waiting time.

Taking an extreme case, a weaver at the above wages of 16*s.* 6*d.* with an industrious wife and a child at work in a factory, might earn between them a moderate weekly income.

	£. s. d.
Man	0 16 6
Wife at weaving or burling	0 7 0
Child carding	0 2 6
	<hr/>
	1 6 0

Average Workman with a Family.

But, taking the average of the earnings, namely 11*s.* 9¾*d.*, and supposing the wife and child to be at work, which is generally the case (most of the weavers being married), the earnings for the family per week would be—

	£. s. d.
Man	0 11 9¾
Wife	0 7 0
Child	0 2 6
	<hr/>
	1 1 3¼

Low Earnings of an Out-door Weaver's Family.

The entire earnings of a family of the out-door weaver, consisting of 5 persons, is only 10*s.*, and yet the factory weavers are the most discontented.

I now subjoin, first, the wages of other working classes in the district to compare them with the factory weaver, and also, secondly, the wages of all classes connected with the manufacture of cloth from 1808 to 1838 :—

STATEMENT of the WEEKLY WAGES of various Trades and Callings in STROUD, from 1836 to 1838.

Gloucestershire.

Report from
W. A. Miles, Esq.

WAGES.

Trade or Calling.	Average No. of Working Hours.	Amount of Wages or Earnings per Week.		
		1836.	1837.	1838.
Agricultural Labourers .	12	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Barretmen	12	9 0	9 0	9 0
Blacksmiths	12	14 0	14 0	14 0
Boot-closers	12	15 0	15 0	15 0
Bricklayers	10	15 0	15 0	15 0
.. Labourers	10	10 0	10 0	10 0
.. Makers	12	16 0	16 0	16 0
Carpenters	10	15 0	15 0	15 0
Dyers	10	10 0	10 0	10 0
Joiners	10	15 0	15 0	15 0
Masons	10	15 0	15 0	15 0
Nailors	12	16 0	16 0	16 0
Plasterers	10	15 0	15 0	15 0
Sawyers	10	16 6	16 6	16 6
Shoemakers	12	14 0	14 0	14 0
Shoecutters	12	20 0	20 0	20 0
Tailors	13	18 0	18 0	18 0
Watchmakers*	10	25 0	25 0	25 0

I now submit the following tables of wages paid at the present period by the different cloth manufacturers in the county of Gloucester, together with the deductions and nett amounts on 1,800 work. In the subsequent set of tables you will also see the average prices on every hundred set forth in their respective districts. I have adopted this method for the sake of brevity and clearness.

With regard to the stated prices of wages, and the apparent larger amounts paid by some manufacturers, it is requisite to observe, that the deductions must be taken into account, including quilling, &c. There are some manufacturers who nominally pay high wages, but whose deductions are great in proportion. There are many ways adopted by some few masters to lower earnings, while apparently and nominally they keep up prices. In some cases they charge the weaver so much per week for loom-rent in their factories or in their houses, say 3s. a week; or else the rent of the cottage may be exorbitant, the weaver paying that amount in order to be well supplied with work; or in some cases, the weavers and work-people must purchase their provisions at some shop, not openly but covertly connected with the factory-owners or the wool-loft men. These are the subterfuges to obtain profits out of labour, and at the same time to carry a good name in reference to the rates of wages.

Nominal Wages
reduced by actual
Deductions.

The following tables of wages refer to 1,800 felt, and 1,400 cassimeres. I divide the weavers into two classes, namely, factory weavers and out-door weavers. The fabrics are broads (coloured), broads (white), and cassimeres.

* There is a pin-factory in the vicinity of Stroud, where the work-people earn, I believe, good wages, but the information I sought upon the subject has not been supplied to me.

WAGES.—SHOP-LOOMS.

MANUFACTURES.

W A Miles ~ Hand-Loom
Weavers Report c.1839
© Coaley.net

	No.	BROAD CLOTH—Coloured. 1800.				BROAD CLOTH—White. 1800.				CASSIMERES. 1400.			
		Price per piece of 36 ells of 1800.	Deductions.	Net Sum Earned by the Weaver.		Price per piece of 36 ells of 18 Hundred.	Deductions.	Net Sum Earned by the Weaver.		Price per piece of 54 Yards 13 and 14 Hundred.	Deductions.	Net Sum Earned by the Weaver.	
				Per Piece.	Per Ell.			Per Piece.	Per Ell.			Per Piece.	Per Ell.
		£. s. d.	s. d.	£. s. d.	s. d.	£. s. d.	s. d.	£. s. d.	s. d.	£. s. d.	s. d.	£. s. d.	s. d.
Messrs. A. & B.	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
" "	2	1 16 0	..	1 16 0	1 0	1 10 0	..	1 10 0	0 10	1 10 0	..	1 10 0	0 6½
" "	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
" "	4	2 14 0	15 6	1 18 6	1 0½	..	..	..	..	1 16 0	8 9	1 7 3	0 6
" "	5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
" "	6	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
" "	7	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
" "	8	2 0 0	4 0	1 16 0	1 0	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
" "	9	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
" "	10	..	..	..	..	1 10 6	6 0	1 4 6	0 8	1 10 0	4 0	1 6 0	0 5½
" "	11	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1 10 0	4 0	1 6 0	0 5½
" "	12	..	..	..	..	1 14 1	4 0	1 10 1	0 10	..	..	..	..
" "	13	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
" "	14	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
" "	15	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
" "	16	1 17 0	4 6	1 12 6	0 10½	1 12 0	4 0	1 8 0	0 9½	1 12 0	3 6	1 8 6	0 6½
" "	17	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
" "	18	..	..	..	..	2 0 0	8 0	1 12 0	0 10½	..	..	..	..
" "	19	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
" "	20	2 3 0	6 0	1 17 0	1 0½	1 16 0	5 0	1 12 0	0 10½	1 16 0	4 0	1 12 0	0 7
" "	21	1 14 0	4 0	1 10 0	0 10	1 10 0	4 0	1 6 0	0 8½	..	..	..	..
" "	22	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
" "	23	..	..	..	..	1 10 0	3 6	1 5 6	0 5½	1 6 6	2 0	1 4 6	0 5½
" "	24	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
" "	25	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
" "	26	2 14 0	13 6	2 0 6	1 1½	..	..	..	..	1 16 9	7 9	1 9 0	0 6½
" "	27	1 15 0	5 4	1 9 8	0 9½	1 13 0	4 6	1 8 6	0 9½	..	..	..	..
" "	28	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
" "	29	1 19 0	6 6	1 12 6	0 10½	..	..	..	..	1 16 0	2 6	1 13 6	0 7½
" "	30	1 14 0	4 6	1 9 6	0 9½	1 12 0	4 0	1 8 0	0 9½	1 10 10	2 0	1 8 10	0 6½
" "	31	1 17 6	4 6	1 12 0	0 10½	1 13 9	4 0	1 9 9	0 10	1 11 6	2 6	1 12 0	0 7
" "	32	1 14 9	..	1 14 9	0 11½	1 10 6	..	1 10 6	0 10	1 9 3	..	1 9 3	0 6½
" "	33	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
" "	34	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
" "	35	1 8 0	..	1 9 0	0 9½	1 2 0	..	1 2 0	0 7½	1 6 0	..	1 6 0	0 5½
" "	36	1 8 0	..	1 0 0	0 9½	1 2 0	..	1 2 0	0 7½	1 6 0	..	1 6 0	0 5½
" "	37	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
" "	38	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
" "	39	2 4 0	7 6	1 16 6	1 0½	1 18 0	6 0	1 12 0	0 10½	1 7 0	4 0	1 3 0	0 5
" "	40	1 15 0	5 4	1 9 8	0 9½	1 13 0	4 6	1 8 6	0 9½	..	..	..	..
" "	41	1 18 0	4 2	1 13 10	0 11½	1 16 0	4 2	1 11 10	0 10½	1 13 6	2 6	1 11 11	0 6½
" "	42	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
" "	43	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
" "	44	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
" "	45	2 11 0	9 0	2 2 0	1 2	2 2 0	9 0	1 13 0	0 11	1 17 6	4 0	1 13 6	0 7½
" "	46	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
" "	47	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
" "	48	..	..	..	..	1 5 0	3 6	1 1 6	0 7	1 5 0	4 0	1 1 0	0 4½
Average Prices		2 0 9	6 10	1 14 4½	0 11½	1 12 7½	4 11½	1 8 6½	0 8½	1 11 7	3 11½	1 7 1½	0 6½

* Price paid by Messrs. T. and S. Marling for doe skin fabric is £1 12 0
Less 0 2 6 quilling.

£1 9 6 net.

Those numbers where the prices are not inserted will be found in the Table of Out-door Weavers' Wages.

WAGES.—OUT-WEAVERS.

MANUFACTURES.

W A Miles ~ Hand-Loom
Weavers Report c.1839
© Coaley.net

	No.	BROAD CLOTH—Coloured. 1800.				BROAD CLOTH—White. 1800.				CASSIMERES. 1400.			
		Price per Piece of 36 Ells, 18 Min. ded.	Deductions.	Net Sum Earned by the Weaver.		Price per Piece of 36 Ells, and 18 Hundred.	Deductions.	Net Sum Earned by the Weaver.		Price per Piece of 54 Yards, 13 and 14 Hundred.	Deductions.	Net Sum Earned by the Weaver.	
		£. s. d.	s. d.	£. s. d.	s. d.	£. s. d.	s. d.	£. s. d.	s. d.	£. s. d.	s. d.	£. s. d.	s. d.
Messrs. A. & B.	1	1 19 0	7 6	1 11 6	0 10½	1 19 0	6 6	1 12 6	0 10½	1 16 0	4 0	1 13 0	0 7
" "	2	2 17 0	7 6	2 9 6	1 4½	2 8 0	6 6	2 1 6	1 1½	1 9 2	4 0	1 5 2	0 5½
" "	3	1 18 0	7 6	1 10 6	0 10½	1 9 0	6 0	1 3 0	0 7½	1 5 0	3 6	1 1 6	0 4½
" "	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
" "	5	1 16 0	8 0	1 8 0	0 9½	1 7 0	7 0	1 0 0	0 6½	1 5 0	4 0	1 1 0	0 4½
" "	6	..	..	..	..	1 5 0	6 0	0 19 0	0 6½	1 8 0	3 6	1 4 6	0 5½
" "	7	2 7 6	7 6	2 0 0	1 1½	2 2 0	6 0	1 16 0	1 0	..	..	..	..
" "	8	2 4 4	6 6	1 17 10	1 0½	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
" "	9	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
" "	10	..	..	..	..	1 16 0	7 6	1 8 6	0 9½	1 5 0	4 0	1 1 0	0 4½
" "	11	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
" "	12	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
" "	13	2 6 0	7 6	1 18 6	1 0½	1 16 0	6 6	1 9 6	0 9½	..	..	..	..
" "	14	2 14 0	7 6	2 6 6	1 3½	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
" "	15	2 8 0	7 6	2 0 6	1 1½	2 2 0	6 6	1 15 6	0 11½	..	..	..	..
" "	16	..	..	..	..	2 1 0	6 6	1 14 6	0 11½	..	..	..	..
" "	17	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
" "	18	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1 5 0	4 0	1 1 0	0 4½
" "	19	..	..	..	..	2 0 0	8 0	1 12 0	0 10½	..	..	..	..
" "	20	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2 4 0	4 0	2 0 0	0 9
" "	21	2 14 0	7 6	2 6 6	1 3½	2 8 0	6 6	2 1 6	1 1½	1 16 0	4 0	1 12 0	0 7
" "	22	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
" "	23	..	..	..	..	2 0 0	8 0	1 12 0	0 10½	..	..	..	..
" "	24	..	..	..	..	1 10 0	3 6	1 6 6	0 9½	1 6 6	2 0	1 4 6	0 5
" "	25	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
" "	26	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
" "	27	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
" "	28	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
" "	29	..	..	..	..	1 10 0	6 0	1 4 0	0 8	1 7 0	4 0	1 3 0	0 5
" "	30	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
" "	31	1 17 0	4 6	1 12 6	0 10½	1 12 0	4 0	1 8 0	0 9½	1 10 10	2 0	1 18 10	0 6½
" "	32	1 17 6	4 6	1 13 0	0 11	1 13 9	4 0	1 9 9	0 10	1 14 6	2 6	1 12 0	0 7
" "	33	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
" "	34	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
" "	35	2 7 3	6 6	2 0 9	1 1½	2 2 0	5 6	1 16 6	1 0½	1 16 0	0	1 12 0	0 7
" "	36	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
" "	37	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
" "	38	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
" "	39	1 14 2	7 6	1 6 8	0 9	1 11 3	6 6	1 4 9	0 8½	2 0 3	4 0	1 16 3	0 8
" "	40	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
" "	41	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
" "	42	2 8 0	7 6	2 0 6	1 1½	1 16 0	6 6	1 9 6	0 9½	1 15 0	4 0	1 11 0	0 6½
" "	43	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
" "	44	..	..	..	..	2 5 2	6 6	1 18 8	1 0½	1 14 0	4 0	1 10 0	0 6½
" "	45	..	..	..	..	1 18 0	6 6	1 11 6	0 10½	..	..	..	..
" "	46	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
" "	47	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
" "	48	2 8 0	7 6	2 0 6	1 1½	1 19 0	6 6	1 12 6	0 10½	1 19 0	4 0	1 15 0	0 7½
" "	49	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Average Prices to Out-door Master Weavers		2 4 9	7 0	1 17 8½	1 0½	1 17 0	6 2½	1 10 9	0 10	1 12 0	3 7½	1 3 5	0 6½
Average Price to Out-door Journeyman after taking 5d out of 1s.		1 6 1½	..	..	..	1 1 7	..	..	..	0 18 8	..	..	..
Master weavers' charges		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

The average price paid for stripes who pay in truck.

Those numbers weather prices on not inserted will be found in the table of factory weavers wages.

Gloucestershire.
Report from
W. A. Miles, Esq.
WAGES.

CHALFORD DISTRICT.							DURSLEY DISTRICT.						
	Hundreds.	Price per Piece of 36 Ells, or 38 Selling Yards.	Deductions in Factory.	Net Amount of Earnings.			Hundreds.	Price per Piece of 36 Ells, or 38 Selling Yards.	Deductions in Factory.	Net Amount of Earnings.			
				Per Piece.	Per Ell.					Per Piece.	Per Ell.		
		£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.			£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	
Broad Cloth, Coloured.	16					Broad Cloth, Coloured.	16						
	17						17						
	18	1 13 0	. .	1 13 0	0 0 11		18	1 13 0	0 3 10	1 14 11	0 0 11½		
	19						19						
	20						20	2 14 0	0 7 6	2 6 6	0 1 3½		
Broad Cloth, White.	16					Broad Cloth, White.	16						
	17						17						
	18	1 9 0	. .	1 9 0	0 0 9½		18	1 11 0	0 6 0	1 8 0	0 0 9½		
	19						19						
	20						20	2 10 0	0 6 0	2 4 0	0 1 2½		
Stripes, Cassimeres.					Per Yard.	Stripes, Cassimeres.					Per Yard.		
	13	1 8 7	. .	1 8 7	0 0 6½		13	1 11 3	0 3 1	1 8 2	0 0 6½		
	14						14						

NAILSWORTH DISTRICT.							STONEHOUSE DISTRICT.						
	Hundreds.	Price per Piece of 36 Ells, or 38 Selling Yards.	Deductions in Factory.	Net Amount of Earnings.			Hundreds.	Price per Piece of 36 Ells, or 38 Selling Yards.	Deductions in Factory.	Net Amount of Earnings.			
				Per Piece.	Per Ell.					Per Piece.	Per Ell.		
		£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.			£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	
Broad Cloth, Coloured.	16					Broad Cloth, Coloured.	16						
	17						17						
	18	1 13 0	0 2 3	1 10 9	0 0 10		18	2 3 10½	0 6 7½	1 16 3	0 1 0		
	19						19	2 7 8	0 7 0	2 0 8	0 1 1½		
	20						20						
Broad Cloth, White.	16					Broad Cloth, White.	16						
	17						17						
	18	1 2 0	. .	1 2 0	0 0 7½		18	1 16 7½	0 6 1½	1 10 6	0 0 10½		
	19						19						
	20						20						
Stripes, Cassimeres.					Per Yard.	Stripes, Cassimeres.					Per Yard.		
	13	1 9 6	0 2 6	1 7 0	0 0 6		13	1 11 6	0 1 0	1 7 6	0 0 6		
	14						14						

STROUD DISTRICT.							WOOTTON DISTRICT.						
	Hundreds.	Price per Piece of 36 Ells, or 38 Selling Yards.	Deductions in Factory.	Net Amount of Earnings.			Hundreds.	Price per Piece of 36 Ells, or 38 Selling Yards.	Deductions in Factory.	Net Amount of Earnings.			
				Per Piece.	Per Ell.					Per Piece.	Per Ell.		
		£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.			£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	
Broad Cloth, Coloured.	16					Broad Cloth Coloured.	16						
	17						17	5 0	0 7 6	1 17 6	0 1 0½		
	18	2 4 10½	0 5 3½	1 19 7	0 1 1½		18	2 5 9½	0 7 7	1 18 2½	0 1 0½		
	19						19	2 17 0	0 7 6	2 9 6	0 1 4½		
	20						20						

Gloucestershire.
Report from
W. A. Miles, Esq.
WAGES.

STROUD DISTRICT—(continued).						WOOTTON DISTRICT—(continued.)					
	Hundred.	Price per Piece of 36 Ells, or 38 Selling Yards.	Deductions in Factory.	Net Amount of Earnings.			Hundred.	Price per Piece of 36 Ells, or 38 Selling Yards.	Deductions in Factory.	Net Amount of Earnings.	
				Per Ell.	Per Ell.					Per Piece.	Per Ell.
		£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.			£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
Broad Cloth, White.	16					Broad Cloth, White.	16				
	17						17	1 19 0	0 7 6	1 11 6	0 0 10½
	18	1 15 6	0 3 4	1 12 2	0 0 11½		18	1 19 0	0 8 3	1 11 9	0 0 10½
	19						19				
	20						20				
Cassimeres.	13	1 15 5½	0 3 2	1 12 3½	0 0 7½	Cassimeres.	13	1 13 2½	0 3 1½	1 9 10½	0 0 6½
	14						14				
Stripes.						Stripes.					

SUMMARY.—SHOP LOOM OR FACTORY WEAVING.—The Net Amount of Wages, after *all* Deductions, Summary.—Shop Loom Weaving.
for Weaving, per Ell, according to the various Hundreds.

District.	Broad Cloth, Coloured. No. of Hundred.					Broad Cloth, White. No. of Hundred.					Cassimeres. Hundred.		Stripes.
	16	17	18	19	20	16	17	18	19	20	13	14	
Chalford	0 11	..	..	..	..	0 9½	..	..	0 6½	..	..
Dursley	0 11½	..	1 3½	..	..	0 9½	..	1 2½	0 6½	..	..
Nailsworth	0 10	..	..	..	..	0 7½	..	..	0 6	..	..
Stonehouse	1 0	1 1½	..	..	..	0 10½	..	..	0 6	..	..
Stroud	1 1½	..	..	..	..	0 11½	..	..	0 7½	..	..
Wootton	1 0½	1 0½	1 4½	..	..	0 10½	0 11½	..	..	0 6½	..	..

NOTE.—By these Tables it will be seen that, in some cases, there are apparent discrepancies, which will be accounted for from the fact that almost every manufacturer has a different price. In some cases, also, one manufacturer only in a district makes a particular hundred: consequently he will stand alone in the Table, and his price may appear conspicuous in comparison with the average of a district comprising from eight to ten manufacturers: the average of a district must therefore be low, as some are paying 50 per cent. more than others.

No. 2.—DISTRICT WAGES TABLE.—OUT-WEAVING.

CHALFORD DISTRICT.						DURSLEY DISTRICT.					
	Hundred.	Price per Piece of 36 Ells, or 38 Selling Yards.	Deductions in Factory.	Net Amount of Earnings.			Hundred.	Price per Piece of 36 Ells, or 38 Selling Yards.	Deductions in Factory.	Net Amount of Earnings.	
				Per Piece.	Per Ell.					Per Piece.	Per Ell.
		£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.			£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
Broad Cloth, Coloured.	16					Broad Cloth, Coloured.	16				
	17						17				
	18	2 4 0	0 6 0	1 18 0	0 0 10½		18	2 1 0	0 6 0	1 18 0	0 1 0½
	19						19				
	20						20	2 14 0	0 7 6	2 6 6	0 1 3½
Broad Cloth, White.	16					Broad Cloth, Coloured.	16				
	17						17				
	18	1 16 0	0 5 6	1 10 6	0 0 10		18	2 2 0	0 6 0	1 16 0	0 1 0
	19						19				
	20						20	2 12 0	0 6 9	2 5 3	0 1 3
Cassimeres.	13	1 12 0	0 2 6	1 9 6	0 0 6½	Cassimeres.	13	1 10 0	0 2 6	1 7 6	0 0 6½
	14						14				
Stripes.						Stripes.					

WAGES.

NAILSWORTH DISTRICT.						STONEHOUSE DISTRICT.					
	Hundreds.	Price per Piece of 36 Ells, or 38 Selling Yards.	Deductions in Factory.	Net Amount of Earnings.			Hundreds.	Price per Piece of 36 Ells, or 38 Selling Yards.	Deductions in Factory.	Net Amount of Earnings.	
				Per Piece.	Per Ell.					Per Piece.	Per Ell.
				£. s. d.	£. s. d.					£. s. d.	£. s. d.
Broad Cloth, Coloured.	16					Broad Cloth, Coloured.	16				
	17						17				
	18	1 13 0	0 4 6	1 13 6	0 0 11½		18	2 5 0	0 7 6	1 17 6	0 1 0½
	19						19	2 7 6	0 6 6	2 1 0	0 1 1½
	20						20				
Broad Cloth, White.	16					Broad Cloth, White.	16				
	17						17	1 19 9	0 7 0	1 12 0	0 0 10½
	18	1 10 0	0 5 0	1 5 0	0 0 8½		18	2 2 0	0 7 0	1 15 0	0 0 11½
	19						19				
	20						20				
Stripes, Cassimeres.						Stripes, Cassimeres.					
	Per Yard.						Per Yard.				
13						13	1 14 0	0 4 6	1 9 6	0 0 6½	
14	1 11 0	0 2 6	1 9 6	0 0 6½		14					

STROUD DISTRICT.						WOOTTON DISTRICT.					
	Hundreds.	Price per Piece of 36 Ells, or 38 Selling Yards.	Deductions in Factory.	Net Amount of Earnings.			Hundreds.	Price per Piece of 36 Ells, or 38 Selling Yards.	Deductions in Factory.	Net Amount of Earnings.	
				Per Piece.	Per Ell.					Per Piece.	Per Ell.
				£. s. d.	£. s. d.					£. s. d.	£. s. d.
Broad Cloth, Coloured.	16					Broad Cloth, Coloured.	16				
	17						17				
	18	1 19 4½	0 6 4½	1 13 0½	0 0 11		18	2 11 3	0 7 6	2 3 2	0 1 2½
	19	2 0 0	0 7 6	1 12 6	0 0 10½		19				
	20						20				
Broad Cloth, White.	16					Broad Cloth, White.	16				
	17						17				
	18	1 16 4½	0 5 7½	1 10 9	0 0 10½		18				
	19	2 17 0	0 3 0	2 9 0	0 1 4½		19				
	20						20				
Stripes, Cassimeres.						Stripes, Cassimeres.					
	Per Yard.						Per Yard.				
13						13	1 11 0	0 5 0	1 9 0	0 0 6½	
14	1 12 2½	0 2 10½	1 9 4½	0 0 6½		14					

mary.—Out-
Weaving.

SUMMARY.—OET-WEAVING.—The Net Amount of Wages, after *all* deductions for Weaving, according to the various Hundreds.

Districts.	Broad Cloth, Coloured, per Ell. No. of Hundred.					Broad Cloth, White, per Ell. No. of Hundred.					Cassimeres, per Yard, Hundred.		Stripes, per Yard.	
	16	17	18	19	20	16	17	18	19	20	13	14		
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	
Chalford	1 0 ¹ / ₂	..	..	..	..	0 10	..	..	..	0 6 ¹ / ₂	..	0 4
Dursley	1 0 ¹ / ₂	..	..	..	..	1 0	..	1 3	0 6 ¹ / ₂	..	..	..
Nailsworth	1 0 ¹ / ₂	..	1 3 ¹ / ₄	..	..	0 8 ¹ / ₂	..	..	..	0 6 ¹ / ₂	..	..
Stonelhouse	1 0 ¹ / ₂	0 11 ¹ / ₂	..	..	..	0 10 ¹ / ₂	0 11 ¹ / ₂	..	..	..	0 6 ¹ / ₂	..	..	..
Stroud	1 1 ¹ / ₂	0 10 ¹ / ₂	..	..	..	0 10 ¹ / ₂	1 4 ¹ / ₂	..	..	0 6 ¹ / ₂	..	..	..
Wootton	1 2 ¹ / ₂	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	0 6 ¹ / ₂	..	..

HAND-LOOM WEAVERS. **AMOUNT OF DEDUCTIONS PER PIECE.**

395 Gloucestershire.

Report from
W. A. Miles, Esq.

WAGES.

Districts.	Broad Cloth, Coloured, per Ell. No. of Hundred.					Broad Cloth, White, per Ell. No. of Hundred.					Cassimeres, per Yard. Hundred.		Doe-skins, per Yard.
	16	17	18	19	20	16	17	18	19	20	13	14	
Chalford	s. d.	6 0	..	..	..	..	5 6	..	..	2 6	..	2 6
Dursley	6 0	..	..	..	..	6 0	..	5 9	2 6	..	..
Nailsworth	4 6	..	..	..	..	5 0	..	..	..	2 6	..
Stonehouse	7 6	6 6	..	..	..	..	7 0	..	..	4 6	..	..
Stroud	6 4	7 6	..	..	7 0	5 7	8 0	..	2 10	..	..
Wootton

Doe-skins.

There is a species of fabric recently made in the county of Gloucester, called "Doe Skins." It is eight-treadle work, and different in some degree to the plain felt work. It requires a greater degree of skill, but less labour; and the weavers, who are jealous of any alteration, and unwilling to be "put out of their way," have a dislike to undertake the work: in fact, a weaver in the woollen trade has no aptitude; and he thinks that work must be found him of that sort to which he has been most accustomed.

Messrs. S. and W. Long, of Chalford Mills, state that they have been manufacturers of doe-skins for nearly two years; that they employ from 70 to 100 persons to weave this sort of work, which is a recently introduced fabric. The weavers now employed on this work were previously broad and cassimere weavers. The doe-skin work is more difficult and skilful than the common sort of fabric, but is less laborious. The work was objected to at first, simply because they were unaccustomed to it; but afterwards it was preferred to all other weaving. In a month the men could earn more on this work than on any other. The alterations of the looms, harness, &c. were in the majority of cases made at our own expense. A weaver, if constantly employed at doe-skin weaving, and if a good hand, might earn 11s. a week, and if constantly employed on other work, 8s. a week. The price per piece is 12. 18s., and the deductions for quilling and tying, &c., 3s. per piece. Women can weave this kind of work as well as men, and it is done both in and out of the factory. Quantity annually made by them is about twenty pieces a week.

Inaptitude of weavers

Messrs. T. and S. Marling, of the Ham Mills, near Stroud, state respecting the manufacture of the doe-skin fabric, that they have made it for two years, and employ 30 persons: these weavers were previously employed on cassimeres; the doe-skin is also a cassimere fabric, but requiring more skill, but is not more laborious. They have repeatedly offered it to out-door weavers, but they refused it. There is a decided dislike among the weavers to turn to any work but what they have been accustomed to: there is an inaptitude to learn, and they are compelled to have it done by persons over whom they have controul, such as tenants and factory weavers. The expense in the altering of looms is paid by themselves when done in the factory, and by the weavers if done at home. It takes a person 14 days to weave a piece 54 yards. Price is 12. 12s., less 2s. quilling, and it is woven both out and in the factory. Women can weave it, but they employ men. Quantity annually made by them is 728 pieces.

confirmed.

This is the present state of wages, but they have been much reduced since 1825; and many severe struggles have occurred between men and masters upon the subject.—*Wade "Combinations and Strikes."*—p. 448.

I now submit the following lists of wages said to have been agreed to by the manufacturers in 1825 and 1828, when the weavers returned to work after the strikes in each of those years.

The list of prices in 1834 is a statement of the wages then paid in the district.

Mr. Marling, Mr. Playne, and other manufacturers, affirm, that the prices signed and agreed to, in 1825 and 1828, were not long adhered to by master or man; a fact which proves the difficulty of regulating wages by restrictive rules. Mr. Marling gave me the list of wages paid by him, and I collate them in a subsequent table, with the prices demanded by the weavers.

The following is taken from printed lists of prices furnished to me by the weavers, and said to have been agreed to by the manufacturers. Two of these papers are in the years 1825, and 1828, years in which strikes occurred—the last rate in 1834, is stated to be the prices paid, but not to have been signed by the manufacturers.

W A Miles - Hand-Loom Weavers Report c.1839
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Gloucestershire.
Report from
W. A. Miles, Esq.
WAGES.

No. 1.—The Broad and Kersey Weavers' List of Prices, approved of by the Manufacturers of the Lower Districts (Dursley), and signed by them.—1825.

Chains coloured in the Wool.

	s.	d.
1600, at per Ell	1	9
1700, ..	1	10
1800, ..	1	11
1900, ..	2	0
2000, ..	2	1

White Chains.

	s.	d.
1500, at per Ell	1	3
1600, ..	1	5
1700, ..	1	6
1800, ..	1	7
1900, ..	1	8
2000, ..	1	9

Odd Beers as follows.

Beers.	s.	d.
1600, and 2	1	9½
1600, 4	1	10
1700, 2	1	10½
1700, 4	1	11
1800, 2	1	11½
1800, 4	2	0
1900, 2	2	0½
1900, 4	2	1
2000, 2	2	1½
2000, 4	2	2

Odd Beers as follows.

Beers.	s.	d.
1500, and 2	1	3½
1500, 4	1	4
1600, 2	1	5½
1600, 4	1	6
1700, 2	1	6½
1700, 4	1	7
1800, 2	1	7½
1800, 4	1	8
1900, 2	1	8½
1900, 4	1	9
2000, 2	1	9½
2000, 4	1	10

Wages in 1825.

Kersey mere from 12 to 1300, ready for the Loom, 11d. per Yard.

Odd Beers as follows:—

Beers.	s.	d.
1300, and 2	0	11½
1300, 4	1	0
1400, 2	1	0½
1400, 4	1	1
1500, 2	1	1½
1500, 4	1	2

These prices were also agreed to by the Manufacturers in the Town Hall, Sircud, June 7th, 1825.

No. 2.—The County Price for the Broad and Kersey mere Weavers, approved of by the Manufacturers of the Lower and Upper Districts, and signed by them.—1828, same in 1830.

Chains coloured in the Wool.

	s.	d.
1500, at per Ell	1	9
1600, ..	1	9
1700, ..	1	10
1800, ..	1	11
1900, ..	2	0
2000, ..	2	1

White Chains.

	s.	d.
1500, Per Ell	1	3
1600,	1	5
1700,	1	6
1800,	1	7
1900,	1	8
2000,	1	9

Odd Beers as follows.

Beers.	Per Ell	s.	d.
1600, and 2	1	9½	
1600, 4	1	10	
1700, 2	1	10½	
1700, 4	1	11	
1800, 2	1	11½	
1800, 4	2	0	
1900, 2	2	0½	
1900, 4	2	1	
2000, 2	2	1½	
2000, 4	2	2	

Odd Beers as follows.

Beers.	Per Ell	s.	d.
1500, and 2	1	3½	
1500, 4	1	4	
1600, 2	1	5½	
1600, 4	1	6	
1700, 2	1	6½	
1700, 4	1	7	
1800, 2	1	7½	
1800, 4	1	8	
1900, 2	1	8½	
1900, 4	1	9	
2000, 2	1	9½	
2000, 4	1	10	

In 1830.

Kersey mere, from 1200 to 1300, ready for the loom, 11d. per yard for white, and 1s. per yard for blue, and in proportion as the hundreds rise. If any odd Beers between the 100, one halfpenny advance; that in two Beers, not exceeding three, one halfpenny; if four Beers one penny.

Odd Beers as follows.				Odd Beers as follows.			
BLUE.				WHITE.			
Beers.		Per Yard	s. d.	Beers.		Per Yard	s. d.
1300, and 2	.	..	1 0 $\frac{1}{2}$	1300, and 2	.	..	0 11 $\frac{1}{2}$
1300, 4	.	..	1 1	1300, 4	.	..	1 0
1400, 2	.	..	1 1 $\frac{1}{2}$	1400, 2	.	..	1 0 $\frac{1}{2}$
1400, 4	.	..	1 2	1400, 4	.	..	1 1
1500, 2	.	..	1 2 $\frac{1}{2}$	1500, 2	.	..	1 1 $\frac{1}{2}$
1500, 4	.	..	1 3	1500, 4	.	..	1 2

Report from
W. A. Miles, Esq
WAGES.

No. 3.—Prices for Weaving, in 1834, paid by the principal Manufacturers in the county of Gloucester.—March 4th, 1834; same in 1835.

Casserene.			Cassimere.		
	Per Ell	s. d.		Per Yard	s. d.
Coloured	..	1 10	Double milled, ready for the loom	..	0 10
White	..	1 7	Single ditto, ditto	..	1 0

FELT OR BROAD CLOTH.

Coloured.			White.		
	Per Ell	s. d.		Per Ell	s. d.
1900	..	1 9	2000	..	1 6
1800	..	1 8	1900	..	1 5
1700	..	1 7	1800	..	1 4
1600	..	1 6	1700	..	1 3
			1600	..	1 2

Four Beers to be paid for as a full hundred.

SPANISH AND SUPER STRIPES.

Spanish.			Super.		
Beers.	Per Ell	s. d.	Beers.	Per Ell	s. d.
1400, and 0	..	0 11	1100, and 0	..	0 9
1400, 2	..	0 11 $\frac{1}{2}$	1100, 2	..	0 9 $\frac{1}{2}$
1400, 4	..	1 0	1100, 4	..	0 10
1500, 0	..	1 0	1200, 0	..	0 10
1500, 2	..	1 0 $\frac{1}{2}$	1200, 2	..	0 10 $\frac{1}{2}$
1500, 4	..	1 1	1200, 4	..	0 11

Ninepence out of each shilling is paid to Weavers in the factory.
No reduction to be made for Reeling, or Temples, nor is the Weaver bound to time.

In reference to the preceding lists (and of which printed copies having been given to me in evidence, I consider it my duty to insert), many manufacturers state that it was not long adhered to, and that the weavers took chain as usual upon the employers' terms. This is another proof of the surplus of labour, and consequently total inefficiency of any regulating standard of wages. Mr. Samuel Marling, of Ham Mills, writes to me thus in reference to the printed lists, and other manufacturers confirm him:—

Not adhered to by
Masters or Men.

"DEAR SIR,—With regard to the prices of weaving, I would observe that for a few weeks after a strike the prices stated in the weavers' printed list *may* have been paid in some cases, yet they were *never generally* paid, and by *none* for any long period. These prices were above the value of the work to be performed, allowing the value to be determined by the amount of work required by the manufacturers to be done and the number of weavers to do it, and consequently prices began to decline almost immediately; and the average prices paid in the country you will find to be very near what I have stated at the respective periods."

"I remain, yours truly,
(Signed) "SAML. MARLING."

Mr. Marling supplied me with his prices, which I here insert, together with the average prices of corn during the periods:—

A TABLE showing the annexed Prices of CORN and Rates of WAGES in 1825, in 1830, in 1835, and in 1839, showing the Rates said to have been agreed to at the periods of the Strikes, and also the Prices actually paid by Mr. MARLING at those periods.

	1825.		1830.		1835.		1838.		Total decrease per cent. on Wages, out-door Weaving.
	Average Price of Corn from 1820, 55s. 7d.		Average Price of Corn from 1826, 61s.		Average Price of Corn from 1831, 52s. 3d.		Average Price of Corn from 1836, 53s. 9d.		
	Price per piece 36 ells.	Price per ell.	Price per piece 36 ells.	Price per ell.	Price per piece 36 ells.	Price per ell.	Price per piece 36 ells. Weaving out-door.	Price per ell.	
Coloured 1800. Price agreed to . . . Price paid by Mr. Marling	£ s. d. 3 9 0 2 19 0	s. d. 1 11 1 7½	£ s. d. 3 9 0 2 19 0	s. d. 1 11 1 7½	£ s. d. 3 0 0 2 10 0	s. d. 1 8 1 4½	£ s. d. 2 4 9 ..	s. d. 1 3 ..	per cent. By printed statements, 35 By Mr. Marling's wages, 24
White 1800. Price agreed to . . . Price paid by Mr. Marling	2 17 0 2 11 0	1 7 1 5	2 17 0 2 4 6	1 7 1 0	2 8 0 2 4 6	1 4 1 2	1 17 0 ..	1 0½ ..	By printed statements, 35 By Mr. Marling's wages, 27.
Cassimeres. Price agreed to . . . Price paid by Mr. Marling	Price per piece 54 yards. 2 11 9 2 8 9	 0 11½ 0 10½	Price per piece 54 yards. 2 11 9 1 13 0	 0 11½ 0 7½	Price per piece 54 yards. 2 5 0 1 13 0	 0 10 0 7½	Price per piece 54 yards. 1 12 0 ..	 0 7½ ..	By printed statements, 36 By Mr. Marling's wages, 34
Stripes. Price agreed to . . . Price paid by Mr. Marling	2 0 0 1 5 0	.. ..	2 0 0 1 0 0	.. ..	1 0 0 1 0 0	.. ..	1 0 0 1 0 0	.. ..	By printed statements, 50 By Mr. Marling's wages, 20

Women can easily weave cassimeres and stripes, and hence the greater decrease in the wages paid for those fabrics.

Gloucestershire.
Report from
W. A. Miles, Esq.
WAGES.

Having thus shown the former state of wages, and the present state of wages, together with the amount of earnings, I now proceed to the causes, or the reasons why, in my opinion, the labour of the weaver is so unequally paid, and why there is a constant tendency to the depression of his wages.

It is shown by the returns from the Excise that the cloth trade, or rather the total amount of cloth made, has felt little or no variation; and that it may be considered for the last 10 years (that is, from 1828 to 1837, inclusive), to be stationary, the decrease being only 342 yards on more than 1,700,000 yards (*vide p. 365*); but it is *not* a steady trade, because on reference to each year's produce, during the period above mentioned, it will be seen that the amount varies in very large proportions; so much so that in one year the decrease was so great that nearly 900 men must have been unemployed, and in another case the increase must have required between 600 and 700 men more than in the preceding year. *Vide p. 399.*

This constant fluctuation renders the trade apparently unsteady; although I have shown that, on the average, it is more steady perhaps than any other trade; and the result of this annual vibration, if I may use the term, is a corresponding uncertainty with the manufacturer as to his annual returns and profits. In some years the demand for labour is great, in other years the supply exceeds it.

This fluctuation in the labour-market is as injurious to the workman as the fluctuation in the trade is injurious to the master.

Injurious to Masters:

In bad years both are equally depressed: the master sells at a loss, the weaver works for less; necessity may force abatements, but it is very difficult to command an advance; hence the tendency to low prices and low wages, especially as each quarter brings pecuniary engagements upon the master, and each day the weaver must sell his labour to purchase food.

Induces the Weavers to overstock the Market.

The effect of this fluctuation of labour is injurious to the weaver, inasmuch as Hope in bad times induces him to follow his precarious calling rather than turn at once to other employment of a more steady nature. His habits are as unsettled as his earnings; he feels little or no inducement to set his house in order this year, because his goods might be seized the next. It is not so, however, with the mechanic or an agricultural labourer, whose earnings are more regular and steady; he knows what he has to depend upon; his habits become fixed; he supplies his cottage more or less with furniture, and adds to the comforts of his home with a conviction that necessity will not compel him to dispose of them. This remark holds good to all classes of work-people who earn certain, as well as those who earn precarious, wages. The brickmaker for instance, obtains good earnings in the summertime; the sawyer is a roving and uncertain trade; the post boy earns money one week,

W A Miles ~ Hand-Loom
Weavers Report c.1839
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Unsteady Earnings
induce unsettled
habits and vice
versa

and none the next; and the consequence is, their houses are dirty and ill-conditioned, and their habits loose and unsettled. On the contrary, the mason, the carpenter, and the agricultural labourer, obtain regular wages, and in most of their houses there is a degree of comfort, and amongst the men a stability of conduct.

In the following Table I show the fluctuation of labour for 16 years, varying from nearly 900 decrease, to between 600 and 700, increase; and yet the average of increase is 251, and the average of decrease is 248, which confirms the apparent contradictory fact of a steady and yet a fluctuating trade.

TABLE showing the Quantity of LABOUR fluctuating with the unsteadiness of the CLOTH TRADE in GLOUCESTERSHIRE, allowing that an out-door WEAVER weaves on the average 535 yards annually.

Year.	Price of Wheat.	Total Number of Yards.	Increase or Decrease in reference to the preceding Year.		Fluctuation of Labour in reference to Increase and Decrease.	
			Increase of Quantity.	Decrease of Quantity.	Increase of Labour.	Decrease of Labour.
1823	4. d.	1,769,762	..	..	..	..
1824	62 0	1,741,120	..	25,642	..	34
1825	66 6	1,750,243	9,123	..	11	..
1826	66 11	1,499,661	..	250,582	..	300
1827	36 9	1,434,175	..	65,486	..	79
1828	80 3	1,639,329	225,154	..	261	..
1829	86 2	1,517,252	..	142,077	..	170
1830	64 3	1,602,953	85,701	..	104	..
1831	66 4	1,976,622	373,669	..	447	..
1832	54 7	2,169,310	192,718	..	230	..
1833	52 11	1,426,689	..	742,631	..	889
1834	46 0	1,966,846	540,157	..	646	..
1835	37 0	1,864,526	..	102,320	..	122
1836	45 4	1,916,518	51,992	..	62	..
1837	54 6	1,749,205	..	167,310	..	200
1838	64 5	1,593,594	..	155,614	..	186
Average			211,216	206,835	1761	1980

Table of Quantity of Cloth, showing the annual increase and decrease.

I therefore consider the primary cause of low wages to be the fluctuating peculiarities of the cloth trade. These fluctuations have recently caused many heavy failures, and there is a want of real capital in the district. There are some manufacturers who pay their workmen at long dates, or obtain time by paying shopkeepers the amount of the bills contracted by the work-people for food and the necessaries of life; and there are other masters who openly deal in truck, after they have forced wages to the lowest point. One manufacturer acknowledged to me that he made stripes at a contract price so low, that he only undertook it in order to obtain a profit out of truck and labour.

Trade for masters and work for men being irregular and unsteady, wages are in like proportion affected. Mr. Wyatt, one of the partners in a banking firm at Stroud, stated that a stationary trade would induce a standard of wages; but that, in his opinion, the cause of deviation was the invidious competition among the manufacturers to undersell each other. In former periods this competition was not so great. Each manufacturer then found a ready market for his produce, and now he finds one with difficulty and frequently at a loss.

There are other circumstances which tend to the decrease of wages, one is surplus of labour, which I have already shown to be about 16 per cent. on the out-door weaving population. This surplus was improvidently created by the out-door weavers, who, for the sake of obtaining cheap labour, put young persons into the loom to weave, but who were never taught the trade in its various branches; these persons are called "colts."

I now subjoin the following evidence:—

Observations of Mr. Charles Stanton and Mr. Nat. Marling, manufacturers, upon Wages and the Woollen Trade of Gloucestershire.

Do you attribute the distresses of the weavers to any legislative enactments which have been made, or repealed, such as the Spitalfields Act, or do you consider their distress to arise from any regulation among themselves?—I do not think either the one case or the other has had any tendency or influence in determining the present distressed condition of the hand-loom weavers in this vicinity.

Gloucestershire.
Report from
W. A. Miles, Esq.
WAGES.

Effect of fluctuating trade.

W A Miles ~ Hand-Loom Weavers Report c.1839
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Surplus of Labour.

Gloucestershire.

Report from
W. A. Miles, Esq

WAGES.

Do you consider that manufacturers require labour at a lower rate than is actually called for by the governing price in the market?—As tradesmen, we endeavour to have our work done at as cheap a rate as possible; but as men, many of us keep this principle in abeyance.”

(Assented to by Mr. Marling.)

(Mr. Marling considers that the commission manufacturing has a decided tendency to the reduction of wages.)

Mr. Stanton states that, on returning from Germany last year, he found that, from the pressure of trade, the returns were not sufficiently remunerative, and he reduced wages where he found or considered they were too high, and amongst them were the weavers.

Can you explain why the weaver is the operative who is chiefly reduced?—The wages paid to the weavers constitutes a large portion of the amount of manufacturing a piece of cloth; his wages therefore naturally attract our first attention, but wages have been much reduced in other branches in the last 10 years, viz.—

	Per week.
Slubbers from	18s. to 16s.
Cutters	16s. to 13s.
Mule Men	25s. to 18s.

Are manufacturers generally forced to regulate their prices of wages by the example of those amongst them who give the lowest rate?—There is a natural tendency with all of us to reduce wages when it can be done without trenching upon the means of obtaining the necessities of life.

What are the peculiarities which give to the employers of hand-loom weavers a superior power, not possessed by the employers of other labour, of fixing the wages of those whose labour is essential to them?—I do not conceive that there are any peculiarities possessed by the employers. *The supply of weavers is in excess to the demand in the labour-market.*

Do you not consider that there is an excess of labour in other employments?—Nothing like to the same extent.

(Mr. Marling considers there is no excess of mechanics and handierafsmen in other labour.)

To what causes do you attribute this excess of hand-loom weavers?—Mr. Marling said that the primeval cause was the reduction of manufacturers, and the consequent decrease of capital from the district.

Mr. Stanton concurred in this answer; but there is a redundancy of every class in the factory. A skilful man, however, is almost always sure of employment, and so are the best weavers.

Is there a great proportion of weavers who are not well skilled in their trade?—There are, of course, gradations in skill; the most skilful of the weavers are seldom unemployed.

Does weaving require much skill?—Yes, a certain portion, but it is very easily acquired.

Has not that facility of acquiring the trade increased the number of hands in the labour-market?—Yes, it has undoubtedly.

Cannot women and young persons weave as well as adults?—Yes, if they possess physical strength.

Do you consider there are any, and what, circumstances calculated in this district to keep up a redundancy of hand-loom weavers' labour?—None that I am aware of.

Does not the expectancy of work of out-door weavers cause them to labour on in a calling little better than starvation to them?—I should say the difficulty of obtaining labour in other employ is the reason, and not from any hope of an improved state of things. The weavers, generally, are totally unfit for any other employment.

What period of practice is necessary to enable a person at hand-loom weaving to earn 8s. a-week?—The young persons have obtained it imperceptibly by quilling to weavers, and getting into the loom at meal-times occasionally.

Suppose a young person who had not seen a loom was put to work, when would he be able to earn 8s. a week, supposing him or her to be of an apt disposition?—He might be left to himself in an hour, and at the end of a week be a perfect workman as a *journeyman*. It is singular with what facility young children whom I have put into the power-looms have learned their business.

How long would it take a person to become a *perfect* weaver?—There are some who would never learn, but an apt person would in six months; the skill lies in tying on the threads, preparing and setting to work: the weaving part is mechanical.

Mr. Peter Playne, on being asked whether he considered wages to be at the lowest point, observed:—I hope so, and that there will be no cause to compel us to go lower; we could go lower to-morrow, but should be very sorry to attempt it. There are a great number of hands unemployed; and whenever we have raised wages the weavers have been the first to come to us, and undersell each other.

By the words raising wages, is it to be understood being *compelled* to raise wages?—Yes, when we have in consequence of strikes; but then the weavers have been the first to offer to take our work at a lower price, and to undersell each other; and I firmly believe that if we gave encouragement to the out-weavers, many of them would offer to take chain cheaper than our present rate of wages. “I should wish,” said Mr. Playne, “to alter the word *low* rate of wages, because I cannot use that term to men who earn 12s. a-week, and when I consider the agricultural labourer is satisfied with from 8s. to 9s.”

(This remark concerning the weaver's earnings is applicable to the shop weaver, but not to the out-door weaver.)

Mr. Peter Playne states that they employ both females and young persons in the looms, and that children come to them as quillers and winders; these children gradually get into

Facilities of learn-
ing to Weave.Surplus of Labour
causes men to
undersell each
other.

the loom, and are employed at reduced wages for the space of 3 years, advancing 1s. on a piece each year. They are brought up to the coarser and inferior work. They commence at about 18s. a piece, the full price being about 22s.

A woman receives 3s. a piece less on the white work than a man, and 4s. less on coloured. This has always been the case, and the example was set by the master weavers. Women are not so regular in their time as men, nor so able to perform the work in the same time. Thirty men will do as much work as forty women, and the outlay for looms, buildings, &c. is greater for a number of females than for the male weavers, but that this outlay for looms, buildings, &c. is not considered to be equal to the difference in pay to the same extent.

Mr. Hyde, wool-loftman at Mr. Peter Playne's observed, that the longer a piece is on the loom the heavier is the loss on the capital sunk under it.

Mr. Playne also stated that theirs is an expensive fabric, and it is their interest to weave and sell in as short a time as possible after they have purchased the wool. It is not on the weaving only, but on other portions of the fabric; in fact it is on the capital expended in buying the wool, and the whole expenditure of the fabric. They have 40,000% embarked in trade, and if it hangs back for a week or ten days the loss must be considerable, and to compensate for this delay they make this deduction in a woman's wages.

In reference to the acknowledged and proved surplus population, I will now trace the evil tendency of the commission houses upon wages of labour. This system is to work wool in Gloucestershire into cloth at a contract price for London houses, who send down the raw material to the manufacturer, and he works for that London firm, as a weaver works for a master. The one receives the raw wool, the other receives his chain; both are indifferent as to the markets, and both, for want of capital, work for hire.

By this system the London firm, in point of fact, becomes the manufacturer, and the manufacturer the workman.

What is the first consequence of this system? It is this:—The London houses seek the cheapest method to have their wool made into cloth, and the Gloucestershire manufacturer finds keen competition among his neighbours, so he calculates the lowest price at which labour can be obtained, or profit obtained, in order to obtain the work.

The second consequence is, that the regular manufacturer, whose wages have been steady, is compelled to compete with the commission maker.

The ultimate, and most serious consequence is, that as the commission maker is deprived of the profits of wool and state of the market, he has no source of profit, owing to the very nature of his contract, except from labour, glue, size, or teazles, or the advantage of a cheap rental. It is wages that suffer, and by this system there must inevitably be the strongest tendency to reduce every description of labour. So that, in fact, the London house becomes the arbiter of wages.

Yet from this pernicious system, by which manufacturers admitted persons into the knowledge of the trade, no good has resulted to them by the reduction of wages, because the London firms are in as keen competition as the manufacturers are in Gloucestershire; and they have as little interest for the manufacturer as the manufacturer may have for his weaver, or his "seg-carrier."

Mr. Derret, a manufacturer, observes that though a manufacturer may lower his wages, it is only a temporary advantage, because the cloth buyers in the London market soon learn the fact, and lower their prices in proportion.

Joseph Rickett, a weaver, observes that the manufacturers derive no substantial benefit from cheap labour, because both draper and factor, when they ascertain that a reduction of wages has been made, immediately lower their prices, so that all the working classes suffer by this system, and nobody, after all, is benefited. He further observes, that by reason of the competition among all parties, the weavers are driven into competition, and that they undersell each other to their own ruin.

The result of this system is, that it became a test of the minimum price of wages, and it also tested or proved, by that low minimum, that there was a surplus of labour among the weavers. This fact once proved, the usual rate of wages became disturbed. It was like cutting through a bank, and converting a smooth lake into a turbulent stream.

The following is the testimony of Mr. Charles Stanton, and Mr. Nathaniel Marling, both leading manufacturers, upon the tendency of the commission system to the reduction of wages.

Is not the market price of cloth frequently governed by the price of wool, and does not the manufacturer seek to derive profit from the fluctuations in the wool market?—The price of

Gloucestershire.

Report from
W. A. Miles, Esq.

WAGES.

Wages of Women
Weavers less than
Male.

Commission
Houses tend to the
reduction of Wages.

Gloucestershire.
Report from
W. A. Miles, Esq.
WAGES.

cloth ought to be entirely governed by the price of wool in a neighbourhood like this, where wages have not been very unsteady, but competition in a circumscribed market frequently compels us to sell our goods at a return inadequate to the capital and skill employed.

(Mr. N. Marling here observed that skill has as much to do with profit as the fluctuations in the wool market. Two men may buy the same kind of wool, and make it up at the same cost of manufacture, yet the one shall lose, and the other gain.)

Then may I say that the profits of trade arise from the skill in the production, or from profits arising from the judicious and well-selected purchases of wool?—Yes, a judicious selection of wool, and a good manufactured article will now command a ready sale, and a fair profit.

In that case what are the sources of profit to that manufacturer who has wool sent to him from a London house to make into cloth, and who, having made the article on commission, has no interest or connexion with the market price of the fabric?—*In that case he can have no other source of profit than by trenching on the wages of labour.*

Mr. Nathaniel Marling here agreed with Mr. Charles Stanton, that the commission manufacturers have a decided tendency to the reduction of wages.

In further corroboration, Mr. William Playne, sen. considers the *makers of cloth upon commission have no means of profit except the profit upon wages*,—that they therefore must employ low-priced workmen; and other manufacturers in the district, in order to meet the commission cloths in the markets, must also employ the cheapest labour.

So far it is clear that the want of capital introduced the commission system, and the commission system lowers wages.

The out-door weavers, in order to increase their wages or weekly earnings, stocked their extra looms with young persons (boys and girls), who worked at low wages, and who never learned the trade, but always worked under the eye of the master weaver. But, by this improvident plan, the weavers were increasing the evil; they were heaping fuel upon fire; and, instead of studying how to *reduce*, they were imprudently using every means to *increase* the weaving population. Hence so much distress, such scarcity of work and such depression in the wages.

This surplus population in a trade so fluctuating must of necessity tend to the lowest rate of wages. Mr. Charles Stanton thinks, from what he has heard of the prices paid by some masters, that wages are not sufficiently remunerative for the amount of labour given, but he considers that the state of trade will not allow more. Mr. Weeks, at Stanley Mills, is of the same opinion.

Mr. Peter Playne says he hopes that wages are now at their lowest, and that he shall not have cause to lower them, that he *could* lower them to-morrow, but should be sorry to attempt it. He attributes the power of lowering them to *the great number of unemployed hands*, and states that when, by strikes, they have been obliged to raise wages, the weavers have been the first to ask for work under the price. He further states that many out-door weavers would take chain at lower prices than he is paying in the factory.

Mr. Lewis of the Oil mills states that men undersell each other. He pays 18s. for stripes, and in the summer a weaver offered, if Mr. Lewis would give him constant work for 4 looms, to weave the pieces for 13s. a piece. Mr. Lewis attributes this low rate of wages, and depressed condition of the weavers to the fact that “there are more hands than are wanted.”

In reference to the training of young persons to the loom, I must observe, that the weavers marry younger, I think, than any other class of people. Their children are employed to quill and attend about a loom till they imperceptibly obtain a sufficient knowledge to begin weaving. The weavers assert that a person cannot learn the “art and mystery” of weaving under four years, and I believe they are correct, if it is requisite for a man to take the raw chain, and return it as cloth without assistance, because there is judgment required to size and tie on; but, by the present improved system of working in the factories, there is a division of labour, and the weaver is not required to size, and he has assistance in tying on; therefore the “art and mystery” is not required, as weaving can be learned in a short time sufficiently to earn slight wages. Mr. Samuel Marling, a manufacturer, states that a girl of 16 or 17 years of age, to his knowledge, after she had been about six months in a loom, earned 5s. or 6s. a week with occasional assistance, but she had been previously quilling and attending to the loom for about six months. Mr. Charles Staunton states that it is astonishing with what facility a child or young person may learn to weave. Mr. Smart, a manufacturer at Chalford, states that a stout girl can weave stripes as well as any man in the county, and women likewise at broad cloth. This is confirmed by Mr. N. Jones, and many others.

As the master out-door weavers introduced young labour into the loom, so

Young Persons
brought up to the
loom.

Low state of
Wages.

Young persons can
learn to weave with
great facility.

they proved that female labour and young persons at lower wages could perform the work.

Power-looms have fixed the maximum of wages; they have proved at what cost a piece can be woven. Mr. Stanton observes, with reference to the effect of power upon hand-loom weaving, that the latter is not in a marketable position in consequence of power; that the hand-loom weaver must compete with power or abandon the loom; that whatever it costs to weave a piece by power, the hand-loom weaver must work for *nearly* that sum, whether bread be dear or cheap, whether labour be in demand or not.

In your instructions, page 21, it is stated,—

“Thus, if it be true, according to the statements of many of the witnesses examined by the Committee of the House of Commons, that the wages of the weavers depend on the will of the master manufacturers, and that the master manufacturers are forced to follow the example of those among them who offer the lowest wages, it must follow that the wages of the weavers can never long exceed the minimum of subsistence, for the instant they exceed that point, it certainly would be to the interest, and is supposed to be in the power of some masters to lower wages in order to undersell their rivals, and it is supposed that all the rest must follow their example.”

And I am further directed to ascertain,—

“The peculiarities which give the employer of hand-loom labour a facility—not possessed by employers of labourers in other trades—of fixing wages of those whose labour is essential to him, or which enable the master who reduces wages to force others to follow his example.”

In reply to this important passage, I beg to observe, that the masters have the power (and use it moreover), of lowering wages, especially of the out-door weavers; that other masters are compelled, or say they are compelled, to follow their example; but as the fabric of one species of cloth differs from the make of another master, he may produce a finer cloth and obtain his profit without pinching it out of the labourer. When this is not the case, and a profit by such means is not attainable, the weaver is lowered in his wages. The price of wages depends upon the master, and not upon the bargain that a weaver could make if his individual labour was in demand. There is a surplus of labour. Mr. Charles Stanton, above quoted, and who is one of the principal manufacturers in the county, observed,—

“I always take care that my men shall average above 12s. a week (factory weaving), but if the other manufacturers undersell me by lowering their wages, and by thus compelling me to lower mine under that price which I consider a man ought to earn, that moment I shall cease employing human labour, and will immediately adopt steam.”

Then again, Mr. Peter Playne, another very considerable manufacturer, stated to me, in reference to a recent reduction made by him in his weavers' wages, that he was compelled to reduce in consequence of surrounding reductions, and the competition of power-looms; adding, that as long as his men can afford to work as cheap as cloth can be produced by power, he should retain human labour.

Thus, in fact, it is the masters who can fix the price of wages, owing to the superabundance of labour. This peculiarity or facility chiefly arises from the plain fact that there is a surplus population of weavers. As long as this is the case, the weaver is in a different position to other labourers; he is below the reach of those principles which regulate the wages of other classes; his employer can depress him, and the weaver has no means to withstand him, or uphold his condition. I therefore consider that, in the present condition of the weaver, the question of cheap food does not apply to him; because, let food be reduced to any price, he will not be allowed to earn more than will purchase him that same quantity which he can now obtain. This will be the case as long as a surplus exists, and the truest remedy will be to place him in the same position as other labour, and that can only be effected by removing the primary evil, namely, the surplus, or, by stimulating trade, to employ it.

The price of bread does not appear to possess any regulating power, or to cause any corresponding fluctuation in wages, except that when bread is low-priced, it is quoted as a reason for low wages; but, when bread rises, wages seldom rise, except in extraordinary times, as occurred this winter in Gloucester, when bread was 9½d. a loaf; an addition of 1d. an ell was made by a few masters, but, when bread lowered, the weavers were in some cases immediately reduced.

Nathan Oldham, a weaver at Chalford, observed that,—

“Three years ago, when bread was 5d. a quartern, manufacturers referred to the price of

Gloucestershire.

Report from
W. A. Miles, Esq.

Wages.
Power-Looms.

Rate of Wages not
regulated by Supply
and Demand,
owing to Surplus
of Labour.

Bread and Wages.

Gloucestershire. provisions, and said our wages were sufficient, but now that bread is 8d. a quartern, there is no rise in our wages."

Report from
W. A. Miles, Esq.

WAGES.

On reference to the prices of corn and wages, it further appears that wages have decreased, while corn has maintained its price. I quote the average of five years in regard to corn, and prices of coloured work, 1800 make broad, from 1825 to 1838.

	s. d.	Out-door Weavers.	£. s. d.
Prices of Corn. 1820 to 1825, average price of corn per quarter	55 7	1825 Wages per piece 1800 coloured	3 9 0
Prices of Wages. 1826 to 1830, do. do.	61 0	1830 do. do.	3 9 0
1831 to 1835, do. do.	52 3	1835 do. do.	3 0 0
1836 to 1838, do. do.	55 9	1838 do. do.	2 4 9

The following are the opinions of Mr. Dauncey, manufacturer at Uley:—

- Decrease of Wages. "1st. I believe up to the year 1820, the weavers in the west of England had pretty well work enough, and, provisions being reasonable, the weavers did not complain so much as at the present time; neither had they occasion to do so, for at the present time *wheat* is now selling from 8s. to 8s. 6d. per bushel, and at that time it was only 5s. 6d., which makes about 30 per cent. difference; and at that period the manufacturers paid 40s. for what they now pay 30s., which makes about 25 per cent. difference more to the weaver; and both sums together make it full 55 per cent.; besides, the weaver has not so much employment now as at former times, which makes it still the worse for them. Up to the year 1820, the manufacturers could get about 50 per cent. more for the same goods as they are now selling.
- "2nd. I have no doubt that the present distress of the weavers is the want of more labour, and provisions cheaper; and how are they to obtain those two things?
- Repeal of Corn Laws proposed. "3rdly. I answer, *repeal the corn laws*, for ever since those obnoxious laws have been in existence, the poor man has been getting poorer and worse off.
- "4thly. The generality of the weavers are a sober, industrious, and peaceable set of people; and, if the corn laws were repealed, the manufacturer would find a better market for his goods, and the weaver would have more employment in consequence."

CONDITION OF THE WEAVERS.

CONDITION OF THE WEAVERS.

Under the foregoing head of "Wages," it will be seen that there are three classes of weavers, namely, the factory, the out-door master, and the out-door journeymen weavers,—their average earnings are shown to be as follow:—

	s. d.	
Factory weavers	11 9	per week, pages 27, 83
Out-door master, including "play" time	8 1½	„ page 30
Journeyman, including "play" time	5 7	„ page 30

Factory Weavers. The condition of the factory weaver, though low, in comparison with other labour, is not, I presume, so depressed as to require your immediate attention,—yet, of the three classes of weavers, though he is the best off, yet he is the most dissatisfied with his lot, and with his master. He considers the factory system to be an infringement upon the trade of weaving, and a "breaking up" of his domestic comforts. The factory system is a recent introduction, and though offensive to the present will not be the cause of complaint with the next generation of weavers.

The earnings of the factory weaver are more regular than the earnings of the out-door weaver, because his work and wages are more steady.

The wages are more steady, because a manufacturer finds that it is more difficult to lower 30 or 40 men working under a roof, &c., who are in communication with each other, than to lower the wages of 30 or 40 isolated out-door weavers, whom he separately supplies with chain, and who, owing to a surplus of hands, are struggling for existence, and are ever ready to undersell each other. It is a temptation, of which the manufacturer can more readily avail himself with the out-door weaver than with the factory weaver.

It might, however, be presumed that the manufacturer would therefore prefer employing out-door weavers in preference to the factory men; but there are advantages in the factory system counterbalancing the difference of wages, such as the profits on the looms,—the convenience of having the work under immediate superintendence and the saving of material, by checking embezzlement on "sling-

ing." These are fair advantages felt by every master. There are, however, other advantages, of which some manufacturers avail themselves, namely, the certain trade of a collected number of persons to a shop, in which a manufacturer or a wool-loft man may have a "sleeping interest;" a plan too subtle to be called truck, but truck it is to all intents and purposes. Then, again, the master, or his wool-loft man, lets cottages to the factory weavers at high rents, which the men pay, in order to be supplied with constant work.

The convenience and the profits of the factory system may, therefore, be considered advantageous to the master.

I now turn to the subject of the condition of the out-door weavers.

The average amount of the master weaver is 8s. 1½d. per week (*vide* page 387). Joseph Hill, a master out-door weaver at Stonehouse, says, he has just completed a chain of cassimeres, which took him three weeks to weave,—price 26s., length, 60 yards, deductions 3s.; labour each day, 13 hours; so that his nett earnings, 17 working days, 17. 3s., were 1s. 4½d. a-day, or 8s. 1½d. per week. Low as this sum may be, the weaver would be better off than he actually is if this amount was regular—if he knew that every week he would have that certain sum. This is *not* the case: his work is extremely irregular, his means of subsistence are consequently precarious; he, therefore, possesses no certainty of habit or concentration of his energies.

The amount of earnings of a master weaver, presuming that he has chain, is 9s. 8d. per week (*vide* page 385).—he can exist by his labour, as long as he has work, but when he has to play for a week or ten days, his condition is deplorable. Each day brings its daily wants which must be supplied; the manufacturer, in bad or languid times, can hold back or reduce his establishment; but the poor man's cupboard must be supplied. His wages are too low to enable him to hoard his labour, but he must sell it, or lose it at the time.

The average earnings of the journeyman out-door weavers are very low, namely, 5s. 7d. per week, according to the calculated amount, (see Wages and Earnings, page 387); and in confirmation of this statement, Francis Berry, a journeyman weaver, states, that he weaves stripe for his master weaver, who deducts 5d. out of the shillings of the gross amount, for glue, size, harness, quilling, &c., &c., &c., and he receives 10s. 6d.; that he is a fortnight earning that sum; so his wages are only 5s. 3d. per week.

The journeyman is, in general, a workman whose duties require but little skill or judgment: he works under the superintendence of his master, who ties on the chain, and attends to the more intricate part of the work. All that the journeyman performs, is moving the slay, raising the treddles, and piecing the broken threads; so that, with the exception of piecing threads, he merely supplies animal strength to perform those operations which can be, and are now performed by power.

Therefore, as the journeyman is next to, and nearest in contact with, power, so it competes with him, and his wages are the lowest.

The average amount of the wages of the out-door weavers, according to the calculated amount under the head of "Wages and Earnings," is 6s. 10½d. per week, *vide* page 30. This is confirmed by the opinions of many persons of practical experience, and well acquainted with the districts. The relieving officer at Bisley thinks a weaver scarcely averages a shilling a-day. The relieving officer at Rodborough is of the same opinion. Mr. Rasher, one of the guardians of the parish of Kings Stanley, a very intelligent farmer, does not place a weaver's earnings higher than 7s. per week. Mr. Ross, attorney at Chalford, gives the same testimony; and nearly every person, not connected with the manufacture of cloth, considers that the earnings of the out-door weavers are insufficient for their support. Some manufacturers are of the same opinion; and many of them, that is to say, the better paying masters, agree that the wages of the lower paying masters are not sufficiently remunerative for the labour given. Mr. Wyatt, at Stroud, in reference to the condition of the poor, observed—"I look with dismay at the distress among the weavers round my property. All the mills in my vicinity are at work, but the out-door weavers can scarcely obtain a chain, and I infer there must be a surplus of hands. Since I was engaged in the cloth trade, wages have decreased 33 per cent. The wages have been gradually reduced bit by bit; they have become worse and worse; but had they been reduced suddenly or violently, the men would have risen *en masse* to protect themselves, and to oppose such reductions." He further observed, that though the weavers were never a healthy or strong class of people, they are more emaciated in their appearance than formerly, even within the last ten years.

Gloucestershire.
—
Report from
W. A. Miles, Esq.
—
CONDITION OF THE
WEAVERS.

Out-door Master.

Out-door Journeyman Weaver.

Reason of his low Wages.

Confirmatory evidence.

W A Miles ~ Hand-Loom Weavers Report c.1839
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Gloucestershire.

Report from
W. A. Miles, Esq.CONDITION OF THE
WEAVERS.

I caused 1135 families of out-door weavers, residing in 16 parishes, to be personally visited. They comprised a population of 5010 individuals.

My enquiries were directed to the number in each family, the number of children, male and female, number of persons employed in each family, whether in factory, in hand-loom, or at other labour,—also the amount of weekly earnings from each sort of labour. I further ascertained the weekly expenditure for rent, rates, fuel, and subsistence. I likewise obtained a return of the number of children in each family, as well as the number that attended pay schools, free-schools, and Sunday-

No. 1.—STATEMENT CONCERNING FAMILIES, INCOME, and

W A Miles ~ Hand-Loom

Weavers Report c.1839

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Name of Parish.	Number of Heads of Families.			Total Number in the Families.	Number of Children.		Number of Persons employed in each Family.				Number too young or unable to earn Money.
	Employed.	Unemployed.	Total.		Males.	Females.	In Factory.	In Hand Loom.	In other occupation.	Total number employed.	
Avening	7	..	7	31.	9	9	..	8	4	12	19
Bisley	171	103	274	1215	276	339	10	243	157	410	805
Cam	42	1	43	214	72	62	1	47	30	78	'
Coaley	40	2	42	190	54	59	..	53	24	77	1..
Dursley	18	..	18	72	21	21	11	20	9	40	32
Horsley	37	..	37	175	45	61	9	38	18	65	110
Minchin Hampton	51	..	51	234	49	90	2	79	12	93	141
Painswick	41	..	41	154	36	46	10	39	8	57	97
Randwick	26	..	26	131	45	37	..	29	21	50	81
Rodborough	37	..	37	164	52	48	23	41	14	78	86
Stanleys	88	..	88	437	143	124	16	94	55	165	272
Stonehouse	41	..	41	150	70	43	23	47	28	98	92
Stroud	174	..	174	788	218	253	51	196	121	368	420
Uley	26	8	34	151	28	45	1	37	9	47	104
Woodchester	14	..	14	70	20	24	..	22	2	24	46
Wootton	208	..	208	794	201	243	71	241	22	334	460
Totals	1021	114	1135	5010	1339	1504	228	1234	534	1996	3014

No. 2.—CENTESIMAL and AVERAGE STATEMENT CONCERNING FAMILIES,

Popula- tion.	Name of Parish.	Number of Heads of Families.			Average number in each Family.	Number of Children.		Number of Persons Employed in each Family.				Number too young or unable to earn Money.
		Employed.	Unemployed.	Total.		Males.	Females.	In Factory.	In Hand-Loom.	In other occupation.	Total number employed.	
						Average.		Per Cent.				Per Cent.
2396	Avening . .	7	..	7	4.4	1.3	1.3	..	66.66	33.33	39.0	61.29
5896	Bisley . . .	171	103	274	4.4	1.0	1.2	2.43	59.27	38.29	33.75	66.25
2071	Cam	42	1	43	5.0	1.6	1.4	1.28	60.25	38.47	36.45	63.55
1124	Coaley . . .	40	2	42	4.5	1.3	1.4	..	68.83	31.17	40.52	59.48
3226	Dursley . .	18	..	18	4.0	1.1	1.1	27.5	50.0	22.5	55.55	44.44
3690	Horsley . .	37	..	37	4.7	1.2	1.6	13.84	58.46	27.70	37.11	62.85
5114	Hampton . .	51	..	51	4.5	0.9	1.7	2.10	85.0	12.90	39.75	60.25
4099	Painswick .	41	..	41	3.7	0.9	1.1	17.54	68.42	14.04	37.0	63.0
1031	Randwick .	26	..	26	5.0	1.7	1.4	..	58.0	42.0	38.16	61.83
2141	Rodborough	37	..	37	4.4	1.4	1.3	29.49	52.56	19.0	47.56	52.43
3380	Stanleys . .	88	..	88	5.0	1.6	1.4	9.68	57.0	33.31	37.76	62.24
2469	Stonehouse .	41	..	41	4.6	1.7	1.0	23.47	48.0	28.53	51.58	48.42
8607	Stroud . . .	174	..	174	4.5	1.2	1.6	13.86	53.23	32.88	46.70	53.30
2641	Uley	26	8	34	4.4	0.8	1.3	2.13	78.72	19.15	31.13	68.87
885	Woodchester .	14	..	14	5.0	1.4	1.7	..	91.66	8.33	34.29	65.71
5482	Wootton . .	208	..	208	3.8	0.9	1.1	21.26	72.17	6.57	42.0	57.93
54,252	Average . . .				4½	1.3	1.4	11.40	61.85	26.75	39.83	60.17

The weavers, for the sake of cheap rent, live in lone or scattered cottages in retired places, or skirting on the edges of commons; therefore, I experienced greater difficulty in obtaining these returns, than I might have found if they had been living more densely.

The following tables are compiled from the statements of each individual:—

The Table No. 1. contains the gross numbers in each parish, and the totals. The Table No. 2, contains the centesimal and average proportions in each parish; and Table No. 3, contains the centesimal and average proportions of the total number of families.

Gloucestershire.

Report from
W. A. Miles, Esq.

CONDITION OF THE
WEAVERS.

W A Miles ~ Hand-Loom
Weavers Report c.1839
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EXPENDITURE OF HAND-LOOM WEAVERS.

Average weekly Income.				Average weekly Expenditure for Rent, Fuel, and Subsistence.				Number of Children that attend.		
From Factory.	From Hand-Loom.	From other occupation.	Total Amount of weekly Income.	Amount of Rent per Week.	Amount of Rates per Week.	Amount for Candles, Fuel, and Soap, per Week.	Amount per Week for Food and Clothing.	Pay Schools.	Free Schools.	Sunday Schools.
£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.			
..	1 15 0	0 8 0	2 3 0	0 12 8	0 1 8	0 11 2	0 17 6	..	..	7
0 2 0	62 9 0	25 14 0	88 5 0	19 2 11	0 14 8	14 15 8	53 11 9	15	36	307
0 7 0	16 14 6	5 3 6	22 5 0	3 4 8	0 5 11	3 5 5	15 9 0	2	8	39
..	12 18 0	1 16 9	15 16 3	2 12 2	0 4 8	2 14 10	10 4 7	..	..	68
0 17 6	8 9 0	9 16 0	10 2 6	1 6 5	0 2 3	1 8 2	7 5 8	1	3	31
3 3 0	10 15 6	2 16 6	16 15 0	2 11 5	0 8 8	3 7 4	10 7 7	3	7	45
0 14 6	21 16 6	1 9 0	24 0 0	4 5 10	0 13 2	4 16 11	14 4 1	2	5	16
1 8 0	14 19 6	1 6 3	17 13 9	2 17 9	0 6 7	2 17 9	11 11 8	2	6	53
..	9 2 0	2 17 6	11 19 6	1 13 2	0 3 5	1 18 10	8 4 1	..	6	44
3 14 3	12 2 6	1 15 0	17 11 9	3 5 7	0 3 11½	2 17 9	11 4 5	5	1	48
1 17 6	38 9 0	3 19 0	44 5 6	7 10 9	0 14 4	6 15 8	29 4 9	3	10	147
3 12 0	15 15 6	2 17 9	22 5 3	3 15 7	0 6 8	3 10 0	14 13 0	16	1	71
7 16 2	75 2 0	15 0 3	97 18 5	14 2 9	1 11 3	13 17 7	68 6 10	24	23	238
..	11 6 6	0 14 6	12 1 0	1 17 10	0 4 3	2 1 8	7 17 3	..	6	35
..	7 6 0	0 10 0	7 16 0	1 4 11	0 1 11	1 13 9	4 15 5	3	1	18
18 3 6	80 15 7	1 1 9	100 10 0	18 3 11	0 8 11	16 6 3	65 1 9	66	17	234
41 16 11	400 16 1	68 5 9	510 18 9	88 8 4	6 12 3½	62 18 9	332 19 4½	142	130	1401
										1170

Children not attending any School.

INCOME, and EXPENDITURE OF HAND-LOOM WEAVERS.

Average Weekly Income of each Family.				Total Amount of Weekly Income of each Family.	Average Weekly Expenditure for Rent, Fuel, and Subsistence.				Number of Children that attend.		
From Factory.	From Hand-Loom.	From other occupation.	Total amount of Weekly Income.		Amount of Rent per Week.	Amount of Rates per Week.	Amount for Candles, Fuel, and Soap per Week.	Amount per Week for Food and Clothing.	Pay Schools.	Free Schools.	Sunday Schools.
£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.		£. s. d.	d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	Per Cent.		
..	4 4½	2 0	3 7	6 1½	1 9½	2½	1 7	2 6	..	..	39.0
1 2½	5 1½	3 3½	4 3½	10 3½	2 4½	1	1 8½	6 3½	2.4	5.8	49.9
7 0	7 1½	3 5½	5 8½	10 7½	1 6	1½	1 6½	7 5	1.4	6.0	29.1
..	5 3	1 6½	4 1½	7 10½	1 3½	1½	1 4½	5 1½	..	..	60.2
1 6½	8 5½	1 9½	5 0½	11 3	1 5½	1½	1 7	8 1	2.4	7.1	74.0
7 0	5 8	3 1½	5 1½	9 0½	1 4½	2½	1 9½	5 7½	2.9	6.6	42.4
7 3	5 6½	2 5	5 2	9 5	1 8½	3	1 10½	5 7	1.4	3.6	11.5
2 9½	7 8	3 3½	6 2½	8 7½	1 5	1½	1 5	5 8	2.4	7.3	64.6
..	6 3½	2 9	4 9½	9 2½	1 3½	1½	1 6	6 3½	..	7.3	5.6
3 3	5 11½	2 6	4 6	9 6	1 9½	1½	1 6½	6 0½	5.0	1.0	43.0
2 4	8 2	1 5½	5 4½	10 0½	1 8½	2	1 6½	6 7½	1.1	3.9	35.0
3 1½	6 8½	2 0½	4 6	10 10½	1 10	2	1 8½	7 1½	14.1	0.9	62.8
3 3	7 9½	2 5½	5 3½	11 3	1 7½	2½	1 7½	7 10½	5.2	4.9	50.5
..	6 1½	1 7½	5 1½	9 2½	1 5½	1½	1 7½	6 0½	..	8.2	48.0
..	6 7½	5 0	6 6	11 1½	1 9½	1½	2 5	6 9½	7.0	2.2	40.9
5 3	6 8½	0 11½	5 11	9 7½	1 3½	2	1 1	6 3½	14.8	3.9	52.7
3 8	6 6	2 6	5 0	9 8	1 8	1½	1 7½	6 6½	5.0	4.57	49.31
											41.12

Number of children too young, or, for other reasons, not attending any School.

Gloucestershire.

No. 3.—STATEMENTS given by 1135 Heads of Families, Out-door Weavers, concerning their their Families, Earnings, and Expenditure, collected by individual inquiries.

Report from
W. A. Miles, Esq.

Average Number in each Family, calculated from the individual statements of 1135 Heads of Families (OUT-DOOR WEAVERS.)

CONDITION OF THE
WEAVERS.Centesimal Number of Children in { 1.3 Males } Total Number of Children in each Family 2.7.
each Family { 1.4 Females }

		Per Cent.	Per Cent.	Per Cent.
„	„ attending Day-schools . .	5.7	{ Centesimal Total Average of Child- ren receiving Edu- cation. }	{ 58.88 } not receiving Education. { 41.12
„	„ „ Free-schools . .	4.50		
„	„ „ Sunday-schools . .	49.31		
„	„ Persons out of the gross Number earning Money by Labour . .			39.83
„	„ „ „ not earning Money, presumed to be too young, too aged, or disabled			60.17

	Per Cent.	s. d.
Centesimal Number of Persons in each Family working in Factories . .	11.40	Weekly earnings 3 8
„ „ „ at Hand Loom . .	61.85	„ 6 6
„ „ „ at other occupation . .	26.75	„ 2 6
Total amount of weekly income of each Family upon the gross amount of Earnings . .		10s.

	s. d.
Expense for Rent	1 8 $\frac{1}{4}$
„ Rates	0 1 $\frac{1}{2}$
„ Fuel, Soap, and Candles . .	1 7 $\frac{1}{2}$
„ Food and Clothing . .	6 6 $\frac{1}{4}$ or 1s. 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per week, per head, for food and clothing.

W A Miles ~ Hand-Loom
Weavers Report c.1839
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The above tables might be questioned as to their accuracy, in consequence of the weavers underrating their amount of earnings—a point upon which I have experienced considerable difficulty, and concerning which I could obtain no satisfactory information, even from the masters' books; because, when chain is given to an out-door weaver he may at the same time have work from another master, and the amount of wages in a master's books, may be only a part of the actual earnings of the weaver. But, in order to corroborate or refute their statements, I obtained the opinion of various disinterested persons as to the presumed amount of their out-door earnings, and the general opinion is, that they do not earn 7s. a week upon hand-loom labour. By the returns of the weavers the earnings are 6s. 6d. on the average.

As a further test, I arranged a Table of Earnings in reference to the number in each family of 1135 families, according to their parishes, where it will be seen that the average amount of earnings of a family is 10s. per week, and that the average number of individuals in each family is 5, being the “hardest” family for a poor man (who has married young), because his three children are too young to earn money, and the parents must labour to support them.

SUMMARY TABLE of the stated Averages of EARNINGS of the FAMILIES of 1135 OUT-DOOR WEAVERS, who have been personally visited in the under-mentioned Parishes.

Amount of Weekly Earnings of OUT-DOOR WEAVERS and their Families in the Parishes of																	
Number of Persons in each Family.	Avening.	Bisby.	Cam.	Couley.	Dursley.	Hampton.	Horsley.	Paluswick.	Randwick.	Reddrough.	Stanley.	Stonehouse.	Stroud.	Uley.	Woolchester.	Wotton.	Average earnings in reference to the num- ber of Persons in each Family
Single	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
2 in a Family	5 0	6 0	8 0	6 10	15 0	8 12	5 9	7 7	7 9	7 6	8 1	11 0	10 4	7 10	6 0	9 10	6 2
3 „	5 6	8 0	7 9	7 4	10 8	12 0	7 4	9 8	9 8	9 0	9 0	11 7	11 0	5 0	12 0	8 10	8 2
4 „	„	9 8	8 10	8 2	9 6	8 5	8 0	8 6	8 0	11 4	9 10	8 3	11 1	8 7	„	9 10	9 1
5 „	7 0	10 8	9 9	8 2	„	10 3	9 6	10 10	8 0	15 0	9 1	11 0	11 5	8 10	11 4	9 10	10 4
6 „	10 0	9 0	9 3	9 8	14 6	8 3	9 3	9 8	10 0	9 0	10 11	11 7	11 1	11 0	11 0	10 1	10 1
7 „	9 0	10 0	13 0	8 10	14 0	9 5	12 9	10 6	„	10 6	12 2	13 3	11 1	11 0	11 0	10 1	10 10
8 „	„	12 11	13 6	11 0	11 0	12 4	15 0	8 6	14 4	11 0	12 6	13 8	15 0	11 0	17 0	12 4	12 9
9 „	„	10 11	13 0	„	„	15 0	„	„	11 6	18 0	11 6	„	15 8	„	„	9 0	13 0
10 „	„	9 8	18 6	17 0	„	11 4	13 0	„	11 0	„	12 0	„	16 0	„	„	11 9	13 4
11 „	„	„	18 0	„	„	„	„	„	„	„	12 0	„	„	„	„	13 0	14 4
12 „	„	18 0	„	„	„	„	„	„	„	„	„	„	17 6	„	„	9 0	14 10
Average in each Parish	7 4	9 11	11 7 $\frac{1}{2}$	9 1 $\frac{1}{2}$	11 1 $\frac{1}{2}$	10 0	9 6 $\frac{1}{2}$	8 11 $\frac{1}{2}$	9 5 $\frac{1}{2}$	10 9 $\frac{1}{2}$	10 6	10 10 $\frac{1}{2}$	12 8	8 8 $\frac{1}{2}$	10 2 $\frac{1}{2}$	9 8 $\frac{1}{2}$	10 0

It had been frequently stated that at the restoration of peace many disbanded soldiers turned to their previous trades, and that they helped to overstock the labour market. I therefore obtained from each pensioner at the pay-table an account of his present calling: it is as follows—

Total number of pensioners in the district 84, namely—

Paid at Hampton	34
„ Stroud	21
„ Wootton.	29
	<hr/>
	84 total

Of this number I found that—

28 were Labourers.	1 was a Baker.
19 „ Weavers.	1 „ Sawyer.
8 „ Shearmen.	1 „ Millman.
4 „ Spinners.	1 „ Turner.
3 „ Dyers.	1 „ Cabinet Maker.
3 „ Gardeners.	1 „ Plasterer.
2 „ Masons.	1 „ Slop Seller.
2 „ Tailors.	1 „ Servant.
1 was a Cloth Presser.	6 followed no trade or calling.

Gloucestershire.
Report from
W. A. Miles, Esq.
CONDITION OF THE
WEAVERS.

Pensioners.

Total number of pensioners employed in the cloth trade is 37 out of 84.

In reference to the average amount of weekly earnings by hand-loom labour, namely, 6s. 6d., it must be remembered that the statements are made by the out-door weavers, and might be considered fallacious. In order to test the accuracy of so important a branch of my inquiry, I ascertained from the Excise returns the annual average of cloth woven during the last 5 years, and having (with great difficulty) obtained the wages of every manufacturer and the deductions, I calculated (allowing certain periods to the factory and out-door weaving) the number of persons requisite to weave that given amount of cloth, together with their consequent earnings. I moreover found that there was a surplus of 16 per cent. on the out-door weaving population, namely, 3000, and after deducting that amount of surplus labour from the full earnings of the out-door weaver, supposing he was in work, the average obtained by this method nearly agrees with the statements of the men. I find their earnings to be 6s. 10d., and the men state it to be 6s. 6d. (*vide Wages and Earnings*, page 387). This refers only to out-door weaving. Many of the weavers occasionally obtain intermediate work at other pursuits, of which no account has been made, and it is too precarious to be fixed at a presumed amount.

The out-door weavers are undoubtedly in deep and severe distress. Every disinterested person owns it throughout the district, and by personal observation and inquiry I have witnessed it.

Many weavers have declared that they consider the condition of a prisoner to be superior to their own, inasmuch as he is supplied with food and clothing, and they can scarcely obtain either the one or the other. Prison cost, and
Weaver's condition.

Mr. Marklove, the governor of Horsley prison, has informed me that weavers who may have been committed are actually grateful for the daily food they have received, and they leave the prison with regret, not knowing where to obtain the next meal.

The weekly cost for food and clothing, in this prison, is 2s. 4d. per head.

I have already shown in the preceding table that 5 is the average number in each family, and that the average earnings of that family are only 10s. per week.

The cost of 5 individuals in Horsley prison for food and clothing is more than the entire earnings of an honest family. The average weekly sum for food and clothing is only 1s. 3½d. per head, *vide* table 3, page 408.

	s.	d.
Prison cost of 5 persons at 2s. 4d. per head for food and clothing only	11	8
Earnings of a family of 5 persons to pay rent, rates, firing, food, and clothing	10	0
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Difference	1	8

Then, again, it will be seen that the condition of a pauper in the workhouse may be presumed to be superior to the condition of a weaver's family. The cost per head for food (exclusive of clothing) is 2s. 5½d. weekly. Workhouse cost.

	s.	d.
Workhouse cost for 5 persons at 2s. 5½d.	12	2½
Earnings of a family of 5 persons	10	0
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Difference	2	2½

W A Miles ~ Hand-Loom
Weavers Report c.1839
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Gloucestershire.

Report from
W. A. Miles, Esq.CONDITION OF THE
WEAVERS.

The following is the dietary of the Stroud Union, and it supplies more food and nutriment than many a journeyman weaver can obtain from week to week. Moreover the cost of the articles and food furnished by the Union are at wholesale and contract prices, and the journeyman could not obtain the same quantity retail under a probable advance of 50 per cent., including paper and the "draught of the scale," or short weight, at the chandler's shop.

I, therefore, append to the dietary table, another table containing two statements; one is the contract prices of the goods supplied, the other is the price of various articles of consumption in the retail shops.

DIETARY for able-bodied PAUPERS.

		Breakfast.		Dinner.				Supper.	
		Bread.	Gruel.	Cooked Meat.	Potatoes or other Vegetables.	Soup.	Bread.	Cheese.	
		oz.	pints.	oz.	lb.	pints.	oz.	oz.	oz.
Sunday	Men	6	1½	..	..	..	8	1½	6
	Women	5	1¼	..	..	..	6	1	5
Monday	Men	6	1½	..	..	..	8	1½	6
	Women	5	1¼	..	..	..	6	1	5
Tuesday	Men	6	1½	6	1	..	..	..	6
	Women	5	1¼	4	1	..	..	..	5
Wednesday	Men	6	1½	..	..	1½	6	..	6
	Women	5	1¼	..	..	1½	5	..	5
Thursday	Men	6	1½	..	..	..	8	1½	6
	Women	5	1¼	..	..	..	6	1	5
Friday	Men	6	1½	..	..	..	8	1½	6
	Women	5	1¼	..	..	..	6	1	5
Saturday	Men	6	1½	Bacon 4	1	..	..	..	6
	Women	5	1¼	3	1	..	..	..	5

Old people of 60 years of age and upwards may be allowed 1 ounce of tea, 5 ounces of butter, and 7 ounces of sugar per week, in lieu of gruel for breakfast, if deemed expedient to make this change.

Children under 9 years of age to be dieted at discretion; above 9, to be allowed the same quantities as women.

Sick to be dieted as directed by the Medical Officer.

STATEMENT of the PRICES of PROVISIONS and HOUSEHOLD STORES in GLOUCESTERSHIRE, 1838—
Retail and Contract.

Provisions and Household Stores.	Retail Price.	Contract Price as supplied to Stroud Union.
	s. d.	s. d.
Bacon per lb.	0 6	0 6
Bread per quartern	0 8	0 6
Butter per lb.	1 0	0 11
Candles, common wick, per lb.	0 6½	0 5¼
Cheese per lb.	0 7½	0 5¼
Coals* per cwt.	1 0	1 2
Meat per lb.	0 6	0 4½
Milk † per quart . . . . .	..	2 2½
Oatmeal . . . . .	..	..
Potatoes, 240 lb. per sack	7 0	5 9
Rice per lb. . . . .	..	0 2½
Soap, yellow, per lb.	0 6½	0 5¼
Sugar, moist, per lb.	0 7	0 6¾
Tea ‡ per lb.	4 6	4 8

W A Miles ~ Hand-Loom
Weavers Report c.1839
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Increase of Pauper
cases in 1838.

By reference to the quarterly returns of in-door and out-door relief to the several parishes in the Stroud Union, containing a population of 40,767 persons, it appears that there is an increase of 1691 cases, and in the Dursley Union an increase of 917 in 1838, as compared with 1837. The following tables of both Unions have been compiled from the quarterly returns, and include men, women, and children.

* The expense of "hauling" increases the value of the coal.

† The summer measure is greater than the winter measure.

‡ The retail shops sell very inferior tea to the poorer classes.

STROUD UNION.

ANALYST, showing the NUMBER of PAUPER CASES, including Men, Women, and Children relieved, IN-DOOR and OUT-DOOR, in 1837 and 1838, together with the INCREASE and DECREASE, with the TOTAL COST of OUT-DOOR RELIEF, its INCREASE or DECREASE, and the TOTAL NUMBER of PAUPERS, and INCREASE or DECREASE of PAUPERISM since 1837.

[illegible]

Gloucestershire.
—
Report from
W. A. Miles, Esq.
—
CONDITION OF THE
WEAVERS.

Gloucestershire.
Report from
W. A. Miles, Esq.
CONDITION OF THE
WEAVERS.

DURSLEY UNION.

TOTAL ABSTRACT, showing the NUMBER OF PAUPER CASES, including MEN, WOMEN, and CHILDREN relieved, IN-DOOR and OUT-DOOR, in 1837 and 1838, together with the INCREASE or DECREASE, with the TOTAL COST OF OUT-DOOR RELIEF—its INCREASE or DECREASE, and the TOTAL NUMBER OF PAUPERS, and INCREASE or DECREASE of PAUPERISM since 1837.

Name of Parish.	In-Door.						Out-Door.										Total Increase or Decrease of Paupers since 1837.	
	Population.	Number of Paupers in 1837.	Number of Paupers in 1838.	Increase or Decrease in Numbers.		Increase or Decrease per Cent.	Cost of the Out-Relief in 1837.	Number of Paupers in 1838.	Cost of the Out-Relief in 1838.	Increase or Decrease in Numbers.		Increase or Decrease per Cent.	Increase or Decrease in Cost since 1837.		Total of Paupers In and Out-Door.			
				Increase.	Decrease.					Increase.	Decrease.		Increase.	Decrease.	1837.	1838.		
Cam	2071	121	100	..	21	..	£. s. d. 407 1 7	803	£. s. d. 454 9 2	182	..	23	..	£. s. d. 47 7 7	742	903		
Coaley	1124	85	83	..	2	..	£. s. d. 190 13 2½	465	£. s. d. 217 17 8	68	..	15	..	£. s. d. 57 4 5½	492	548		
Dursley	3226	156	131	..	25	..	£. s. d. 853 13 6½	1567	£. s. d. 892 19 8	131	..	8	..	£. s. d. 39 6 2	1592	1698		
Kingswood	1447	89	112	21	..	21	£. s. d. 372 13 8½	631	£. s. d. 406 3 9	103	..	16	..	£. s. d. 33 10 0½	616	743		
North Nibley	1562	90	97	7	..	7	£. s. d. 397 11 2½	1004	£. s. d. 471 6 0	171	..	17	..	£. s. d. 73 14 9½	923	1101		
Nymphsfield	454	19	17	..	2	..	£. s. d. 196 4 4½	251	£. s. d. 191 12 0	..	22	..	8	£. s. d. 4 12 4½	292	268		
Owlpen	255	14	43	29	..	67	£. s. d. 100 9 0	174	£. s. d. 108 11 7	..	17	..	9	£. s. d. 8 2 7	205	217		
Stimbridge.	923	49	47	..	2	..	£. s. d. 116 14 8½	236	£. s. d. 146 15 11	28	..	12	..	£. s. d. 30 1 2½	237	283		
Stinchcombe	332	5	11	6	..	51	£. s. d. 93 2 1½	336	£. s. d. 130 1 6	119	..	35	..	£. s. d. 36 19 4½	222	347		
Uley	2641	195	268	73	..	27	£. s. d. 631 3 9	1155	£. s. d. 678 6 1	..	114	..	9	£. s. d. 47 2 4	1464	1423		
Wootton-under-Edge.	5482	230	314	81	..	27	£. s. d. 1,160 17 1	2320	£. s. d. 1,348 19 7	97	..	4	..	£. s. d. 188 2 6	2453	2631		
	..	1052	1223	223	52	203	£. s. d. 4,520 4 3½	8942	£. s. d. 5,077 2 11	899	153	130	28	£. s. d. 561 11 0½	9248	10165		
														£. s. d. 4 12 4½				
														£. s. d. 556 18 8½	Total Increase.	917		

Relative to the general habits of the weavers as to diligence, providence, frugality, honesty, and temperance, they rank in common with their fellow workmen. Low wages, however, tend to destroy the energy requisite for active diligence. The earnings of the out-door weaver are too low to afford a surplus for provident savings, frugality and temperance are the results of necessity, and embezzlement is in some measure checked in those districts where the rural police are active in detecting the receivers of stolen yarn.

In reference to the savings of the weavers and others engaged in the manufacture of cloth, Mr. Carpenter, manager of the Cain's-cross Savings' Bank, observes—

"We have not among our depositors a fair proportion of cloth workers, when the large number of that class in this neighbourhood, (Cain's Cross and vicinity) is taken into the account."

It might be presumed that persons in so low a condition would also sink into a low moral state. The weavers, are not, however, a race of people addicted to daring crime or hardened theft. Their pilferings are confined vegetables, or to obtain a little wood for firing, and to minor offences emanating from extreme distress. They commit no offences in order to obtain the means of riot and debauchery, and in many cases hunger is the sole and only cause. These remarks, however, do not hold good upon the subject of embezzling, which I believe is carried on to a great extent, and which the workman for the low-paying master hardly considers to be criminal, when he feels the arbitrary conduct of his employer. Mr. Wyatt, of Stroud, informed me that a dissenting minister once alluded from the pulpit to the practice of embezzlement. Many weavers were present, and on coming out of chapel, they expressed astonishment that slinging should have been denounced, saying, "Where's the harm in taking a *vue ends*?"

By returns from the House of Correction at Horsley, I find that the total number of prisoners for the last two years from Midsummer, 1836, to Midsummer, 1838, was 782, of which number only 27 are weavers.

Gloucestershire.

Report from
W. A. Miles, Esq.

CONDITION OF THE
WEAVERS.

Savings' Banks.

Not guilty of
Crimes and
Offences.

Prison Statistics.

The following TABLES show the districts, and the offences of the Weavers who were committed during the two years.

Nature of Offences.	Names of the Parishes.									
	Bisley.	Coaley.	Dunsley.	Hampton.	Painwick.	Stanley.	Stroud.	Uley.	Woodchester.	Woolton.
Deserting their Families	1	1	..	1	2	..	..	3	..	3
For Assault	2	..	2	..	1	..	..	1	..	..
Stealing	1	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	1
Bastardy . . . . .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Vagrancy . . . . .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Debt . . . . .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
Total . . . . .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	27

The following is an analysis of the various trades, and the number in each trade committed to the house of correction at Housley, from July 1836 to July 1838:

Barber	1	Leather-dresser	1
Bakers	9	Linen-draper	1
Brick-maker	1	Masons	22
Brush-makers	2	Mechanic	1
Butcher	1	Miller	1
Cabinet-maker	1	Nailers	3
Carpenters	7	Painters	3
Collier	1	Paper-hanger	1
Cloth-workers	21	Paper-maker	1
Cutler	1	Pencil-maker	1
Edge-tool-maker	2	Pin-makers	13
Farmers	4	Plasterers	4
Grooms	2	Quarryman	1
Hawker	1	Sailor	1
Labourers	537	Lawyers	2

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Gloucestershire.
 ———
 Report from
W. A. Miles, Esq.
 ———
 CONDITION OF THE
 WEAVERS.

Schoolmaster . . .	1	Tanner	1
Servant	1	Tinker	1
Shearman in cloth-		Twine-spinner . . .	1
factory	1	Watermen	10
Shoemakers	18	Weavers	27
Smiths	2	Wheelwright	1
Soldiers	3	Wool-sorters	2
Tailors	13		

Gradually deterior-
 ating.

The following is an analysis of the ages of the prisoners :—

Years of Age.	Number.	Years of Age.	Number.
8	2	30 to 34	74
9	5	35 „ 39	36
10	6	40 „ 44	46
11	5	45 „ 49	26
12	15	50 „ 54	24
13	29	55 „ 59	16
14	28	60 „ 64	15
15 to 19	160	65 „ 69	4
20 „ 24	157	70 and upwards.	10
25 „ 29	107		

The following observations of Mr. R. Hill, show the downward progress of the weaver, and that when his tenants get chain, they are less able to pay than when they seek about and obtain other labour :—

Reuben Hill, of Cam, owns 60 cottages, which he built about 15 years ago. They are in rows, in three different places in the parish. A garden is attached to each, varying from eight to twenty perches. Some of these houses were let at from 6*l.* to 9*l.* per annum, and no difficulty in getting tenants or money. Up to the strike in 1828 he always did well with his cottages. It was a 100*l.* loss, for the men could not pay. Rents have been on the decline ever since. The wages are so low, and the masters have the weavers since to work at their factories. The cottages were built to hold two looms, and now, as the workmen do not weave out, the shops are empty and the houses. His houses are too large for a weaver, unless he had his loom at home. Twenty houses are now empty. His average rent is now about 50*s.* a year; considers he has been losing 3*l.* a week for the last 12 years; thinks trade has increased; knows a weaver, Luke Butcher, one of his tenants at a 1*s.* a week, who has chain from Mr Bowelbank, 38 ells at 26*s.*, and not always that. When Reuben Hill went for his rent he assured him that he had woven two chains, and received no money; that he had to borrow sixpence of the book-keeper; has heard of three masters who cannot pay their weavers regularly; and of course it is very injurious to a poor man—it is a robbery, as he must remain in debt; and the shopkeeper charges more for the goods, which the poor man has to pay. Luke Butcher, when out of chain, used to job about at farm-houses, and Reuben Hill then could get his money, and very regularly; but whenever he *weaves* he can never pay. Witness has a similar tenant, a woman, named Smith, who regularly paid: she used to leave the ninepence a week on the shelf if she should be out; but whenever she works at weaving, she cannot pay me regularly. Witness loses half his rent by her; does not like to see his tenants take to weaving, unless they can be paid for their work; considers a farmer's labourer is worth four weavers; they always do pay when they can; but the weaver never can.

Before the strike he considered it advantageous to have weavers for tenants; Reuben Hill laid out about 4,500*l.* in purchasing land and building cottages for them; his rental was about 360*l.*; but now he does not get more than 100*l.* It is a very serious loss to him. He has a family of eight children.

Was for some time a relieving officer. Believes the weavers to be a distressed set of people since the strike. Formerly they were a respectable set of people. They had a clock in the house, a bag of flour, and a vessel of drink; but no such thing now. When trade failed, many weavers brought their clocks without the landlord seizing them. The journeymen were, in general, single persons. The master weavers used to give the journeyman seven, pence out of the shilling, and find him tea and lodging without any extra charge.

Considers a weaver earns about 8*s.* 6*d.* a week when in work; this is not the case all the year round. Has heard some weavers say, that from year's end to year's end, they do not average more than 7*s.* a week.

In the summer, when work is plentiful, they get into the fields to work. They are not good husbandmen, but they are noted good hands at corn reaping.

Poor's rates have increased ever since the strikes, and have never returned to their old standard.

“ It appears to me,” said Reuben Hill, “ a strange fact, *that the masters are breaking and the men are in rags, yet there is as much cloth made as ever.*”

Reuben Hill thinks the allotment system answers very well; there are about 30 or 40 acres allotted in Cam, according to their families, about three or four perch to a head. It relieves the poor by giving them a store of potatoes in the winter, and employs their leisure time in

the summer. It is a great blessing to the men. At first it was proposed to give the land to the poor, but it was overruled. There is a committee of management, consisting of the respectable inhabitants. The rent is 3s. a perch, clear of all taxes; but the amount, after paying repairs and expenses, is returned to the poor, as rewards for good conduct and better cultivated gardens. The effect is very good upon the men. It keeps a man of disorderly habits in check, as he would not run the risk of losing his garden; and it is a stimulus to the well-disposed man.

Reuben Hill thinks the beer-shops injurious to society. They are sly corners for men to drink in, and often are screens for crime. He has heard at times, on the apprehension of any offender, that up to a certain hour, he was seen lurking at some beer-shop.

Relative to the low condition of the weavers, Mr. Dauncey, a manufacturer of Uley, by letter dated July 3rd, 1838, observes that, up to the year 1820, the weavers were in good work; that provisions being then reasonable, the weavers did not so much complain as at present, neither had they cause, as wheat was then selling at 5s. 6d. a bushel, and it is now from 8s. to 8s. 6d., a difference of 30 per cent.; that at that period the manufacturers paid 40s. for the labour they now obtain for 30s., making in addition to the 30 per cent. a further loss of 25 per cent. to the weaver, or a total of 55 per cent. He states that weavers have not so much employment as formerly, which also tends to diminish the earnings; and he further states that, up to the year 1820, the manufacturers could sell their cloth 50 per cent. higher than in the present markets.

He further observes, that the present distress of the weavers arises from scarcity of work and dearness of provisions; to remedy which he proposes a repeal of the Corn Laws, stating "that ever since these obnoxious laws have been in existence, the poor man has been getting poorer and worse off. He considers that if the Corn Laws were repealed, the manufacturer would find a better market for his goods, and that the weaver would in consequence have more employment.

In conclusion, he confirms much of my other evidence, by stating that the weavers are a sober, industrious, and peaceable set of people.

It will be seen in the following evidence that the distress to which so many persons bear such ample testimony, is attributed more or less to the decrease of trade. I had no means of ascertaining the correctness of that opinion till I received (though at a very late period of my inquiry) the returns from the Excise Office of the number of yards woven each year from 1823 to 1838. That return shows no decrease in the trade; on the contrary, it shows, if the stripe trade has decreased, that there is an actual *increase* in the felt and cassimere trade. *Vide* page 365.

The growth of minor firms to their present importance confirms the fact.

Therefore, on the authority of the Excise Returns, I must consider the impression to be erroneous that trade has decreased.

There is no mistake, however, about the poverty of the weavers; so that *an increased trade only shows an increase of poverty*; the capital is not sufficient for the population, and the trade is fluctuating. The manufacturers take men on, and turn them off (I mean the out-door weavers) according to the sudden orders that might come into the district. The poor's rates and landed interest become taxed for the support of these men when unemployed; and when they are employed, the manufacturers only pay existing wages, by reason of the keen competition among themselves in the markets. So that there is a large population of men scarcely one shade above pauperism when employed, and who are thrown back into pauperism by the slightest decrease, till it may suit a manufacturer to require their service.

Mr. Hone, late governor of a union workhouse, considers that 7 out of 10 weavers are obliged to seek occasional relief from the parish. *Vide* page 426.

If the trade was more steady, if there was more of the ballast so essential to production and healthy commerce, namely, capital, the demand for labour would become more steady, and the self-regulating principles of supply and demand would adjust the proportionate number requisite for the labour market.

I now proceed to offer to you the opinions of many persons as to the condition of the weavers.

The Rev. H. Jeffreys, of Bisley, has furnished me with a minute account of the distressed state of the poor in his parish. He states, however, that the prudence and foresight of the people may be questioned. Many men have depended on their wives and their children to support themselves by their own earnings, independent of his wages. The wives and children consequently took to the loom, or sought work in the factories; and, now that there is little or no work in the district, the evil is felt, and the husband is obliged to maintain them out of his wages. This facility which once existed for a mother and her children to procure sufficient money to support herself and her family without assistance from the father.

Gloucestershire.

Report from
W. A. Miles, Esq.

CONDITION OF THE
WEAVERS.

Allotments.

Beer Shops.

Wages and Food.

Increased Poverty,
but no decrease in
Trade.

Manufacturers'
Weavers supported
by Rate-payers in
slack times.

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Weavers in Bisley
parish

Gloucestershire.

Report from
W. A. Miles, Esq.CONDITION OF THE
WEAVERS.Weavers in Bisley
Parish.

was naturally productive of early marriages. It was a certain income to the husband; and his own wages he employed for his own immediate purposes, be they good or be they dissolute. On this subject I am confirmed by the Rev. Mr. Jeffreys, who observes,

"They marry very young, and without that care for a provision for their families which restrains agriculturists oftentimes from marrying; for they think they have no need for a sum to begin with if both husband and wife have work; and then, as the children grow up, they suppose that they, the children, may easily support themselves in the mills. Again—the young people accustomed to work in the mills are very unwilling to exchange that mode of life for any other, and it has always hitherto been a matter of the greatest difficulty to persuade boys or girls to go out to service; the consequence is, the young people all stay at home, meet constantly at the mills, and early connexions are formed, sometimes ending in marriages before the parties are scarce out of their teens, and sometimes ending in a worse way. But though persons married young, if they had their health they ran no risk of being unable to support themselves and families, however large, *so long as work was plentiful*. The last few years of *extreme* distress seemed to have caused an alteration in this respect, and many of the young people now go out to service, though not before they were clean starved out."

In further explanation, Mr. Jeffreys observes,

"Another point I would speak about, in conclusion, is the *improvidence* of the people, which, in the beginning of my letter, I think I treated rather obscurely, what I would say is simply this—

"That if work were going on well, and plenty of it, persons in this place might marry young without the particular charge of *improvidence*, inasmuch as when man and wife can both work, and the children find employ as soon as they are capable of doing anything, there is not apparently the same need to lay by a little money previously, as there would be in an agricultural district. But work has not gone on well for many years past. Beggary Bisley has long been a proverb, and the *improvidence* of the people has been as conspicuous in the way in which they have married young in spite of this, and also in the way in which they have kept their children at home hanging on a miserable and uncertain pittance, in preference to sending them out to work for their bread elsewhere. The way in which parents will keep their grown-up children at home to this day is quite vexatious, considering that every year's experience furnishes an additional proof of the folly of it."

The fabric chiefly woven by the Bisley population is stripe cloth; and, with regard to the average amount of the weekly earnings of a loom, the Rev. Mr. Jeffreys does not consider it to be more than 6s. per week. He observes as follows:

As to the wages of the weavers, you were quite correct in stating that a good stripe might be wove well in eight or ten days, but usually in a fortnight, not reckoning Sundays. What I should have said was, that, what with occasional bad work, and constant playing for work, as the expression is, no weaver's earnings in this parish run to more than 6s. a week on the average throughout the year for a single loom. In the winter, you must remember, the *frost* hinders their work very much, for they cannot afford fires in their shops and working by candle-light, which they are forced to do full six of their *sixteen hours* (for when a chain is wove in eight or ten days, it is supposed a day means 16 hours), takes a good deal from their earnings. Suppose a chain is 19s., then the quiller has 1s. 8d., which, though usually paid to a child, should still be considered in accurately fixing the amount of the weaver's earnings.

Mr. Cripps, of Cirencester, pays his work-people in *money*, and for a stripe pays 1*l.* 1s., but does not find the glue. The glue required for a stripe is 1½ lb., which, at 8d. per lb., amounts to 1s. 2d., to be deducted from the 1*l.* 1s. Mr. Jones, of Chalford, finds glue, so that he pays in reality only 10d. less than Mr. Cripps, if 19s. is now his price for a stripe, which I believe is the case. The people prefer ready money very much to *truck*, but I find on close inquiry that Mr. Jones's *articles are very good*, and the prices as low as any of the small retail shops.

Mr. Cripps gives out work very scantily, and I never could discover that any of his weavers living in our parish earned on an average more than 4s. a week. I may have been mistaken, but I have often inquired about it. From every chain must be deducted 1s. 3d. for donkey hire; for they make so many journeys to Cirencester, that it runs nearly to that. If they could always bring a chain back when they take one home, it would only amount to 6d. a chain. Oakridge is about seven miles from Cirencester, and it is at Oakridge that Mr. Cripps' weavers chiefly dwell.

With regard to the agricultural districts, and the condition of the agricultural labourers in the parish of Bisley, Mr. Hall, one of the most respectable and most intelligent farmers, afforded the following information:

"His carter is hired by the year at 9s. a week, in addition to which he has a cottage, house, and garden *rent free*, which may fairly be reckoned another 1s. making full 10s. a week, further perquisites which may fairly be reckoned at 9d. a week; in all 10s. 9d. per week.

Agricultural
Labourers.W A Miles ~ Hand-Loom
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	s.	d.
Shepherd's wages by week	9	0
Good cottage, large garden, <i>rent free</i> , well worth	1	0
Other perquisites full	1	0
per week	11	0

" A Herdman, Rick Maker, Thatcher, &c., }	s.	d.
	8	6
standing wages		
" House, large garden, rent free	1	0
" Other perquisites	0	6
		" 10 0

" The before-mentioned men have been regular Winter and Summer.

" Mr. Hall has four able-bodied labourers, as thrashers, mowers, whose earnings, will average very nearly 10s. a week, is quite certain 9s. 6d., from last *Michaelmas* up to *next*, these four men were mowing hay for five weeks, during which time they earned 15s. a week and four quarts of beer a day, they have one quart of beer regular in the winter, and two quarts from Lady-day till mowing time.

" John Gardner, of Bisley, works for Mr. Hall at 8s. standing wages with beer, he shall probably make it 9s. during the harvest, he is a man that can do some kind of work very well, but can neither *mow*, *thrash*, or *reap*; the four men before alluded to, when at day work, have been paid only 8s. a week, but they do little day work. Thrash by the bushel, mow by the acre.

" Women have 7d. a day before haymaking, and 8d. a day after haymaking commences, 10d. a day during corn harvest.

We have migrated, I think, about 70 persons, men, women, and children, to Mr. Marshall's mill at Shrewsbury, and about 30 into the neighbourhood of Leeds, all of whom I hope are doing pretty well.

" Such was the statement with which Mr. Hall kindly furnished me. I suspect it is more favourable than other of our farmers would have been able to produce, though I cannot say for certain. The day wages are, with all the most respectable, 7s. a week, and beer. They have at present not raised them in consequence of the price of bread, but Mr. Hall told me that his intention was to make his workpeople a present after the corn harvest was over, by way of compensation."

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The following table shows the number of cases relieved in the parish of Bisley from December 1837 to March 1838, and I regret that I had not time or means to cause a similar analysis to be made for the last two years in every parish.

STATEMENT of the Number of WEAVERS and QUILLERS, SPINNERS, BURLERS, and other Persons connected with Factories; Mechanics and In-door Labourers; Agricultural Labourers, Quarrymen, and other Out-Door Labourers who have received Out-Relief in the Parish of BISLEY, from December 1837 to March 25, 1838.

NUMBER OF APPLICATIONS RELIEVED.															
	Weavers and Quillers.		Total.	Spinners, Burlers, and other persons engaged in Factory Labour.		Total.	Mechanics and In-Door Labourers.		Total.	Agricultural Labourers, Quarry Men, and Out-Door Labourers.		Total.	Total Males.	Total Females.	General Total.
	Male.	Fem.		Male.	Fem.		Male.	Fem.		Male.	Fem.				
		140	93	233	9	51	60	6	2	8	166	94	260	321	240	561
Relative Decimal Proportion . . }	.66	.34	..	.18	.82	..	.66	.34	..	.43	.57	..	..	..	..
Total Decimal Proportion . . . }	..	..	.41	..	..	.11	..	..	.1	..	..	.47	..	..	..

CAUSES OF APPLICATION.														
	Weavers and Quillers.		Total.	Spinners, Burlers, and other Persons engaged in Factory Labour.		Total.	Mechanics and In-Door Labourers.		Total.	Agricultural Labourers, Quarry Men, and Out-Door Labourers.		Total.	General Total.	
	Male.	Fem.		Male.	Fem.		Male.	Fem.		Male.	Fem.			
Old Age and Debility . . .	20	62	82	2	31	33	6	2	8	42	53	95	215	
Lameness and Sickness . .	59	21	80	3	14	17	..	..	..	70	20	90	167
Want of Work	55	6	61	4	3	7	..	..	..	54	18	72	140
Large Families	6	4	10	..	3	3	..	..	..	..	3	3	16
Totals	144	93	233	9	51	60	6	2	8	166	94	260	561	

Gloucestershire.
 Report from
W. A. Miles, Esq.
 CONDITION OF THE
 WEAVERS.

In Chalford Vale there were recently nine master clothiers; there are now only three. The decrease of the weaving population, either by death, emigration, or otherwise, is not so rapid as the decrease in trade; there are more men to do work than there is work for them to do.

Many families have migrated and some emigrated.

The weavers complain of women working in the loom, stating they marry into other trades, and put the regular weaver out of employment and bring up their children to the loom. This is confirmed by many persons, and acknowledged by the weavers to be a serious evil.

The houses are poor and squalid; many weavers abstain from religious worship for want of decent clothing.

The Relieving Officer of the Chalford district says the houses of the weavers are, in many instances, most wretched, and that they complain that they can scarcely live upon their earnings;—"in fact," said he, "they scarcely live, it is only a lingering existence."

John Cook, weaver at Chalford, in reference to the present condition of the weavers, is of opinion that if weaving entirely ceased in this district the population at the end of six or eight months would be better off than they are now, because the population would not linger on in this bare existence, but they would emigrate or migrate to seek other employment.

Mr. Nathaniel Jones, of Chalford, manufacturer, believes the privations of the weavers to be so great that they would gladly obtain other labour. Thinks they are the most suffering class in the community; and if, by reason of a brisk trade, their labour should be in demand, they would not accept such low wages. *The unemployed, he says, seek work at any price and keep down labour.*

Mr. Millman, a manufacturer at Kingswood, thinks the out-door weavers, when they have chain, work more hours than any other class.

This shows the effect of low wages, requiring a greater portion of labour to earn the same amount. The clerk and foreman at Mr. Hooper's factory at Eastington, informed me that a weaver had recently expired in consequence of over exertion to support a numerous family.

It is not, however, in Bisley alone that distress exists. It is to be found in many other parishes.

Many out-door weavers cannot afford to taste meat; many cannot have tea for breakfast. That meal consists of bread and water with a little salt; it is called "Tea-kettle Tea." A journeyman weaver, named William Evans, states that "his breakfast is warm water with a little salt or some pepper in it, and a crust of bread—but he cannot have enough of that at times." The dinner of a weaver is generally a piece of bread and cheese, or some potatoes for himself and family, with some fat or "flick" poured over them.

Weavers supported
 by rate-payers.;

It has often been a matter of surprise to me how men can exist upon the amount of their earnings, to pay for rent, rates, fuel, and food. They are obliged to apply to the parish. Mr. Hone, the late governor of the Stroud Union, considers 7 out of 10 out-door weavers come occasionally to the Parish. *Vide* page 426. I therefore regret that the masters cannot or do not limit their numbers; and it is more to be regretted that there are some few masters who avail themselves of every charge they can make upon the weaver, to pluck the last farthing from his pocket, and seek a profit from the wages. It is thus that wages are reduced, that the men are reduced to pauperism, and that the small shop-keepers and rate payers have to support an impoverished population in the interim that their masters do not require their labour.

The following evidence relates to the depressed condition of the out-door weavers:—

Expenditure.

The Rev. J. Elliot, minister of Randwick, a parish in which there are many poor, has favoured me with the following communication:—He states that the working classes in his parish are generally depressed from scarcity of employment, low wages, and payment in truck; they are, however, for the most part patient; with some insubordinate feelings fostered by association at the beer-shops, and by the reading of inflammatory publications. He has taken three weavers of this parish, accidentally falling in his way, without selecting them; all are men of good character and industrious habits. He subjoins the statement of the average weekly income and expenditure of each family during the last three months, that is September, October and November 1838.

Patrick Beard, out-door weaver, wife and five children, seven in family. Average weekly weekly amount of income, including the earnings of all the family. Gloucestershire.

		Expenditure per Week.		Report from W. A. Miles, Esq.	
		s.	d.	s.	d.
Net income after deducting rent of room, sleys, quilting, &c. . . . }	7 0	Rent	2 0	CONDITION OF THE WEAVERS. Expenditure.	
		Poor Rates	0 3		
		Firing and Candle	1 0		
			<hr/>		
			3 3		
		Balance left for the weekly food and clothing of the family }	3 9		
			<hr/>		
			7 0		

James Fluck, out-door weaver, wife and three children, five in family.

		Expenditure per Week.			
		s.	d.	s.	d.
Net weekly income, after deductions as above }	10 0	Rent	1	4	
		Poor Rates	0	1½	
Firing and Candle		2	0		
				3	5½
Balance left for the weekly food and clothing of the family }				6	6½
				10	0

William Young, weaver (amount of family not mentioned.)

		Expenditure per Week.	
		s.	d.
Income per week, after deductions as above }	10 0	Rent	2 0
		Poor Rates	0 3
		Firing and Candle	1 0
			<hr/>
			3 3
		Food and Clothing	6 9

The price of the Quartern Loaf, 8½d. 10 0
Patrick Beard . . . 7s. }
J. Fluck 10s. }
W. Young 10s. }
Average . . . 9s. }
Vide Income and Expenditure Table, Parish
of Randwick, average 9s. 7½d. P. 407.

The following is a case of an out-door journeyman weaver, with a wife and six children. His employer, a master weaver, James Hitchings, says that journeymen weavers do not earn more, on the average, than 5s. or 6s. weekly (vide page 387, which shows the amount to be 5s. 7d. per week).

Hitchings states that the clothes of Francis Berry, his journeyman, are all pawned. He is in debt for rent, and owes 2l. to the baker. He was in the workhouse for ten weeks. He now receives 4s. a week from the parish. He thoroughly understands his calling; is an honest, hard-working man. He has tasted neither tea nor sugar for some time, and his breakfast is nothing more than some bread, hot-water, and salt.

Income.		Expenditure.	
		s.	d.
Earnings of Francis Berry . . .	5 6	3 pecks of potatoes, 10d. a peck . .	2 6
his wife, chairing . . .	3 0	24 loaves, 2lbs. in a loaf, at 3½d.;	7 0
his boy, in factory . . .	2 0	3 loaves per head, or 6lbs. of	
his girl, in factory . . .	1 0	bread	
Allowance from the Parish . . .	4 0	Scraps of meat, flick, &c.	1 6
		Vegetables	0 6
	15 6	Firing 1s. 6d., soap and soda 6d. .	2 0
		Rent	1 6
		Rates	0 1½
			15 1½

Here is a case in point where the parish supplies the deficiency of wages.

Anthony Fewster, maltster and miller at Nailsworth, in reference to the condition of the weavers, observes—

"As the earnings of a weaver's family are much lessened within the last two years, and the prices of provisions much increased, their privations must be many as to the earnings, and consequently the outgoings. It depends much on the number of the family who may be in

Gloucestershire.

Report from
W. A. Miles, Esq.CONDITION OF THE
WEAVERS.

work. A weaver himself, by his individual labour, earns not more, I should think, than from 7s. to 10s. per week."

These remarks confirm my previous statement concerning the amount of earnings.

Joseph Lewis, a farmer and the principal butcher at Minchin Hampton, says that formerly he served the weavers as well as any other classes with meat; has not one a week who can now afford to buy meat from him or from any other butcher. He states that weavers used to buy the offal pieces of meat, but in consequence of the distress among the weavers, he has a great difficulty in getting rid of the common meat, subjecting him and others in the trade to a loss; the rough meat in a beast weighing about 32 score, would be about 6 or 7 score, say one-fourth. He now serves the Union, otherwise he should be obliged to sell it at an enormous loss, and almost give it away.

James Hitchings, master out-door weaver at Stroud Hill, is married, has no family; his wife keeps a school of 12 scholars at 2d. a week each; rents a house and a 4-loom shop, seldom has more than 3 looms at work, his house rent is 7l. 10s. per annum.

Has kept no account of his earnings, but considers that he earns by his own labour little more than 1s. a day on the average throughout the year.

On being pressed to state the items of his expenditure per week, including all his earnings and his wife's, besides the advantages of two journeymen weavers, to whom he furnishes neither food, lodging, or provision, he considerably overran the amount of the weekly income as stated by him.

	s.	d.
Earnings of James Hitchings	6	6
Wife's School	2	0
Profits upon 2 Journeymen's labour, 1s. 9½d. each.	3	7

Total weekly income 12 1

It will be seen that his weekly expenditure amounts to 17s. 7½d. But he stated that he owed 10l. for rent, 7l. to the baker, and the sleay maker 1l. 10s., and the average time of his getting into debt was 67 weeks, or 5s. 6½d. per week for that period, leaving him the sum of 12s. 1½d. for his weekly cash expenses, which exactly corresponds with his statement that his income is 12s. 1d. per week.

His weekly expenses are as follow:—

Expenditure.	s.	d.
Rent, his share of, exclusive of the 3 Journeymen's looms	1	6
Rates, ditto	0	1½
Bread, 3½-quarterns at 8d.	2	4
Meat, 3 lb. at 6½d.	1	7½
Butter, ½ lb. at 1s. 2d.	0	7
Tea, 1½ oz.	0	6
Sugar, 1 lb.	0	8
Cheese, 1 lb.	0	8
Potatoes, 1 peck	0	10
Vegetables	0	4
Pepper, Salt, and Mustard	0	2
Beer, 1 pint at 2d., 7 days	1	2
Firing, 1½ cwt. at 1s.	1	6
Wood	0	1½
Candles, 1 lb.	0	6
Soap and Soda	0	6
Clothing for Self*	1	9½
Mending	0	6
Clothing for Wife	1	9½
Cotton, Worsted, &c. &c.	0	1½
Wear and Tear	0	4
	17	7½
Amount of Debt Weekly	5	6½
Balance, or Weekly Income	12	1

Clothing.

* Items for clothing, per annum:—

	£.	s.	d.
1 Hat	0	5	0
1½ Pair Shoes	0	13	6
1 Pair Trowsers	0	12	0
1 Coat, cloth 21s., 1½ yards, making 12s.	1	13	0
1 Waistcoat	0	9	6
4 Shirts	0	10	0
4 Handkerchiefs	0	2	10
4 Pair Stockings	0	6	6

52) 4 12 4

1 9 ½ per week

A weaver at Chalford, named Risby, states that the expenses of a weaver's family, consisting of himself, wife, and three children such being the amount of his family, are as follow :—

	Per Week.	
	s.	d.
House rent	1	6
Rates	0	2
Firing, coals	0	10½
—, wood, 2 faggots, at 1½d. each	0	3
½lb. Candles	0	6½
½ lb. Soap	0	3½
½ oz. Starch	0	1
12 quarters Bread, that is 4lb. loaves, at 7 d.	7	6
Potatoes 1 peck	0	10
1lb. Cheese	0	8½
1lb. Bacon	0	8½
2lb. Sugar, at 8½d. per lb.	1	5
2oz. Tea, at 5d. per oz.	0	10
1lb Butter	1	1
	16	9½

Gloucestershire
—
Report from
W. A. Miles, Esq.
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CONDITION OF THE
WEAVERS.

The above supports five persons, being 3s. 4½d. each, and the prices and goods are truck.

The average rent for a weaver's house and two-loom shop, with a garden, in Wootton, is 5*l.* a-year; and the rent which the manufacturers charge for standing of shop-looms in factories is as follows :—

A weaver pays for the standing of three broad looms in a factory, at 8*s.* out of a piece three weeks in weaving, 20*l.* 16*s.* Dwelling house, 7*l.*

A weaver pays for two narrow looms 3*s.* out of a piece three weeks weaving, 5*l.* 4*s.*

A weaver, Mark Cole, of Wootton, pays, for rent of his house, 5*l.*; for the standing of three broad looms in the factory, 20*l.* 16*s.*; for the standing of two narrow looms 5*l.* 4*s.*

On the day of the coronation, when the weavers and others were enjoying the holiday, I entered the neatest cottage I ever saw. I was attracted to it by the click of the loom, a sound unusual on a general holiday: the owner of this cottage was in his loom, hard at work.

His house was neat to a degree; he had his small looking-glass, or mirror, over a neat mantle-piece, on which were ranged common but well-selected ornaments; the clock-case was polished most carefully; the round three-legged table was as white as soap and care could make it, nor was there the slightest indication of slovenly or neglectful habits. Jonathan Cole was the master and owner of this cottage: he had always been a weaver since he was 14 or 15, and is now 48 years of age. He was thrifty, had bought his land and built upon it his own house.

The history and evidence of this provident man is best given in his own words.

Jonathan Cole, a weaver at Horsley, states,

"That when he earned only 4*s.* a week he contrived, by living upon bread and water, to save 3*d.* one week, but could save no more for a long time; the "coppers" were cankered before he could put more to them; he heard of a benefit club, but he made his own calculations, and put away as much as if he had subscribed to it, together with the amount which he considered his club would have cost, and called it his *own* club, and in 20 years he saved a hundred pounds.

Evidence of Jonathan Cole, Weaver.

"In 1824 he bought a piece of ground to build a small cottage, but his neighbours persuaded him to build a larger one, to his cost; he did so by borrowing money, and now he has to pay interest, which hurts him. It was built to hold four looms; he cannot now let it: he did once, but did not get paid. His father was a weaver, and taught him, and he went home to work in one of his father's looms, at the age of 17; is now 48 years of age.

"Witness states that 31 years ago spring shuttles were used: white work was paid 1*d.* per hundred, coloured 1*s.* 9*d.* per ell—1,600 11½*d.*; he got 6½*d.* out of a shilling, and no deductions: a piece was woven in three weeks, for which he was paid 26*s.*, making 8*s.* 8*d.* a week wages; his lodgings were found him; paid his mother 3*d.* per week for washing, and he paid for his food. When his savings began he put by 3*d.* a week, and 6*d.* extra when he could; was able, before he built his house, to buy 4 looms, second-hand, one at a time, and yet keep his fund untouched; these looms had pretty constant work for 10 years, and earned him 2*s.* 6*d.* a week each, making 10*s.* a week clear; was married, but had no children; his wife was poorly and earned but little, and cost somewhat in physic.

"Witness entered into a furniture club, and got a clock and other furniture: paid 1*s.* per week, lived pretty well; had a joint of meat a week, and some beer in the house; repairs and

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Report from
W. A. Miles, Esq.CONDITION OF THE
WEAVERS.

furniture took a good deal of his money, and he laid out 23*l.* 8*s.* to purchase a bit of ground to prevent any one from building near his windows.

"Witness bought this land in 2 purchases, 16 lug at 2*l.* 2*s.* a lug (his house is built on part of this), the second 5½ lug, at 4*l.* 4*s.* a lug; this land now serves him as a garden, and provides garden stuff: owes 140*l.* on mortgage, and 50*l.* on note of hand; probably the place is not worth more than the mortgage.

"Ten years ago, when the strike took place, he was persuaded to turn out; was compelled not to take out work at the lower price, and got turned off by his master, who never employed him again, and he has not been able to get regular work since; sometimes only work for one loom, sometimes two, generally stripe-work; has not yet sold any of his looms; cannot get a purchaser for them; made some loss by doing work for a manufacturer who failed and has not paid him.

The wages were lowered to 30*s.* soon after the strike, from 35*s.*, and three or four years ago were lowered to 20*s.*; it is now 18*s.* 8*d.* and glue, and the length, instead of being 28 ells, is 33 ells; could earn, if he had constant work, 9*s.* 4*d.* a-week, hard work, and have to pay out of it quilling and candles; should work from five till eight, or as long as he could see, in the summer, and by candles in the winter: has been at play for weeks at a time; he could just make a bare subsistence; could, if he had constant work for two looms, pay his rent or mortgage interest, rates, &c., but, as it is, he is now reduced to a state of great difficulty. If he was called upon to pay all he owes his whole property, at the present prices, would hardly pay his debts, and he should be turned into the streets without the means of providing for himself.

Is now paid in truck at Mr. Webb's, Chalford, and has been for this year past; gets goods enough to maintain himself, and had 4*s.* in money out of two chains: thinks he is served as well at the truck shop as if he bought goods elsewhere.

Witness states that he could get work in a shop-factory if he chose, because he is a steady man, but then his looms and tools would be useless; many of his fellow weavers are on the parish, and there is an allotment of land for every person in distress; knows some weavers have got it, and that it almost maintains them; almost all the neighbours are gone to shop-looms.

"Witness does not know the cause of the distress, except that there are more hands than can do the work, and does not know a remedy.

I now subjoin the evidence of Thomas Cole, brother of the foregoing witness, Jonathan Cole: he has been less fortunate than his brother, but his evidence is straightforward, and without any attempt to give false colouring or to mislead. His observations upon shop-looms are important, as being contradictory to much prejudiced evidence concerning the condition of the shop-loom weavers.

Evidence of Thos.
Cole, weaver.

Thomas Cole, brother of Jonathan Cole, journeyman weaver at Shortwood, states,—

"That he was formerly a master weaver, but is now journeyman, and during the two years he obtained other work when weaving was scarce; sometimes he had to play for a fortnight or three weeks, but never applied to the parish.

"Witness found great difficulty in being employed by the farmers, as they do not think a weaver capable of doing *their* work; had some work at potatoe digging, grubbing trees and sawing wood; could earn 1*s.*, 1*s.* 2*d.*, and 1*s.* 4*d.* per day; the highest price was for harvesting, and witness has been at this work all the summer, work at weaving being very scarce.

"States that a weaver, by close application for one hour, could do six nails of 1800, but to do this, the chain must be very good; considers it would be more than a man can do for 10 hours consecutively; a man can, by proper application, do four yards a day (10 *hours*). A good workman will always do this; if it was a good piece of work the weavers perhaps would not like to let the master know how quick it can be done, but the weavers cannot help themselves now, as the masters keep looms at home.

"In the factories more work is done, as the men are emulating each other, which was not the case when they worked at home: looms are in much better order in factories than they were at home: people years ago had not the notion of putting them in order like they have now; a man can earn more now at a loom than formerly, from the better tackle.

"At a good loom ¼ of a yard more may be made now from the better tackle than formerly; there is now no stopping in the loom to wind the cloth on the nether beam, as it is done by weights, regulating both the fore and nether beam.

"The weaver did not like his master to know in what time a piece could be woven, because they considered that if the master knew they could earn a given sum in a short time, the price of the next chain would be lowered.

"Witness about 10 years ago kept only two looms; paid 5*l.* 5*s.* rent; was obliged to give up, from Mr. Playne putting up shop-looms, and he went into the factory.

"The master weaver used to pay 7*d.* out of a shilling, and he got the work ready for the loom; used to supply the men with money or provisions as they wanted it; witness did not continue in the factory, because of a little strife with a foreman.

"Does not consider the work is done better in the factory than out, when the tackle of the loom is equally good; but the men are *better off* in the factories than when they worked at the master weavers' houses. The greatest injury witness thinks in the factory system is the walking to and fro to work; they earn more in the factory than they did out in short days: witness says they settle their minds better to work than they did at the master

weavers'; as journeymen under the master weaver the men used to dawdle away their time, get out and have a drop of beer; but now the public houses are quieter than they used to be.

"Witness has heard many of the men in the shop factory say that if the wages were a little higher they would be much more contented to work in the factory than out of it.

"Has had no weaving for four months, and does not think he has earned more than 3s. or 4s. a week; is now getting employ in every way he can except weaving; last week he only had one day's work, and that he earned 1s. 6d.; this, of course, was not sufficient to subsist upon, but for two or three previous weeks he was potatoe digging, and what he earned he was paid in potatoes, and having some left in the house he used them when money was short.

"Was paid 4d. a bag of potatoes for digging, but in taking them as wages was charged at the rate of 5d. a bag."

The following is a letter addressed to me by a weaver, named George Risby, of Nailsworth:—

"HONOURABLE SIR,—I have worked for my employer, a manufacturer, upwards of seven years. I like them very well in respect of civility. For the first six months I worked on white work, but ever since I have worked on coloured, with a few exceptions; for two years I and my children earned from 16s. to 20s. a-week, but since that time it has been getting worse. Our wages were reduced, and we struck for more and accomplished our designs thus far; but we did not keep our price long on account of the multitude of hands and shortness of trade; consequently what we received 2l. for we now receive 1l. 8s. Our hours for work are thirteen per day, and we work very hard, as I think some do not *let* more than half-an-hour a-day. I earn now from 10s. to 10s. 6d. per week; I think my wife gets 2s. a-week, and I believe my children do not get 6d. per week. I do not expect to get 10s. a-week for the future, as our wages are so very low now. The reason why my children do not earn more is because our abb is spun on *bobbins*, which prevents them from earning at the present time 5s. a-week. I have a wife, and eight children, and myself, which makes ten in family. I have 12s. 6d. brought in to maintain this family, and to pay other expenses, such as—

	Per Week.	
	s.	d.
House-rent	1	2
Coals, candles, and soap	2	6
Poor-rates	0	3
<hr/>		
Making	3	11

besides many other little things, leaving only 8s. 7d. to provide food and raiment. Now 8s. 8d. will buy thirteen quarterns of bread, which is five pounds three ounces of bread for each per week, and nothing else.

"I am brought so weak that I am not able to work as I was two years ago. I and my children are very destitute of clothes. The Word of God tells me to provide things honest in the sight of all men, but I cannot do it; it also tells me I shall get my bread by the sweat of my brow, but I have the sweat of the brow and not the bread, and all through oppression. All that we, as Englishmen, want is plenty of labour, and that which sweetens labour. I have four miles a-day to walk to my work.

"I remain, Sir,

"Your obedient Servant,

"GEORGE RISBY."

"Wm. Augustus Miles, Esq.

Erasmus Charlton, Police Serjeant, at Hampton, formerly in the London Police, says of his own personal knowledge that—

"The weavers are much distressed; they are wretchedly off in bedding; has seen many cases where the man and his wife and as many as 7 children have slept on straw, laid on the floor with only a torn quilt to cover them; sometimes he has had occasion to search the houses of some weavers on suspicion of stolen yarn or slinge, and has witnessed very distressing cases; children crying for food, and the parents having neither food nor money in the house, or work to obtain any; he has frequently given them money out of his own pocket to provide them with a breakfast.

"These men have a great dread of going to the Poor Houses, and live in constant hope that every day will bring them some work; witness has frequently told them they would be better in the house, and their answer has been '*We would sooner starve.*' Considers this wretched state stints the children in growth, and causes a deal of sickness; does not think that one family out of 10, children and adults, can attend church, in consequence of their ragged condition; has often dropped in at meal times and found them eating potatoes with a bit of flick or suet.

"In reference to wages it has been stated to witness by shop-loom weavers, that in the factory, as the work is confined to one individual, the power of increasing his earnings by means of the wife and children's labour is diminished.

"The habits of a weaver are not settled or industrious like the agricultural labourer; and that if they were in good work, they would want to play one or two days out of the six. In further collaboration of the distressed condition of the weavers and poverty

Gloucestershire.

Report from
W. A. Miles, Esq.

CONDITION OF THE
WEAVERS.

Evidence of Eras-
mus Charlton, po-
lice-officer, Hamp-
ton.

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Report from
W. A. Miles, Esq.CONDITION OF THE
WEAVERS.

of the district, I insert the evidence of John Skelton, a Sheriff's Officer, in the Stroud district :—

" John Skelton, Sheriff's Officer, has held the office two years, and his jurisdiction extends to any part of the county, except the city of Gloucester, but he chiefly acts at Stroud and immediate vicinity ; has had full employ for himself and several men during the whole time, till just now, when part of his duties are abolished by the new law.

" Up to November, 1837, had 132 warrants and three distresses for rent ; and up to November, 1838, 124 warrants and three distresses for rent, principally among tradesmen and small shopkeepers, confined, however, to Stroud, Chalford, and its vicinity, and not throughout the county. J. Skelton knows that there is a great distress among the weavers, but as executions among the weavers do not belong to his office, but with the small Courts of Request officers, he cannot say to what extent they have been levied. Almost all the weavers are in debt to the small shops ; the consequence of this is ruin to the proprietors, inasmuch as the weaver is not worth suing.

" A weaver cannot get credit now to any amount, except in very rare cases, and then their labour is mortgaged to the shopkeeper who supplies him with food and necessaries till he has ' felled his chain,' some person generally being guarantee for the amount.

" Witness states that he has had more executions against clothiers than against their work-people—considers that half the manufacturers are as badly off as their men, with this difference, that they do not appear so from outward appearance, always aiming at show, which, sooner or later, brings them to ruin.—(See page 10.)

" A poor weaver, living within 50 yards of witness, is in a case of great distress ; last Sunday fortnight he came to witness' house and stated that he had one of the poorest Sundays which he ever experienced, not having a potatoe or even a bit of bread in his house. This weaver has a wife near her confinement and three children ; witness gave him a shilling, and obtained another shilling from a friend for the man, and he received it with great gratitude, the tears running down his cheeks. This weaver has worked lately, but very irregularly, at Mr. John Marling's ; originally worked at Mr. Stanton's, but put off in consequence of power looms, and is a very solid, steady man, and, unlike many of the weavers, not given to drinking.

" Witness states that the man has lately had a chain from Mr. Marling, but it is so bad that he will not be able to earn more than a shilling a day on it ; considers the causes of the weavers' distress to be various, for instance, low wages, kept still lower by the power looms and shop looms, and by the system of underselling one another."

Evidence of Super-
visor of Excise,
Stroud.

I received further evidence from the Supervisor of Excise at Stroud, who states,

That his duties frequently put him into conversation with weavers, and other mechanics, and that he is sure there is very great distress in the district ; has had opportunities of seeing their cottages, which in general are as cleanly and comfortable in appearance as the man's circumstances will allow. The chief food is potatoes, which many of them grow in small gardens attached to these cottages.

Many of the beer-shops keep chandlers' shops.

He further states, that the weavers were formerly addicted to drinking, but now they have not the means, owing to their scanty earnings.

He also says, the weavers as a body are very orderly and well behaved ; they are illiterate, and by no means bright in intellect ; very few have any education but what they gather from Sunday-schools. He can speak as to the want of education most positively, inasmuch as not more than three out of seven who come to him of that class of people, to get their bonds executed, together with their bondsmen, are able to write their names ; but this remark applies more to the elder weavers than to the younger.

The extreme distress is further corroborated by the Petty Constable of Woodchester, who bore testimony to the wretched condition of the weavers, and considers that great distress prevails among them, especially in the parish of Horsley. It was, he said, painful to witness many of the scenes which have come under his notice.

One poor woman, wife of a weaver, James Lewellyn, had a child at the breast, and declared she had had no food for the whole day, (it was then four or five o'clock in the afternoon,) and that she had three children ; there was not a table or a piece of furniture in the room ; every thing was sold.

He further states, that he has no doubt many of the weavers and their children, especially the *young* children, die from disease brought on by want of proper nourishment.

He further adds, that another weaver, named Benjamin Burford, of Avening, had five in family, and presented a most miserable appearance ; they had sold and pawned every thing ; had 20 duplicates then in his possession ; had even been obliged to pawn his clothes, and had nothing decent to appear in at a place of worship ; and witness says, as far as he knows, the man is sober and industrious, and would willingly work if he had it to do.

Some of the cottages presented a clean and decent appearance ; a few of the weavers may be getting *bread* and *cheese*, but the greater part of them are poor and wretchedly off ; the children were ragged and tattered, and many of the parents sincerely regretted they could not send their children to school for want of clothing.

My informant was foreman to Messrs. Cooper and Owen of Wotton-under-Edge, for 17 years and is well acquainted with the habits of the weavers he has left that employ nine

years, and keeps a general grocer's shop at Woodchester; he considers the weavers have fallen off in condition for many years, certainly since the last strike in 1828; *at one time* he considered the weaver to be as *well* off as any mechanic, but *now* he is the *worst* off of any.

He further says, that very great distress prevails; that many of them cannot afford *tea*, and content themselves with a sop of bread and some hot water; several declared to him that they did not taste meat for months together, and their wasted appearance gave evidence to the truth; indeed, as he was talking to some of them, a butcher went by offering his meat for sale at *Evening*, and he heard the weavers say, "*You may go on, for we can only look at your meat.*" The men look spent and wan, and the females thin and exhausted. He has every reason to believe that the weavers are most anxious for work, if they could procure it.

Formerly, in better times, it must be confessed that many might have done better than they did; but what they got was all spent; and if a fortnight of slack work came, they were upon the parish. They have now scarcely money to purchase food, and none to spare for drink.

In his opinion the low rate of wages arises from the men underselling one another in work, and the competition of masters to get their goods as cheap as possible in the market.

The weavers at Uley are in great distress, but relieved in some measure by allotments and emigration. The amount of wages is low; they are paid in truck. Uley.

The resources of Uley arose from the woollen trade; but the trade has failed; 1,000 persons were thrown out of employment on the morning when Shepherd failed, about 18 months ago; some few took the workhouse, some went to other districts, some to Canada, some to Australia.

The distress, even now, is extreme (and the most suffering are the most silent); their clothes are daily wearing out; their children are half naked; they have scarcely any bedding, and actually sleep under tattered rags. Every article that would bring money has been sold, and the population is destitute of money, and almost destitute of work.

Young persons at Uley now seek other employment, instead of lingering about a factory in hopes of work, at which (if employed) they could only earn 4s. a week.

Men who own five or six houses, and lived in comparative comfort on their rents, cannot let their houses or obtain any rent; so that they are almost starved to death, and are in worse condition than the pauper.

I find that in some instances within the limits of the borough of Stroud, some manufacturers have let cottages at 10*l.* a year, being 4*l.* to 5*l.* more than their value.

Mr. John C. Tabram is an auctioneer and appraiser at Nailsworth; has lived there 24 years, and has had as much experience as any one; and knows a good deal both of manufacturers and men. Nailsworth.

Mr. Tabram is secretary to a Loan Society, agent of Savings Bank, treasurer to Society for Prosecution of Felons, Registrar of Births and Deaths, and General House Agent; in the prosecution of his various duties has had frequent opportunities of observing the state of the district, which he describes to be very bad; and has noticed that the general distress has been worse the last 12 months, which he attributes to the want of employ; has frequently had executions against weavers, but they have only been issued to get them out of the premises to obtain possession; the goods seized are seldom worth 40s., and the houses are very destitute; the value of weavers' tenements is very much deteriorated; thinks 75 per cent. at least; in fact, they can scarcely be sold at any price; most of them were mortgaged 20 years ago, and many of them were built by the weavers themselves in better days.

He considers the weavers are decidedly worse off than the agricultural labourer, or other classes in the district; does not consider them more improvident than other classes; would say that they were rather frugal, but their means are very limited; in better times they were not so provident as they should have been; and "felling day" (that is, the day they "felled" their cloth from the loom, and took it to the factory) was generally a "tippling" day.

Mr. Tabram further considers that the weavers are 20 per cent. on the population in Horsley and Nailsworth. About 12 months ago, about three or four weavers, three carpenters, and some plasterers, with other tradespeople, emigrated to Australia.

Enoch Hunt says he has lived for the last 12 years in the neighbourhood, and now keeps the Crown beer-house at Inchbrook; has known the district from his youth, and considers that it never was worse than at the present time; the weavers are worse off than any other class of people; has worked 15 or 16 years in a factory, and can speak to the fact.

He states that the weavers are sober from necessity; considers them to be an inoffensive set of people, and honest; and that notwithstanding the great distress, there are fewer robberies than formerly among any of the poor people, and that it is a very rare thing indeed to hear of a weaver being taken up for theft; the distress in the district is very great, and those who suffer most bear the misery in silence; the worst off are generally the most

Gloucestershire
Report from
W. A. Miles, Esq.

CONDITION OF THE
WEAVERS.

Gloucestershire.

Report from
W. A. Miles, Esq.CONDITION OF THE
WEAVERS.

Nailsworth.

He considers all the clothing trade to be bad, but that it might be made better by the abolishing *mules*, and restricting steam engines; he is sure of it, because the expense is greater than the profits; there is the interest of money, the wear and tear of machinery, and he thinks in the long run it is more expensive than hand labour; if the *mules* were abolished, women would be employed as formerly as *spinners*; and a woman is content with 1s. a day for her labour; but a good spinner would earn 10s. a week.

He does not think the factory people drink much at present, owing to their distressed condition, but in better times they were not so abstemious; considers there are more drunken men among sawyers as a body than among any other class of men.

The people who grumble most at the beer-shops are the master clothiers, who consider them to be receptacles for slinging.

The Star public-house at Forest Green has also a pawnbroker's shop attached.

Mr. James Hubbard, chemist and druggist at Nailsworth, has resided in the neighbourhood about six years; states, that the district abounds with weavers; remembers many *small* manufacturers who have gone into decay; formerly, he has heard, there were from 40 to 50 in and about the neighbourhood; but the operations of the larger manufacturers, when trade became limited, has swept them away, and hardly a vestige of them remains. The weavers were not so badly off when he first came into the district, but they have been gradually getting worse and worse, owing as well to reduction of wages as scantiness of work.

In 1834 the weavers made a stand, and much of the orders went away in Yorkshire. Affairs since this strike have been much worse.

The present condition of the weavers is extremely distressed; they are as wretched as human beings can well be—many can hardly procure the bare means of support, many of them cannot even get that *regularly*. It is heart-rending to see some of their cottages; the health of the people has suffered so much in consequence, that medical treatment is often useless; has frequently sent many away, saying that food is their best physic.

Mr. Hubbard considers that potatoe diet engenders worms. In Ireland, though they have potatoes, they have butter-milk and exercise, but here they eat the potatoes alone, and worms is a frequent and consequent complaint. A weaver may be singled out from among any number of persons by his pale and haggard look. All the diseases consequent on poverty are found here in full vigour; and the constitution is so prostrated, that, if an endemic appears, the people fall under it owing to their extreme debility.

There is a new school established at Amberley, supported chiefly by the benevolent Mr. Ricardo, where about 500 children attend daily; there are also several Sunday-schools. There is a British school at Nailsworth, which is but indifferently attended; the funds are low, and the Amberley school is generally preferred.

In consequence of the impoverished state of trade the tradesmen suffer very much; during the whole of last winter there have been about three sales a week, and many of the tradesmen are now scarcely able to keep open their shops, and contemplate emigration.

Mr. Hubbard says he has taken formerly as much as 5l. on a Saturday evening from working people, but now he does not take 5s. So much is trade decreased, that where a person used to buy two or three penny-worth of an article, they now buy only a halfpenny-worth.

Mr. Hone, late governor of the Stroud Union has had frequent opportunities of observing the state of the poor, especially the weavers; thinks that nearly 7 out of every 10 weavers occasionally come to the workhouse, or apply to the relieving officer. Has frequently visited their cottages, which he has found to be destitute and miserable in the extreme. Does not consider this wretchedness the result of improvidence so much as low wages, which are so very low, that to earn a bare subsistence a man must be constantly at work. Within the last year or two not only have their dress and appearance deteriorated, but they also are becoming demoralized, as will appear by reference to our local papers, where children and young persons, many of them the children of weavers, are brought before the magistrates for petty thefts; and is of opinion that the low rate of wages tends, undoubtedly, to demoralize the people.

Mr. Hone states that there is a large Baptist chapel at Shortwood, of which Mr. Barnard, a manufacturer, is a leading member, and the children of persons belonging to this sect are regularly instructed every Sunday. The parents, aware of the interest taken in the welfare of the children, endeavour to meet the wishes of the more wealthy members, and generally take care that these children come decently to the Sabbath school. The benefit of this school is, however, confined to members of, or the congregation attending the chapel; other children may be seen running about half naked.

Mr. Hone has had frequent opportunities of hearing the weavers' opinions concerning their situation, and they state that they are ground down to the earth and oppressed by the cupidity of their masters, at whose entire mercy they feel themselves to be, and they dare not grumble.

There are three workhouses (temporary) under the superintendence of witness, viz. :—

W A Miles ~ Hand-Loom
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One at Shortwood,	able-bodied.
One at Hampton,	aged.
One at Stroud,	children.

Mr. Hone observes that the major part of the children are *illegitimate*, and scarcely a female weaver in the house but has an illegitimate child, some 2, 3, and 4. About

months ago he had 40 women in the workhouse with their children, but only 3 of them were married, and 30 of them were mothers. Considers that the factories facilitate illicit intercourse.

Witness further says there is not a doubt but that Bisley parish is in more deep distress than the other two districts. Attributes this poverty to the failure of so many clothiers, and thinks, for the last two years, the labouring classes have not had on an average 2 days' work a week. Cannot attribute the very great depression of the Bisley paupers to truck, as he has never heard the paupers complain of it. With regard to the truck system at Nailsworth, it is carried on with too much subtlety to be evidenced.

Mr. Hone states the general appearance of the weavers to be weakly and emaciated. They are not men of energy, bodily or mentally; generally speaking he should say, as a body, they are below par in intellect.

They have not the facility of turning to other labour; the farmers consider their work not worth their hire. Has noticed in a great variety of instances their extreme patience under great suffering, and that the moment they come into the workhouse, they will apathetically sit down, and apparently make up their minds to remain paupers for life. Considers this apathy to arise from the complete prostration of spirit, owing to the distresses they have suffered out of doors before they could make up their minds to apply for *in-door relief*. It is almost impossible to imagine how hard they live, and the poor men think they have a sumptuous meal when they can get potatoes and flick for a Sunday's dinner.

Mr. Hone has only known the district 2 or 3 years, and within that time the situation of the weaver has been gradually getting worse, he might say to a frightful degree.

Joseph Lewis, butcher, at Minchin Hampton, states he has been in business about 15 years; formerly the weavers used to deal with him, but of late years they have not. When trade was good they paid pretty well, but when it became dull they could not pay at all. Has observed a decrease in the circumstances of the people connected with factories, especially the weavers, for 7 years. Now has scarcely a weaver in a week who comes to his shop. Nor do they go to other butchers' shops. He would not give them credit, for he would never get paid. Does not consider that they do not pay from dishonest principles, but from distress in a general way. In some cases a little of both may be the excuse. He generally found the weavers' houses dirty and untidy; they are by no means a cleanly set of men. Attributes this to the nature of their work; it is greasy, and the men slovenly. When in better circumstances, the men lived up to their means, and considers that if they had 3*l.* or 4*l.* a week they would get through it, but there are exceptions. Very few save money. When there was plenty of work they were not noted for sobriety. He further states that weavers used to buy the offal pieces of meat, but in consequence of the distress among the weavers he has now a difficulty in getting rid, very often, of the common meat, subjecting him to a loss. The rough meat in a beast would be 6 or 7 score in a one of 32 or 33 score weight, or about one-fourth. Witness now serves the Union with meat, otherwise would have to sell it at a very great loss. The wages of an agricultural labourer are from 6*s.* to 9*s.* a week. Witness has a man aged 50, and able bodied, to whom he gives 6*s.*, with now and then a bit of offal on a Saturday night. There are many men at Minchin Hampton who would be glad to work regularly at 6*s.* a week, but they cannot get it. This rate of wages has been for about 12 months, and attributes it to the badness of trade, for when the clothing trade is bad, it is felt through all the district. There is not much drunkenness going on at Hampton now, for the people have not the means. Thinks the factory people are more sober from necessity than from choice. Trade has been very dull here for the last 2 or 3 years, arising from dullness in the manufacturing business. He considers the agricultural labourer, according to their earnings, are more frugal and more worthy of credit than factory persons, and if the agricultural labourer has work he is more tidy and decent in his appearance than the weaver, even though the weaver had work. There is no allotment to any extent; a few lots have been let by Mr. Ricardo. Emigration is promoted here, and about 40 or 50 persons left yesterday for Australia, Nov. 27th, 1839. My informant, who is well acquainted with the neighbourhood, is confident there is much of distress, chiefly in the manufacturing districts, not only among weavers, but others connected with the factory. Has noticed the last 2 or 3 years a great increase of this distress. Has heard that trade is now a little revived, but he himself has not felt it.

Mr. Harvey, of Horsley, says the agricultural labourer was badly off about 6 months ago; he now gets 8*s.* to 9*s.* a week in the summer, some men as high as 10*s.* with their beer. In harvest time 9*s.* a week and 3*s.* beer is given. The average for labour is about 8*s.* and beer.

The weavers are very greatly distressed. Many applicants say it is impossible to support themselves by weaving. Considers that nothing would relieve this neighbourhood so much as emigration. Population has increased, while trade has been failing. Many shopkeepers have lost their property, and are little better than paupers. Formerly cottage property, of which the weavers rented greater part, was very valuable. If a weaver can barely support his family, he has not enough to pay rent. Cottage property is not worth holding.

Mr. Harvey sees no likelihood of a change for the better. Affairs have been getting worse ever since the strike of the weavers. Does not attribute the decline to the strike, further than that it embarrassed the manufacturers, and trade has gone away.

Many weavers within the last seven years have turned to agricultural labour; they make good labourers, but not superior to those who are brought up to it.

The wages of a mechanic vary from 15*s.* to 18*s.* a-week; they are in good work, not much at private building, as at new churches, chapels, poor-houses, &c.

Gloucestershire.

Report from
W. A. Miles, Esq.

CONDITION OF THE
WEAVERS.

Minchin Hampton.

Horsley.

W A Miles ~ Hand-Loom
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Gloucestershire.

Report from
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CONDITION OF THE
WEAVERS.

Meat is out of the question with the weavers, who live upon bread and potatoes. The weaver does not go the cheapest way to work,—he buys his loaf at 9d.; but the agricultural labourer buys tail-wheat of his master; the head-wheat would fetch from 8s. 6d. to 9s. a bushel; he, the agricultural labourer buys, the tail at 6s., and thus obtains his quartern loaf one half cheaper than the weaver.

The poor buy the smallest quantities at the retail price, which is the dearest way they can possibly go to market.

The excise officer, Mr. Evans of Stroud, has frequently heard children ask for a "*half-penny worth of tea*."

Mr. Harvey thinks the agricultural labourer poorer, but the more economical man in the district.

He further considers that the pauper was never so well attended to with regard to comfort and food, during the old Poor Law system, but now, under the new Poor Law, they were never so well off. Some of the children have been ill in the workhouse, because the diet is far more generous than the food they could obtain in their famished out-door condition.

Cam.

Mr. Holloway, a large and respectable general dealer at Cam, observes, in the district of Cam, there are some masters who make the men take cloth, and the poor fellows are obliged to sell it at a loss of 4s. and 5s. a yard.

Reubin Hill built 60 or 70 houses for weavers,—is a shrewd intelligent farmer and brick-maker, and can vouch for the deterioration of cottage property.

Mr. Holloway considers the weaver to be the worst paid artisan, and to be in the greatest distress; but that they are extremely peaceable and well conducted.

A weaver, he says, works fifteen hours a day,—say from five to eight, with a short let.

A piece can be wove in fourteen days.

The condition of the weaver is deplorable, for the work is so uncertain, that no tradesman will give them credit. Mr. Holloway states, that for seven years past, he has refused to keep any books with weavers; that he would give them a loaf, but no credit. Credit is absurd when there are no means to pay. A good agricultural labourer will earn about 10s.; the average wages about 7s. a week and cider. The hill farmers pay about the same.

The agricultural labourers are better domestic managers than the weavers; their houses and their children are neater; their expenditure is better managed; but they are far behind the weavers in knowledge and intelligence.

There is not sufficient employment for the weaving population,—all other classes are fully employed, there is not a carpenter or a mason out of work.

A weaver is of no use to work in the garden or otherwise.

Stonehouse.

The overseer of Stonehouse states, that he has known the state of the poor of Stonehouse for two years; considers the condition of the weavers better since the last quarter, than for two years previously; there was great distress before, arising from want of work; does not think so much from lowness of wages, as the general depression of trade; has had no opportunity of comparing this district with another. A weaver cannot earn more than 2s. a day on an average; cannot speak of the difference between a master-weaver and a journeyman; what he speaks of relates to those who work at home; has got his information from the weavers' own observations, by visiting their houses.

With respect to the appearance of their cottages, he has visited some, where the earnings have been small, but the neatness great; others, where the earnings have been great, and the comfort little.

This observation, moreover, applies in witness' opinion, more to the houses of spinners, who are a more improvident set of people.

Where there is a cleanly house, the wife is generally the same.

There is no allotment system in Stonehouse.

He considers the disposition and habits of the weavers and labouring persons to be more steady and regular from Cainscross, westward, than at Chalford and Bisley,—states, Mr. Stanton to be very strict in his mill with his men,—requiring punctuality and regularity of habit; the consequence is, that his men are orderly and well conducted.

Schools and Wor-
ship neglected.

With regard to the general character of the weavers, they are a quiet suffering class, limited as to intelligence, especially in the rural districts, where their whole time is taken up in labour, &c., where they have no means of acquiring mental improvement. With regard to religious duties, and attendance at places of worship, they are by no means remiss; but a great number of them are unable to attend divine service for want of decent clothing. Mr. Jones, surgeon, of Stroud, considers them to be more moral than some classes, and much more attentive to religious duties. He has had much opportunity of witnessing their habits in their own houses, and considers them to be a very inoffensive, pains-taking, and industrious class. The distress in many families is so great, that the children have no decent apparel to attend the Sunday schools, and may be seen on the commons as ragged as colts. It is evident that these children can hardly be expected to attend any weekly school, and in fact, they are left in a most deplorable state of neglect, and growing up in the darkest state of ignorance. This low condition must, of necessity, tend to an exceedingly low moral state; and here again, I trace the cause to the surplus of labour, which, unless removed, is an incubus upon the weavers, and a mischief to the rising generation.

Much of the moral condition of a workman, much of his self-respect, and much of his consequent comforts, as well as his station among his fellow-workmen, depends upon the influence of a kind and attentive master, who dismisses the drunkard, and carefully encourages the sober and the steady workman; but when this influence has not been exerted, where the master is indifferent to the morals of his workpeople, where his men are left to the entire mercy or cupidity of head workmen, and where the good and the bad are both treated with harshness, indifference or severity, all become in the same proportion, careless, reckless, and demoralised.

It is to the utter absence of moral discipline on the part of manufacturers over their workpeople using their labour, merely as animal labour or machinery, and holding no restraint except that of arbitrary dismissal, not in reference, however, to bad moral conduct, but to the state of demand for their labour, or to caprice,—it is to this want of a friendly and fostering interest on the part of the masters to their servants, that I attribute much of the alleged profligacy and vice, when many congregate in factories, as well as the distressed condition of the working people.

At Stourport, near Kidderminster, there is a carpet factory, and I inspected the weavers' houses; their wages were the same as in Kidderminster; but their domiciles were much better furnished, as in almost every house I saw the long-cased clock, the chimney ornaments, a looking-glass, the geraniums behind a clean muslin blind, and a neat clean floor; not so, however, in the generality of the weavers' houses at Kidderminster. These men had all been weavers, however, at Kidderminster; but the proprietor, or manufacturer, was personally kind to his men, and by his actions evinced his sincerity in their welfare. He had altered their habits—and the men were happy in their employment. Many of them had paid off public-house scores, and drunkenness was punished by dismissal.

I observed a similar condition of weavers under the moral influences of their masters at Bridgenorth, and it may be stated as a fact, that under such control (if controul be the word to employ in reference to the happiness of the man), or under such influence, a labouring man feels his own self-independence, his own moral worth, in a much greater degree than a man receiving higher wages, who is under no controul, who has no master to whom he can look with gratitude for the interest taken in his welfare. He leaves his work, tired in heart and body, and betakes himself neglected and unheeded, as to his moral conduct, to the beer-shop. Lower wages in the one case procure much more happiness than higher wages in the other. Many workingpeople have acknowledged this to me, more especially at Witney. In further corroboration of this fact, so well worthy the consideration of those who employ labourers, I am informed that Messrs. Foxes, list manufacturers at Wellington, use great moral discipline over their men. A drunkard is deprived of work for a month; a man is dismissed for bastardy or swearing; and although their wages are low, there is less actual poverty than in other establishments, where wages may be higher.

I now proceed to submit to you the condition of the weavers in some of the parishes personally visited, and in so doing I beg to call your attention to the parish of Coaley, where the poor are neglected and in a state of extreme ignorance, contrasting their low condition with the working-classes in the parish of Stonehouse, where music is cultivated, and where the higher classes and employers of labour feel an interest in the welfare of their work-people.

CAM PARISH.

There are about 80 weavers in this parish, nearly all of whom are employed, yet notwithstanding there was an appearance of poverty and destitution in their houses; in almost every one of which there was sickness of some kind among the children or the parents; several I counted with meazles, others with whooping-cough, and some wasting away from consumption.

Although the weavers' houses are generally a scene of confusion and dirt, they appear to be quite unaware of the fact, thus verifying an old proverb, "Habit is second nature."

I do not think it is the natural inclination of the weavers to live in a state so comfortless and cheerless; but in many cases it is the unavoidable consequence of large families and small cottages: thus you find them washing, drying, cooking, weaving, quilling and all the other necessary culinary and working duties per-

Gloucestershire.
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Report from
W. A. Miles, Esq.
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CONDITION OF THE
WEAVERS.

Moral influence of
a Master conducive
to the happiness of
the Working Men.

DISTRICT
OBSERVATIONS.
CAM

Gloucestershire.

Report from
W. A. Miles, Esq.DISTRICT
OBSERVATIONS.
CAN.

formed in one small confined apartment, which is as prejudicial to health, from its atmospherical impurities, as it is destitute of comfort, cleanliness, and order.

The poor people, generally speaking, live upon vegetables, chiefly cabbage and potatoes; and it is probable that an exclusive vegetable aliment has the tendency to produce those disorders on the bowels which are so prevalent among the poor weavers, not only in this but in other parishes.

The late Rev. W. C. Holder, vicar of this parish, died just as he was maturing some wholesome and excellent plans for the amelioration of the poor, and the prevention of pauperism. This gentleman, who was a good and kind man, an exemplary clergyman as well as a judicious benefactor to the poor, had established a fund for supplying the poor with bread, bacon, cheese, herrings, rice, oatmeal, flour, &c. &c., which were retailed out to them at less than cost price; and to each poor person was given a printed form of cookery, in which the saccharine qualities and the necessary quantities of each article were prescribed; making in some cases a diet which he often placed on his own table.

He also established a club to provide against sickness in their families, and lying-in of their wives, and inability to work from accidents; printed rules of which were set up in every poor man's house, and the plan was likely to be successful.

In his rigid inquiries into the pauperism of the parish, he found many idle and worthless pretenders; some who used crutches, and practised other deceptions, but when he caused relief to be withheld, the crutches were abandoned; so that he made the lame to walk, and I believe in one case the blind to see!

Thus the poor, formerly snug in the receipt of parish relief would seek no employment; and any attempt at alteration or improvement was met with no ordinary opposition and abuse.

COALEY PARISH.

COALEY.

A striking illustration of the force of example is exemplified in this parish, the principal features of which are extreme ignorance, uncivilised manners, and the most chilling and abject poverty; perhaps no parish has been so unfortunate as Coaley as regards its clergymen, or more neglected in every sense by those who ought at once to be the advisers and the pattern of the people. Of the three last clergymen one committed suicide, and the other was a confirmed drunkard.

In such a state of things it is no matter of surprise that the poor should be lax in their morals, degraded as to intellect, or rude and barbarous in their manners.

Ignorance.

At a coroner's inquest held some time ago in the parish, there was only one man out of the twelve jurymen who could write his name. Several of these men were hand-loom weavers. Nor does this state of ignorance confine itself to the lower classes, but it is, I am told, observable in the farmers or others: in fact, take the parish throughout, a worse in morals or intellect cannot be found.

As a striking illustration of the rooted habits of the Coaley people, I quote, from "Rudder's History of Gloucestershire," the following character of the place in 1779:—"Worst roads in the world, and the poor labouring people are so abandoned to nastiness that they throw everything within a yard or two of their doors, where the filth makes a putrid stench, to the injury of their own health and the annoyance of travellers, if any come among them. The better houses are gone to ruin, and there is not a gentleman resident in the parish."

Of weavers there are about fifty or sixty remaining; formerly there were double the number. These weavers injure the trade by taking out work at any price; they may be seen travelling twelve or fifteen miles to obtain even a stripe chain from the Chalford manufacturers, taking back the price of their labour in truck, thus committing a threefold evil, by depriving the resident weaver of work, and lowering wages, already low at Chalford, and injuring the shopkeeper by receiving truck goods in payment.

Captain Thompson, till lately a resident in Coaley, has been the friend of the poor; he has been the village doctor, schoolmaster, and lawyer.

It is stated that the new appointment by the bishop, viz. the Rev. Mr. Bellingham, is likely to prove a benefit to the parish, being a gentleman as warm and zealous in his parochial duties as his predecessors were cold and careless. He observes, that in a great degree the poverty of the working classes of this parish arises from habits of personal intemperance. It is, he says, a positive fact, that it matters not, in most cases, what may be the extent of wages earned, for the majority of the people will, when opportunity allows, spend the greatest portion of

Drunkenness.

their money in the licensed houses for drunkards and dissipated wretches. He states that, in his own knowledge, the father of a family in his parish, and his children, earned four guineas per week, and still the whole family have been in the most abject condition possible, entirely owing to his habits of drunkenness.

Gloucestershire.

Report from
W. A. Miles, Esq.

DISTRICT
OBSERVATIONS.
STONEHOUSE.

STONEHOUSE PARISH.

This parish presents a striking contrast to that of Coaley, both in the domestic comfort of the working classes generally, and in their moral and intellectual condition; though only separated from Coaley by the intervening parish of Stanley, the people are a century before them in everything which tends to elevate the moral and intellectual condition. I was informed, from good authority, that a case of drunkenness rarely ever occurs in the village, owing to the neighbouring gentry and the respectable inhabitants, who, by their kind exertions, have done much in checking vice and promoting good and honourable conduct among the working classes.

What is so lamentably deficient in the parish of Coaley is here to be found in full energy, and the inhabitants throughout the parish appear comfortable, happy, and contented.

The weavers here with but one or two exceptions are superior to the generality of weavers in other districts; they are mostly master weavers, not on a large scale, but with perhaps two looms; I did not observe more than two in any of the houses; their children were decently clad, and the appearance of the families altogether presented an air of domestic comfort, which may be looked for in vain among the generality of the weavers.

Yet upon inquiry these men earn little or no more than other weavers who have tolerably constant work, but they have always been frugal, sober, and industrious, preferring after the toil of the day the more rational pleasure of social music, to the revelry and drunkenness of the ale house.

In several houses I found musical instruments, basses, violins, clarionets, and flutes, and I was informed that some of the weavers play very well, and take their parts in the Philharmonic concerts at Stroud, with good musicians from Cheltenham; those whose pretensions to the science are of a more humble stamp may be seen performing at church or chapel on Sundays, and though they are not so familiar with Handel or Mozart as the others, no doubt partake of equal pleasure, and are capable of inspiring an almost equal delight.

Music cultivated.

Not only were the houses of the weavers clean, neat, and well furnished, but in many instances a respectable little library was to be seen. In former days, when trade was good and wages high, it would have been difficult to select a cottage in which was not its little library of books hung up on shelves about three or four in number, attached by cords, and suspended from the wall; in all the other parishes I scarcely found a relic of a book shelf. At Stonehouse, I observed the books neatly bound, and put up in the way I have described. All the books were of a decidedly religious character, such is generally the case.

Small Libraries.

Thus, in reading and music they find enjoyment at once rational and useful, the result of which is well furnished and comfortable homes, a change of clothes for Sundays, and the satisfaction of a good character.

The means of education here is strictly religious, in fact it is difficult to find a free school, whether Sunday or daily, that is not exclusively of that character.

In conclusion, I beg to observe, that Stonehouse is altogether an exception to the general rule, being situate in the heart of a manufacturing district, where every mill is at full work, wages good, employment constant, and the masters are benevolent and kind.

If, in other districts, similar advantages existed, if some amusement was cultivated among the men after the hours of labour, if benevolence and kindness, instead of austerity and indifference, were exhibited by masters to their men, or attention shown to their condition and welfare, the moral state and the happiness of the people would be materially improved.

John Osborne, policeman at Stonehouse, was formerly in the Cheltenham force. There is another policeman in the upper district, and they mutually help each other. The district extends about four miles, and is supported by the voluntary subscriptions of the inhabitants; witness's salary is £1 1s. per week guaranteed. He had no case of slinging since his time which is about 12 months and very few cases of felony the chief cases are misdemeanors.

Evidence of the
Police Officer.

W A Miles ~ Hand-Loom
Weavers Report c.1839
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Gloucestershire.

Report from
W. A. Miles, Esq.DISTRICT
OBSERVATIONS.
STONEHOUSE.

There are several beer shops in the neighbourhood, but all well conducted; there are only summoned two; there are about ten altogether. The beer houses are not receptacles of prostitutes, but are well and orderly conducted.

The poor in Stonehouse are not so badly off as in many places he has seen, say *Bisley*; thinks they are tolerably comfortable, has often heard music in their houses among themselves, and now and then they form themselves into a band, and meet at the public house; these people are generally weavers and factory people.

At Stonehouse, they attend church and chapel very regularly, and most of them are decently and respectably clad.

The class of persons who commit depredations are too often the more respectable people, such as farmer's sons, on going to their homes drunk: sometimes it is done for mere mischief, and sometimes from "spite;" very seldom has it occurred that the poor have stolen from actual want.

Witness has only known two cases, one stealing turnips, and the other bread, from real distress.

The weavers' houses are decently furnished; thinks they are not in distress at Stonehouse. The weavers are well off for musical instruments and books; most of them have clocks and corner cupboards in their houses; has heard them talk about trade, and say that they could do well enough if they had regular work. The weavers can get credit at the shops.

Witness's district only extends to Stonehouse; does not want any additional force, because in time of bustle can call a constable or his brother officer; does not find the constables so apt as the police; they are not up to the business.

The other officer has had two or three cases of felony, but believes he has had no slinging cases.

ULEY.

Failure of Mr.
Sheppard.

ULEY PARISH.

This parish has of late suffered a severe loss, in the failure of one of the oldest and largest manufacturing firms in the county, viz. that of Messrs. Sheppard and Son.

This firm used to employ from 700 to 800 hands; these were suddenly and unexpectedly thrown out of employ, and distress is but the natural consequence.

Perhaps no place has undergone such changes for the worse as Uley. It was formerly, even three years ago, an active bustling village; the majority had work and tolerable wages, and with the allotment system, which is carried on here to a considerable extent under the care of Colonel Kingscote and Captain Slade, the working classes were in a tolerably comfortable condition; added to this, the benevolent daughters of Mr. Sheppard, a large manufacturer in the parish, spent their whole time in the education of the children of the working classes and the poor generally, at the same time watching over their domestic comforts, supplying by their own means and industry many an article of food or clothing, and rendering themselves in every respect the friends of the needy, the rewarders of the industrious, and they were in their own persons the schoolmistresses of the village.

Benevolence of
Miss Sheppard.

Out of a fund raised by Miss Sheppard (arising from the sale of a likeness taken by herself of the Rev. Rowland Hill) an infant school was built near the manufactory which was filled with the poorer children neatly clad, and in whom she took great interest. A lending library was also established by them, and was productive of very good results. In fact, nothing was left undone that could tend to ameliorate their condition, improve their minds, and make them useful and virtuous members of society.

In consequence of the breaking up of the establishment, mercantile and domestic, of Mr. Sheppard, the family have left the neighbourhood, and what with the absence of trade and the deprivation of those advantages which Uley used to possess, it is not surprising that much poverty and distress abound. It was observed to me by a late overseer of Uley, that in his opinion the parish would in the course of a few years, become an independent agricultural district, and that it would be better for the interest of the parish if weaving labour in it entirely ceased. Wickwar, a village four miles from Wootton, was formerly inhabited by weavers; there is a charity for the benefit of decayed persons engaged in the clothing trade, but there is not a weaver in the parish, and it is now entirely agricultural.

Uley, - in its present state it may truly be called a "deserted village;" houses

are tumbling down for want of repairs which the proprietors will not afford, seeing no chance of tenants; others have been taken down and sold for what the materials would fetch, and I am told a very decent cottage may be purchased for about £20.

As an instance of the great depreciation of property, Mr. Sheppard's factory, which has been estimated to have cost him, first and last, nearly £50,000, was sold by auction, eighteen months ago, for £2,300, including three steam-engines, one of which has lately been purchased for 500*l*.

There are three other mills in the village; one, viz. Mr. Jeens, which is closed, and the others Messrs. Dauncey's and Mr. Smith's, which are still at work.

It is considered that there were about 200 hand-loom weavers in Uley formerly, 60 or 70 were employed by Messrs. Sheppard: emigration has, however, lessened their number; migration has disposed of others; several are gone to the iron works at Merthyr—and the remainder may be found among agricultural labourers, or in some other employ; very few are supported by the parish.

In the month of October eleven wives with their families emigrated to America, their passage being paid by the husbands who had gone before them, and are doing well.

Emigration has been greatly promoted at Uley; in fact, so heavy were the *poor rates* that it was absolutely necessary to adopt some means, and more than 100 have left for America and Australia.

There are now left about fifty weavers, most of whom I saw at their own homes, and in many instances I happened to find them at their dinner: this meal consisted of potatoes exclusively—I saw no meat, except in two or three cases, and they told me they did not know the taste of it: a piece of "flick" (*i. e.* fat from the interior of a pig) melted and thrown over some cabbage or potatoes is their common substitute for meat, and it was eagerly eaten and enjoyed.

The condition of the weavers here is, in my opinion, undoubtedly one of great privation and distress, and their squalid and half-famished looks corroborate that opinion; but it is a remarkable fact that, though the parents look as if they had not half enough to support nature, the children, almost without exception, look healthy, robust, and plump. I am confident that many of the weavers here do not eat more than once a day, especially those who have large families: their houses presented a most miserable appearance, the only furniture in many being an old stool, a broken table, and few cracked or broken cups and pans. In one or two cases I found them sitting on the stair-steps, having no chair or stool; in others, a log of wood is a substitute; they have pawned or sold everything; and those who have work drag out a miserable existence upon 5*s.* or 6*s.* a week, *and this in truck*, without the possibility of ever redeeming or regaining their furniture; and, although in a condition almost without hope, they appeared to be patient in extremity.

A total want of cleanliness marked all the houses of the weavers which I visited; they were even intolerably dirty. This I am of opinion may be attributed to the listlessness or broken spirit in the wife, who is always the main sufferer, especially where the husband is addicted to drink.

In several houses I found the wives in a state of utter idleness, as if they were brooding over their distress; thus they are rendered supine and careless by the very inducements which ought to create the opposite spirit of perseverance, and a determination to be active: in some of these cases the husbands were from home seeking employment, while the wives, being left to provide how they could for their families, appeared so paralyzed, that for want of energy they sit and brood, and almost starve.

Rudder, in his History of Gloucestershire, 1779, in reference to the working classes of Uley (whom he states to be exclusively employed in the cloth trade), observes, that "idleness and debauchery are so deeply rooted in them, by means of those seminaries of vice called alehouses, that the poor are very burdensome—these houses are scattered all over the country, and are daily increasing, which we owe rather to the magistrates' inattention or indulgence, or perhaps to a mistaken notion of serving the community by increasing the public revenue for licences; but they may be assured that nothing can compensate for depravity of morals and the loss of industry."

DURSLEY PARISH.

Out of 150 weavers who formerly-resided in this parish, principally in the town,

Gloucestershire.

Report from
W. A. Miles, Esq.

DISTRICT
OBSERVATIONS.
ULEY.

Present Distress.

Emigration and
Migration.

Depressed pecu-
niary condition.

Induces listlessness
of character.

Gloucestershire.

Report from
W. A. Miles, Esq.DISTRICT
OBSERVATIONS.
DURSLEY.

Trade decreased.

there are now only about 20; of these 12 work in the shop factory of Messrs. Howard Brothers; the others are out-door weavers.

The clothing trade has greatly declined in Dursley; there are now only two manufacturers, and about some ten or twelve years ago there were six or seven.

The weavers of one of the manufactories complain of the low wages they are paid, and the little they can earn. Messrs. Howards' trade being unsteady and fluctuating they have to wait for chain, making their nett average earnings very low. One of the firm, the principal partner, will only employ good, steady hands, and he looks into the moral conduct of the men, and requires them to attend religious worship, while he also takes an interest in the Sabbath education of the children.

Tickets are kept for the purpose of knowing whether the children attend Sunday-school regularly, and dismissal from employment is the consequence of too frequent absence.

There are many poor in Dursley, and their houses are wretched and destitute.

The few weavers' houses I saw were not, however, of the worst description: yet they were far from being comfortable; their families appeared badly off, but not destitute of furniture, as in the cases at Uley, and some of the other parishes.

Of the 150 weavers who formerly lived in Dursley, most of whom could formerly find employment (for Dursley was once a very brisk manufacturing town), some have gone to Australia and America; others are agricultural labourers; three or four are now hawkers of cloth; and the remainder are either dead, or perhaps paupers in their respective parishes.

The trade did not decline in Dursley for want of capital, inasmuch as the manufacturers were all opulent men, and are now living, retired from trade, in good estate. The cause may be stated to be the great risk in business over and above the remuneration for the capital employed. Two or three mills are now vacant and almost in ruins; the proprietors of which prefer sinking the property rather than endure the risk and fatigue of trade.

POWER LOOMS.

POWER-LOOMS.

There are many opinions, even among the manufacturers, concerning the ultimate expediency of a general adoption of power-looms, because, in the fine and more tender fabrics, there is a delicacy required in the blow which steam does not possess. The chain for a power-loom must be prepared and spun very carefully, because otherwise the constant breaking of the threads would greatly impede the work, and render it more expensive. Mr. S. Marling observes, that "bad chains cost us more for weaving than good ones."

Effect on Wages.

The number of power-looms in the district, though not exceeding a hundred, has had the effect of fixing, and in some cases lowering, the wages of hand-loom weaving. Mr. Peter Playne, a manufacturer, says his weavers know his opinion, that it will not be to the interest of the manufacturer to use power-looms if the men will work, as he says, at reasonable wages: he considers that the weaver is racing against steam, and that the slightest rise for wages would cause their general adoption of power throughout the country. He further says, that his opinion respecting the power-loom has always been, that, though cloth can be made by it, it will not be worth the extra machinery, mechanics, &c., attendant upon power. He thinks that power will not greatly reduce the wages of weaving below the present price; and as to its general effect upon the labour of the district, if a weaver should be put out, a mechanic, such as a millwright, carpenter, or blacksmith, will be put in.

The opinion of the weavers concerning power is, that, although it is not of any glaring advantage to the manufacturer, yet it is a decided injury to their class, as the manufacturers use it as a means of keeping wages low, by threatening its introduction.

W A Miles ~ Hand-Loom
Weavers Report c.1839
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Anthony Fewster, of Nailsworth, observes, power-looms must in all probability supersede the hand-loom. Thus, the introduction of the carding-machines, some forty years ago, set aside the whole body of scribblers, and at a subsequent period the shearing-frames superseded the hand-shearing, and thus another whole class was set aside; and although there was doubtless much individual suffering in

consequence, yet the change has been beneficial on the whole. The power-loom will in time unquestionably supersede the hand-loom. And he continues to remark, if the general trade of the country should revive, he trusts that the hand-loom weavers will find some other employment; they are not, however, (for the most part) sufficiently muscular for working on railroads.

(By the observations of the Rev. H. Jeffreys, of Bisley, it appears that those weavers who have left Bisley, and are at work upon the railroads, are doing very well.)

Relative to the shearmen and scribblers, who were put out of work by the introduction of machinery, Anthony Fewster observes, that as classes, they never found any other channels of labour; and their condition consequently continued to the end of their days below that of other classes of working men.

Mr. Charles Stanton states, that he put up four power-loom in July, 1836, by way of experiment; they answered fully, were made at Rochdale, and cost when brought home 25*l.* each for the broad, and 21*l.* for the narrow; he employs at the two narrow looms one man, and at the two broad looms a man and a woman; there is no subsequent improvement in the loom; the man who looks after the looms can earn from 20*s.* to 21*s.* per week, and the women employed in them 8*s.* or 9*s.*; found them to succeed, and in consequence put up a further quantity. Is now putting up eight broad looms, making in all sixteen broad; and he has eighteen narrow looms on the premises, making in all thirty-four power-loom. Considers that there has been no diminution in labour, except that females are employed instead of males—this applies to cassimeres.

Mr. Charles Stanton further states, that he now has twenty-six power-loom at work at present, and that he introduced them about three years ago. As yet their introduction has not been the means of putting any weavers out of employ: it has displaced eight or ten male weavers, but as many women have been substituted. Considers that the cloth made by power is better made than the average: there is the *certainty, regularity, and quick return* in favour of power-loom.

Mr. Stanton states, that he was induced originally to introduce power-loom here from their being so prevalent in the North, and knowing full well that we could not *compete*, under the disadvantages of hand-loom weaving, with cheap *power*; thinks that they pay quite as much for power-loom weaving now as they could get it done for by the out-weavers; but that, if they put up more looms, should then *be saving*, as women would be put to work; 1*l.* 3*s.* 6*d.* is the absolute sum paid to the weaver and quiller at the present time for power weaving. Considers the present low rate of profits to be a premium upon the introduction of machinery.

In the broad work one man has charge of four looms, and a woman to each of the other three, so that there will be four men and twelve women to the sixteen looms. Women were never put to the broad looms, except they had been previously employed by master weavers on the same sort of work.

To every six cassimere looms he places one man and four women; has eighteen looms; about half the females were taken from the quilling. It requires a certain stature to enable them to reach over the loom to tie on, and thinks that under sixteen years of age they could not work at them: women and girls can do it better than men on account of the suppleness of the finger.

In broad cloth there is more strength required to move the beam, and therefore a greater age is required.

The quantity of cloth made by power is equal to the best hand-weaving; never had a yard spoiled since the introduction of power.

Mr. Stanton further observes, that the power-loom makes forty-two shoots a minute; a hand-loom weaver *can* make forty, if he works briskly; but, of course, he cannot continue it.

Mr. C. Stanton states, that all chain is made pretty good now, but it sometimes happens that bad chain is made from the bad scribbling of the wool, bad dyeing, &c. &c.; if he finds he has a bad chain he puts it a nail wider on the loom, and lessens the strain; does not think the power-loom will ever be introduced to any great extent.

There is an excess of population, and in proportion to a tendency of introduction of power, there will be a forced reduction of labour; is satisfied there are manufacturers at present having broad cloth woven as cheap by out-weavers as he (Mr. Stanton) is paying for it by power, and *finding* the machinery. The cost per piece is 1*l.* 3*s.* 6*d.* Under any improved system of working, Mr. Stanton does not think that a piece could be woven for less than 16*s.* or 18*s.*

Gloucestershire.

Report from
W. A. Miles, Esq.

POWER LOOMS.

Prices.

Quantity and
quality.

Gloucestershire.

Report from
W. A. Miles, Esq.

POWER LOOMS.

With the cost of power, wear and tear, harness, interest of money, upon a hypothetical calculation of fifty looms, would be 3s. per piece, glue not included.

This is the utmost that the power-loom can do against the weaver.

The following is a portion of the evidence of Mr. C. Stanton, a gentleman to whom I feel much indebted for his valuable and important information, and for the great urbanity with which at all times he met my inquiries, and allowed me to profit by his experience.

Do you attribute the distresses to which the hand-loom weavers are or have been subjected, to causes unconnected with the conduct of the workmen, such as a diminution of the demand for their labour or substitution of power for hand-loomis?—I attribute the distress to the diminution in the demand for labour: the weavers have not as a body done themselves any injury, and with the exception of the ebullition of feeling during the strikes, they are a patient and well-conducted set of people.

Do you consider that the introduction of power-loomis has tended to add to the distress of the hand-loom weavers?—Yes; inasmuch as it has induced other manufacturers to reduce the price of weaving, but not as regards the quantity woven by power, or the number of men who have been displaced, their number being so very insignificant.

Is not the number of power-loomis at present introduced extremely insignificant?—Extremely so, in reference to the total quantity of loomis employed—not one per cent.

Is it not a fact that however small the proportion of power-loomis to hand-loomis, yet their introduction has been the means of reducing wages generally over the whole district?—Yes; for manufacturers who wish to lower wages have made an unfair handle of the few power-loomis which they have been employing at a trifling advantage to themselves.

I now insert the following letter from Mr. S. Marling of the Ham Mills. He there states that a piece of thirty-six ells averages about twelve days by power; the average time that I have taken for hand-loom weaving to the same quantity is fifteen days, although a weaver by hand, at a chain of quality equal to that put in the power-loom, might produce it in the same period. It is questionable whether the saving of the two days' labour is an ultimate saving in the cost of the production, because an extra expense is incurred, first, in the selection of the better wool, and, secondly, in the preparing the chain.

The following is the letter above alluded to:—

Ham Mills, Feb. 20, 1839.

Dear Sir,—I have caused a particular inquiry to be instituted as to the quantity of work performed by our power-loomis, and we find that each loom has woven about three ells in ten hours, including the delay occasioned by setting to work, and accidents, so that on an average a thirty-six ell chain is woven in about twelve days. Our power-loomis are attended by women, whose weekly earnings are about 7s. We pay them a *fixed price per piece*, and fixed wages per day, so that, if the chains are bad, the weaver earns less, but not so much less as though paid entirely by the piece (and bad chains *cost us more* for weaving than good ones), which we consider more *equitable*, than the usual method of paying by the piece alone; but this plan can only be introduced with power-loomis.

We adopt a system of minute division of labour in performing the work usually done by the hand-loom weaver; in fact, it is divided into five branches; three to prepare the work for the loom, and one to finish it after it is taken off, so that the weaver does nothing but attend to the loom from morning to night; and we find that the preparatory and finishing processes, and the expense of keeping the loom going, is about equal to the amount of the weaver's earnings. The cost of a power-loom is about £25.

I believe the above particulars are what you wished me to supply.

I have the honour to be, dear Sir,

Yours truly,

SAMUEL S. MARLING.

To W. A. Miles, Esq.

&c. &c. &c.

W A Miles ~ Hand-Loom
Weavers Report c.1839
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SHOP-LOOMS.

SHOP LOOMS.
Master Weavers
injured.

Shop-loomis is a subject of great annoyance among the weavers, because when the weavers struck no shop-loomis were in existence, the work was all put out, and the weavers imagined the master could not proceed unless upon mutual terms. The weavers were mistaken, for the manufacturers erected shop-loomis, employed the journeymen of the master weavers in them, and left the master weavers without work. The consequence has been, that houses constructed for loomis or rented by master weavers, have fallen greatly in value, see page 414.

The consequence is, that the journeymen have more constant work, as well as better chain (looms, harness, and slay found them.) The master weavers are now obliged to seek for casual chain, and they even take the work at the factory net price paid to the journeyman, where everything is found, and they find everything for that amount.

The journeymen who "mauned" these factories were a set of half-taught workmen under the master weavers. The manufacturers say, "they were the most uncouth and awkward set of fellows" they ever saw.

These factory weavers now earn on the average 11s. 9½d. weekly, *vide* p. 438; an active workman can earn 17s. or 17. a week when chain may be very good.

The following are the remarks tendered to me by a person well acquainted with the district and the habits of the weavers:—

"Although there appears throughout this (the weaving) department of the factories great regularity as regards work, every hand being in full employ, chain after chain following in quick succession, yet few factory weavers will acknowledge, and these but faintly, that the shop system is a benefit to them; but, with a strange inconsistency, state that they would rather take the chance of uncertain work at the master weaver's as they used to do.

"These weavers at the same time confess that they earn more money in their present situation as factory weavers; that they get more food and constant work; yet they are not so contented as when they were under the acknowledged *arbitrary* master weavers, with uncertain employ, and consequent low wages.

"The objection to shop factories as stated by them are,—

"1. The unjust assumption of the weavers trade by the manufacturer.

"2. The prison-like situation of the weaver.

"3. The non-employment of their wives and children, who formerly could act as quillers, and occasionally, as regards the wife, relieve the man from the loom while he worked in his garden, or earned a trifle another way—(to which I may add, or went to the beer-shop and "lost" a trifle another way.

"4. The deprivation of their little messes, such as a cup of tea, and hot vegetables at dinner time, which the master weaver used to supply them with at a moderate charge, which in the shop factory is impracticable, owing to the distance many of them live from the shop.

"5. The distance that many of them have to walk to their work in all weathers, without a change of clothes.

"6. The confinement to a certain number of hours per day, at the option of the manufacturer, whereby the weaver is prevented from earning what is usually called 'over-time money.'

"7. The constant tendency to reduce wages. A manufacturer knows that it is difficult for a weaver to get work if he is once discharged, for a stand against wages; and thus the manufacturer s constantly trying to find out a clue to lower the price, taking, perhaps, as an unfair standard, a man who can probably weave a chain in ten or eleven days.*

"These are the objections to shop factories, made by the weavers; but when it is considered that a weaver, whether in prosperity or adversity, is the same restless being in reference to his master with whom he considers he has no interest in common, allowance must be made for his prejudices. A weaver is no economiser of time; and when it is at his own disposal, too frequently neglects his work for even the most trivial causes, and too often attributes the scantiness of his earnings to the low wages of the manufacturer, when it might be more fairly chargeable to his own want of energy and industry.

"In the shop factory of the Messrs. Stanton punctuality as to time, and regularity as to habits are strictly enforced; and, I am informed, that this system of discipline improves the character of the men, inasmuch as when they are constantly employed, they are generally steady and inclined to work; whereas a relaxation of employment (or what is commonly called play, i. e., waiting for work), and at the same time a want of order and regularity, produce a looseness and unsteadiness of habit which too frequently begins with tippling, and ends with the loss of situation."

In confirmation of the above remarks I must observe, that the factory weavers, though earning the most money, are the most dissatisfied class, endeavouring by every means to underrate their earnings and condition, while the poorer out-door weaver, who does not earn half the amount of these men, and from whom these factory weavers have engrossed so much of the work, is patient in his sufferings and privations. The factory weaver is the most turbulent, though the best off.

This opinion is confirmed by the testimony of a straightforward, unprejudiced weaver, who speaks openly and candidly upon the subject:—

"William Tanner, has been a shop weaver for nearly twenty years; thirteen years at Messrs. Austins, at Wootton, and seven years at Messrs. C. Stephens and Co., at Stanley Mills, and he states that he is perfectly convinced that the shop factory is beneficial to the weaver, and that he would rather work for a master clothier than for a master weaver, let the price be what it would. Considers that he can get a chain oftener of a master clothier, because

Gloucestershire.

Report from
W. A. Miles, Esq.

SHOP LOOMS.

Journemen benefited.

Objections of the
Factory Weavers.

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Opinion of a
Weaver in support
of the ameliorated
condition of the
Journemen
Weaver.

* It was from the fear that I should fall into this error that the weavers endeavoured to mislead me as to time and earnings.

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SHOP LOOMS.

if a master weaver has a chain he would serve himself first, and then his journeymen; says he will always speak up for the shop system, and would be sorry to see it done away with. He can earn on coloured work (his chief employ) 14s. a week, if he had it constant; but thinks he does not average more than about 12s. the year through, taking work and play.* He further states, that the master weaver was more tyrannical and arbitrary than any manufacturer who keeps a shop factory; and that he, as a shop weaver, is very comfortable, and would not change, even at an advance of price, because the certainty of the shop work would more than counterbalance any extra price which might be given by the master weaver.

I here subjoin returns from some of the principal manufacturers, showing the amount of earnings of their weavers in the factories.

With regard to the factory weavers they are in a tolerable good condition, though they rank among the lowest paid of all mechanics. They are far above the distressed condition of the out-door weaver, and yet consider themselves, even the journeymen in the factories, to be ill used and badly off.

The prejudice against the shop-loom system is extreme, and it is fostered by the out-door master weaver, who was ruined when the manufacturer took the trade into his own hands. One of the remedies most strenuously urged by the weavers, in reference to the ameliorating their condition, is the abolition of all shop factories.

Wages and Earn-
ings.

The following statement of wages earned in different factories, is supplied by the manufacturers. In some factories the men so frequently change employers, that the earnings of one individual cannot be traced for so long a period as I required. I beg to state that the following lists of earnings may be considered as the average of the county.

STATEMENT CONCERNING FACTORY WEAVERS' EARNINGS, from the Returns supplied by Manufacturers.

Tables of Wages
and Earnings.

Name of Mill.	No. of Men.	No. of Weeks.	Amount Paid.	Deductions.	Net Sum.	Weekly Earnings.
			£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
Eastington . . .	12	52	479 0 6	39 18 10	440 1 8	0 14 1
Lodgemore . . .	11	50	372 18 0	31 1 6	341 16 6	0 12 5
Stanley . . .	14	52	476 12 7	39 14 4	436 18 3	0 12 0
Iron Mills . . .	20	52	663 8 8	No deductions.	663 8 8	0 12 9
Ditto . . .	22	26	326 0 5		326 0 5	0 11 5
Dunkirk ditto . . .	16	52	488 18 5		488 18 5	0 11 9
Ditto . . .	16	52	483 10 0		483 10 0	0 11 7½
Ditto . . .	16	52	429 10 6		429 10 6	0 10 3½
Ditto . . .	16	26	210 17 11		210 17 11	0 10 1½
	143	414				0 11 9½†
Average Weekly Earnings						0 11 9½†

In reference to the above table they are the *averages of earnings* of the factory weavers; but it is proper to observe, that the earnings range from 9s. 11d. to 15s.; and in a few and extreme cases of extraordinary skilled, or quick and industrious workmen, the nett earnings amount to 16s. 6d. per week for the twelve months.

Taking an extreme case, a weaver at the above wages of 16s. 6d., with an industrious wife and a child at work in the factory, might earn between them a moderate weekly income.

	£. s. d.
Man	0 16 6
Wife at weaving or burling	0 7 0
Child at carding	0 2 6
	£1 6 0

But taking the average of the earnings, and supposing the wife and child to be at work, which is generally the case (most of the weavers being married, as appears in the statistical statement) the earnings of the family per week would be—

	£. s. d.
Man	0 11 9½
Wife	0 7 0
Child	0 2 6
	£1 1 3½

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* 11s. 9d. is my computed average of factory earnings.—*Vide* p. 384 and p. 387.

† This amount of weekly earnings is obtained by reference to the wages books of the manufacturers. I also found the average to be within 3 farthings of this amount by a different process—namely, 1st, by the average amount of wages paid per piece; and, 2nd, the time employed to weave a piece, by calculating the number of shoots thrown a minute.—*Vide* p. 382–384 and p. 387.

The entire earnings of a family of the out-door weaver, consisting of five persons is only 10s.; and yet the factory weavers are the most discontented.

STATISTICS RELATIVE TO SHOP FACTORIES.

At Eastington Mills.—*Mr. Charles Hooper.*

Of 50 shop-loom weavers—

37 can read and write.
13 can read and not write.
37 have been master weavers.
13 only had been always journeymen.
4 are single.
2 are widowers.
44 are married.

31 wives are employed in the making of cloth.

13 are weavers.
132 children, or three to each family.
25 earn wages.
13 attend pay schools.
5 attend free schools.
60 Sunday schools.

Gloucestershire.

Report from
W. A. Miles, Esq.

SHOP LOOMS.

Statistical
Remarks.

Not one weaver, master or journeyman, acknowledges that his condition is bettered by the factory system.

At Dunkirk Mills, and Iron Mills.—*Mr. Peter Playne, and Mr. W. Playne.*

Of 50 weavers—

3 can neither read nor write.
21 can read and not write.
26 can read and write.
19 had been master weavers.
28 had been journeymen.
3 are apprentices.
4 only are single.
1 is a widower.
45 are married.

38 wives are employed in the manufacture of cloth.

27 of the wives are weavers.
146 children, or 3·2 children to each family.
36 of the children earn wages.
12 attend public schools.
(None attend a free school.)
71 attend Sunday schools.

Six weavers, four of them journeymen and two of them master weavers, consider their condition improved by the factory system.

At Stanley Mills.—*Mr. Charles Stevens.*

Of 35 weavers—

1 can neither read nor write.
18 can read and not write.
16 can read and write.
20 had been master weavers.
15 had been journeymen.
2 only are single.
33 are married.

22 wives are employed in the manufacturing of cloth.

12 of the wives are weavers.
89 children, or 2·7 children in a family.
36 of the children earn wages.
8 attend pay schools.
4 attend free schools.
26 attend Sunday schools.

One weaver, a master weaver, considers his condition bettered in a factory.

At the mills of Messrs. Stanton and Sons, at Lodgemore and Stafford's Mill.

There are 60 weavers.

11 can neither read nor write.
20 can read and not write.
29 can read and write.
17 have been master out-door weavers.
42 have been journeymen.
1 is an apprentice.
4 are single.
2 are widowers.
54 are married.
39 wives are employed in the manufacture of cloth.

13 of the wives are weavers.

168 children.
38 of the children earn wages.
27 attend pay schools.
17 attend free schools.
38 attend Sunday schools.
4 of the weavers consider their condition benefited by the shop system, and they are all journeymen.

For the wages paid in shop factories, see table thereof, under the head of Wages and Earnings.

* The average amount is 11s. 9d.

The following is a STATISTICAL SUMMARY of the four preceding documents.

Of 195 shop weavers :—

108 can read and write.
72 can read and not write.
15 can neither read nor write.
93 had been master weavers.
98 had been journeymen.
14 are single.
176 are married.
5 are widowers.
130 wives are employed in the manufacture of cloth

65 are the wives of weavers.
535 children, or 2·7 to a family.
135 children earn wages.
60 children attend pay schools.
26 children attend free schools.
195 children attend Sunday schools.
11 weavers only owned that their condition was improved by the shop system, and of these 3 are master weavers and 7 are journeymen.

Summary of the
preceding State-
ments.

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SHOP LOOMS.

TABLE concerning the CONDITION and EARNINGS of the SHOP--

No.	If Journeyman or Master Weaver, previous to being in the Factory.	Time lost between Chain.	Time of Weaving last Chain.	No. of Hundred.	Price Paid.	Deductions.	Net Sum received by the Weaver.	How long a Factory Weaver.	Does the Weaver consider his Condition to be Improved or not, in a Factory.
			Days.		£. s. d.	s. d.	£. s. d.	Years	
1	Journeyman	2 days	14	18	1 17 0	5 6	1 11 6	7	Not
2	"	"	12	11	1 4 0	3 6	1 0 6	6	"
3	"	"	17	18	1 17 0	5 7	1 11 5	10	Improved
4	"	"	12	17	1 17 0	5 6	1 11 6	8	"
5	"	"	13	18	1 17 0	5 6	1 11 6	8	Not
6	"	"	15	18	1 17 0	5 6	1 11 6	10	Improved
7	Master	"	15	18	1 17 0	5 6	1 11 6	10	Not
8	Journeyman	"	15	17	1 17 0	5 6	1 11 6	9	Improved
9	"	"	12	18	1 17 0	5 6	1 11 6	9	Not
10	Master	"	12	18	1 17 0	5 6	1 11 6	7	"
11	"	"	13	18	1 17 0	5 6	1 11 6	10	"
12	Journeyman	"	13	17	1 8 9	0 0	1 8 9	9	"
13	Master	"	18	17	1 8 9	0 5½	1 8 3½	9	"
14	Journeyman	"	18	17	1 8 9	0 0	1 8 9	10	"
15	Master	"	14	17	1 8 9	0 9	1 8 0	7	"
16	Journeyman	"	12	17	1 8 9	0 11	1 7 10	7	"
17	Master	"	15	17	1 8 9	0 9	1 8 0	9	"
18	Journeyman	"	13	17	1 8 9	0 9	1 8 0	6½	"
19	"	"	15	18	1 10 7	1 1	1 9 6	8	"
20	"	"	18	17	1 8 9	0 9	1 8 0	9	"
21	"	"	18	18	1 10 7	1 0	1 9 7	7	"
22	"	"	12	17	1 11 6	4 6	1 6 0	9½	"
23	"	"	17	18	1 18 0	5 6	1 12 6	10	"
24	"	"	13	18	1 14 9	5 1	1 9 8	9	"
25	"	"	14	18	1 14 9	5 1	1 9 8	8	"
26	Master	"	14	17	1 10 8	4 8	1 6 0	2	"
27	Journeyman	"	13	15	1 8 6	3 10½	1 4 7	9	"
28	"	"	18	18	1 17 0	5 4	1 11 8	7	"
29	"	"	18	18	1 17 0	5 4	1 11 8	3	"
30	"	"	18	18	1 17 0	5 4	1 11 8	10	"
31	"	"	13	18	1 17 0	5 4	1 11 8	8	"
32	"	"	13	18	1 14 0	5 1	1 8 11	5	"
33	Apprentice	"	13	15	1 8 6	3 10½	1 4 7½	6	"
34	Journeyman	"	12	18	1 16 11	5 2	1 11 9	10	"
35	"	"	12	18	1 14 9	5 1	1 9 8	10	"
36	"	"	12	18	1 19 0	5 7	1 13 5	12	"
37	"	"	12	18	1 14 9	5 1	1 9 8	8	"
38	"	"	12	18	1 17 0	5 4	1 11 8	9	"
39	Master	"	12	17	1 12 8	4 10	1 7 10	10	"
40	Journeyman	"	13	18	1 17 0	5 4	1 11 8	2½	"
41	"	"	18	18	1 10 7	0 7	1 10 0	9	Improved
42	"	"	12	17	1 12 8	4 10	1 7 10	5	Not
43	Master	"	12	"	1 12 8	4 10	1 7 10	9	"
44	"	"	12	18	1 14 9	5 6	1 9 3	8½	"
45	Journeyman	"	12	18	1 14 9	5 6	1 9 3	5½	"
46	"	"	18	18	1 14 9	5 6	1 9 3	9	"
47	"	"	11	18	1 14 9	5 1	1 9 8	10	"
48	"	"	11	18	1 14 9	5 1	1 9 8	4	"
49	"	"	14	18	1 14 9	5 1	1 9 8	9	"
50	Master	"	13	18	1 16 11	5 4	1 11 7	5	"
51	"	"	12	17	1 12 8	4 10	1 7 10	8	"
52	Journeyman	"	18	18	1 19 0	5 7	1 13 5	4	"
53	Master	"	12	18	1 14 9	5 1	1 9 8	9	"
54	"	"	12	17	1 12 8	4 8	1 8 0	9	"
55	Journeyman	"	18	18	1 17 0	5 4	1 11 8	7	"
56	"	"	12	15	1 8 6	4 1	1 4 5	7	"
57	Master	"	18	18	1 17 0	5 4	1 11 8	9	"
58	"	"	18	18	1 17 0	5 4	1 11 8	8½	"
59	Journeyman	"	11	18	1 14 9	5 1	1 9 8	6	"
60	Master	"	17	18	1 17 0	5 4	1 11 8	7	"

HAND-LOOM WEAVERS.

441

WEAVERS and their FAMILIES, in the Factories of Mr. CHARLES STANTON.

Gloucestershire.

Report from
W. A. Miles, Esq.

SHOP LOOMS.

Married.	Single.	Employ of Wife.	Earnings of Wife.	No. of Children.	Employ of Children.	Earnings of Children.	Amount of Weekly Earnings of Wife and Children.	No. of Children at School in			If Weaver can Read and Write.	Amount of Weavers' Weekly Earnings in Factory.	Total Amount of Weekly Income.		
								Pay School.	Free School.	Sunday School.			£.	s.	d.
M	..	Weaver	6 0	3	..	..	6 0	2	..	..	R. & W.	13 6	0	19	6
..	..	Picker	4 0	2	..	..	4 0	..	2	..	..	10 3	0	14	3
..	6 0	4	..	..	6 0	..	3	..	..	11 1	0	17	1
..	..	Weaver	..	5	1 Factory	4 6	4 6	..	2	..	R. & W.	16 0	1	0	6
..	..	Spinner	2 0	5	2 do.	4 3	6 3	..	1	..	..	14 6	1	0	9
..	2	..	..	..	..	..	2	R.	12 7	0	12	7
..	4	1 do.	1 6	1 6	3	..	..	R. & W.	12 7	0	14	1
..	5	1 do.	3 0	3 0	1	..	..	..	12 7	0	15	7
..	3	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	16 0	0	16	0
..	4	..	..	..	..	2	..	R. & W.	16 0	0	16	0
..	..	Weaver	1 0	4	..	..	..	..	..	1	R.	14 6	0	14	6
..	..	Labourer	1 6	1	1 do.	1 6	3 0	..	..	3	..	13 3	0	16	0
..	..	Spinner	..	4	1 do.	2 6	2 6	..	..	..	R. & W.	9 4	0	11	10
..	..	Quiller	4 0	2	1 do.	5 0	9 0	..	..	..	..	9 7	0	18	7
..	..	Weaver	..	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	R. & W.	12 0	0	12	0
..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	R.	14 0	0	14	0
..	6	2 do.	6 0	6 0	..	..	..	R. & W.	11 1	0	17	0
..	..	Quiller	..	6	2 Tred	8 0	8 0	..	..	4	..	13 0	1	1	0
..	..	Warper	4 6	2	2 Clippers	3 0	7 6	..	..	2	R.	9 9	0	17	3
..	..	Quiller	3 0	1	..	..	3 0	1	..	..	..	9 6	0	12	6
..	..	Burler	5 0	1	..	..	5 0	..	..	..	R. & W.	9 10	0	14	10
..	..	Spinner	..	7	2 Factory	3 0	3 0	..	..	3	..	13 0	0	16	0
..	..	Picker	..	3	..	..	..	3	..	..	R.	11 6	0	11	6
..	..	Spinner	5 0	2	..	..	5 0	2	..	..	R. & W.	13 7	0	18	7
..	5 6	3	..	..	5 6	1	..	..	R.	12 7	0	18	1
..	..	Labourer	..	6	3 do.	6 0	6 0	3	..	3	R. & W.	11 1	0	17	1
..	..	Quiller	2 6	..	..	..	2 6	..	..	..	R.	11 4	0	13	10
..	..	Burler	4 6	1	..	..	4 6	..	1	..	R. & W.	10 6	0	15	0
..	S.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	R.	10 6	0	10	6
M	..	Picker	3 6	3	1 do.	3 0	6 6	1	..	..	..	10 6	0	17	0
..	5	1 do.	2 0	2 0	..	1	..	..	14 7	0	16	7
W	1	1 do.	1 0	1 0	..	..	1	R. & W.	13 4	0	14	4
..	S.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	11 4	0	11	4
M	..	Factory	2 6	2	..	..	2 6	..	..	..	..	16 0	0	18	6
..	3	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	14 9	0	14	9
..	..	Weaver	..	5	..	..	..	2	..	3	..	16 7	0	16	7
..	3	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	14 9	0	14	9
..	..	Weaver	4 0	1	..	..	4 0	1	..	..	R.	16 0	1	0	0
..	6	3 do.	7 0	..	2	..	1	..	14 0	0	14	0
..	..	Quiller	4 0	2	..	..	4 0	..	..	..	..	14 7	0	18	7
..	..	Picker	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	10 0	0	10	0
..	2	..	..	..	1	1	..	R. & W.	14 0	0	14	0
..	1	1 do.	1 0	1 0	..	..	..	..	14 0	0	15	0
..	14 9	0	14	9
..	..	Weaver	..	4	2 do.	2 6	2 6	..	..	..	..	14 9	0	17	3
..	..	Factory	8 0	..	..	..	8 0	..	..	..	R.	9 9	0	17	9
..	..	Reeler	3 0	4	1 do.	1 0	4 0	..	1	..	..	16 1	1	0	1
..	..	Weaver	5 0	1	..	..	5 0	..	..	..	..	16 1	1	1	1
..	..	Warper	3 6	3	..	..	3 6	..	..	..	R. & W.	12 7	0	16	1
..	6	1 do.	7 0	7 0	..	..	6	R.	15 0	1	2	0
..	..	Spinner	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	14 0	0	14	0
..	..	Weaver	8 0	2	..	..	8 0	..	..	..	R. & W.	11 1	0	19	1
..	7	3 do.	3 0	3 0	..	..	3	..	14 9	0	17	9
..	..	Burler	..	7	3 do.	2 6	2 6	..	1	..	R. & W.	14 0	0	16	6
..	S.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	10 6	0	10	6
W	..	Weaver	6 0	4	1 do.	2 0	8 0	..	..	3	R.	12 0	1	0	0
M	..	Spinner	4 6	4 6	10 6	0	15	0
..	S.	R. & W.	10 6	0	10	6
M	..	Weaver	..	3	2	16 1	0	16	1
M	..	Factory	..	2	1	11 1	0	11	1

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Gloucestershire.

Report from
W. A. Miles, Esq.

SHOP LOOMS.

TABLE concerning the CONDITION and EARNINGS of the SHOP WEAVERS

No.	If Journeyman or Master Weaver, previous to being a Factory Weaver.	Time lost between Chain.	Time of Weaving last Chain.	No. of Hundred.	Price Paid.	Deductions	Net Sum received by the Weaver.	How long a Factory Weaver.	Does the Weaver consider his Condition to be Improved, or Not, in a Factory.
			Days.		£. s. d.	s. d.	£. s. d.		
1	Master	Same day	18	18	1 17 0	4 9	1 12 3	11	Not
2	Journeyman	"	24	19	2 0 0	8 0	1 12 0	12	"
3	Master	"	15	19	1 17 4	4 6	1 12 10	9	"
4	"	"	15	19	2 0 0	7 0	1 13 0	9	"
5	"	"	14	19	2 0 0	6 10	1 13 2	7	"
6	"	"	18	19	1 19 0	7 6	1 11 6	6	"
7	Journeyman	"	21	18	1 17 0	4 6	1 12 6	7	"
8	"	"	17	19	1 19 0	7 4	1 11 8	7	"
9	Master	2 days	23	19	1 19 0	7 10	1 11 2	9	"
10	"	Same day	16	19	2 0 0	7 3	1 12 9	9	"
11	"	"	22	18	2 0 0	8 2	1 11 10	6	"
12	Journeyman	"	18	18	1 18 0	6 6	1 11 6	1	"
13	"	"	22	18	1 18 0	6 6	1 11 6	3	"
14	Master	"	20	18	1 18 0	6 6	1 11 6	12	"
15	"	"	14	18	1 18 0	6 6	1 11 6	4	"
16	Journeyman	"	21	19	2 0 0	6 0	1 14 0	12	"
17	Master	"	21	19	2 0 0	6 0	1 14 0	10	"
18	"	"	18	18	1 17 0	5 6	1 11 6	1	"
19	"	1 day	17	19	1 9 0	4 6	1 4 6	18	Improved
20	Journeyman	Same day	24	18	1 17 0	5 6	1 11 6	11 ²	Not
21	"	"	23	18	1 17 0	5 6	1 11 6	4 ²	"
22	"	"	18	19	1 17 6	4 7	1 12 11	2	"
23	Master	"	17	19	2 1 0	7 5	1 13 7	10	"
24	"	"	16	19	1 19 0	7 2	1 11 10	10	"
25	"	2 days	18	19	1 17 0	7 7	1 9 5	7	"
26	Journeyman	Same day	12	18	1 6 6	5 4	1 1 2	10 ¹	"
27	"	"	24	19	2 0 0	8 11	1 11 1	9	"
28	Master	"	18	19	2 0 0	7 7	1 12 5	11	"
29	"	"	22	19	2 0 0	8 5	1 11 7	9	"
30	"	"	27	19	2 0 0	8 7	1 11 5	5	"
31	"	"	22	19	2 0 0	8 5	1 11 7	7	"
32	Journeyman	"	32	17	1 11 0	3 3	1 8 9	1 ¹	"
33	"	"	21	19	1 19 0	7 10	1 11 2	8	"
34	"	"	26	18	1 17 0	5 6	1 11 6	12	"
35	"	"	24	19	1 19 0	8 7	1 10 5	10	"

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and of their FAMILIES, in Stanley Mills, Mr. CHARLES STEVENS.

Gloucestershire.

Report from
W. A. Miles, Esq.

SHOP LOOMS.

Married. Single.	Employ of Wife.	Earnings of Wife. s. d.	No. of Children.	Employ of Children.	Earnings of Children. s. d.	Amount of Weekly Earnings of Wife and Children. s. d.	No. of Children at School in			If Weaver can Read and Write.	Amount of Weavers' Weekly Earnings in Factory. s. d.	Total Amount of Weekly Income. £. s. d.	
							Pay School.	Free School.	Sunday School.				
M. . .	Weaver	9 0	5	3 Quillers	2 6	11 6	1	..	3	R.	10 9	1 2 3	
" . .	"	9 6	5	5 do.	4 0	13 6	1	..	4	"	8 0	1 1 6	
" . .	Factory	7 6	5	2 Burlers	4 0	11 6	..	1	..	"	13 1½	1 3 7½	
" . .	"	..	5	2 Quillers	6 0	6 0	..	2	..	"	13 1½	0 19 1½	
" . .	"	..	3	1 do.	1 9	1 9	..	..	..	"	14 1½	0 15 10½	
" . .	Weaver	..	6	1 do.	1 0	1 0	..	..	..	"	10 6	0 11 6	
" . .	Picker	4 0	5	3 do.	3 0	7 0	2	..	4	"	9 3	0 16 3	
" . .	Weaver	2 6	4	1 Labour.	1 6	4 0	..	1	3	"	11 11½	0 15 1½	
" . .	"	..	2	2 do.	8 6	8 6	..	..	1	R. & W.	8 1½	0 16 7½	
" . .	Warper	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	R.	12 3	0 12 3	
" . .	Weaver	8 0	1	..	..	8 0	..	..	..	R. & W.	8 7½	0 16 7½	
" S.	"	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	"	10 6	0 10 6	
M. . .	Weaver	3 0	2	..	..	3 0	..	..	..	"	8 6	0 11 6	
" . .	Sewer	1 0	3	1 Quiller	1 0	2 0	..	..	..	"	9 4½	0 11 4½	
" . .	Reeler	5 0	4	2 Factory	4 6	9 6	..	..	3	R.	13 6	1 3 0	
" . .	Picker	2 6	4	2 do.	4 3	6 9	2	..	1	R. & W.	9 7½	0 16 4½	
" . .	Weaver	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	"	9 7½	0 9 7½	
" . .	Picker	4 0	1	..	..	4 0	..	..	..	"	10 6	0 14 6	
" . .	Weaver	8 0	4	2 Quillers	2 6	10 6	1	..	..	"	8 7½	0 19 1½	
" . .	"	5 0	3	..	..	5 0	..	..	..	"	7 10½	0 12 10½	
" . .	"	..	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	"	8 3	0 8 3	
" . .	Picker	3 0	..	..	..	3 0	..	..	..	"	10 10	0 13 10	
" . .	"	3 0	5	3 Factory	7 6	10 6	1	..	..	R.	11 10½	1 2 4½	
" . .	"	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	"	11 10½	0 11 10½	
" . .	"	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	R. & W.	9 9	0 9 9	
" . .	"	..	1	1 Quiller	1 0	1 0	..	..	1	R.	10 6	0 11 6	
" . .	"	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	"	7 9	0 7 9	
" . .	"	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	R. & W.	11 9	0 11 9	
" . .	"	..	5	2 Quillers	4 6	4 6	..	..	..	"	8 7½	0 13 1½	
" . .	"	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	"	7 0	0 7 0	
" . .	"	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	R.	8 7½	0 8 7½	
" S.	"	..	4	1 Quiller	2 0	2 0	..	..	4	"	5 4½	0 7 4½	
M. . .	Weaver	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	R. & W.	8 10	0 8 10	
" . .	Factory	12 0	1	1 Factory	1 0	13 0	..	..	..	R.	7 1½	1 0 1½	
" . .	Weaver	5 0	2	1 do.	1 9	6 9	..	..	1	"	7 7½	0 14 4½	

Gloucestershire.

Report from
W. A. Miles, Esq.

SHOP LOOMS.

TABLE concerning the CONDITION and the EARNINGS of the SHOP-WEAVERS and

No.	If Journeyman or Master Weaver previous to a Shop-Weaver.	Time lost between Chain and Chain.	How long on last Chain.	Hundred in Chain.	Price Paid.	Deductions.	Net Sum received by Weaver.	How long a Factory Weaver.	Does the Weaver consider his Condition to be Improved or not in the Factory.
			Days.		£. s. d.	s. d.	£. s. d.	Years	
1	Journeyman	None	16	18	1 8 0	0 9	1 7 3	9	Not
2	"	1 day	17	18	1 8 0	0 9	1 7 3	4½	"
3	"	None	18	18	1 8 0	0 7	1 7 5	9	"
4	"	"	18	15	1 12 0	3 0	1 9 0	8	Improved
5	Master	1 day	18	15	1 12 0	3 0	1 9 0	11	"
6	"	None	18	15	1 8 0	2 10	1 5 2	11	Not
7	Journeyman	"	14	18	1 5 0	3 9	1 1 3	1	"
8	Master	2 days	14	18	1 5 0	3 0	1 2 0	4	"
9	Journeyman	None	16	16	1 5 0	3 9	1 1 3	1	"
10	Master	"	14	18	1 8 0	0 9	1 7 3	9	"
11	Journeyman	"	17	18	1 8 0	0 9	1 7 3	9	Improved
12	"	3 days	18	18	1 8 0	0 9	1 7 3	11	Not
13	"	1 day	17	14	1 6 0	2 7	1 3 5	10	Improved
14	"	5 days	17	17	1 8 0	0 9	1 7 3	10	"
15	Master	None	12	17	1 8 0	0 9	1 7 3	8	Not
16	"	"	14	18	1 5 0	3 9	1 1 3	11	"
17	Apprentice	7 days	18	16	1 2 0	3 9	0 18 3	2½	Can't say
18	Master	2 days	16	16	1 5 0	3 9	1 1 3	2	Not
19	Journeyman	None	15	16	1 5 0	3 9	1 1 3	9	"
20	Master	2 days	14	18	1 8 0	0 9	1 7 3	9	Improved
21	"	None	15	16	1 5 0	3 9	1 1 3	0½	Not
22	Journeyman	7 days	15	18	1 8 0	0 9	1 7 3	5	"
23	"	None	14	15	0 14 0	0 9	0 13 3	0½	"
24	Apprentice	22 days	18	16	1 5 0	3 6	1 1 6	5	"
25	"	None	15	18	1 8 0	0 9	1 7 3	5	Can't say
26	Journeyman	"	15	18	1 8 0	0 9	1 7 3	8	Not
27	Master	"	20	18	1 8 0	0 9	1 7 3	9	"
28	"	1 day	17	18	1 8 0	0 9	1 7 3	6	"
29	"	None	17	18	1 2 0	0 8	1 1 4	11	"
30	Journeyman	"	18	18	1 8 0	0 8	1 7 4	7	"
31	"	"	15	18	1 8 0	0 8	1 7 4	11	"
32	"	"	18	18	1 8 0	0 6	1 7 6	9	"
33	"	"	18	18	1 8 0	0 8	1 7 4	11	"
34	"	"	18	17	1 8 0	0 8	1 7 4	5	"
35	Master	"	16	18	1 8 0	0 8	1 7 4	10	"
36	Journeyman	"	18	18	1 8 0	0 9	1 7 3	9	"
37	"	"	18	17	1 8 0	0 8	1 7 4	10	"
38	"	"	18	18	1 8 0	0 8	1 7 4	10	"
39	Master	"	17	18	1 8 0	0 8	1 7 4	7	"
40	Journeyman	"	18	18	1 8 0	0 8	1 7 4	7	"
41	"	"	18	18	1 8 0	0 8	1 7 4	11	"
42	"	"	15	18	1 8 0	0 8	1 7 4	11	"
43	Master	"	10	18	0 15 6	0 8	0 14 10	1	"
44	"	"	16	18	1 8 0	0 8	1 7 4	3	"
45	Journeyman	"	11	18	0 17 2	0 8	0 16 6	1	"
46	Master	"	19	16	1 2 0	0 8	1 1 4	0½	"
47	"	"	17	18	1 8 0	0 8	1 7 4	10	"
48	Journeyman	"	16	18	1 8 0	0 10	1 7 2	10	"
49	"	"	21	14	1 4 0	0 6	1 3 6	3	"
50	Master	1 day	20	14	1 0 0	0 6	0 19 6	7	"

their FAMILIES in the Factory at Dunkirk and Iron-Mills.—(Messrs. PLAYNES and Co.)

Gloucestershire.

Report from
W. A. Miles, Esq.

SHOP LOOMS.

M.	Married.	Single.	Employ of Wife.	Earnings of Wife. s. d.	No. of Children.	Employ of Children.	Earnings of Children. s. d.	No. of Children at School.		If Weaver can Read and Write.	Amount of Earnings of Wife and Children. s. d.	Amount of Weavers' Weekly Earnings.		Total Amount of Weekly Income.		
								Pay School.	Sunday School.			s. d.	£. s. d.			
M.	Weaver	5 0	1	..	..	1	..	R. & W.	5 0	10 3	£. s. d.	0 15 3		
"	"	5 0	6	1 Factory	1 ..	..	3	"	6 9	9 7½	0 16 4½			
"	2	..	..	..	..	"	..	9 3	0 9 3			
"	2	..	..	..	..	"	..	9 7½	0 9 7½			
M.	Weaver	3 6	7	3 Factory	4 6	..	5	R.	8 0	9 7½	0 17 7½			
"	"	R. & W.	..	8 4½	0 8 4½			
"	Burlier	3 6	1	..	1 0	..	..	"	4 6	9 1½	0 13 7½			
"	Weaver	..	5	1 Factory	1 6	..	3	"	1 6	9 6	0 11 0			
"	"	..	4	1 do.	1 0	..	2	R.	1 0	8 0	0 9 0			
"	"	3 6	7	3 do.	2 6	1	5	R. & W.	6 0	11 7½	0 17 7½			
"	"	5 0	4	1 do.	1 0	..	2	R.	6 0	9 7½	0 15 7½			
"	Sewer	4 0	4	2 do.	8 0	..	2	"	12 0	9 3	1 1 3			
"	Weaver	6 0	1	..	..	1	..	R. & W.	6 0	8 3	0 14 3			
"	"	4 0	6	1 Factory	1 6	..	3	R.	5 6	9 7½	0 15 1½			
"	"	..	5	2 do.	4 0	..	3	R. & W.	4 0	13 7½	0 17 7½			
"	R.	..	9 1½	0 9 1½			
"	6 0½	0 6 0½			
M.	Weaver	..	5	2 Factory	3 6	..	5	R. & W.	3 6	8 0	0 11 6			
"	Spinner	4 0	4	1 do.	1 2	..	3	R.	5 2	8 3	0 13 5			
"	Weaver	4 0	2	2 do.	2 0	..	2	R. & W.	6 0	11 7½	0 17 7½			
"	"	4 0	3	3 do.	5 0	1	5	R.	9 0	8 3	0 17 3			
"	"	..	6	2 do.	2 3	..	2	"	2 3	11 0	0 13 3			
"	5 10	0 5 10			
"	R. & W.	..	7 1½	0 7 1½			
"	R.	..	11 0	0 11 0			
M.	3	..	..	..	2	R. & W.	..	11 0	0 11 0			
"	Weaver	3 6	5	..	..	..	3	"	3 6	8 1½	0 11 7½			
"	"	2 6	1	Factory	5 0	..	1	R.	7 6	9 7½	0 17 1½			
"	Spinner	..	..	..	..	..	..	"	..	7 6	0 7 6			
"	Sewer	2 0	8	2 Factory	2 0	..	6	R. & W.	4 0	9 3	0 13 3			
"	Warper	..	2	..	..	1	..	"	..	11 0	0 11 0			
"	Weaver	5 0	3	Factory	3 0	..	2	R.	8 0	9 1½	0 17 1½			
"	"	5 0	3	..	..	2	..	R. & W.	5 0	9 1½	0 14 1½			
"	Picker	1 6	1	..	..	..	..	"	1 6	9 1½	0 10 7½			
"	Spinner	..	6	2 Factory	3 6	..	4	"	3 6	10 3	0 13 9			
"	Weaver	6 0	1	..	..	..	..	"	6 0	9 1½	0 15 1½			
"	"	1 6	3	..	..	..	..	"	1 6	9 1½	0 10 7½			
"	"	..	3	..	..	..	1	"	..	9 1½	0 9 1½			
"	Sewer	3 0	5	1 Factory	1 0	1	2	R.	4 0	9 7½	0 13 7½			
"	Weaver	2 6	3	1 do.	1 3	1	2	"	3 9	9 1½	0 12 10½			
"	"	5 0	2	..	..	..	..	R. & W.	5 0	9 1½	0 14 1½			
"	Sewer	..	3	..	..	1	..	R.	..	11 0	0 11 0			
"	Spinner	..	3	1 Factory	2 0	..	1	"	2 0	8 10½	0 10 10½			
"	Weaver	5 0	1	do.	3 0	..	..	R. & W.	8 0	10 3	0 18 3			
"	2	..	..	..	..	R.	..	9 0	0 9 0			
M.	Weaver	3 0	4	2 Factory	3 8	..	2	"	6 8	9 7½	0 16 3½			
"	"	3 0	2	..	..	2	..	R. & W.	3 0	10 2½	0 13 2½			
"	"	..	6 7½	0 6 7½			
M.	2	..	..	..	..	"	..	5 7½	0 5 7½			

Gloucestershire.

Report from
W. A. Miles, Esq.

SHOP LOOMS.

TABLE concerning the CONDITION and EARNINGS of the SHOP WEAVERS and

No.	If Journeyman or Master Weaver, previous to being a Factory Weaver.	Time lost between Chain and Chain.	Time of Weaving the last Chain.	No. of Hundreds.	Price Paid.	Deductions.	Net Sum received by the Weaver.	How long a Factory Weaver.	Does the Weaver consider his Condition to be Improved, or Not, in the Factory.
			Days.		£. s. d.	s. d.	£. s. d.	Years	
1	Journeyman	1 day	18	18	2 2 11	6 0	1 16 11	6	Not
2	Master	Same day	20	18	2 2 11	6 0	1 16 11	6	"
3	"	"	18	17	1 13 0	2 0	1 11 0	4	"
4	"	"	18	18	2 2 11	6 0	1 16 11	5	"
5	Journeyman	5 days	20	15	1 19 0	4 0	1 15 0	10	"
6	Master	14 "	20	15	1 12 6	4 0	1 8 6	6	"
7	"	7 "	21	15	1 19 0	4 0	1 15 0	11	"
8	Journeyman	Same day	17	18	2 2 11	6 0	1 16 11	7	"
9	"	"	18	18	2 2 11	6 0	1 16 11	7	"
10	Master	"	20	18	2 2 11	6 0	1 16 11	7	"
11	"	"	22	18	2 2 11	6 0	1 16 11	0 ³ / ₄	"
12	"	"	18	18	2 2 11	6 0	1 16 11	1 ¹ / ₂	"
13	"	"	16	18	2 2 11	6 0	1 16 11	5	"
14	"	"	17	18	2 2 11	6 0	1 16 11	6	"
15	"	"	17	18	2 2 11	6 0	1 16 11	4	"
16	Journeyman	"	17	18	2 2 11	6 0	1 16 11	9	"
17	Master	"	18	18	2 2 11	6 0	1 16 11	5	"
18	"	"	18	18	2 2 11	6 0	1 16 11	7	"
19	Journeyman	"	18	18	2 2 11	6 0	1 16 11	6	"
20	Master	"	21	18	2 2 11	6 0	1 16 11	2 ¹ / ₂	"
21	Journeyman	"	16	18	2 2 11	6 0	1 16 11	2	"
22	Master	"	18	18	1 16 0	5 0	1 11 0	9	"
23	"	"	17	18	1 13 0	5 0	1 8 0	4	"
24	"	1 day	17	18	1 16 0	5 0	1 11 0	10	"
25	"	Same day	18	18	2 2 11	6 0	1 16 11	9	"
26	"	"	18	18	2 2 11	6 0	1 16 11	2	"
27	"	8 days	38	17	1 18 0	5 0	1 13 0	8	"
28	"	Same day	23	17	1 18 2	5 0	1 13 2	4	"
29	Journeyman	"	18	18	2 2 11	6 0	1 16 11	8	"
30	Master	"	23	18	1 16 0	5 0	1 11 0	10	"
31	"	"	17	18	1 13 2	5 0	1 8 2	10	"
32	"	"	18	18	1 13 0	5 0	1 8 0	10	"
33	"	1 day	17	18	2 2 11	6 0	1 16 11	7	"
34	"	Same day	23	18	2 2 11	6 0	1 16 11	7	"
35	Journeyman	1 day	18	18	2 2 11	6 0	1 16 11	3 ¹ / ₄	"
36	Master	2 days	18	18	1 15 2	4 0	1 11 2	7	"
37	Journeyman	Same day	18	18	2 2 11	6 0	1 16 11	8	"
38	Master	2 days	18	18	1 13 2	5 0	1 8 2	7	"
39	"	Same day	21	13	1 11 1	4 0	1 7 1	9	"
40	"	"	17	18	2 2 11	6 0	1 16 11	3	"
41	"	"	17	18	2 2 11	6 0	1 16 11	7	"
42	Journeyman	"	20	18	1 18 2	6 0	1 12 2	8	"
43	Master	9 days	16	13	1 11 1	4 0	1 7 1	5	"
44	Journeyman	Same day	17	17	2 0 8	5 9	1 14 11	6	"
45	Master	1 ¹ / ₂ day	21	18	2 2 1	6 0	1 16 1	1 ¹ / ₂	"
46	"	Same day	18	15	1 16 11	3 6	1 13 5	5	"
47	Journeyman	"	18	13	1 12 6	2 9	1 10 0	8	"
48	Master	"	20	16	1 16 1 ¹ / ₂	3 0	1 13 1 ¹ / ₂	10	"
49	"	2 days	18	15	1 16 1 ¹ / ₂	4 0	1 12 1 ¹ / ₂	5	"
50	"	Same day	18	15	1 16 1 ¹ / ₂	4 0	1 12 1 ¹ / ₂	9	"

of their FAMILIES, in the Factory at Eastington Mills, Mr. CHARLES HOOPER.

Gloucestershire.

Report from
W. A. Miles, Esq.

SHOP LOOMS.

Married.	Single.	Employ of Wife.	Earnings of Wife.	No. of Children.	Employ of Children.	Earnings of Children.	Amount of Weekly Earnings of Wife and Children.	No. of Children at School in			If Weaver can Read and Write.	Amount of Weavers' Weekly Earnings in Factory.		Total Amount of Weekly Income.		
								Pay School.	Free School.	Sunday School.		s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
M.	..	Factory	5 6	3	..	..	5 6	3	..	..	R. & W.	12	3	0	17	9
"	..	Quiller	4 0	9	Labour.	5 0	9 0	3	..	..	"	11	0	1	0	0
"	..	Weaver	3 0	3	..	..	3 0	..	..	1	"	10	3	0	13	3
"	"	12	3	0	12	3
"	..	Warper	5 0	4	1 Factory	1 6	6 6	1	..	2	"	10	6	0	17	0
"	..	Spinner	2 0	1	"	5 0	7 0	..	..	1	"	8	6	0	15	6
"	"	10	0	0	10	0
"	W	Weaver	..	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	"	13	0	0	13	0
"	S.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	"	12	3	0	12	3
M.	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	"	11	0	0	11	0
"	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	"	10	0	0	10	0
"	..	Weaver	3 0	3	..	..	3 0	..	3	..	R.	12	3	0	15	3
"	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	R. & W.	14	2½	0	14	2½
"	6	1 Quiller	1 6	1 6	..	..	3	"	13	0	0	14	6
"	..	Spooler	1 6	..	..	..	1 6	..	..	..	"	13	0	0	14	6
"	S.	..	..	..	1 Quiller	2 0	2 0	..	..	3	R.	13	0	0	15	0
M.	..	Weaver	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	1	R. & W.	12	3	0	12	3
"	..	"	5 0	11	5 Factory	15 0	20 0	..	..	4	"	12	3	1	12	3
"	S.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	"	12	3	0	12	3
M.	..	Labour.	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	"	10	6	0	10	6
"	..	Quiller	1 6	1	..	..	1 6	..	..	..	R.	14	2½	0	15	8½
"	1 6	3	Ditto	3 0	4 6	..	..	3	R. & W.	10	3	0	14	9
"	..	Weaver	4 0	1	..	..	4 0	..	..	..	"	10	0	0	14	0
"	1	..	2 0	2 0	..	..	..	R.	10	10½	0	12	10½
"	..	Weaver	5 0	3	..	..	5 0	..	..	..	R. & W.	12	3	0	17	3
"	2 0	..	..	..	2 0	..	..	..	"	12	3	0	14	3
"	..	Quiller	1 6	2	..	..	1 6	2	..	..	"	6	1½	0	7	7½
"	W	..	..	4	..	5 0	5 0	..	..	3	"	8	7½	0	13	7½
M.	..	Quiller	1 0	3	..	..	1 0	1	1	..	"	12	3	0	13	3
"	..	Weaver	4 0	5	2 Factory	1 6	5 6	..	..	4	R.	8	1½	0	13	7½
"	..	Burler	4 6	6	2	5 0	9 6	..	..	4	R. & W.	10	0	0	19	6
"	4	2	4 0	4 0	..	..	2	R.	9	6	0	13	6
"	3	1	2 0	2 0	..	..	3	"	13	0	0	15	0
"	..	Weaver	8 0	2	..	..	8 0	1	1	..	R. & W.	9	6	0	17	6
"	2 0	1	..	..	2 0	..	..	..	"	12	3	0	14	3
"	W	..	..	2	1 Factory	1 6	1 6	..	..	..	"	10	4½	0	11	10½
M.	..	Weaver	3 0	3	..	..	3 0	1	..	..	"	12	3	0	15	3
"	..	Quiller	2 0	4	1 Factory	1 0	3 0	..	..	4	"	9	6	0	12	6
"	..	Spinner	4 6	1	..	..	4 6	..	..	1	"	7	9	0	12	3
"	..	Quiller	1 0	4	..	8 0	9 0	..	..	4	R.	13	0	1	2	0
"	..	Weaver	5 0	5	2 Factory	4 6	9 6	..	..	3	R. & W.	13	0	1	2	6
"	S.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	R.	9	7½	0	9	7½
M.	..	Quiller	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	"	10	4½	0	10	4½
"	7	2 Factory	3 9	3 9	..	..	4	"	12	3	0	16	0
"	..	Milliner	2 0	..	..	..	2 0	..	..	..	R. & W.	10	6	0	12	6
"	..	Weaver	2 0	7	2 Factory	3½ 0	5 0	..	..	3	"	10	9	0	15	9
"	..	Quiller	2 0	..	..	..	2 0	..	..	..	"	10	0	0	12	0
"	1 6	2	..	2 0	3 6	..	..	2	"	9	10½	0	13	4½
"	4	..	5 0	5 0	..	..	4	R.	10	7½	0	15	7½
"	2 6	2	..	..	2 6	..	..	1	"	10	7½	0	13	1½

Gloucestershire.

Report from
W. A. Miles, Esq.COMBINATIONS
AND STRIKES

COMBINATIONS AND STRIKES.

injurious to the
Workmen,

The subject of strikes, and their ultimate injurious effects upon the working classes, is too intimately known by you to need any comment from me. Yet, however, in no cases are those injurious effects more clearly to be seen, or more distinctly to be traced to the source, than in the strikes which occurred in Kidderminster among the carpet weavers, and among the cloth weavers in Gloucestershire.

These strikes generated a feeling of hatred between master and man, which time cannot obliterate. They have severed all mutual interest, and thrown all the better feelings which ought to exist harmoniously between the labourer and his employer, into an endless discord.

and to trade.

At Kidderminster, as well as in Gloucestershire, the weavers have severely suffered: the mischief has extended further, cottage property in both districts has decreased; small shopkeepers have been ruined. The Glasgow manufacturer increased his trade during the Kidderminster strike, the Yorkshire looms were busy during the strikes in Gloucestershire, and the trade of both districts has been in some degree diminished.

The strikes in Gloucestershire have mostly originated with the masters, either by attempting to lower wages, or by some of the masters injudiciously, but indirectly, interfering with the lower paying manufacturers, by using the weavers as a means to force up wages, informing them that unless the wages were equalized, they should reduce to the lower scale.

Mr. William Playne, sen., a retired manufacturer in this county, observed to me, that in every strike, either general or upon any individual, some of the masters were secretly connected with the proceedings of the men, and even contributed secretly to their funds.

It is much to be regretted that either for the sake of popularity, or for the paltry feeling of gratifying personal pique against the manufacturers, persons of influence and property secretly fomented the angry and rancorous spirit of the weavers; and it is probably owing more to the peaceable and better disposition of the men, than to the conduct of their presumed friends, that severe riots and disturbances had not broken out, under the fostering care of their meddling interferers.

But what has been the consequence of these strikes? In some cases the men may have succeeded, but the triumph of the day has been purchased by years of distress. The consequences are, that the manufacturer has no confidence in his weaver; he uses him because he needs him, but he distrusts him. The most serious consequence, however, to the interest of the weaver, was the more general establishment of the shop-loom system. The shuttles in the strike in 1828 were collected and hidden, and the manufacturer resolved in future to have the shuttle on his own premises, he would not allow his trade to be at the mercy of the out-door weavers, and he built his factory, in which he insisted that his chain should be woven. The effect of this system was soon found to be injurious to the master weaver, who rented large premises, on which were buildings to hold the looms of his journeymen; but when the shop-looms were erected he found difficulty at times to obtain work even for himself, much less for his journeymen; and thus the property held by the master weavers fell in rent, and impoverished the landlords.

Anthony Fewster, of Nailsworth, says, "it is much more easy to see the evils of combination than to devise a remedy." He continues to remark, "that the deterioration of mill property within the last ten years, must be at least between one-third and one-half; and of cottage property still more. One cause of the latter is, doubtless, the establishment of shop-looms."

The minister of Randwick considers the shop-looms have had a tendency to reduce the value of cottage property, particularly weavers' shops, many of which in his parish are from that cause rendered entirely valueless.

It is not probable that any lengthened strike will again occur in this county among the weavers; and if it should occur, it will only tend to the utter annihilation of their craft or calling. There will be no strike, because there is a superabundant number on the ground, and the necessities of the day will prevent the men adopting any plans for the future: and if a strike could occur, the manufacturers would have their remedy, in the adoption of power-looms.

The immediate cause of the low rate of wages is the surplus labour, a fact which is

proved by the present low rate of earnings; yet, notwithstanding this deteriorated state, the weavers are patient in their sufferings, and with a firmness hardly to have been expected, and highly creditable to them, they have hitherto abstained from cabals and associations.

The following evidence of Mr. William Playne, senior, will show the distrust that is existing between all parties, master to master, men to men, as well as between master and servant. It will there be seen that no compact has held good among the manufacturers, and that men are constantly underselling each other in order to obtain food at any price. In reference to the distrust of the men Mr. Playne observes,—“The feelings of the poor are very peculiar; they cannot imagine that any interference on the part of their superiors can arise from any motives but selfishness, or from some scheme to take advantage of them. They say, ‘Mr. ——— would not take all this trouble about us if it was not for his own good;’ and they are, therefore, jealous of any interference.

“Mr. William Playne is of opinion that boards of wages would be ineffectual, as the more distressed persons would be induced to take work at any price; and no law could be invented to prevent it. (Mr. Derrett, of Wootton, says, that the present prices depended on the humanity of the masters, as weavers were constantly applying to him for work at ANY price.)

“Now even in truck the law is constantly evaded; the best plan is to leave labour to itself: Mr. Playne says he does not go so far as Mr. Hume, who said, ‘Let truck take its course, and leave labour to make its own bargain;’ because, being considered disreputable, it prevents the principal manufacturers using the truck system.

“Every interference with wages, every strike has been injurious to the men. If there had been an established rate of wages there would have been no strike; but the more distressed weavers would give money to have chain. It has been done, he believes, in the stripe trade; but as each manufacturer’s work is so different to another, it is impossible to fix wages by the hundred, or thread, in for instance, the number, say 1800 of a master, if made from good and well prepared wool, is not half so bad as wool badly prepared, or of inferior quality. Although it is the interest of the manufacturer to have it prepared well, it is not always his interest to have the best wool; and a bad wool spun out as fine as better wool, makes incalculable difference to the workman; and thus a master paying 1s. 4d. for good chain, would be paying double in proportion for wool made from an inferior quality, or on a master paying considerably less, the weaver may earn as much as those working at higher prices.

“In 1825 some of the manufacturers agreed to a proffered scale of wages proposed by the weavers, but necessity compelled them to it; it did not last a month, no not a fortnight, before it was broken through by the men, who took work out at the old price, and even lower than before.

“The first strike against Mr. Wm. Playne and his brother was thirty years ago, upon cassimere work; they were then manufacturing a peculiar fabric; they did not spin so small as the others; the general price through the district was 11d. per yard; their price was 10d.; this continued for about twelve months, when the men struck. The men were set on by some of the manufacturers whom Messrs. Playne had to meet in the market, and whom they undersold.

“The leader of the strike (John Blick) worked at another mill (continued Mr. Playne); he came to our factory, and I saw him. I asked him if he knew our work; he said he did, that it was very good. I asked him if he could not earn as much money at the price we were giving as at the top price of his employer; to which he assented, but remarked, that if we continued at our price his master would reduce his men to the same level. We then took the work back from the weavers, saying, ‘If you can afford to live without weaving, we can afford to wait.’ By the eighth day all the chain was taken away at our price, and so it continued for ten or fifteen years. I have no doubt there has not been a strike but what some masters were at the bottom of it. If a manufacturer lived beyond his means, and found himself going to ruin, he became envious of his neighbour, who might be doing better than himself.

“Considers that no committee of masters and men, for arbitration, could be of any avail. It would create more jealousy than at present. Each manufacturer is jealous of exposing his trade; and if a case of arbitration came on, an explanation must ensue as to the manner in which he makes his cloth, both as to the wool and the fineness of spinning. A plan of this kind would fetter trade, and any interference with it Mr. Playne considers to be injurious. The master must be the best judge of what he can afford to give.

“Some manufacturers like to have a factory distinct and away from other factories, so that, by having the sole control of the work-people, he might prevent competition. I have seen (said Mr. Playne) the working of this in Malmesbury thirty years ago, and it never succeeded. Supposing that the manufacturer really gave a fair price, the men would fancy they were oppressed, and on fault being found with a man, he would think that, if he could go elsewhere, his master would not find fault with him. If a manufacturer be an oppressive man, he could certainly abuse labour; but whether he be oppressive or not, the workmen would always fancy so; and, therefore, competition is better for the workmen and the manufacturer.

“If I was starting again in business (continued Mr. W. Playne) I would never attend any

Gloucestershire.

Report from
W. A. Miles, Esq.

COMBINATIONS
AND STRIKES.

Evidence of Mr. W.
Playne, sen.

Wages no test of
Earnings.
Vide page 392.

Combinations
among men or
masters useless.

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Gloucestershire.

Report from
W. A. Miles, Esq.

COMBINATIONS
AND STRIKES.

No reliance on
Manufacturers in
reference to Com-
binations.

meeting of manufacturers for the purposes of making any rules relative to trade, wages, or prices in the market. We met at Rodborough, forty years ago, to regulate our selling prices of cloth made from English wools, and in less than a month it was broken through by one of the largest manufacturers in the county. I was informed, that no sooner had we signed our agreement on the advance price, than he commissioned his traveller to sell at the old prices. I had occasion to call upon him within six months afterwards, and on his asking me how we got on with the advanced prices, I replied we had no market, and were holding goods; "But," said I, "some manufacturer, I am informed, sent his traveller out the next day after signing at the old prices." "Sooner," said he, "than do that, I would cut my hand off," laying his stick over his wrist; and I found he was the very man that had done it! So much for any attempt to regulate prices, or to hold faith upon such points. All our meetings have failed in effect, except when we petitioned in 1822 to have the duty of sixpence per pound on wool reduced; it is now one penny per pound. This reduction gave us an advantage in the foreign market—(we then paid 12,000*l.* a-year duty at sixpence per pound.) When this full duty was in operation we contemplated (as we purchased our wools in Germany) washing them and cleaning them on the continent; we had looked out a small mill in Hanover, and we proved that we should have saved 2000*l.* a-year only on the grease and filth, which was weighed in on passing the Custom-house scale.

"I am decidedly of opinion," continued Mr. Playne, "that no standard of wages can be fixed in this trade to be beneficial to the master or servant, neither locally nor generally. The same remark holds good to every sort of labour. Even in those trades, where by reason of the fewness of the number the men can combine to keep up wages, they are the most improvident, and the first applicants for parish relief; they cannot live upon the frugal fare of a steady man.

"We had a wool-sorter, whose earnings had been for some years from 2*l.* to 3*l.* a-week, and he was obliged to apply to his parish, after an illness of about six weeks; he was removed to Sussex; he belonged to no club. Relative to clubs, I think the old system was better before the Act specifying certain rules; for instance, the old clubs took a man of forty at the same terms as one of twenty-five; the mischief of this, however, was that when the club contained old members, young ones would not enter: this is the principal objection. The feelings of the poor are very peculiar; they cannot imagine that any interference on the part of their superiors can arise from any motives but selfishness, to take an advantage of them; they say,—'Mr. — would not take all this pains, unless it was for his interest;' and they will not allow any interference; consequently the friendly institutions under the new Act do not succeed: all the clubs are now annual.

"I tried, with Mr. Ricardo, to establish a provident club at Minchin Hampton, and to embrace four or five parishes in it; but we never had more than twenty-nine members.

"By attempting too much in legislating for the poor we do nothing.

"The poor will not be interfered with; they dislike to give their money where their superiors have any control over it; they are very suspicious. This is not theory, for I know it practically.

"The agricultural labourer's wages average 8*s.* a-week: the shopkeeper would trust him sooner than a weaver, and runs a better chance of being paid: the labourer is better off because he is more provident."

"Mr. Lewis, of the Oil Mills, near Stroud, admits the distress of the weavers; thinks they are not above half employed—as to the cause, about the year 1824, trade was in a seeming prosperous state, created in his opinion by the *extended credit* given to manufacturers on foreign wool, occasioned by the abundance of money in the market. In the commencement of 1825, in consequence of the seeming activity of trade, everything rose in price, there was a general opinion that the corn laws would be repealed; the sprakness of trade induced the weavers to ask higher wages; the largest manufacturers had at the same time made cloth more difficult for the weavers, by increasing the hundreds of the chain, and spinning the yarn smaller. On the difference which arose about wages, a meeting was held (manufacturers and weavers) amongst the rest. Mr. J. P. Hicks told some weavers that unless some of the low hundred manufacturers advanced their wages, he should reduce the price of his high hundred; the low hundred makers could not advance, and the weavers struck generally, and this strike stopped entirely the spring trade of the year 1825; the weavers obtained their price for a short time (after having been out for a month) and this determined Messrs. Stanton to put up looms in his factory. Stock for the spring trade was delayed till autumn, forced to be sold at low prices, being out of season, and many of those to whom these forced sales were made, failed in the general panic of that autumn, and many of the manufacturers thus lost a great portion of their capital; their remaining stock was lowered, and their capital was thus entirely absorbed: the wool sellers would no longer give the extended credit, and therefore these manufacturers were compelled to retire, and work became consequently short in the spring of 1826. An alteration in the dress of cloth just at this period reduced the value of the stock on hand nearly half; another cause of loss to the manufacturers, the shop looms came in, and the out-weavers in competition for work lowered their prices, and this was the beginning of the distress."

Mr. Peter Playne says, "We had two strikes, one was a difference which only lasted a few hours, the other was a strike which lasted six weeks. The cause of this strike was for a general advance on all the work; we had not made any previous reductions, but we were under heavy contracts at the time, and the men took advantage of us. It cost us between

£2,000 and £3,000. At last, we were obliged to yield; but many of the out-door weavers came slyly, and begged to have our work out at under prices." He further remarked, that they finished the contract at considerable loss, and being fearful of similar treatment, they have carefully avoided taking any more very extensive orders—states, that whenever the weavers may have carried their point, they have always been the first to reduce wages.

"He also adds, that the differences between these weavers and themselves, which have terminated in strikes, have only occurred twice; one was a difference lasting only a few hours, the other was a strike in one mill in particular for six weeks; the cause of this strike was for a general advance on all their work; they had not made any previous reduction, but were under heavy contracts at the time, and the men took advantage of us. It cost us between £2000 and £3000. At last we were obliged to agree to their terms, but many out-weavers came underhanded and offered to take out at less wages.

"On its being known in the district that our people had struck, the other manufacturers in general rose their wages, but cannot say whether these manufacturers were paying the same rate as they were.

Mr. P. Playne observed that the contract was finished at a considerable loss, and being fearful of similar treatment, they have carefully avoided taking large orders; considers that the strikes have never proved to any ultimate advantage to the labouring men, and even after they have carried their point, they have been the first to reduce wages.

There have been two general strikes of all the weavers in the county.

The first commenced 28th of April, 1825, and terminated on the 5th of June, same year.

The second commenced in the latter end of May 1828, and continued till the middle of July following.

There have been also various minor strikes against individual masters at different times.

In reference to the strike in 1825, it was for an advance of wages; although when the differences were settled, and a scale of wages were agreed to, three manufacturers had to reduce their wages to meet the adjusted rate.

Trade previous to the strike was very good; some of the manufacturers, however, were paying 12s. or 13s. a piece under others, and the weavers struck not so much on account of the general lowness of wages, as to maintain more equalised rates throughout the district—but no contract will ever hold good among workmen, whose numbers exceed the demand for their labour. As a proof of this, Mr. Lewis of the Oil Mills, and many other manufacturers, stated to me that within a month after this strike terminated, weavers offered to take out his chain for 13s. less than the stipulated price, and to obtain which price they had ruined themselves and paralyzed the trade.

Previous to the year 1825, say 1823, there had been various differences existing between masters and men, inasmuch as wages were attempted to be lowered, and the weavers made those men who took out under-priced work return it to the factory.

In consequence of these proceedings, *eleven* men were sent to prison, *seven* were tried and sentenced to two months' imprisonment, and a penalty of £10: these fines were paid by a general subscription among the weavers, and also, it is said, by assistance received from tradesmen and others interested in the subject of the weavers.

In 1824 the manufacturers commenced increasing the hundreds in the chain from 17 to 19 and 20 hundred, and the abb was increased 900 shoots in a yard, making a total number of 2500, instead of 1600, whereby additional labour was caused to the weaver, and no additional wages were given, with the exception of two manufacturers. viz., Mr. Davies, of Stonehouse and Mr. Sheppard, of Uley; these two gentlemen gave, without any solicitation on the part of the men, 1d. extra per ell.

In consequence of this alteration in the make of the fabric, whereby the labour of the weaver was increased, the weavers required a rise of wages, to obtain which they addressed a petition to the manufacturers in October, 1824, submitting to them a list of prices, and requiring it to be the standard price. This list did exceed the wages given by many other manufacturers, inasmuch as it has been previously stated, three manufacturers were paying higher, and had to reduce to meet it; it was, however, a rise of about 1d. an ell upon the general bulk of the manufacturers.

To render this strike more effectual, the weavers gave up their shuttles to various collectors, who deposited them at some named spot, from whence they were removed by other unknown hands and secreted. On the adjustment of these

Gloucestershire.

Report from
W. A. Miles, Esq.

COMBINATIONS
AND STRIKES.

Gloucestershire.
 Report from
F. A. Miles, Esq.
 COMBINATIONS
 AND STRIKES.

differences, their shuttles as mysteriously came to light as they were mysteriously hidden, an epoch in the weavers' annals which was called a "*resurrection of the shuttles*."

In about six days after the commencement of the strike, the chairman of the clothiers, Mr. Sheppard, one of the largest manufacturers, *agreed* to meet the wishes of the weavers, and advanced his wages within a fraction of the required sum. The following is the list of prices asked, and the prices agreed to by Mr. Sheppard:—

List of Prices, submitted by the Weavers to the Manufacturers, and the Prices agreed to by them in the year 1825.

Coloured Chains.

Hundred at per ell.	Sum asked.	Sum agreed to.
	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>
1600	1 9	1 9
1700	1 10	1 9
1800	1 11	1 9
1900	2 0	1 10
2000	2 1	1 11

White Chains.

Hundred at per ell.	Sum asked.	Sum agreed to.
	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>
1600	1 6	1 4
1700	1 7	1 5
1800	1 8	1 6
1900	1 9	1 7
2000	1 10	1 8

In reference to the above list of prices, and as printed copies of them were given to me in evidence, I consider it my duty to insert them. Many manufacturers say the price was not adhered to, and that the weavers took chain after a very short interval upon the previous terms of the employer.

Mr. Samuel Marling, of Ham Mills, writes to me thus on the subject; and other manufacturers confirm his statements.

"Dear Sir,

"With regard to the prices of weaving, I would observe that, for a few weeks after a strike, the prices stated in the weaver's printed list may have been paid in some cases, yet they were never generally paid, and by none for any long period. These prices were above the value of the work to be performed, allowing the value to be determined by the amount of work required by the manufacturers to be done, and the number of weavers to do it, and consequently prices began to decline almost immediately, and the average prices paid in the county you will find to be near what I have stated at the respective periods.

"I remain, dear Sir,

"Yours truly,

(Signed)

"SAMUEL MARLING."

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The prices of Mr. Marling were $14\frac{1}{2}$ per cent less on 1800 work than the prices said to have been signed. If the weavers' statement of wages had been adhered to, the total decrease would have been 35 per cent on 1800; and by Mr. Marling's statement it is $27\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.

The example of Mr. Sheppard is said to have been followed by the other respectable manufacturers, and these gentlemen, after agreeing to the price, were as strenuous as the weavers themselves, that the other manufacturers should be brought up to the same mark; the men gradually returned to their work, as the different manufacturers signed the list, and all the shuttles were again at work on the 8th of June.

This strike originated with the weavers, who were then about 5000 in number, the price of a *white chain*, 1600, say 36 ells, was 1s. 4d. an ell, which took three weeks in weaving, amounting to 2l. 8s., from which deduct for

Glue, Harness, Candles, Quilling, Twine, and Rent 15s. 9d.

leaving an average weekly income of 10s. 9d. At this time the spinners and slubbers were earning 20s. to 30s. a-week.

It is difficult to state the number of men thrown out of employ, such as spinners and others; but upon a rough calculation, say about 2500, all of whose earnings may be said to be superior to that of the weaver.

It is almost impossible to state the estimated value of buildings and machinery rendered inactive by this strike, but in one factory alone, viz., Mr. Sheppard's, the estimated amount may be 100,000*l*.

During the unsettled prices of wages, to reduce which there have been constant struggles, various strikes have occurred in different manufactories against attempts at reductions, most of which were unsuccessful, and always proved injurious to the men.*

Timothy Exell, relative to combination strikes, says "that they are injurious in three ways:—

"1st.—They cause a loss of much valuable time.

"2nd.—They take away much of the hard-earned money of the poor.

"3rd.—They keep up a continual war between master and man."

injurious to the
Working Classes.

And he further says, "If the money spent in strikes and useless contests between master and man could now be collected, it would be enough to emigrate super-population, and tend to the raising of wages to a proper standard."

At Mr. Sheppard's strike was subscribed - - -	£ 250
At Mr. Playne's - - - - -	500
At Chalford Vale - - - - -	1500

Total - - - 2200

This money was subscribed from weavers and others, independent of the small sums that the weavers themselves had saved.

At the strike which occurred at Mr. Sheppard's about 120 weavers, and 60 others connected with the trade, were out of work six weeks and three days; and, calculating their earnings to be at the lowest 10*s*. a-week, we may calculate upon an actual loss of 585*l*. 10*s*.: this sum, added to the amount of subscriptions, viz. 250*l*., makes a total of 835*l*. 10*s*. which was actually lost by the labourers, independent of the severe losses of the masters.

This occurred five years ago, when Mr. Sheppard endeavoured to reduce the wages of his weavers from 3*l*. for 40 ells, to 2*l*. 10*s*.

At Mr. Playne's strike there were upwards of 400 weavers, and 200 others connected with the trade, who threw themselves out of employ in trying to raise the wages of Mr. Playne to the wages of other manufacturers; this occurred in February 1834—this strike lasted seven weeks, and, upon the previous calculation of 10*s*. per week to each person, the amount lost is 2100*l*., to which add the amount subscribed, viz. 500*l*., makes a total of 2600*l*. lost by the labourers.

The following is a list of the moneys received and disbursed during the above-named strike:—

Subscriptions.

RECEIVED.				PAID.			
	£.	s.	d.		£.	s.	d.
From Horsley and Nailsworth	60	19	3	To 287 out-weavers and their families, belonging to the several parishes of Horsley, Avening, Minchinhampton, Bisley, Randwick, Coaley, Cam, Uley, Dursley, and Nymphsfield	298	16	6
— King Stanley	53	5	2½	— 156 shop-weavers and their families, belonging to Iron Mills and Dunkirk Mills	152	1	6
— Stroud and Pighouse Mill	38	3	11	— Paper, books, and printing	9	1	6
— Kingswood and Kingswood New Mill	33	2	6	— Advertisements	2	17	0
— Vatch Mill	24	0	10	— The Committee, for their			
— Brunscombe	23	7	2				
— Rodborough and Littleworth	23	5	6				
— Pitt's Mill and Forest Green	21	14	9				
— Wootton-under-Edge	20	16	0				
— Uley	20	18	5½				
— Stafford's Mill	19	16	4½				
— Stonehouse and Leonard Stanley	18	4	3				
Carried forward	£357	14	2½	Carried forward	£462	16	6

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* A dispute recently occurred between a manufacturer near Dursley and his weavers—the consequence was, that the manufacturer dispensed with the services of the men, and has employed women.

Gloucestershire.		RECEIVED.			PAID.		
		£. s. d.			£. s. d.		
Report from	—	Brought forward . . .	357	14	2½	Brought forward . . .	462 16 6
W. A. Miles, Esq.	—	Ebley Mill and Friends	17	12	6	loss of time and expenses	
	—	Eastington	14	9	6	during the strike	28 15 6
COMBINATIONS	—	Coaley	14	4	0	Balance in hand	8 12 4½
AND STRIKES.	—	Cam	12	10	0		
	—	Lodgemore Mill	9	8	11		
	—	Chalford	8	15	2		
	—	Woodchester	5	13	0		
	—	Minchinhampton and					
		Box	9	17	8		
	—	Pitchcombe and Small's					
		Mill	6	16	3		
	—	Fromebridge Mill . . .	6	6	10		
	—	Bagpath	5	5	6		
	—	Alderley New Mill . . .	4	19	0		
	—	Charfield and Cromhall	4	7	0		
	—	Fromehall Mill	5	2	10		
	—	Dursley	2	12	9		
	—	Painswick	2	5	0		
	—	Nymphsfield	1	16	0		
	—	Locomb Well Mill . . .	1	5	0		
	—	North Nibley	0	16	3		
	—	White's Hill and Rus-					
		combe	0	15	9		
	—	Holcombe Mill	1	1	3		
	—	Donations	6	10	0		
		Total	£ 500	4	4½		
					Total	£ 500	4 4½

In 1829 a serious struggle took place in Chalford Vale, not only to raise wages, but to abolish the truck system.

The trade in this district has been considerably impaired by constant struggles which have existed between master and man, to the injury of both parties. At the time of several of the strikes the weavers knew that trade was brisk, and, owing to the impediments thrown in the way of executing contracts owing to these strikes, many of the orders went into Yorkshire.

Although it may be said that in 1825 the weavers struck for an advance of wages, it was in fact only for an equalization throughout the county; nor did they endeavour to fix the standard at the maximum price, because three of the highest manufacturers had to reduce their wages to the standard named by the weavers.

In this case the weavers gained the day, although trade partially suffered with those masters who held out longest; in all other instances the struggles have been to oppose the reduction of the manufacturers, and not to force an increase of wages. These contests have been generally to the detriment of the working men; and although, owing to the conditions of the contract, limiting as to time, &c., the manufacturers may have granted to continue wages at the price for which the weavers stood, it was only till the order was completed, and then reductions were forced upon the men, who had no alternative.

I insert the following observations of Mr. Samuel Seville, who is a resident in the district, and well acquainted with the habits of the people and history of the trade. I beg to call your attention to the latter part of his letter, where he judiciously recommends the completion of the railroad in order to put the Gloucestershire on a level with the Yorkshire manufacturer in point of facilities of transit and communication.

Letter from Samuel Seville, Esq., concerning Combinations among Masters and Men.

"SIR,—I am not aware that there are anything like regular combinations among the masters of any trade in England.

"Combinations among the operatives still exist in some trades, and to a greater extent than is generally imagined. Among mechanics, and particularly in London, in large engineers' shops, the men on the premises will not allow a fresh man to work unless he has served an apprenticeship or worked a certain time at the trade; nor will they allow any man to work under a fixed price, I think a minimum price of 28s. per week. I know a young man who left this neighbourhood about 12 months since for London. He had worked all his life with his father, who is a good working mechanic in either wood or iron. On his arrival in town

he soon got into work (through the introduction of his uncle who is also a mechanic) at 28s. a week. The foreman soon found out that he had more conceit than knowledge, and turned him off, because he dared not offer him what he really was worth. But had he been worth 27. per week, the shopmen would not have allowed him to work, unless he had brought his indentures of apprenticeship, or satisfactory letters from parties, where, and with whom, he had worked before. I believe that a fresh man is put to the test in this way. He is obliged to enter a club, which is for the double object of providing against sickness, and raising a fund that the mechanics may fall back upon in case they make a *strike* against their masters. At the time of entering his pretensions are gone into, I think by a committee of the club, and if they are satisfactory he may go to work, but if not, although the master might take him on, yet the annoyance from the other men would be such, in the shop and out of the shop, that no one could withstand; and he would be obliged to leave, and go to work at some small establishment for lower wages, where these pains and penalties are not in force.

"I have lately been told that combinations still exist among some of the leading operatives Manchester; but there are no combinations, either among masters or men, in the cloth-trade, I think I may say, either in the north or west of England. The hand-loom weavers have in the last 20 years made two great efforts to fix the price of labour. Their last attempt, in 1828, was a desperate one, and subscriptions had been collected for some time before in all the clothing counties of England. Their plans were well laid, and at first they were pretty successful. The principle of action was, to strike against one master at a time, and, the order being given out, neither man, woman, nor child entered the premises: but I ought to state that all the principal operatives joined in this combination, although the weavers were the principal movers in it. This sort of warfare was carried on for some time, till the masters, seeing that the fate of one would be the fate of all, at last resolved to close their mills. The panic of 1825 began to be felt about the same time, and both together soon brought the thing to a crisis. The weavers became desperate, and at Chalford, in Gloucestershire, the military were obliged to be called out, and were under arms night and day for about a fortnight. The moment fortune began to frown on the weavers, it became a sort of "*saue qui peut*" affair; their treasurers pocketed the money in hand, and they began to take out work at almost whatever prices the masters would give. From that period their condition has been getting worse and worse. The supply of labour has been constantly greater than the demand. Some of the shopkeepers were severe sufferers by this strike; they gave the weavers credit on the faith that success would attend their efforts, and if so, that the truck system would be abolished.

"But the foundation cause of the loss of trade in Gloucestershire lies in the coal-pits of Yorkshire, where coal is only one-half the price, besides the great advantage of being able to say for certain when an order could be executed. Now this was not the case with the water-mills of this county. In the summer months the supply was uncertain, not enough to employ the people in the mills above five or six hours in the day; and, as working by weight and the piece was not so common then as it is now, the master not only suffered by the loss of time, but paid for labour that was never performed,

"This state of things gradually led to the erection of steam-engines to equalize the power of the water-mills, to keep them going as regularly in summer as winter. But, by the time these changes had taken place, the capital of the leading clothiers was nearly exhausted.

"The cause of this exhaustion might be traced in a variety of ways; but the principal undoubtedly was the large establishments and expensive habits of living in which they indulged. While the men of Leeds and Huddersfield were constantly in their mills, and taking their meals at the same hours as their workpeople, the clothiers of Gloucestershire, some of them, were indulging in the habits and mixing with the 'gentle blood' of the land. These sort of things, of course, are not attempted by the present race of manufacturers, but still there is not capital enough in the trade to employ all the mills or the population.

"It has often been matter of astonishment to me that the workpeople have submitted so quietly to their fate. One cause is, that their spirit was completely broken by their failure in 1828; another is, that they are scattered over a greater surface of country, in valleys and villages. By not coming in contact as often as they do in manufacturing towns, their manners are more simple and less turbulent. They have not the same facility of irritating each other, or laying plans for the redress of real or imaginary grievances.

"For this reason I conceive that the Government would do well to encourage, by every possible means, the manufactures that are carried on in neighbourhoods that are similarly situated to those of Gloucestershire, where they are not too scattered to make distance or time an objection, nor so concentrated as to render them liable to both the moral and physical objections which large manufacturing towns are subject to.

"Nothing would contribute so much to this desirable object in Gloucestershire as the completion of the railroad from Swindon to Cheltenham, which, passing through Stroud, would put the clothiers on a level with their rivals in the north; and it does strike me as a most extraordinary thing, that the most tedious and difficult part of this line is not touched—I mean through the Vale of Chalford. Time is property, and, unless this line is continued through Stroud, it will be almost as bad as hedging the cloth-trade out of the market. The excuse for not beginning this tedious and difficult part of the road is, that the directors are not sure of getting the money to complete it. Then, I say that, if they cannot mortgage, they ought to apply to Government for assistance. It is in a great measure to the immense facility of rapid communication that England owes her present station in the world; but I will confine myself more strictly to the subject of inquiry.

"There is suffering enough in this country, among the weavers and others, to engender the most serious discontent, and I find that something like a rupture is only delayed by the hope that the present Hand-loom Commission will turn out to their advantage. They fancy that

Gloucestershire
—
Report from
W. A. Miles, Esq.
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COMBINATIONS
AND STRIKES.

Gloucestershire.
 Report from
W. A. Miles, Esq.
 COMBINATIONS
 AND STRIKES.

their young Queen has sent you among them to inquire into their sufferings, in order that they may be redressed,—that she will revive the law which made it illegal for one man to have more than three looms on his premises, which of course would do away with the power-loom factories. This I know from personal communication; and, if they are disappointed, which must inevitably be the case, it will only want the presence of an Oastler or a Stevens to make them defy both persons and property.

"I am, Sir, yours,

"SAMUEL SEVILL.

"*Burleigh, February 4, 1839.*

"*To William Augustus Miles, Esq.*"

The following is a history of the trade and the strikes, supplied to me in a letter from Timothy Exell, chairman of the Delegates of Weavers, addressed to Her Majesty's Commissioner, on the subject of strikes and wages.

"I, Timothy Exell, of the parish of North Nibley, in the county of Gloucester, have taken upon me to give you a history, to the best of my knowledge, of the weavers in this county.

"Queen Elizabeth signed and sealed the trade of weaving by law to the weavers themselves, which laws protected the weaver and manufacturer; for trade never prospered better than when it was carried on systematically: which laws were as follow:—

"First, That no manufacturer should keep more than one loom in his possession under the fine of *fifty-two pounds* a year, nor let a house and loom together to make profit thereby, under the same penalty.

"Secondly, That no weaver should keep more than two looms to make profit thereby: this prevented the system of monopoly amongst the weavers.

"Thirdly, That no weaver should follow the trade of weaving without having served a lawful apprenticeship of *seven years*, or serve in His Majesty's army: this prevented the system of early marriage, which has been practised to an awful extent among the weavers.

"In the reign of King George II., in the year 1728, the weavers' wages were fixed by the magistrates at the quarter sessions at Gloucester; and this rate of wages was according to the hundreds in the chain, that is to say, for a chain 600, 4*d.* per yard, and so on in proportion as the hundreds rise up to 24, that is to say, for 2400, 2*s.* per yard.

"On the 15th day of October 1756 the weavers and clothiers made another agreement in reference to the fixing of their wages; after this the trade of weaving went on well: the clothiers were contented with their trade of clothing, and many of them became rich and opulent men; they were not only worth their thousands and their tens of thousands, but their scores of thousands of pounds, and their weavers lived in credit by their trade and industry; their little cottages appeared happy and contented, and many hundreds of them prepared against the day of sickness and old age. It was seldom that a weaver appeared at the parish for relief. No combinations of masters to oppress and reduce, no combinations of weavers to stand up against unwarranted deductions; no alarm in the country amongst the tradesmen, saying that the weavers had *struck for wages*; no stagnation of trade, by the weavers' stopping working; peace and content sat upon the weaver's brow, and his name stood enrolled amongst the legal subjects of His Majesty; and many of them stood in the field of battle arrayed in armour, and many of them fell in the field of action in the defence of their beloved country.

This state of things continued till the year 1802, when the clothiers prevailed upon a member of the House of Commons to bring in a bill to suspend the weavers' protecting laws, which after a long struggle they prevailed upon the Government not only to suspend, but repeal the laws that protected the weavers as a body; and after this the spoilers broke in upon the weavers' rights and privileges; shop-loomers were introduced to our country, and the manufacturers became master-weavers themselves.

"The system of apprenticeship was done away with, and things became dreadfully confused; the clothiers looked upon the weavers as an army defeated, and taken prisoners, and as prisoners they have treated us and our children; they have driven us from our houses and gardens to work as prisoners in their factories; in these seminaries of vice our sons and daughters have been ruined, and many a father has had to weep over a ruined daughter.

"In the year 1821, the masters made an attempt to reduce our wages; but the weavers made a steady stand against the deduction, and eleven of the weavers were sent to Gloucester prison, and seven of them were fined 10*l.* a-piece; this cost the weavers of the county several hundreds of pounds. This punishment was inflicted for combining together to prevent the clothiers from putting out the work at the prices the masters attempted to put it out at; and the weavers were successful in their attempts.

"In the year 1824, in October, the weavers called a county meeting at Stroud, for the purpose of petitioning the manufacturers for an advance in their wages, on account of the great change which had taken place in the weaving of woollen cloth. The masters had increased the hundreds in the chain from 16 to 19, which was an increase of 570 threads in the chain, and increased the number of threads from 1600 to 2560, the odd way to make a yard of cloth in the raw state, and this to be done for the same money; in answer to which petition some of the manufacturers gave a small advance; but a majority of the masters treated the petition with disregard; this was done without *my* knowledge. In the months of February and March 1825 the weavers sent out a deputation to wait upon the manufacturers to know if they intended to comply with their request; this was done without obtaining the object, for in April, the following month, some of the masters took off what they had so lately put on, in answer to our petition: this it was that filled the weavers with rage: discontent began to show itself in every bosom; the union spread in every direction and increased from 4000 to 5000 in a few days.

"On the 28th of April, the weavers stopped working; and in about 48 hours nearly all the shuttles were laid in the silent grave; and a quieter stand for wages I never beheld before or since.

"On the 4th of May, Mr. Edward Sheppard, chairman of the clothiers' committee, made his proposals to his weavers, and signed to a printed document what wages he would give his weavers, and in a few days the business was settled to the great joy and satisfaction of the weavers in the Dursley district; but one of the clothiers had to reduce to come down to the standard of wages, which was fixed, and the men resumed their work in peace.

"On the 2nd of June there was a day appointed to return the masters thanks for their kindness in giving them their wages, but many of the manufacturers of the Stroud division were stubborn, and would not comply to give the wages Mr. Sheppard had signed to give on the 4th of May, which prices nearly all were giving in the Dursley division. This laid the foundation for the disturbance which took place in Stroud on the 4th of June, which was the cause of bringing the military into the country, and it was like to be attended with very serious consequences, but on the 7th the wages were settled at Stroud between the weavers and clothiers, and Mr. Sheppard's prices were fixed to be the county prices to be paid the weavers in the county of Gloucester; and I consider it just that masters, selling in the same market, should pay the same prices for weaving the same kind of work, but a uniformity of prices would not be kept up without a combination among the weavers, and combinations take a deal of precious time and money, and keep up a continual war between master and man. But peace was restored until November, but in November a truck clothier in Wootton-under-Edge made a reduction on his weavers; this was the cause of the number of weavers assembled together, and some work, belonging to this manufacturer, was destroyed, and a number of men, women, and children, who were defenceless, were assembled near his mill. He, with his men, fired on them, and wounded 16 men, women, and children, but no life was lost. After this, things went on tolerably well till the year 1828, when the ready money manufacturers in the Dursley division found that they were undersold by several commission clothiers in the London market, which led them to inquire into the cause, and they found the cause to be three-fold.

"1st. They were paying 10 per cent less for weaving, and paying this in truck, and keeping shop-looms, which shop-loom system has been a great evil in this country to the weaver and landlord, who have expended many scores of thousands of pounds in erecting houses and shops for the weavers' convenience.

"In the month of June the ready-money manufacturer commenced a strike on the weavers, to reduce their wages down to the trucksters' standard, which was 10 per cent., which amounted to nearly a reduction of 30,000*l.* a-year on the quantity of cloth made in this county, and after a long, but quiet struggle, to the great injury of the trade in this county, the masters gained the day; and, to be further revenged on the poor weavers, many of them built large factories, filled them with looms, and made the weavers work as journeymen under them; and many of the weavers were compelled to take their looms to the factory, and pay a shameful rent for the standing of their own looms in the factory; so they had rent at home, and rent to pay to the master; and many an industrious man has been brought to the parish by this conduct, for it is considered that the weavers have sustained a loss of more than 10,000*l.* a-year by this practice, which money is drawn out of circulation.

"The foregoing reductions took place when trade was remarkably good; the weavers, seeing nothing but destruction before them, joined themselves together in a *secret society*, to save themselves from utter ruin, but they soon found that this society was illegal and contrary to the laws of this country, and they quietly disbanded themselves, and in a few days the manufacturers reduced their wages 10 per cent *again*, which was nearly 30,000*l.* a-year more. This took place in the year 1829, and, adding to all this, many of the manufacturers had lengthened out their *warping-bars* far beyond the standard of justice, and they, the weavers, had many thousands of yards of cloth to weave in a year *for nothing*; but, notwithstanding all this, when incendiarism raged in the country round them, the manufacturers fled to the weavers to protect their property, which they came forward to do, knowing that the destruction of property by violence is the high road to ruin.

"This, honoured Sir, is the manner in which things have been going on for the last 13 years. There is no rule nor order among the masters themselves, but they appear to be vying with each other who shall bring wages to the lowest point, and I believe it is high time for the legislature to interfere; for, if they had interfered in 1825, by setting a boundary round about the weaver, not to have injured the master in his trade, this country would have been more than a million of money better off than she is at the present time. Reckoning *wages lost* and *time misimproved*, and notwithstanding the present price of provisions and the lowness of wages, and the different manner of abatements practised by the master on the weaver, the manufacturer seems bent on bringing wages to a lower starvation point, and, if they make any resistance against these deductions, the power-loom is to be set up in their place, and they driven to the wide world to seek a redress of their grievances; for in about the beginning of 1838 some of the principal manufacturers made the greatest reduction on their weavers that has ever been known since the memory of man, and, if the Government does not interfere, I can see nothing but destruction at our heels; but I sincerely hope, as a well-wisher to my country, that they will in their wisdom devise some plan to stop such a system of oppression, to the great injury of the industrious but half-starved weavers of this county.

"With these remarks, I have the honour, Sir, to remain

"Your humble and obedient servant,

"TIMOTHY EXELL."

Gloucestershire.

Report from
W. A. Miles, Esq.

COMBINATIONS
AND STRIKES.

Gloucestershire.

Report from
W. A. Miles, Esq.

TRUCK.

TRUCK.

Truck is carried on by a few manufacturers in the district. It is injurious to the weaver, as it prevents prudential habits; and, in some cases, he may be liable to imposition. It is a tax upon his labour and an arbitrary usurpation of the master.

Truck, however, is only a gangrene, arising from an unhealthy state of trade and a surplus population. No law can prevent it; and public opinion is the best means to check it.

I have tickets of truck, headed "To facilitate Trade." It is a ticket with a check-mark, on which is printed "Receive this I. O. U. for ———" (the amount). In short, it is a paper currency for bacon and candles.

All the leading manufacturers are opposed to truck; and yet some say they are compelled to lower wages to meet the truckster in the market.

In Chalford there is little money passing between masters and men. Shoemakers, landlords, beer-shop-keepers, and others, all declare they take bacon, cheese, and candles in payment.

Mr. Peter Playne, of Nailsworth, a large and highly respectable manufacturer, had been accused of truck; but he solemnly denied it, upon his oath, before me, when under examination.

Convictions.

The following is a return of the number of convictions, under the Truck Act, at Horsley petty sessions, from 27th March 1832 to June in the same year, being a period when the Anti-Truck Association, at Chalford and Stroud, were zealous in their efforts to suppress truck. But, within that brief period, it will be seen that there were twelve convictions, and that some of the manufacturers were repeatedly fined. This, however, proved useless, and truck is now carried on, silently, to the depression of the people within its vortex.

William Smart, convicted on the 27th March, 1832, before the magistrates at Horsley, for an offence under the 1 and 2 Will. IV., cap. 37, sect. 2.

William Smart, convicted same day, before the same magistrates, for an offence under 3rd sect. of the said Act.

John Winn, convicted same day, before the same magistrates, for an offence under the 2nd sect. of the said Act.

John Winn, convicted same day, before the same magistrates, for an offence under the 3rd sect. of the said Act.

Daniel Cox, convicted the same day, before the same magistrates, for an offence under the 3rd sect. of the said Act.

William Smart, convicted on the 19th April, 1832, before the magistrates at Horsley, for an offence under the 3rd sect. of the said Act.

Nathaniel Jones and Joseph Jones, convicted same day, at the same place, before the same magistrates, for an offence under the 3rd sect. of the said Act.

Daniel Cox, convicted on the 3rd May, 1832, at Horsley.

Thomas Gordon, convicted on the 15th May, 1832, at Horsley.

Joseph Lusty, convicted same day, at Horsley.

Thomas Gordon, convicted on 11th June, 1832, at Horsley.

W A Miles ~ Hand-Loom
Weavers Report c. 1839
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I submit the following letters and evidence upon the subject of truck:—

Mr. Ross on Truck. SIR,

Woodchester, June 14th, 1838.

In reply to your communication, received on the 12th of this month, I beg leave to forward for your inspection the following observations on the truck system; at the same time assuring you that no description of mine can sufficiently set forth the evils arising, directly and indirectly, from the abominable system of truck. I have now resided in this neighbourhood twelve years, occupying an extensive shop and warehouse, as a general dealer. At this shop the returns have been annually 5000*l.*, and continued so while trade was carried on unimpeded by the truck system, and when capital could be used advantageously for the promotion and increase of trade. But things are altered by the introduction of this system, so that neither capital nor respectability (as to trade) have now anything to do with the business of the neighbourhood. This system has struck, as it were, the deathblow to fair trade, as well as to the fair trader, so much so, that, were an individual to attempt to commence or carry on a business with a capital of sufficient extent to enable him to make all his purchases for cash, and thus avail himself of the usually allowed discount; and were he, for the purpose of ensuring and increasing his business, to sacrifice not only the discount named, but also 10 per cent. upon the regular retail price (fair and ordinary), he could not effect sales; but, as he made the offer of his goods, he would be met with this reply: "It is very cheap, but I cannot buy, for I must deal at master's shop;" or else, "we have no money for our work, we are paid in truck." These are true statements that have come under my own observation in a way of business. But, to be particular in some of my remarks, I would observe—

"First: that the truck system tends to render the weaver the manufacturer's slave. They

are obliged to work, to live, and act in a way of total degradation. They must consent to his prices for their work. They must lay out their earnings where he pleases, which is always at his shop, or at a shop which he countenances (when he refuses to own it as his), but from which he is sure to reap no small profit. They dare not complain of short weight, though they have much cause so to do. They dare not complain of inferiority in the articles supplied. They dare not utter a word, however exorbitant the price charged; if they did, the master would make but little reply; but, in a few days, or at the next settling, some trifling fault is found, or 'not being in want of so many hands,' they are turned off, but not a word is said about the shop. The workman is left to draw his own inference. The workmen know this and therefore are compelled to remain quiet and submit in silence.

"Second: the system tends to produce poverty in the family of the weaver. Thus, he does not receive the full amount of his earnings by from 15 to 20 per cent., the deficiency being left behind him at the truck shop over and above the ordinary profit of the fair dealer. As a proof of this, I have had calico brought to my shop, which had been taken at the truck shop for wages at 8d. per yard, when I was selling the same cloth at 6d. per yard, securing to myself, at the same time, a remunerating profit. Again, the truck master is enabled by his not having to provide cash payments for his workmen,—by his exorbitant profit on his shop goods to undersell very considerably the cash paying manufacturer, so that the latter, to be enabled to compete with the truckster, is compelled, contrary to all the feelings of humanity, to reduce the weavers' wages, and thus grind them down, and that when he himself admits the wages are already too low. And this example, in a few weeks, is followed by the truckster, though he takes the pride to himself (however falsely), that it did not originate with him, while, at the same time, he is the sole cause of it. But I may go further, and observe:—

"Thirdly: that the system of truck tends to their degradation in society. It makes them dishonest even against their will; I have had customers who, when they worked for those masters who paid them in money, were punctual, honest men, settling their accounts with me with evident pleasure and satisfaction; but, a scarcity of work ensuing, they have been induced to apply for work to the truck master—they have succeeded; but for that labour they have received nothing but goods; they are called upon to pay the few shillings, or, may be, the few pounds they left unpaid for goods had while out of employ, but they are rendered totally incapable to meet the demand; they have no money, neither can they get any; and, moreover, were the tradesman to proceed to extremities and employ an attorney, still the man could not pay but must go to prison. This may be proved by the experience of very many shopkeepers, if they would and if they did speak out. Many pounds are lost to the tradesman in this way, and many an honest man thus ranked with rogues. In the above remarks I have attempted to show the tendency of the system on the weaver; but you must bear in mind I have been speaking of him in his state of active labour; but what shall I say of him if overtaken by sickness; there is no truckshop for him to go to then, his master is too good a judge; if no employ is to be had at the trucksters' manufactory, there are no goods to be had at his shop, and, moreover, being a trucksters' weaver and known as such, he is refused temporary assistance at the grocers or drapers, not for want of sympathy but purely arising from the knowledge—that when he should obtain work he would not obtain any money for the same, and thus be unable, however willing and however honest, to make the necessary return. Now, look at the tradesman robbed of his custom; I instance myself who have lost at least one-third of my business; I assert it as a positive fact; cheated by my customers, who, compelled by shortness of work to change masters (where 'as no money may transpire, or the money paid is expected to be left behind at the shop), are obliged to cheat me, and, moreover, with every prospect of losing the custom that yet remains unless the system is stayed; I say in these points it is a system that is injurious to the fair and independent tradesman. Look, again, at the upright, conscientious manufacturer, the man acting from a principle of integrity on the one hand, and a desire for the welfare of the working classes on the other; he really is an object of pity,—he labours under disadvantages that are ruinous to his trade, and which, if not removed, will certainly prove so. He provides cash payments for his workman once a fortnight; the truckster, on the contrary, has no such payments to prepare for, his payments are not required under three or four or six months, and hence he is enabled to turn and wind his money all this while, which necessarily obtains for him considerable advantages over and above the other; look, again, at the profits arising from the sale per week of from 200l. to 300l. worth of goods at an exorbitant profit, and all may be considered as for ready money, and what is the result of this? why this alone enables the truckster to go into the markets and sell the cloths at the cost of manufacturing, and yet at the same time realize a living profit. Can the upright manufacturer stand against this? I think not. There is but one way in which he can at all relieve himself, and that is either by reducing the weavers' wages down to the lowest sum possible, or by adopting himself the system he so much abominates, and which from principle he has ever avoided. Such is its effect upon the manufacturer. You ask if the truck system is carried on in this neighbourhood? I answer it is. A third of my business I have already lost, and, if it continues, more will be lost, especially as it seems to be increasing; and, moreover, as the opinion among the manufacturers is, that if not effectually stopped it must be universally adopted; the consequence, which will inevitably follow, will be this:—the entire extirpation of the independent tradesman from the manufacturing districts, and the establishing of an extensive and pernicious monopoly among the clothiers; they being at one and the same time—clothiers, grocers, drapers, druggists, &c. &c. &c.; a complete set of jacks-of-all-trades, yet masters (and deserving) of none. You would smile were you

Gloucestershire.

Report from
W. A. Miles, Esq.

Truck.

Letter of Mr. Ross.

Gloucestershire.

Report from
W. A. Miles, Esq.

TRUCK.

to see or hear an inventory of the various articles sold by the truckster descending even to mouse-traps, in fact, anything and everything that is wanted, but all at their price; yes, and their weight and measure too, which is very seldom, if ever, what is required by law. A woman was in my shop this week to whom I spoke about the truckshop, when she informed me that goods bought at the truck shop are never weight, and that on Saturday last she met a shopmate who had just 'been to shop,' and he showed her a pound of sugar that was not its proper weight by one ounce, which enhances the price one halfpenny per pound, which is 4s. 8d. per cwt., which gives alone a clear profit on a hog-head of sugar, weighing 16 cwt., of 3l. 14s. 8d. This is one article alone; what would be the amount at the end of the year it is impossible to say, but it must be enormous; I am not able to state, as you request, any calculations as to the annual expenses of a weaver's family, nor the exact difference between the prices paid at the trucksters' shop and that of the tradesman. But, supposing the weaver and his family (*when at work*) could earn together 12s. per week, I should say without fear of contradiction that he would not, all things considered, realize more than 9s. in actual amount. Many instances might be given, but one shall suffice, and the truth of this I can substantiate. My servant's father works for a manufacturer, who is a truckster; he never receives one farthing in money as wages,—he is obliged, *want it or not*, to take just what his master's shop produces, and that to the full amount of his wages. Now it so happens, his master is not the only landlord in the neighbourhood; hence the man has to provide his rent. His master is not (as yet) a tailor, a shoemaker, or apothecary, and hence some money is needed for such purposes; now, to supply these wants, after having given his master whatever he chooses to charge for his bacon, cheese, &c. &c., he is obliged to send to Birmingham to a relative there to dispose of for him at the best price he can. I leave you, Sir, to make your observations as to the loss sustained by the poor man, arising from—1. his master's exorbitant charge; 2. loss in weight; 3. expense of carriage; and 4. loss on sale. Some few years back a bill was passed by Parliament for the suppression of truck, but that bill is admitted on all hands to have proved a complete failure, and for the following reasons:—

- "1. For want of a heavier fine on the truckster manufacturer.
- "2. For want of a fine or imprisonment to be imposed for taking truck.*
- "3. For want of a public prosecutor.
- "4. For want of the manufacturer being periodically put upon his oath as to his adopting the system. You will excuse any imperfections in the above statements as I have been often interrupted.

"I am, Sir, yours very respectfully,

"EDWARD COOMBE ROSS.

"Grocer, Draper, and Druggist.

"To W. A. Miles, Esq. Assistant Commissioner
"to Hand-Loom Weavers' Inquiry."

W A Miles ~ Hand-Loom
Weavers Report c.1839
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Mr. Ross, Solicitor, at Chalford,

Has been indefatigable in his praiseworthy endeavours to check the truck system, but in vain. It is too subtle for any Act of Parliament to prevent, or a lawyer to lay hold of.

Thomas March, a weaver working for Mr. Jones, at Chalford, said,

He had goods from the truck shop while working the piece; on completing it, if there was any balance, it was paid in money; but knew that, if he did not take the greatest half in goods, he should have no more work.

Mr. William Long, a late overseer, says,

It is difficult to get at the price of truck goods, as the weavers are too intimidated to give any information; they lament, and deeply feel, the effects of the system, but they are afraid to speak out upon the subject. He considers the system to be ruinous to the general dealer; knows seven or eight small retail shopkeepers, customers, in fact, of his, who have been obliged to give up business solely in consequence of this nefarious system. Truck is more prevalent now than before the Truck Bill passed. He has observed a general falling-off in the condition of the weavers, as well as in their domestic comforts and general appearance. As a body they are becoming callous to all feelings of obedience to the laws, as well as to the precepts of religion; he continued, that formerly, when they had money, they could come in contact with other classes of society, equal, if not superior, to themselves; but now they were confined to their own society; they spoke to no one but their masters and themselves; they have no intercourse, and are an isolated set, and more than this he attributed solely to the system of truck. He moreover considers the truck system to be not only the cause of low wages, but to have a constant tendency to their depression. The truck master runs into the market and undersells the money-paying manufacturer by 15 or 20 per cent., according to the profit on the truck. Money wages must be lowered to compete with this truckster; in the meantime the truck master reduces his wages to the rate of the money-paying master (always having the advantage of the truck), and as the money-paying master is still undersold, he is again compelled to reduce, and the same operation is again performed by the wary truckster, until through the avarice and wickedness of these men, labour will be, and must be, reduced to the lowest point of starvation.

* "A fine imposed (or imprisonment) upon the man or woman receiving truck, or dealing at a shop with which the manufacturer is supposed to be connected, directly or indirectly, would do more good towards the suppression of the system than anything else" - E.C.R.

The following letter on the distress of the district and the mischief of truck was addressed to me by the above informant William Long, late overseer of the parish.

Chalford Hill, June 16th, 1838.

Gloucestershire.

Report from
W. A. Miles, Esq.

Truck.

"SIR,—In compliance with your wishes I beg to lay before you the cause of the distress now existing among the operatives of this place. In nine cases out of ten their actual condition is wretched in the extreme; the cause thereof is occasioned by various circumstances:—1st. From not having a well regulated supply of work; 2ndly. The extreme low wages that is given for the work; and 3rdly. The most grievous, the most degrading, and the most ruinous is the manner in which they are paid their wages, namely, by the truck system.

"The manner in which the truck system is carried on in this neighbourhood, you have, no doubt, been informed by the operatives themselves; it is conducted in some cases in open violation of the law, and in others by evasion, which is equally as efficient. The first and second of these causes I am not sufficiently conversant in, so as to give you any information, or for their remedy, but as it respects the last only.

"I have been a resident in this neighbourhood nearly thirty years, and have had an opportunity of witnessing the condition of the weaver when paid in money and when paid in truck, and I can venture to state the following particulars as facts. It is about seven or eight years since the truck system became general, and in speaking of the weaver before that time, you will consider I refer to his condition *when paid in money*, which I will divide into three particulars:—namely,

"1st. His liberty and comparative independence.

"2ndly. His condition in society; and,

"3rdly. His condition in his own family.

"1st. His liberty and comparative independence; he considered himself the proprietor of a trade, and, consequently, prided himself in supporting the credit and interest of that trade in providing himself with all necessary implements for the prosecution of it, and by a behaviour that was characterized by all due respect towards his employers.

"2ndly. His condition in society; by having the fruits of his labour paid him in money, it necessarily enabled him to come in contact with the various grades in society; some of which was equal, in others superior to himself,—such as bakers, butchers, shopkeepers, tailors, and every other class of tradesmen to supply his wants, which, I have no doubt, must be one means of improving his moral condition, and of the aid of sympathising and assisting him in adverse circumstances or otherwise.

"3rdly. His condition in his own family was something like that which is generally considered that of an Englishman; his thrifty wife was at liberty to go to the best market to lay in provisions for the support of the family; the father prided himself to see his children decently clothed, and fit to appear in public places of worship, and on all other public occasions; and some of the most frugal and industrious have even acquired a sufficiency either to purchase or build for themselves houses for their own residence. But, alas! alas! how is the scene reversed under the truck system; instead of considering himself the proprietor of a trade, he now considers his employment to be the most degrading slavery; and, instead of priding himself in supporting that trade, he is careless and indifferent, speaks of his employers in the most invidious terms, and, callous to all feeling of obligation either to obey the laws of his country or the precepts of religion, he considers himself an injured man, an outcast of society, and appears to be careless what becomes of him; but such conduct and feelings I consider is produced by the unkind and unfeeling conduct manifested by the masters to their workpeople under the truck system, for, instead of being permitted to exercise what ingenuity he or his family may possess in finding the best market, and laying out his money where and with whom he pleases, he is obliged to take such goods his master has got and at his master's prices, and is, consequently, debarred from all facilities of intercourse with any other part of the community *except his own master*, who, *professedly kind*, allows him to have provisions (*so far in advance*) as to suit his consumption for the time he is doing the work he has taken out—but *not one penny beyond that*; for, when he has carried in his work, and there is no more ready for him, he is obliged to go without provisions till the work is ready; he is therefore made a pauper; he can go to no baker, shopkeeper, or any other tradesman for credit, for they cannot assist him, he not having the means in his power of repaying them, and his only remedy is, an application for parochial relief; hence, arises pauperism, which, contrary to expectations and wishes, he sinks under the weight of his difficulties which he has no power to control, thereby rendering him callous to every feeling of a father or husband, or a member of social society.

"I cannot conclude these few observations without expressing to you my sincere thanks, for your *very impartial conduct* in inquiring into the cause of the distress now falling so heavily on this place, and hoping (that if, after you have closed your Commission in this place, you shall find the foregoing remarks borne out by other testimony produced before you, pending this inquiry), you will be pleased to lay before the government in your Report such a detail of the sufferings the poor operatives are now enduring, as shall ultimately lead the government to redress their many and sore grievances. In the name of my suffering fellow parishioners,

"I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your most obedient and obliged servant,

"WILLIAM LONG.

"Overseer of the parish of Bisley.

"P.S. I beg leave to add, we have in this place but one money paying-master.
To W. A. Miles, Esq. &c. &c. &c."

W A Miles ~ Hand-Loom
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Gloucestershire.

Report from
W. A. Miles, Esq.

TRUCK.

The Rev. J. Rees, a dissenting minister, observes,

A progress towards deterioration during a residence of nearly five years, which he attributes, in some measure, to the truck system; has frequently heard mothers and wives of weavers deplore the misery they endure by never being allowed to have any money in their pockets wherewith they could pay for the education of their children.

The Rev. — Dean, another dissenting minister,

Has repeatedly heard families of weavers complain of the truck system; he considers it to be highly injurious, and the cause of great distress. He considers that the men are held in terror, and afraid to speak.

Mr. Selwin, a baker, who has been in business in Chalford for twenty years, stated that

He has individually been injured as much as any one by the truck system. Before this system commenced, credit was very common, and he believed that a considerable quantity of cloth got into the China market before the work-people were paid their wages for working it up. He considers that the truck system takes away the trade of the general dealer altogether. There are four shopkeepers who have been compelled to give up in consequence. He further states, that weavers frequently come and say that that they can neither deal with nor pay *him* arrears; that he has heard them complain of the short weight and bad quality of the bread had at the truck shops.

Mr. Hopson, of Stroud, here stated, in corroboration of this circumstance, that

He has seen bread brought from Chalford Vale to be exhibited to the Magistrates of Stroud, and it was pronounced by them to be unfit for a dog to eat.

H. Lediard, a mason, at Chalford, states that

Every article, or nearly so, which the truckster supplies, is inferior from 10 to 15 per cent. In illustration of this he observed, that a man owed him some money for three years, and at last he was obliged to offer payment in goods, not having any money from his employer. These goods were supplied him from the truck shop, and were offered at the same price to witness as they were charged by the truckster. The articles consisted of tea and cheese; the tea was charged by the truckster 1s. 6d. the quarter pound, which witness could get of any fair dealer for 1s. 3d. The cheese was charged 9d. per pound, and witness declared he has cheese of the same quality in his own house, for which he only paid 7d. per pound. This witness also observed, that he considered all the blame must not be laid to the manufacturer, for that he is driven by the great competition in trade to resort to every means in his power to get his goods into the market at the lowest possible rate.

[This proves the mischief created by invidious competition among the manufacturers.]

Mr. Hopson and Mr. Lediard both agreed that

The truck system operates strongly on the owners of house property, inasmuch as the owner is obliged to take cloth and various other articles, even bread, bacon, tea, and sugar, for rent. Mr. Hopson says he himself has been frequently obliged to take to the amount of 50, 60, or 100 pounds worth of cloth at a time for rent and debts.

Mr. Lediard, the mason,

Owens about 30 houses, which he lets to weavers in the neighbourhood of Chalford; the rent used to be eight or nine guineas, but it has been lowering for the last four years, and the average rent is about four. The weavers can hardly earn money enough to support themselves, much less pay rent. The houses contain about three rooms and a kitchen, and one of the rooms in each house is built in the dimensions to contain two looms, namely, 16 feet by 14. There is a garden, greater or less, attached to each house. About 16 months ago he found that 400l. was due to him for rent, principally by weavers, and the rents are getting worse and worse. He now receives them weekly, because, if he was to allow a quarter's credit, he should get neither rent nor goods. For many years he had received rent in truck. When they were yearly tenants they paid in cloth; now they pay in bread or grocery, as they have no money. Sometimes, however, he takes 2d. or a few halfpence with the goods to make up a particular sum of rent, but this money is more frequently part of the wages of some boy or girl employed at other work. He is obliged to take groceries about two-pence or three-halfpence in the shilling dearer than he could purchase them at a general shop. He has a large family, which consumes these goods, but if he had to sell them, he would lose as much as three-pence in a shilling. He considers the truck system to be injurious to the weavers, on account of the high price they are obliged to pay. There is, moreover, no money in the district, and all classes of people suffer in proportion.

The relieving officer at Bisley, R. B. Constable,—

Has frequent opportunities of seeing the weavers' houses, which bespeak much wretchedness; has heard them complain of the lowness of wages, and that their earnings are eat out in truck before the piece can be completed. That they are much in debt to their masters; that they are then compelled to take out chains to work out an old debt, subsisting upon truck, and diminishing the debt by instalments of 2s. in a piece.

All the weavers whom he visits receive their wages in truck, and nineteen out of twenty complain of this system. He thinks that it induces pauperism; that it is impossible for a man who is paid in truck to lay by money for a rainy day, when he has no money given to him; they cannot lay by, for they can scarcely live—it is only a lingering existence.

Mr. Innell, shopkeeper and brewer at Chalford,—

Has been in trade for twenty years, and finds the truck system considerably injurious to him. In 1825 most of his customers were weavers, but he now has only two or three. He owns houses in the parish; one of his tenants is a weaver, and, on receiving the quarter's rent, it was paid 1*l.*s. in money and 7*s.* in truck. He is also a brewer, supplies the beer-shops; his trade has decreased one-half within these five years; it is common to exchange goods for beer (this was immediately assented to by all the weavers present), but he insists upon cash from the beer-shops in payment for his beer. A weaver named Robert Arnold considers that buying beer with truck it costs him 6*d.* instead of 3*d.* per quart; has often bought beer with pepper, sugar, candles, &c.; he is charged 8½*d.* per pound for sugar at a truck shop, but the beer-shop keeper will only allow him 7½*d.*

Samuel Damsell, the churchwarden of the parish of Bisley, stated that—

He was a malster, and general shopkeeper, and ironmonger; that he found the truck system injure his trade; he says there is very little business now done, and that little is done in truck. A few weavers in the room were asked by witness if there was one who paid in cash, and the reply was in the negative.

— Innell, an overseer and a butcher, states that—

Nearly half the parish of Bisley is excessively poor; he is only overseer for one-fourth of the parish, and he cannot receive the poor-rates from half the people in his district, as they have no money; does not know any parish so badly off as this. Considers it to be in the very worst of condition on account of the truck system. The goods are sold 2*d.* in a 1*s.* dearer than at other shops; is sure that the weavers are compelled to deal with the trucksters, as they would have no work given them if they did not; the weavers are paid in money, but it is understood and expected that they lay it out immediately on the truckster's premises.

He further states, that—

He keeps a general retail shop and also a beer-shop. The truck system injures him in both these trades; he has been in business upwards of 20 years, and has known three or four tradesmen obliged to shut up shop in consequence of the truck system. This remark applies only to the Oakridge district. It was decidedly *not* that they were undersold, but that they could get no customers to their shops. As a beer seller he has frequently been obliged to take truck, but he believes that in the Oakridge district truck is not so common as in the vales, because there is a circulation of money from Mr. Cripps, of Cirencester, who employs some of the weavers in that district, and always causes them to be paid in money. In the retail shop it is very common for weavers to bring bacon, cheese, and other goods to exchange them for such articles of consumption, or else, as they may require for their families. He further adds that he has taken truck frequently for coals, and makes no deduction from the trucksters' prices, except in cases where it is too flagrant and exorbitant. It was further stated by the same informant, that he has observed an alteration in the condition and appearance of the weavers for the last ten years; that they have been gradually sinking, which he attributes to the lowness of wages. He added that the spirit of the New Poor Law, which is to inculcate providence, cannot be fulfilled when men are paid in perishable articles.

Charles Hill, a shoemaker at Chalford, stated that—

He frequently makes shoes and boots for truck; made three pair last week, and is in the constant habit of doing so, for, if he did not, he should lose the greater part of his work. The truck shops, however, sell boots and shoes, which witness finds injurious to his trade. He makes for weavers; but the truck shoes are very bad, bought up at the London and Bristol slop shops; and some of them are 2*s.* or 3*s.* a pair dearer than witness would charge for them. The weavers, not liking these shoes, have brought him truck, and he has made for them, and he allows the weavers the same price for their articles as they are charged by the truckster, except in cases where the charge is too gross; for instance, he has had tobacco offered which he could not take at the truck price by 8*d.* a pound. The general articles of truck are sugar, tea, and cheese. The following is a comparison of price in these three articles:

	Truck.			General Dealer.	
	s.	d.		s.	d.
Sugar . . .	0	9	per lb.	0	8
Tea . . .	1	8½	„	1	4½
Cheese . . .	0	10	„	0	8

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The money which he can obtain to go to market to purchase his leather, &c., comes from the agricultural people and others, not connected with the weavers. This informant also keeps a beer-shop; sells sometimes a pint or two of beer in a day, but must take truck for it. It is usual for weavers to pay for their beer in truck. When he finds himself overstocked with truck goods, he lays them by for domestic consumption. It is no use attempting to sell the goods, as no one would buy them; and, if they would, a loss must accrue, on account of their high charge. He also states that it is a common thing for people to come from Cam, Nibley, Coaley, Uley and Horsley for work at Chalford, for which they take truck. Several of them join together and bring their pieces on a donkey which is laden back with truck goods for the different parties.

Gloucestershire
—
Report from
W. A. Miles, Esq
—
Truck.

Gloucestershire.

Report from
W. A. Miles, Esq.

Truck.

The result of the foregoing evidence proves not only the injury to the weavers, but also to others, owing to the truck system (that gangrene of an unhealthy state of trade). It is also proved, by the above accounts, that the respectable village shop-keeper feels the loss of his customers who work for the truck payer, and who are compelled to deal at the employer's counter—his trade is diminished. The truck-paid workmen have no money; no, not always money's worth, because the goods sometimes supplied to them will not fetch the price their masters have imposed upon them. Rents are paid in truck goods; shoemakers are paid in truck goods; in fact, the circulating medium in the truck regions are pounds of bacon, bread, and candles, instead of copper, gold, or silver.

The Truck system annihilates every principle of saving or economy—the goods must be used, or spoiled—and the working man can never by industry lay up a store to save himself from destitution and the workhouse.

It is proper to observe that few manufacturers adopt truck; but the great mischief is the certain tendency to reduce wages.

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BEER SHOPS.

During my inquiries concerning the condition of the weavers, their habits, &c. &c., my attention has been frequently called, by various persons, to the injurious effects of the beer-shops, or, as they are termed, the "kidley winks." There is scarcely a factory which has not a beer-shop, or many beer-shops, in its immediate vicinity. If there is a spot more secluded than another in the parish, I generally expect to see a beer-shop in the midst of that seclusion.

In one place, Forest-Green, there is a small licensed public-house, wherein the drinking trade is not only carried on, but attached, and under the same roof, belonging to the same master, is a pawnbroker's shop—which is convenient for the customers, who, after pledging their healths, can pledge their coats.

The beer-shops beset the steps of the working man, and to expect that he has resolution to withstand the enticement of joining or mixing with his fellow-workmen or that he has the moral courage to withstand their ridicule if he should endeavour to abstain from the enticement, is to expect too much stoicism on his part. We are too apt to expect perfection from servants, and in judging their errors we ought to consider how far under similar circumstances we might have erred if placed in their positions. The labouring man has no resource to obtain amusement or relaxation of the mind, except through the dangerous medium of the beer-shops. The rich man has his club, the theatres, opera, and society, as a relaxation to his mind, but the poor mechanic or labouring man has only a turnpike road to walk in, or a beer-house to sit in. The men who earn high wages, such as grinders, needle-drillers, sawyers, and others, congregate in those places, and the greater portion of their wages is too frequently spent in drink, because no other resource is open for the employment or spending of that money; therefore, before we blame the working man and accuse him of drunkenness, which, sooner or later, plunges him in crime or want, I think it is the duty of society to encourage other habits by affording him means of mental enjoyment or healthy recreation. It is well observed by Dr. Channing that, people should be guarded against temptation to unlawful pleasures by furnishing the means of innocent ones. In every community there must be pleasures, relaxation, and means of agreeable excitement, and if innocent are not furnished, resort will be had to criminal. Man was made to enjoy as well as to labour, and the state of society should be adapted to this principle of human nature. Men drink to excess very often to shake off depression or to satisfy the restless thirst for agreeable excitement, and these motives are excluded in a cheerful community.

Small allotments, for instance, will induce many good men to keep from the beer-shop, who, by working in their garden, not only save sixpence from the beer-house, but bestow sixpenny-worth of labour on their land; so, in fact, while saving sixpence, they would be realizing a shilling. Mr. Hone, late governor of the Stroud Union workhouse, considers that the allotment system would be beneficial in breaking up the injurious effects of the beer-shops—knows that it has had a good effect in Sussex.

Then, again, I never see those amusements once so prevalent on village greens:

there is no cricket-club among the peasantry, there are no athletic sports, such as foot-ball matches, wrestling-parties, or foot-races; the innocent recreations which formerly gave such zest and energy among the younger portions of the labouring community, are lost; but they might be advantageously revived, if patronised by persons of higher rank and station in various districts.

There is a veil of privacy over a beer-shop more than over the tap-room of a licenced public-house; and it is this feeling of security that so frequently renders the beer-shop the rendezvous for the dissolute, who too frequently enlist the idle. It is in these retired houses that depredations are concocted; and the idle man, who has not yet become vicious, there learns by example that a rogue's shilling is sooner made than an honest man's. The lavish manner in which the wages of crime are ever scattered, and the careless, boisterous, and reckless bearing of the guilty frequently break down the better feelings of the idle frequenter of the beer-shops, who, in order to enjoy the excitement produced by the society of men apparently, free from care, and always supplied with money, ultimately joins the gang, and turns a thief.*

I here subjoin a communication I had the pleasure of receiving from Mr. Charles Seville, upon the subject of beer-shops. He is practically acquainted with the district, and, therefore, I presume his opinion will have the greater weight.

Beer-Shops; their effects.—Drunkenness.—Teetotalism.

"SIR,

"Burlcigh, February 4th, 1839.

"WHEN the Beer-Shop Bill was introduced, I understood its principal object was to benefit the lower classes of society; that it would also check the brewers' monopoly, and, perhaps, promote the agricultural interest, by the increased consumption of barley. It may have effected the latter object, but I believe it is admitted by all parties that it has failed in the other two—at least that, although the public-house property of the brewers has lessened in value, yet their monopoly, as far as the sale of beer goes, has rather increased than diminished. In the borough of Stroud, and particularly in those parishes where the distress is aggravated by the loss of the regular orders which the East India Company used to send out for the manufacture of woollen goods for the China market, the effect has been, and is, decidedly bad. It is not that the men are particularly given to drinking, but, where the wives and children are in want of bread, every farthing ought to be carried home. This observation is made with reference to the weavers especially.

Gloucestershire.
—
Report from
W. A. Miles, Esq.
—
BEER-SHOPS.

"One deplorable effect, which I have heard of rather than seen, is, that women are given to drinking; eight or ten of them sometimes join, and take possession of a beer-shop kitchen, where they will run riot, in a manner almost peculiar to women, when the moral boundary is once broken down. Before their orgies are over, it is ten to one but some men go into the house; and, as they never leave the scene of their first debauch till the shades of night will, in some measure, conceal them, their second cannot be matter of surprise.

"These very women would not commit such excesses in a *real public house*. I don't mean to say that they would not drink at all, but they could not plan these private parties with the chance of having it so much to themselves, if it were not for the multiplicity of beer-shops.

"The effect on the Hand-loom Weavers and other operatives, not excluding the agricultural population, is decidedly bad. A man who weaves in his own cottage often spends three or four days before he can get a "chain," or "warp," from a clothier, and it is constantly happening that thirty or forty of them meet at a factory, and stand about the counting-house door for hours at a time, and, at last, only five or six will get any work or receive any wages. It is no wonder that men thus brought together should talk over and lament their fallen condition. They cannot go many hundred yards before "*to be*," or "*not to be drunk on the premises*," stares them in the face. Some that have been paid their wages, either in money or goods, are almost sure to go in, and, the threshold once passed, they cannot come out without having lessened the miserable pittance they ought to have taken home to their families; for the weavers generally marry very young, and are almost sure to have families; from this circumstance: their intercourse with the female sex generally begins with the first impulse of nature, and they hardly ever marry their first love unless she prove to be in the "family-way;" but, when this is the case, they do generally marry before the child is born. The consequence is; that almost every poor man has a family of children.

"This loose system of morality extends to almost every class of the manufacturing population in this district, and I am inclined to think that the same cause, the same OPPORTUNITY, lead to the same effects in other manufacturing districts.

"The OPPORTUNITY which beer-shops afford must, of course, tend to increase this immorality.

"My decided conviction of beer-shops is, that thousands of women and children are constantly suffering through the temptation which every roadside presents—at least, where there are ten houses, one of them is almost sure to be a beer-shop.

"In rural districts their effects are still worse—they become (particularly in detached lonely places) the nurseries for poachers, thieves, and prostitutes.

Mr. Seville on Beer-Shops.

* During my inquiries under the Constabulary Force Commission, I asked various thieves of all ages, in different prisons, what first induced them to be criminal, and in nine cases out of ten the pithy reply was, "Drink and bad company."

Gloucestershire.

Report from
W. Miles, Esq.

BEER-SHOPS.

"I could say much more against the beer-shops, but the public seem to be so unanimous on the subject, that it is hardly necessary for me to do so; yet, having heard it suggested that it would be better to throw the trade completely open, for any one to sell beer, I cannot help saying that this would be going from bad to worse. Beer ought not to be sold in any house that the excise-officers had not a right to enter; and perhaps the better way would be to allow any shopkeepers to sell it, who took out other licences. But I would not allow the sale of one licensed article to be sufficient—for instance, tobacco—to cover the sale of beer; for, although the law might not, and I think ought not, to allow of its being drunk on the premises, yet the law would probably be evaded. By licensing the sale of beer to shops which sold tea, coffee, &c., the parties doing so would have some property and character at stake; besides, the number and variety of characters going in and out of their shops would be the best check to secret drinking on the premises.

"Teetotalism.—I know but little on this head. Some laughable stories are told about it in this neighbourhood, but still I know some instances where it has had a good effect, and, upon the whole, I would rather say a good word than a bad one on the subject, though not to the extent of becoming a disciple myself.

"To William Augustus Miles, Esq." (Signed) "SAMUEL SEVILL."

Rev. J. Burder on
Beer-Shops.

The Rev. John Burder, Dissenting Minister at Stroud, concurs in opinion with Mr. Sevill as to the injurious tendency of beer-shops. He also makes his remarks concerning teetotalism, which are fully confirmed by the change produced by it in Wales, &c., the advantages enjoyed at Witney. Mr. Hooper, of Eastington, a manufacturer, also bears witness to the beneficial effects of abstinence among his labourers. The following is the letter of the Rev. John Burder relative to beer-shops, and also to the general character of the working-classes. There is a remark in it to which I call your attention, namely, "It is lamentable that so many people should be out of work, while so many works of public utility continue to be desiderata." The Rev. Mr. Burder is also of opinion that Mr. Buckingham's plan would be beneficial, namely, that good wide promenades should be attached to every town (I should add, a "play-field" as well).

"SIR,

"Stroud.

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"THE most prolific source of evil here is drunkenness, and the number of beer-shops greatly augments the evil. Yet I should be sorry to go back to the old law respecting licences. I think that the whole system of beer-shops, public-houses, and inns, requires revision. I would have the names of a larger number of housekeepers requisite for obtaining and renewing a licence, and would have the licence higher.

"I would make it so difficult to get a new licence, that the number of such houses should gradually be brought down to very few. The law should be more strictly enforced as to hours and as to drunkenness in the street.

"So deeply, Sir, am I impressed with a conviction of the amazing mass of misery which is occasioned by drink, that for three years past I have abstained altogether from all intoxicating drink, chiefly for the purpose of encouraging those persons to abstain, who, if they drink a little, are sure to drink much. I have seen many instances of the happiest result of total abstinence in persons who were ever drunkards, and I am persuaded that the prevalence of this plan would be of incalculable benefit to the community."

"It has often occurred to me that the Guardians of the Poor, in connexion with the Trustees of Roads, might be authorized to employ idle hands in making, repairing, and cleansing roads, trimming hedges, &c. The roads hereabouts are wretched, and there are very few footpaths which are at all usable. This is a serious evil to working persons and children, who pass daily along the roads, and whose shoes are not water-tight.

"I wish also that Mr. Buckingham's plan could be realized, of having good wide promenades attached to every town.

"It is lamentable that so many people should be out of work, while so many works of public utility continue to be desiderata.

"I will only add, that the poor people of this neighbourhood, on account of the admirable patience they have manifested under great sufferings, deserve all the attention which Government can give them.

"The very circumstance of a Commission having been appointed to inquire into their condition is a gratifying proof of humane intentions; and allow me, in conclusion, to express the satisfaction I feel that they should have chosen a gentleman so well qualified as yourself to assist them in their investigations.

"I remain, Sir, your obedient servant,

"Will. Augustus Miles, Esq.,
&c. &c. &c."

(Signed) "JOHN BURDER."

Mr. Gough on Beer-
Shops.

The following observations concerning the beer-shops and the effect of them, especially in the manufacturing vicinities, show in strong colours their evil tendency, even upon young girls, women, and children. These remarks are given

* In collaboration with the opinion of the Rev. J Burder, I refer to the evidence of the Welch and Whitney districts concerning the beneficial results of "The Total Abstinence System" Also vide page 470 (evidence of Mr Hooper).

to me by Mr. Gough, who is well acquainted with the district, and to whom the commission is much indebted for the most persevering and unwearied services.

"This country perhaps was never inflicted with a greater national curse, than the present beer-shop system; and, though it is possible for the Government to repeal or modify the laws which allow such a system to be in operation, it can never eradicate the mischief which it has effected by superinducing habits of idleness, drunkenness, and dishonesty, among the labouring and poorer classes of society.

"Though the cry is universally heard of low wages, poverty, and starvation, yet drunkenness is quite as prevalent, if not more so, than when that cry was not so general. The facilities for obtaining drink are so great, and the temptation so undeniable to a poor man who has sufficient pence in his pocket to pay for it, or whether he has not, provided he has money's worth, which he can leave in lieu, that nothing short of an absolute repeal can restore even a partial return to the habits of former years, when these facilities did not exist, and when beer could only be obtained at some respectable licensed public-house.

"One of the greatest evils attached to the system is, that many of them, especially in this manufacturing district, are kept by persons connected in some way or other with the manufacturing in the neighbourhood; several are kept by weavers. These houses have in many instances chandlers' shops attached, at which the workmen are induced to deal; the consequence is, that the money which ought to have been spent in articles of necessity for the family is too often exhausted in tippling, no man ever going to the shop for groceries, &c., without having at least a pint of beer, when, if any company should be in jolly mood, he is prevailed upon to spend both his time and his money with them, neglectful of everything except his present gratification. Many a working man has to date his loss of work to this practice, which is too often encouraged and winked at by the parties who keep these houses; though they may be in the confidence of their employers, and know also the ultimate consequence to the working man.

"These shops also afford facilities for the putting off of truck goods, provided a certain part be had out in drink. They are also little unlicensed pawnshops, where the game-bag of the poacher, the petty purloinings of juvenile thieves, the watch of the artisan or labourer, and the sugar and candles of the truckster, are alike receivable; and from this system a considerable profit is obtained; a sacrifice, however, must be made by the party selling, which becomes doubly severe, inasmuch as he must drink out part of the exchange.

"They also harbour the worst of characters; and, being in too many instances situated in secluded spots, all manner of vice is generated and planned, and every bad feeling of the human heart finds its hideous correspondent and counterpart.

"At the beer-shops the wages of the workmen are often paid on a Saturday evening; and, when it is considered that on that day the mills are closed at four o'clock in the afternoon, sufficient time and opportunity are afforded them for indulging in drink. A pint they are expected to spend when they receive their wages,—more they always take, and thus the young especially are trained up to habits which grow fast upon them, and, in the majority of cases, never leaves them, or even retrogrades, till they are either become habitual tipplers or confirmed drunkards. This plan, however, is not so general as it was a few years ago; the manufacturers, having become alive to the evil, have done much to remove it, and it is now confined to a very few cases.

"It may also be stated that factory-women and young girls receive their money at these houses, and may often be seen in a state of intoxication, and using language disgusting to human nature, and disgraceful to their sex. Many of these females can take their share of drink with the men, and will often go home sober when the man is overcome by its effects. The evils consequent on this system, where young persons of both sexes are brought to the beer-house to drink in company, and to drink to excess, as is often the case, may easily be anticipated, and cannot be too strongly reprehended. Thus it is that so many factory-girls are sly, if not open prostitutes, and misery is entailed upon heads of families for which nothing can make amends.

"In short, the beer-shop system has not one redeeming feature; the voice, the universal voice, of the country is, 'Do away with the beer-shops, or the beer-shops will do away with the moral, the social, and industrious habits of the working classes.' The system affords a premium for crime, and is an incubus on the industry of the country. In these houses feelings of animosity and revenge are generated towards the employers of labour. Thefts and robberies, and every description of petty depredation, or matured crime, are concocted; the domestic comfort and happiness of the labourer's family are sapped and destroyed; they are schools where every latent vice matures itself in; the high road to degradation as a nation, and of ruin to any civilized and industrious people."

The Rev. J. Bellingham, Minister of Coaley, severely deprecates the beer-shops, Coaley, and the dissolute condition of his parishioners.—

"It ought," he observes, "to be borne in mind, that the poverty of the class whose interests are now sought to be promoted arises in a great measure from habits of personal intemperance, and though, doubtless, the introduction of machinery some years ago must have greatly tended to depress the honest and sober workman, yet it is a positive fact, that it matters not, in most cases, what extent of wages may be earned. The majority will, as opportunity allows, spend the greatest portion in the licensed houses for drunkards and dissipated wretches. To my own knowledge, the father of a family in the parish has, together with three children, earned four guineas per week, and still the whole family have been in the most abject condition possible, entirely through the habits of drunkenness.

Gloucestershire.

Report from
W. A. Miles, Esq.

BEER-SHOPS.

Mr. Gough on Beer-Shops.

Gloucestershire.

Report from
W. A. Miles, Esq.

BEER-SHOPS.

"In the majority of cases, both as regards the weavers, as well as other manufacturing workmen and agricultural labourers, the poverty which they plead is superinduced by their fatal propensity to strong drink, which is indulged to a most lamentable and heart-rending excess; and the facilities which the existing laws have continued to afford, ever since the period of their enactment, to the idle, the drunken, and the debauched, will, it is most seriously to be apprehended, swell the amount of the nation's responsibility. The spirit and beer-houses are so many haunts of vice and wickedness, schools where incipient vice is matured to crime and infamy, and eternal ruin. Would to God, they might be suppressed from one end of the land to the other.—Would that our rulers may at length be convinced of the irreparable injury that the nation has sustained in the prevalence of these sinks of all that is horrible, and vile, and devilish. If I could possibly compress into the compass of a single sheet all the instances which I have known since the period I have, by the mercy of God, been admitted into the number of the labourers in his vineyard, I am sure it would in the highest degree confound and astonish the senses of any well-ordered mind,—instances in which individuals have been entirely ruined, and families have been furnished and driven to desperation."

Randwick.

The Minister of Randwick, the Rev. J. Elliott, very forcibly observes that—

Beer-shops are an unmixed evil, (not curable by any legislation short of *entire repeal*.) fruitful in immorality, and consequent poverty. It is lamentable that their produce to the revenue should be retained at the cost of public morals. He believes the *entire repeal* of this measure, and its deficit to the revenue laid upon newspapers, would do much to relieve the poor. Teetotalism, is one of those ephemeral expedients which he would neither check nor encourage; defective, however, in principle, inasmuch, that it sets a private compact upon higher ground than the Christian obligation by which all are bound to deny intemperance and live soberly.

Nailsworth.

Anthony Fewster, of Nailsworth, observes that—

Beer-shops are, without doubt, detrimental to the morals of the lower classes, and, therefore, should be dealt with by the legislature. Still, it would be highly inexpedient to fall back upon the old system of monopoly. Beer, should be sold "not to be drunk on the premises," at a very low licence duty. Many of the working classes have, much to their credit, become teetotalers, which in all cases has tended to their social and moral improvement. Teetotalism, he is sorry to say, is on the wane at present in this district, the cause of which he attributes to the fact that few persons in the superior classes of society lend it their influence.

Stanley.

The Rev. Jeremiah Smith, Minister of King's Stanley, observes that—

The beer-shops on the present plan must be stopped. He says, he is an advocate for the free sale of beer, but not to be drunk on the premises, nor within a certain distance of the house where it is bought, except in the purchaser's own house. He states this, because he has observed beer-retailers erect sheds near their own houses, where their customers sit and drink, and the only way to prevent this, is by not allowing it to be drunk within a given distance.

Painswick.

The Minister of Painswick, in deprecating the evil of beer-shops, considers that—

They have done much to lower the moral feelings of the poorer classes in England. He states that, in the beer-house a poor man will find a comfortable fire and plenty of companions, whereas at home he may have but scanty fuel and noisy children. Thus, a man, in passing daily to and fro, is often tempted to enter, and to drink till ultimately his visits and his potations become habitual.

He moreover observes that—

These houses give credit to a greater extent than duly licensed houses, which is another great temptation to a poor man. When, says he, there were only public-houses, the number was less; the persons who kept them were respectable; they would not give that credit which the beer-houses do, and they did not offer such facilities and attractions to the poor man. Added to this, the number of beer-houses that there are, the unfrequented places in which many are placed, the law which limits them to be closed at night is almost useless, for it would require a regular police to go round the country to enforce that law. It may well be conceived what favourable places for plotting evil and carrying it on are these beer-houses rendered.

For his own part he states, that he is convinced that no material good can ever be expected to be done to the country while they remain; and he believes, that many a family, once respectable, has reason to bemoan the passing of that bill, as one of the greatest evils brought to their doors. Only place yourself, he continues, in the situation of a poor man to see how great the temptations of such places must necessarily be to him; and when a father of a family once takes to drinking, he becomes at once a most thoroughly selfish being—all ties of family are forgotten—wife and children are neglected—every thing indeed is sacrificed to obtain drink!

It would doubtless, therefore, be a great blessing to remove the temptation to drunkenness out of the way of the poor people, and if they were thus taught to look for happiness at home, instead of seeking it in the beer-shops, there would be (putting religion out of the present question) some prospect of their becoming anxious for the education of their children.

The Rev. W. Cockin, jun., of Hampton, observes—

One step which would tend greatly to the moral improvement of the poor would be the putting down of beer-houses. They will be found in every direction, placed at the very gates, or even within the court of manufacturers. Besides this bad influence upon the more steady and industrious classes, their general effect is most injurious, being placed frequently in the most retired spots, as receptacles for the most vicious and abandoned characters. These remarks do not, of course, extend to those houses licensed to sell beer *not* to be drunk on the premises. These are as good as the others are bad, because they prevent a man's sitting down, and drinking cup after cup, till he is almost insensibly led into habits of intoxication, and, on the contrary, lead him to buy at once what he thinks sufficient, and to take that home to his family, like any other part of their provisions.

Gloucestershire.

Report from
W. A. Miles, Esq.

BEER-SHOPS.
Hampton.

Captain Slade, of Uley, in reference to the effect of high wages, unless there is Uley, a higher standard of the moral condition, observes that—

Mr. Shepherd, of Uley, gave great wages to boys, as much as 14s. and 15s. a-week, and the result was, that they were saucy, drunken, and abusive. The mills of Mr. Shepherd, of Uley, cost 60,000l., and were sold for 2,300l. They are now converted into iron-mills; the workmen earn from 26s. to 30s. a-week, and he states that their habits are drunken and immoral—they never save one farthing. He stated a case of a man at these mills who owned that he earned 26s. a-week, and yet begged, the other morning, twopence of Captain Slade, to purchase a glass of beer.

The Overseer of Uley confirmed the opinion of Captain Slade, and said that—

On the morning I saw him, two of the men working at these iron-mills passed his door in a state of intoxication at nine o'clock in the morning.

The same remark concerning wages is exemplified at Nymphsfield, among the sawyers, who work for Mr. Mills; they are improvident, and spend much in beer; they can earn 30s. a-week, with little labour; they work when they choose, and then retire to the beer-shop. There is one man, a superior and skilful sawyer, he can earn 3l. a-week, but he never has a farthing in his pocket. The population is about 800, and 30 out of that number are sawyers.

Improvident habits
of Sawyers at
Nymphsfield.

When trade was better, the parish was inhabited by many weavers; but they have removed, and sought other labour.

Mr. Hooper, of Eastington, who attends to the welfare and good conduct of his work-people,

Eastington Work-
men paid on Satur-
day Morning.

Objects to the custom of paying two or three weavers with a large note and leaving them to share it, "or break it," at a public house. He pays his men on *Saturday morning before breakfast* instead of Saturday night. He considers that beer-shops tend to demoralize the working classes. He further states that—he has a weaver now working for him who was a noted drunkard. He reduced his family to rags and wretchedness. This man about twelve months since joined the Temperance Society. A beer-shop keeper exasperated at losing so good a customer sued him for a debt he owed. Mr. Hooper, believing his workman to be reformed, paid the debt and costs. This man is now completely altered and amended; he is remarkably steady and is tolerably independent; his family and home are now respectable. Mr. Hooper also observes that—factory wives are generally slatterns and bad managers; they neglect their children; the house is seldom well regulated; the domestic hearth has no endearments; and the husband goes gloomy and sulky to the beer-shop.

Mr. Peter Playne says—

There are many beer-shops in the neighbourhood, and they are the greatest evils; men get Beer-shops depre- into these houses idling their time and spending their money which ought to go to their cated. families.

Mr. Charles Stanton of Upfield Lodge observes that—

Beer-shops have been injurious to the morals of the district and have induced a system of congregating of an evening more than was usual at the public-house.

Mr. Harris, a manufacturer at Dursley, states that—

The beer-shops are the *greatest curse and most infernal evil* that ever befell this country, they are nests of vice.

Mr. Long, a manufacturer at Wootton, says that—

Some years ago the beer-shops were in great request, but now money is more scarce and their attendance less frequent.

Mr. Hone, late governor of the Stroud Union, states that—

The beer-houses are the vice and curse of the country; houses of this sort are open in lone places to which people resort, and where the love of drink grows upon them to such a degree that they remain tippling till they have drained their pockets, and then they pawn their clothes. There is a beer-shop at Forest Green where pawnbroking is carried on under the same roof.

W A Miles ~ Hand-Loom
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Gloucestershire.

Report from
W. A. Miles, Esq.

Mr. Cam, a manufacturer at Cam, states that—

The beer-shops are a very serious injury to the neighbourhood, as a great deal of mischief is connected in them.

BEER-SHOPS DE-
PRECATED.

Enoch Hunt, at Inchbrook, publican—

Does not think the factory people drink much now, as they have not the means; but in better times, among the weavers, felling-day was generally a tipping day.

The parties who cry out mostly against beer-shops are the clothiers; they have an idea that they are receptacles for thieves and slingers, &c.

It was stated by the Supervisor of Excise, at Stroud, that—

Formerly the weaver was more addicted to drunkenness than at present, because wages were better and *money* more easily earned; but they are frequently led at present into intoxication by the custom of going to a beer-house to receive their wages; he has, in the execution of his duties been frequently unable to get through the mass of them standing about the kitchen and passages not only of beer-shops, but of public-houses on the days when they are paid. The payment of the weaver is not confined to one particular house, but they are changed from one to another; the reason of this he states to be the landlord's taking turn with one another for the custom of the weavers on the paying days, and in return, the landlord, whose house they attend, provides *change* for the men or for the employer. It frequently happens that the landlord may have a direct interest, or be concerned in the factory as a workman or mechanic.

Many of the beer-shops keep chandler's shops also.

He further states that—

It often happens, in reference to payment at beer-shops and public-houses, that the landlord has a cheque sent him by the manufacturer for—say 10*l.*, 20*l.*, or 30*l.*, which the landlord cashes in order to enable the manufacturer to pay his workpeople. This cheque is sometimes held for a week or a fortnight to accommodate the manufacturer's account at the Bank.

Mr. John Skelton, the sheriff's officer for the Stroud district, says—

He has had many executions against beer-house keepers; he thinks the beer-houses are great nuisances; there would not be half the distress in the families of the poor if they did not exist, they are great temptations to the poor man. A man cannot go one hundred yards from his home without coming to a "kidley wink;" if he has no money in his pocket, he can get drink if he has money's worth. The masters of these houses take anything in pawn or purchase.

It is said that in Chalford where no money is ever paid, but truck is given, the men pay for their drink in candles, bacon, and groceries.

In conclusion I beg to refer to the subject of the "Total Abstinence System" under the Welsh Report, and also under the Witney Report.

The following tables refer to the public-houses and beer-shops in the Stroud district, a manufacturing district. I also subjoin a return from Cirencester, embracing an agricultural district, together with the population to each parish, and it will be seen that the proportion of public-houses and beer-shops is two-thirds more on the population in the manufacturing district than in Cirencester, which is an agricultural district.

It will also be seen in the 3rd table that out of 366 beer-shops in the Stroud district, 55 of that number are kept by persons connected with the clothing trade.—

HAND-LOOM WEAVERS.

471

STATEMENT of the PUBLIC-HOUSES and BEER-SHOPS within the STROUD DISTRICT, up to the 5th
July, 1838.

Gloucestershire.

Report from
W. A. Miles, Esq.

BEER-SHOPS.

PARISH.	Population.	Public-Houses.	Number of Beer-Shops without Chandlers' Shops attached.	Number of Beer-Shops with Chandlers' Shops attached.	Total Number of Beer-Houses.
Arlingham . . .	744	2	3	..	3
Avening . . .	2,396	2	11	..	11
Brookthrupp . . .	193	..	1	..	1
Bisley . . .	5,896	15	28	7	35
Brimpsfield . . .	382	2	1	..	1
Cranham . . .	394	1	3	..	3
Cowley . . .	323	2	..	..	..
Dunsbourn . . .	111	2	1	..	1
Eastington . . .	715	2	19	4	23
Fretherne . . .	224	..	2	..	2
Frampton . . .	1,055	1	6	1	7
Frocester . . .	414	1	..	..	..
Horsley . . .	3,690	10	26	5	31
Hampton . . .	5,114	20	36	2	38
Haresfield . . .	611	..	2	..	2
Longney . . .	453	..	1	2	3
Miserdine . . .	441	3	..	..	..
Moreton Valence . .	324	..	3	1	4
Painswick . . .	4,099	6	21	5	26
Pitchcombe . . .	224	2	2	1	3
Rodborough . . .	2,141	3	14	2	16
Randwick . . .	1,031	1	6	..	6
Stroud . . .	8,607	27	48	20	68
Stonehouse . . .	2,469	5	22	6	28
King Stanley . . .	2,438	3	20	3	23
Leonard Stanley . .	942	1	5	4	9
Saul . . .	443	1	4	..	4
Salperton . . .	216	2	..	1	1
Standish . . .	536	1	2	..	2
Upton St. Leonard's .	898	2	..	2	2
Wheatenhurst . . .	423	1	2	..	2
Woodchester . . .	885	1	7	3	10
Witcomb . . .	174	1	..	..	..
Winstone . . .	164	..	..	1	1
Total . . .	49,202	122	296	70	365

The average number of beer-shops, within the last 5 years is 392

The present year 366

26

Decrease $6\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.

(Signed)

HENRY EVANS,

Supervisor of Stroud District, Gloucester Collection.

Gloucestershire.

Report from
W. A. Miles, Esq.

BEER-SHOPS.

STATEMENT OF PUBLIC HOUSES and BEER SHOPS in CIRENCESTER DISTRICT, up to 5th July, 1835

PARISH.	Population.	Public Houses.	Number of Cider and Beer Shops.
Ashton Keynes	915	3	3
Ampney Crucis	599	1	2
Ampney St. Peter's . . .	180	2	1
Avening	2,396	4	6
Badgendon	167	1	..
Bibury	338	1	2
Barnsley	318	1	..
Cricklade St. Sampson . .	1,197	5	5
Cricklade St. Mary . . .	445	1	3
Coates	343	2	..
Cherrington	251	1	..
Cirencester	5,420	33	15
Colesbourne	252	1	..
Chedworth	1,026	2	4
Daglingworth	239	..	2
Kemble	426	..	1
Leigh	355	..	2
Minety	585	3	1
North Cerney	622	1	2
Oaksey	494	..	1
Poultton	368	2	1
Purton	1,714	2	4
Rodmarton	369	..	1
South Cerney	980	3	8
Somerford Keynes	392	1	1
Siddington	409	1	..
Stratton	468	1	4
Tetbury	2,939	16	5
Withington	743	1	2
Total	24,260	89	76

Average number of beer-shops within the last 5 years . 76

In the present year 76

(Signed)

JAMES SKINNER,
Supervisor.

An ACCOUNT of BEER-HOUSES within the STROUD DISTRICT, which are kept by Weavers, and by Persons who are employed in Clothing Mills other than Weavers.

PARISH.	Beer-Houses kept by Weavers.	Beer Houses kept by Persons employed in Mills, other than Weavers.
Bisley	1	2
Horsley	3	1
Hampton	4	1
Frampton	1	..
Painswick	1	4
Rodboro	5	1
Randwick	7	1
Stonehouse	1	..
Stroud	6	5
Standish	1
Leonard Stanley	1	2
King Stanley	3	3
Woodchester	1	..
Total	34	21

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Sir,—The above is a correct account.

I am

Your humble servant,

HENRY EVANS,
Supervisor, Stroud District.

Stroud 18th August, 1836.

EMBEZZLEMENT OR SLINGING.

Gloucestershire.

Report from
W. A. Miles, Esq.

EMBEZZLEMENT.

Embezzlement, or Sliding, as it is provincially called, is common in Gloucestershire.

The manufacturers look upon it as a certain deduction from profit, though uncertain as to amount; and there the matter ends.

If the manufacturers would subscribe and employ police men throughout the county, or active constables possessed of local knowledge, most of the receivers would be in a short time outrooted.

Many of the old weavers look upon the embezzlement of a "few ends" as their peculiar perquisite; so common was the practice.

The dealers in slinge act with so much cunning and precaution, that it is difficult to detect and convict them; it is usual for them to purchase a small lot of wool, merely for the purpose of having an invoice to produce in case their premises should be searched. In cases where slingers have been convicted, the law directs that the condemned wool, consisting of every sort and quality, as well as waste, should be sold; and these slingers always endeavour to purchase slinge at any cost; their object is to possess themselves of a bill of sale, so that, in case of detection at any future time, they can always account for the possession of slinge, provided it does not exceed the quantity mentioned in the bill. I, therefore, suggest that it would be more advisable to burn all condemned wool, rather than allow it to become a pretext for future fraud.

These receivers live in remote districts, carrying on some ostensible calling, and are well known to the weavers; the price of the stolen material varies according to the necessities of the slinger; I have known instances where slinge worth 7s. a pound has been sold for 10d., and on its being remarked to a weaver whether that was the usual price, he said the slinger must be a fool, and did not know his trade.

It is almost impossible to trace the various means through which slinge comes into bulk, but I have noticed that near every factory there are beer-shops, which, from the general character that these houses bear, they are frequently considered to be the rendezvous of slingers.

In some cases I have observed small cake and apple shops to be open near the factories, and I much doubt whether they may not be inducements for children to barter at them whatever yarn they can contrive to thief.

To such an extent has slinging been carried on, that there are many persons in various parts of the district who have been small clothiers, now retired from business, and who, it is notorious, made their means by slinging.

The conveyors of slinge from place to place are generally children and women. The time of removing it is by daylight, as the officer has no power to stop and search them till after sunset: thus we trace the pernicious effects of slinging upon the rising generation as well as the defect in the present law.

The non-detection of such an organised system of pilfering must be attributed to the inefficiency and the inertness of parish constables, who are all of them aware of the notoriety of the fact, but take no means to prevent it.

Inactivity of
Parish Constables.

About two years ago a subscription was entered into, and two officers were appointed to a district extending about 20 miles, including the parishes of Hampton, Horsley, Avening, Woodchester, and Rodborough; their powers extend over the county. Two officers were likewise appointed at Stroud; one is appointed at Ebley, and one at Stonehouse. The officers of the Hampton district are from the London force, and it is only lately that they have been able to obtain proper knowledge of the organised system of slinging. They have recently secured two notorious slingers—one at Hampton, and the other a desperate character at Nailsworth, who had been once transported for the offence, sent to the hulks, and let loose again upon society by having his sentence remitted, besides having been at other times twice convicted in heavy penalties.

Police.

These slingers carry on their trade with unblushing effrontery, as will appear by the following anecdote:—A notorious slinger, named Hester Clark, was convicted about 10 years ago in the penalty of 20l.; the magistrate, imprudently, took as security a bill of exchange to that amount from a third person on her part: the woman decamped, and, on returning a day or two after the date of the bill had transpired, the magistrate sent her to prison for non-payment of the fine; she, however, pleaded that the bill was given in payment, and brought an action against the magistrate, which was tried at Gloucester, but the verdict was in

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Gloucestershire.

Report from
W. A. Miles, Esq.

EMBEZZLEMENT.

favour of the magistrate: these proceedings cost him from 80% to 100%, and this loss the manufacturers allowed him to pay out of his own pocket.

Another instance of litigation occurred on the part of a slinger named Evans, in whose house slinge, or stolen property, was discovered to the amount of 300% or 400%; he appealed against the conviction, but it was confirmed.

I subjoin the evidence of the serjeant of police relative to the subject of "slinging:"—

System of
Embezzlement.

"At the first commencement the officers were not aware of the system of slinging, but, having become acquainted, have found several cases; has three now under hand; one of these cases is by a collector of embezzled goods, and carries on a regular trade at Pinfarthings, in the parish of Hampton, and has done so for 25 years. She and her daughter carry a bag, and collect at the weavers' houses; considers that slinging is carried on among the weavers, and that it is principally done in the day-time; that it is removed to small manufacturers and others, who either buy it and make it up for themselves or for the collectors.

Removed by
daylight.

"The slinge is generally spun into abb and warp, and made up into flannel; considers there is an organized system of slinging going on, and that, if an opportunity occurs, the generality of weavers would not let it escape. It is usual to employ persons who have neither house, home, or furniture, to carry the slinge when in bulk, and is mostly removed before sun-set, they being afraid of night, in consequence of its suspicious appearance.

"There have been seven cases of slinging in the neighbourhood of Hampton, Woodchester, and Stroud; the greatest number of cases in Hampton; thinks there are more receiving-houses about Hampton Common than anywhere else.

"Witness considers the beer-shops are great curses and the causes of crime; has had 38 convictions during his time, but has no proof that they are connected with slinging; knows that some of them are receptacles of bad characters."

Rural Police.

The evidence of many manufacturers and other persons tends to show that a well-arranged and communicating rural police would be desirable, as it would check slinging, and render the transfer of stolen property more difficult.

Of the utility and benefit of a rural police I have already afforded much evidence to the Constabulary Force Commission; and I conceive that it would be attended with much advantage in Gloucestershire.

Transfer of slinge
to the North.

The transfer of slinge is carried on to a considerable extent. There is a system among the dealers in slinge of exchanging stolen property from one district to another, in order to elude the possibility of a manufacturer swearing to his wool, not only in this country, but also from Wiltshire and Somersetshire. There is an active constable of Wootton, viz., Charles Cogswell, by trade a saddler, who has traced this organized system, but who does not continue his exertions owing, as he says, to the apathy of the manufacturers, who do not reward him for his trouble to protect their property. It is his opinion that slinging is still carried on to the same extent as ever; and considers that, as the manufacturers take no pains to prevent slinging, they have no right to complain. Slinge is even sent into Yorkshire in large quantities under the name of flight and waste: within the last four months a flock-maker in this district sold in Yorkshire, by public auction, 140 bags, which I am informed realized 1000%. Another flocker, who keeps a small mill, was in Yorkshire at the same time, and sold three tons weight of similar material. To such an extent is the slinge-trade carried, that cloth can be purchased cheaper in Bristol than the cost of production at a manufacturing establishment. The Bristol market is in consequence the worst market, for there the manufacturer has to compete with his own stolen material. Bristol is also conveniently situated for the slinge-dealers in Wilts, Somerset, and Gloucestershire.

Flockers deal in
slinge.

It is requisite, in explanation of the above statements, to offer some particulars of the flockers' trade.

In almost every process in the manufacturing of cloth there is a waste of wool, which comes under the following denominations:—

1. Hard ends, from the sorter.
2. Waste, from the spinner.
3. Waste, from the weaver.
4. Millpuff from the gig mill and stock.
5. Shearlock, from the cutters.
6. Flight, from the scribblers and carders, the mixture of all the above, and the sweeping of the factory.

These wastes are sold by the manufacturers to a set of men called flockers, who strongly compete with each other in the purchase of this material, and who, owing to the mixture of the different sorts, can always account for the possession of any slinged material, so that, under a lawful trade, they can with impunity carry on

an illegal one; the general character of the flocker is, that he will purchase wool from any person under any circumstances, as indiscriminately as a marine-store dealer.

These flockers generally court the company of those servants engaged in the factories who, by reason of their situation, are enabled to throw in some good wool to the flight and waste which the flocker may have purchased of the manufacturer.

By 17 George III. c. 56, s. 10, 11, and 12, the police can only search a suspected person carrying slinge after sun-setting and before sun-rising. The consequence is, that slinge is carried with impunity in the day-light by women and children. The power of searching should not be limited as to hours.

The penalty is 20*l.* for the first offence, or one month's imprisonment. A slinger prefers selling his liberty for one month to paying 20*l.*, so he is locked up;—the term of imprisonment is not in proportion to the fine.

CLUBS AND BENEFIT SOCIETIES.

The workmen employed under manufacturers do not join willingly or uphold any shop clubs, or benefit societies. Many masters have endeavoured to establish these clubs, but they have existed languidly, and have gradually become extinct.

The feeling of the weavers is generally that of suspicion of their employers. They think that, if the masters knew they could earn enough to save, their wages would be reduced, and this feeling induces a corresponding want of economy and prudence. The most prevalent clubs are annual clubs, when the surplus is divided, and spent in drunkenness.

The following communication from Mr. Gough explains this subject very clearly:—

“The general opinion among the working classes with respect to clubs, savings banks, or any provident institution, not managed by their own order, is, that they are only intended as means for prying into the circumstances of the labouring population, with an ultimate view to reduce wages.

“This opinion is universal, and it is a rare thing to find factory people in the present day (however well to do, from constant employ and good wages) placing money in the savings' banks; nor will they, without great compulsion on the part of their employers, subscribe to any club among themselves in the factory, always looking with suspicion at the motives of the master, and regarding all attempts on his part to foster provident habits as so many efforts to enrich his own pocket out of the cheapness of their labour.

“I have often heard the mill-people say, that, if their masters knew they could save anything out of their earnings, they should soon be bated (to use their own term) in their wages.

“Many manufacturers are managers or directors of savings' banks, and consequently have opportunities of seeing who among their workpeople can lay by money, and I have no doubt but this very circumstance has prevented many factory workmen from taking their little savings to these institutions; and when it is considered that every trifling circumstance is taken advantage of to lower the wages of the working classes, perhaps this jealousy on the part of the men is not unnatural or misplaced; especially in the present state of things, where no mutual feeling exists, and where the master takes the man as the hackney-coachman does a horse, merely for the work that is in him, regardless of him in his relationship as a brother-man, and where the man must necessarily take the master to be anything but a friend, a patron, or a benefactor. Till a better feeling exists between the employer and the employed, no club, established by the former, will last for any length of time, and then only by compulsory means; and not till the master feels an interest in the comfort and welfare of his workmen can he expect to have any claim on their respect or confidence.”

Mr. Wm. Playne, sen., observed—

“That the working classes in factories object to clubs, as they consider that their employers, by means of them, could ascertain the amount of their earnings and savings; for this reason the savings' banks are not much used by the clothing population, because in many cases some of the clothiers are managers.”

“The poor,” he continued, “will not be interfered with; they dislike to give their money to any establishment or club where their superiors have any control over it. They are very suspicious. This is not theory, for I know it practically.”

This, I regret to say, is the popular feeling upon the subject, and proves the mistrust of the workmen towards their employers—a feeling which has been unhappily generated, but which it is to be hoped might be removed, if masters, by steady kindness and general interest in the welfare and comforts of their work-people, will prove themselves to be the poor man's real friend as well as his employer.

Gloucestershire.

Report from
W. A. Miles, Esq.

EMBEZZLEMENT.

Proposed amend-
ments in the
“Slinge” Act.

CLUBS, &c.

Workmen suspect
the motives of their
employers.

Fearful of reduc-
tion of wages.

Jealous of their
earnings and sav-
ings, being known
to their employers.

W A Miles ~ Hand-Loom
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Gloucestershire.

Report from
W. A. Miles, Esq.BENEFIT CLUBS,
Societies,
&c., &c.

Mr. Peter Playne says—

About three years ago he suggested to his men to form a shop-club, offering to assist them in it, and proposing that each man should deposit three-halfpence a week, and the women one penny a-week, which he had calculated would enable them to maintain their own sick; but the plan did not meet their views, nor would they attempt to carry it into effect.

Mr. Charles Stanton says—

His weavers do not subscribe to any benefit societies; he recommended them to join one lately formed at Stroud, but was informed that they did not feel disposed to join it. After a conference with the most intelligent of the weavers, Mr. Stanton wrote a few simple rules, which were made compulsory upon all who worked in his factory, the basis of them was, that every sick weaver, whose sickness did not arise from his own indiscretion, has secured to him for a period of six weeks, about 7s. per week; and in order to prevent the idle and skulking from extracting too often from the club, a rule was made that no payment should take place till a man had been from his work a week. This club still exists, the men at work paying so much per head in proportion to the sum required to be disbursed, 1s. per week per sick weaver being added to the fund by Mr. Stanton.

About ten years ago a shop-club was instituted at Stanley mills, but it only lasted three or four years.

At Wootton there is no mechanics' institution. The benefit clubs are annual. There is a society in its infancy called, the West Gloucester Friendly Society, of which Lord Segrave, Lord Moreton, and Colonel Kingscote are presidents.

At Nailsworth a mechanics' institution was established about two or three years ago, and about 70 or 80 members entered, among whom were not more than 20 weavers; a lending library was attached, which the poorer classes seemed pleased with. It was, however, broken up, not from dislike to the institution, but for want of means, produced by the general distress of the district.

Mr. Gough states that—

Mechanics' Institution,
Stroud.

"A mechanics' institution was established at Stroud about ten years ago, which is still in existence, though it is to be feared is gradually dying away. It was first established by a few young persons in a very humble manner, who lectured among themselves alternately, and had the gratification of seeing it daily increasing in numbers, respectability, and talent.

"For many years it maintained a position, second to none in the kingdom, as a provincial institution. A good library of books and scientific apparatus had accumulated, chiefly from presents made by gentlemen in the neighbourhood; these were regularly circulated and used among the members, with several of the best periodicals of the day; and many have to date their taste for reading and the consequent improvement of heretofore misspent time, to the existence of the Stroud Mechanics' Institution.

"This institution, however, which once bid fair to be long-lived and flourishing, is now only held together by a few members who were the original promoters of it, and who are determined, notwithstanding the discouragement they receive, to stand by it till the last. It has been gradually dwindling for the last four years, and the cause is attributable to the circumstance of its having been made by some members of influence, more the arena for promoting political than mechanical or other useful purposes.

"So long as it remained an humble mechanics' institution, and managed by persons of an equality in life, it flourished and succeeded; but when once the door was open for the admission of political partisans, and the management taken away from its original founders, to give place to more influential parties, it was not difficult to foretel its destiny.

"It has, however, done much good, considerable emulation at one time existed among the members; and many, who were formerly addicted to drinking, have become reading and thinking people, better workmen, and more useful members of society."

The following is a return of the members of the Mechanics' Institution at Stroud:—

1 Accountant.	1 Grocer.
2 Attornies.	1 Innkeeper.
3 Bankers.	6 Manufacturers.
1 Blacksmith.	2 Ministers (Dissenters).
2 Booksellers.	1 Plasterer.
1 Brushmaker.	1 Surgeon.
2 Carpenters.	1 Tailor.
1 Chemist.	1 Upholsterer.
4 Clerks to manufacturers.	1 Wheelright.
2 Dyers.	1 Woolsorter.
Factory man.	1 Wool merchant.
2 Founders.	3 Of no calling or profession.
1 Furrier.	4 Youths.

Mr. J. C. Tabram, of Nailsworth, says,—

"The savings' bank was established last February at Nailsworth; the general fund is about 500*l.*; has one weaver a depositor, but thinks he does not lay by any thing from his earnings, but he has had a little money left him lately The savings' bank fund is com-

principally of trustee property, such as building funds, benefit club money, &c.: there are only about 27 depositors as yet. The loan society has been established about two years; many applications, say 500 in number, have been made, to which 400 have been granted; the amount is £2000, arrears 80%, and a certain loss of 10%: this society is supported by loans from various neighbouring gentlemen; but in consequence of the arrears, it is expected that no more loans will be issued this year. As regards benefit clubs, they are now only annual. Witness states, that at Nailsworth a mechanic institution was established two or three years ago; it lasted about two years, broke up last January. There was a lending library attached to the society, and the poorer classes seemed pleased with it; there were about 70 or 80 members, some of them weavers, say 20: it was not broken up from any dislike to the institution, but from the distress of the district, and the consequent want of means."

Mr. A. Fewster, of Nailsworth, says,—

"The mechanics' institution at Nailsworth, however, has recently become defunct for want of support. Some of all these useful institutions effects uniformly good, except as to loan societies, of the beneficial effects of which I have some doubt. We have had one of these in operation here between two and three years. A considerable number of weavers connected with each. Clubs, &c. with the exception of savings' bank. The weavers cannot and do not make deposits."

The Rev. J. Elliott, minister of Randwick, says,—

"We have an excellent friendly society upon a self-sustaining principle, with such a graduated scale of payment according to age, as shall hold out at any future period of its continuance equal inducement to the young. This club is popular only with the most intelligent and industrious class; it may ultimately prove a great advantage to the neighbourhood, though its progress is at present retarded by the annual clubs, which make no provision for old age. Our Cainscross savings' bank is extensive in its operation and most valuable in its effects."

Mr. Griffiths, Relieving Officer of Thornbury Union, states, that

"Most of the mechanics and labourers are in annual clubs, and in cases of sickness they have 8s. a week. A new club, a branch of the Dursley club, is recently established here, and has 100 members: the advantage of which are, that the sum allowed in time of sickness is proportionate to the amount paid in; it may likewise be put as an annuity when he is 60 or 65 years of age. This principle is better than that of the old clubs, when the members paid in 6d. a week. It is called an annuity club as well as a burial and sickness club."

SAVINGS' BANKS.

The savings' banks at Dursley and at Cain's Cross have considerably increased in number and in amounts; many of the depositors are servants and children. The returns which I have obtained do not prove any advance in the state of the weavers, nor of any class, because at first all classes of servants and work people felt a prejudice or jealousy in allowing masters to know the amount of their savings. The increase of amounts and numbers may only prove the decrease of these feelings of jealousy or prejudice, and in proportion to the increase of deposits allowance must be made for the increase of population.

The persons engaged in factories do not, however, form a fair average proportion of the numbers of depositors.

SAVINGS' BANKS.

W A Miles ~ Hand-Loom Weavers Report c.1839
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DURSLEY SAVINGS' BANK.

Date.	No. of Depositors.	Amount.	Date.	No. of Depositors.	Amount.
	£.	£. s. d.		£.	£. s. d.
Nov. 20, 1824.	124 under 20 each	1,024 8 8	Nov. 20, 1826.	154 under 20 each	1,273 16 10
	87 " 50 "	2,578 7 7		99 " 50 "	2,937 6 4
	57 " 100 "	3,707 7 0		60 " 100 "	3,942 7 7
	26 " 150 "	3,012 7 3		17 " 150 "	2,018 16 1
	4 " 200 "	673 16 4		7 " 200 "	1,128 10 10
	5 above 200 "	2,408 1 8		7 above 200 "	2,876 13 8
Total .	303	13,404 8 6		344	14,177 11 4
Nov. 20, 1825.	146 under 20 each	1,201 11 6	Nov. 20, 1827.	174 under 20 each	1,373 3 6
	91 " 50 "	2,894 4 0		126 " 50 "	3,712 5 11
	67 " 100 "	4,257 4 11		55 " 100 "	3,793 3 2
	21 " 150 "	2,644 11 4		18 " 150 "	2,088 8 6
	6 " 200 "	986 16 1		10 " 200 "	1,780 12 6
	6 above 200 "	2,737 8 0		5 above 200 "	2,424 10 9
Total .	337	14,721 15 0		388	15,172 4 4

Gloucestershire.

DURSLEY SAVINGS' BANK—continued.

Report from
W. A. Miles, Esq.

SAVINGS' BANKS.

Dursley Savings'
Bank.

Date.	No. of Depositors.	Amount.	Date.	No. of Depositors.	Amount.
	£.	£. s. d.		£.	£. s. d.
Nov. 20, 1825.	195 under 20 each.	1,546 17 8	Nov. 20, 1833.	214 under 20 each	1,627 6 11
	127 „ 50 „	3,727 2 1		135 „ 50 „	4,082 0 6
	58 „ 100 „	3,799 16 7		55 „ 100 „	3,794 4 10
	16 „ 150 „	2,007 1 10		24 „ 150 „	2,900 16 11
	6 „ 200 „	1,029 4 2		11 „ 200 „	1,855 16 4
	6 above 200 „	1,500 3 9		1 above 200 „	275 12 1
Total .	408	13,610 6 1	Total .	440	14,535 17 7
Nov. 20, 1829.	206 under 20 each	1,560 8 2	Nov. 20, 1834.	265 under 20 each	1,668 19 11
	139 „ 50 „	4,204 4 7		172 „ 50 „	4,972 6 8
	58 „ 100 „	3,900 12 3		59 „ 100 „	4,159 10 8
	15 „ 150 „	1,942 15 3		28 „ 150 „	3,448 8 3
	7 „ 200 „	1,159 9 3		11 „ 200 „	1,875 2 1
	3 above 200 „	751 13 8		1 above 200 „	284 17 3
Total .	128	13,519 3 2	Total .	536	16,439 4 10
Nov. 20, 1830.	207 under 20 each	1,538 17 0	Nov. 20, 1835.	246 under 20 each	1,871 5 6
	145 „ 50 „	4,380 17 4		168 „ 50 „	5,207 10 3
	60 „ 100 „	4,130 5 7		61 „ 100 „	4,194 8 9
	17 „ 150 „	2,094 19 1		23 „ 150 „	2,899 7 11
	9 „ 200 „	1,490 1 2		15 „ 200 „	2,517 15 1
	3 above 200 „	776 19 0		1 above 200 „	294 8 8
Total .	441	14,411 19 2	Total .	514	16,984 16 2
Nov. 20, 1831.	211 under 20 each	1,547 3 4	Nov. 20, 1836.	326 under 20 each	2,085 11 0
	141 „ 50 „	4,232 13 6		187 „ 50 „	5,896 1 10
	55 „ 100 „	3,871 18 3		62 „ 100 „	4,120 15 11
	19 „ 150 „	2,344 16 0		24 „ 150 „	3,021 14 4
	12 „ 200 „	2,004 1 7		15 „ 200 „	2,535 2 4
	2 above 200 „	490 7 10		1 above 200 „	304 6 7
Total .	440	14,491 0 6	Total .	615	17,963 12 0
Nov. 20, 1832.	208 under 20 each	1,591 5 0	Nov. 20, 1837.	271 under 20 each	2,180 18 10
	135 „ 50 „	4,257 12 3		177 „ 50 „	5,586 14 6
	45 „ 100 „	3,191 11 3		69 „ 100 „	4,430 6 5
	21 „ 150 „	2,485 4 1		23 „ 150 „	2,785 15 6
	11 „ 200 „	1,842 11 9		16 „ 200 „	2,769 19 4
	1 above 200 „	266 12 11		1 above 200 „	314 16 5
Total .	421	13,634 17 3	Total .	557	18,068 11 0
Date.			No. of Depositors.		
			Amount.		
			£.	£. s. d.	
Nov. 20, 1838.	287 under 20 each	2,132 7 2			
	210 „ 50 „	6,628 10 5			
	77 „ 100 „	5,228 15 6			
	21 „ 150 „	2,590 19 11			
	16 „ 200 „	2,678 11 3			
	1 above 200 „	325 13 6			
Total .	612	19,593 17 9			

HAND-LOOM WEAVERS.

479

CAINSCROSS SAVINGS' BANK.

Gloucestershire.
Report from
W. A. Miles, Esq.
SAVINGS' BANK
Cain's Cross
Savings' Bank.

Date.	No. of Depositors.	Amount.	Date.	No. of Depositors.	Amount.
Nov. 20, 1824.	£. 205 under 20 each 99 ,, 50 ,, 63 ,, 100 ,, 42 ,, 150 ,, 15 ,, 200 ,, 4 above 200 ,,	£. s. d. 1,501 18 7 2,941 4 9 4,329 6 5 4,574 17 11 2,459 13 9 860 1 6	Nov. 20, 1831.	£. 317 under 20 each 196 ,, 50 ,, 94 ,, 100 ,, 27 ,, 150 ,, 19 ,, 200 ,, 12 above 200 ,,	£. s. d. 2,606 17 8 6,062 11 3 6,370 19 2 3,298 7 3 3,242 0 1 3,022 19 3
Total .	428	16,667 2 11	Total .	665	24,603 14 8
Nov. 20, 1825.	212 under 20 each 110 ,, 50 ,, 82 ,, 100 ,, 32 ,, 150 ,, 16 ,, 200 ,, 11 above 200 ,,	1,680 9 8 3,392 3 6 5,313 5 0 3,726 18 6 2,610 5 6 2,335 3 3	Nov. 20, 1832.	339 under 20 each 199 ,, 50 ,, 84 ,, 100 ,, 34 ,, 150 ,, 21 ,, 200 ,, 11 above 200 ,,	2,527 1 9 6,115 3 9 5,559 13 8 4,228 1 2 3,556 18 9 2,890 10 9
Total .	463	19,078 5 5	Total .	698	24,907 9 10
Nov. 20, 1826.	236 under 20 each 137 ,, 50 ,, 64 ,, 100 ,, 27 ,, 150 ,, 13 ,, 200 ,, 13 above 200 ,,	1,698 19 1 4,191 16 4 4,360 4 5 3,255 3 9 2,297 18 2 2,824 18 4	Nov. 20, 1833.	394 under 20 each 228 ,, 50 ,, 81 ,, 100 ,, 36 ,, 150 ,, 21 ,, 200 ,, 12 above 200 ,,	2,821 4 6 7,026 8 1 5,955 3 2 4,461 13 2 3,633 6 5 3,189 6 9
Total	490	18,629 0 1	Total .	772	27,087 2 1
Nov. 20, 1827.	265 under 20 each 178 ,, 50 ,, 68 ,, 100 ,, 24 ,, 150 ,, 11 ,, 200 ,, 18 above 200 ,,	2,039 8 8 5,569 10 5 4,630 7 8 2,882 8 6 1,873 16 6 3,979 1 10	Nov. 20, 1834.	441 under 20 each 282 ,, 50 ,, 104 ,, 100 ,, 30 ,, 150 ,, 26 ,, 200 ,, 14 above 200 ,,	2,937 17 9 8,559 9 2 7,017 5 11 3,613 2 2 4,502 17 6 3,691 14 11
Total .	564	21,014 13 7	Total .	897	30,322 7 5
Nov. 20, 1828.	321 under 20 each 220 ,, 50 ,, 117 ,, 100 ,, 24 ,, 150 ,, 15 ,, 200 ,, 18 above 200 ,,	2,376 13 10 6,781 7 9 7,879 11 7 2,941 4 6 2,605 18 2 4,153 19 6	Nov. 20, 1835.	478 under 20 each 274 ,, 50 ,, 113 ,, 100 ,, 38 ,, 150 ,, 26 ,, 200 ,, 14 above 200 ,,	3,223 11 5 8,627 14 6 7,479 11 10 4,482 15 7 4,460 13 7 3,726 13 11
Total	715	26,738 15 4	Total .	943	32,001 0 10
Nov. 20, 1829.	319 under 20 each 199 ,, 50 ,, 104 ,, 100 ,, 22 ,, 150 ,, 15 ,, 200 ,, 16 above 200 ,,	2,512 14 8 6,306 4 1 6,959 8 6 2,677 3 4 2,636 14 6 3,798 7 3	Nov. 20, 1836.	576 under 20 each 289 ,, 50 ,, 126 ,, 100 ,, 38 ,, 150 ,, 28 ,, 200 ,, 12 above 200 ,,	4,014 9 1 8,953 13 3 8,511 10 11 4,549 2 0 4,914 0 0 3,404 0 11
Total .	675	24,920 12 4	Total .	1069	34,346 16 2
Nov. 20, 1830.	326 under 20 each 187 ,, 50 ,, 94 ,, 100 ,, 25 ,, 150 ,, 14 ,, 200 ,, 16 above 200 ,,	2,518 17 1 5,870 6 4 6,398 0 8 2,972 7 9 2,452 11 10 3,876 10 5	Nov. 20, 1837.	599 under 20 each 333 ,, 50 ,, 142 ,, 100 ,, 44 ,, 150 ,, 29 ,, 200 ,, 11 above 200 ,,	4,168 18 4 10,128 11 3 9,450 7 4 5,237 18 7 5,109 5 0 3,208 11 6
Total .	662	24,088 14 1	Total .	1158	37,303 12 0

Gloucestershire.

Report from
W. A. Miles, Esq.

SAVINGS' BANKS.

CAINSCROSS SAVINGS' BANK—continued.

Date.	No. of Depositors.		Amount.		
		£.	£.	s.	d.
Nov. 20, 1836.	705 under 20	each	5,062	3	8
	377 „ 50	„	11,509	5	7
	153 „ 100	„	10,599	7	9
	41 „ 150	„	4,920	12	6
	37 „ 200	„	6,478	19	4
	9 above 200	„	2,761	0	5
Total	1322		41,291	9	3

W A Miles ~ Hand-Loom
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EDUCATION.

EDUCATION.

EDUCATION is a subject upon which I felt at every step more accurate information to be required than I had the means of obtaining; and it is a subject so beset with difficulties (as to the detail), that in the absence of that information I can scarcely venture to approach it more than by stating the results of my inquiries.

Present system not
adapted to youth.

I must, however, observe, that in my opinion restricted education is detrimental to the best interests of education as well as to the ultimate interests of those who would render it exclusive.

The present system of education is too limited, too superficial; and, moreover, it is not based upon principles resulting from a close examination of the influence of circumstance upon the development of the young intellect.

First, it is too limited with regard to the subjects taught; for more is required than a parrot-like narration of Scriptural texts or catechistical answers. Secondly, it is too superficial, owing to the irregular and (at most times) short period that a poor man can spare the child from work or pay for its tuition, being only three years (vide Report of the schools, page 504). Thirdly, it is not based upon principles resulting from a close examination of the influence of circumstances upon the development of the young intellect, because the present system is not sufficiently calculated to afford pleasure and excitement, or to instil practically into the young mind the value of time, industry, and patience, as the means of obtaining future resources for his comforts and well-being in society.*

Study should be
blended with
amusement.

Study, or rather the attaining of useful knowledge, should be blended as much as possible with amusement, especially to a child; and as the children of the poorer classes can be only spared from labour during their more tender years, their instruction should be rendered in as pleasing and familiar a form as possible, so that in after years they may seek and derive a pleasure by improving their minds.

It is not from books alone, or the mere reading of the Scripture, that the better feelings are likely to be elicited. The Rev. H. Jeffreys, of Bisley, (one of the poorest parishes in the manufacturing districts,) observes, in his valuable communication concerning his parish,—“Education is there encouraged, and in some measure valued, and it is not want of education which has caused distress.” “Some of our most dirty, ill-behaved, wretched, and extravagant people, are as well informed as to reading, &c., as any in the parish.”

The groundwork may be laid by books and reading, if the child is taught to understand what it utters; but more is required in the superstructure, and that deficiency is ably anticipated in the Industrial School, where circumstances and incidents are continually arising to call forth the observation of youth, and are judiciously adapted to increase their intelligence and skill, as well not only to give them a knowledge (as far as man can impart) of the things around them, but also to call forth the higher sentiments, and to give them an aptitude for method, industry, and exertion.

I believe that the plan of confining a child solely to the routine of biblical instruction, is not sufficient for his worldly welfare, because I have found among the young thieves, hundreds of whom I have examined, that many of them had received that education, which they learned like parrots, and like rogues forgot.

Secular Instruction.

I beg, however, most distinctly and unequivocally to observe, that I am not

* “They cannot dive into the inmost recesses of the brain, to nip in its very first germs every brightest faculty, but conducting its developments as the Chinese do that of their peach and plum trees, they encompass each tender shoot of the intellect with so many minute fetters, religious, political, and social, that DWARFS are produced where GIANTS were intended”.

adverting directly or indirectly to any plan of education wherein religion is not to be inculcated, because I am persuaded that no such system could be beneficial, or exist except in theory.

Mr. Wall, the master of St. Chloe school, observes,

That the disputes concerning religious education are chiefly confined to the leaders and public speakers of the different sects; at least he has never known the parent of any child, whether churchman or dissenter, make a private objection to an extensive course of reading or study.

Mr. S. Marling, of Ham Mills, near Stroud, says,

He is deeply impressed with the absolute necessity for all education being based on the principles of the Bible, and he would countenance no system in which sound moral and religious instruction were not made the foundation of every thing else; yet he says he must confess his fears, that there is a tendency in many quarters to attend to this subject only, to the almost total exclusion of other very important and very necessary parts of education; not that too much regard is paid to the former, but far too little to the latter.

My proposition is, to introduce more of general knowledge and more secular information, in order to train the child for admixture in society, by giving him habits of inquiry, observation, industry, and economy; not only by theory but by practical means either in training or industrial schools.

"Religion," observes the Right Reverend Bishop of London, in a charge, delivered in 1834, "ought to be made the groundwork of all education; its lessons should be interwoven with the whole tissue of instruction, and its principles should regulate the entire system of discipline in our national schools. But I believe that the lessons of religion will not be rendered less impressive or effectual by being interspersed with teaching of a different kind. The Bible will not be read with less interest if history, for example, and geography, and the elements of useful practical science, be suffered to take their turn in the circle of daily instruction. On the contrary, I am persuaded that the youthful mind will recur with increased curiosity and intelligence to the great facts and truths and precepts of Holy Writ, if it be enlarged and enlivened by an acquaintance with other branches of knowledge. I see no reason why the education given to the poor should differ from the education of their superiors, more widely than the different circumstances and duties of their respective conditions in life render absolutely necessary. One thing is certain, and it is a very important consideration, that if we teach them the methods of acquiring one kind of knowledge, they will apply them to the acquisition of other kinds; if we sharpen their faculties for one purpose they will be sure to use them for others. Some information on subjects of general interest many of them will undoubtedly seek to obtain, and it is plainly desirable that they should receive it from our hands in a safe and unobjectionable form. It is desirable, also, that they should not be accustomed to consider that there is anything like an opposition between the doctrines and precepts of our holy religion and other legitimate objects of intellectual inquiry; or that it is difficult to reconcile a due regard to the supreme importance of the one, with a certain degree of laudable curiosity about the other. The experiment of mixing instruction in different branches of useful knowledge with Scripture reading and lessons, or the truths and duties of Christianity, has been tried with success in the sessional schools at Edinburgh by a zealous and able friend of the poor, Mr. Wood, to whose publications on the subject I would refer you for further information. It has also been tried in more than one large parochial school of this diocese, and the results have been very encouraging. I am therefore desirous that additions should be made to the school catalogue of the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge, adapted to supply materials for a more varied course of instruction than that which is ordinarily pursued in our schools."

Gloucestershire.

Report from
W. A. Miles, Esq.

EDUCATION.

Opinion of the
Bishop of London.

The Industrial School is a system well adapted to train, to lead forth, to educate the infant mind. The child there learns habits of order, method, industry, and emulation *practically*. He there imbibes those qualities which form the groundwork of future contentment when he commingles in society; and it is the want of that groundwork which has caused so much misery and discontent among the working classes of the community.

Industrial Schools.

The leasing of a plot of ground to a child, at a childish rent, is highly valuable to that child. It gives him a knowledge of property; the cultivation of it gives him a value of industry. The cultivation of his flower-border gives him an elegance or refinement of mind. This term may be derided; but, suppose a person was about to hire a servant or a labourer, and he had to visit the cottages of two candidates for that service, the plot of ground in front of one cottage should be overrun with weeds, and the plot in front of the other should be neatly trimmed and redolent of flowers and perfume, the person would be more inclined to engage the services of the latter, because the cultivation of the flowers would impress upon his mind that the owner was possessed of a better regulated mind and of better habits than the other, whose mind he would consider to be as ill conditioned as his ground.

Gloucestershire.

Report from
W. A. Miles, Esq.

EDUCATION.

Mr. S. Marling, of Ham Mills, near Stroud, observes,

That those of his numerous workpeople whose ingenuity is most conspicuous in the culture of their gardens, and in their other domestic arrangements, are the best workmen, husbands, and fathers.

I beg to insert the following extract concerning the Industrial School near Ealing; whereby, it will be seen, the effect of industrial education, blended with religious and other instruction, must be beneficial to the child in after years.

The following is an account of the system of industrial instruction pursued in the garden of the Ealing Grove School, as given by Mr. Duppas:—

"Gardens of the sixteenth of an acre were measured out and let to the elder boys at 1½/- per month; seeds they either bought of their master, or procured from their friends. Racks for the tools were put up and numbered, so that each boy had a place for his own and in that he was required to keep them.

Industrial Schools.

"The objects of this school are to educate children, destined for country pursuits, in a manner to make them better workmen and more intelligent and happier men than is at present the case. For this purpose it was conceived necessary that they should early acquire the habits of patient industry,—that they should be acquainted with the value of labour, and know the connexion between it and property,—that they should have intelligence, skill, and an acquaintance with the objects by which they are surrounded,—that the higher sentiments, the social and moral part of their being, should obtain a full development. The habit of patient industry is endeavoured to be given to them by requiring that they should labour for a portion of the day, viz.—three hours, and this partly for the institution, partly for themselves, in their own gardens. During the period in which they work for the institution they are paid according to the labour they are able to perform; the monitor who watches over them reporting the industry of each to their master, who remunerates them accordingly. In their gardens they are allowed to labour for an hour and a half a-day, and as they pay a rent for the land and purchase the seeds, they become anxious to spend that time more actively in bringing their gardens into as forward a state as they can. On account of the rough state of the ground, and the novel duties of the schoolmaster, there was, in the first instance, a gardener hired, who directed them in the cultivation of their gardens, and instructed them how to obtain a rotation of crops in order that the ground should never remain unoccupied; but his services have now been for some time discontinued. So industriously have the boys laboured, and so well have they succeeded, that their gardens, with few exceptions, presented, before the crops were harvested, an appearance of neatness and good husbandry. They have all since either disposed of their vegetables, or taken them home to their families. But vegetables were not the only crop, for, around the border of each, flowers have been cultivated: It is a great matter to induce a taste for, and to give a knowledge of, the manner of cultivating flowers. They are luxuries within the power of every person to command.

Gardens.

"There is a considerable gaiety and alacrity in all this; the boys learn to sing many cheerful and merry songs; they strike up a tune as they go out in bands to work, and as they return they do the same. Their tools are taken down from their appropriate places and are duly returned to them; so that, whenever the school may be visited, it will be found that there is a place for everything and that everything is in its place. But this is not for the sake of gratifying the eye of the visitor. Of all habits that give value to industry and exertion, that promote comfort and favour virtue, there is not one more efficacious than this. It is, too, a habit in which the labouring classes are peculiarly deficient: the cultivation of it is considered in this school a point of great moment. Nor is it confined to the arrangement of the tools: prudence and foresight are closely connected with the accurate keeping of accounts. Accordingly, each boy has a little book of receipt and expenditure. The profit of his garden, the earnings of his labour, &c. are entered on one side; the payment of rent, the purchase of seeds, &c. on the other. An extract from the children's books will show their character. When sufficient time has elapsed, there is but little doubt, not only that the gardens will become more profitable, but other branches of industry will be so organized as to bring in a return of some importance. We do not make this assertion at hazard, as last year one of the boys cleared 17. 18s. 10d. from his sixteenth of an acre of land, after paying the rent, seeds, manure, &c. &c.

"Thus far has a sound foundation been laid: habits of industry and cheerfulness while at labour—habits of order and arrangement in the management of expenditure. And did the education cease here, these are not all the advantages which would be derived from it. The gardens are all exposed—all know the value of produce. It has been asked by persons who have visited the school—'Do not the children rob one another?' 'Is their little produce safe?' It is safe; they do not rob one another. The rightful acquisition of property begets a knowledge of the principles upon which right is grounded. It is clear to them that a mutual respect for one another's rights is the only guarantee for the safety of property. Mutual aggression would soon destroy their little gardens. The children do not rob, and are thus acquiring habits of justice and honesty.

"Again, many of the operations in their little gardens require greater strength than one child is possessed of—they look for assistance to their neighbours, and it is given. Thus, to those who have not reflected on this subject, may appear a trifle; but the harmony of society is greatly dependent upon the cultivation of good will and a readiness to oblige and assist; and any plan is worthy of consideration which can early make the value of this social quality evident to children, and can ground a habit upon it."

The following is the account kept by a child of his earnings, &c. &c., on a plot of ground at the industrial school.

GEORGE KIRBY, aged 14 years.

Cash.

Gloucestershire.

Report from
W. A. Miles, Esq.

EDUCATION.

1836.	Received.	Particulars of Receipt and Expenditure.	Paid.
	£. s. d.		£. s. d.
March 4	..	Onion-seed	0 0 2
April 1	..	One month's rent	0 0 1½
4	..	One quart of peas	0 0 3
May 1	..	One month's rent	0 0 1½
1	0 0 2½	For work.	
6	..	One bushel potatoes	0 2 0
10	..	Lettuce-seed	0 0 2
24	..	Scarlet beans	0 0 4
30	..	French ditto	0 0 2
June 1	..	One month's rent	0 0 1½
14	..	Cabbage-plants	0 0 1½
15	0 0 7½	Lettuce-plants.	
23	0 0 10	For labour.	
July 1	..	One month's rent	0 0 1½
14	0 1 4	Two pecks peas.	
16	0 0 1	Onions.	
18	0 0 2½	Scarlet runners.	
24	0 0 9	Ditto.	
30	0 0 4	Ditto.	
August 1	..	One month's rent	0 0 1½
4	0 0 9	Scarlet runners.	
7	0 0 8	Potatoes.	
9	0 1 1	Scarlet runners.	
11	0 0 8	Potatoes.	
16	0 0 4	Scarlet runners.	
27	0 0 2	Ditto.	
Sept. 1	..	One month's rent	0 0 1½
13	0 0 6	Scarlet runners.	
17	0 0 2	Ditto.	
Octob. 1	..	One month's rent	0 0 1½
15	0 1 10	For labour to September 30th.	
19	0 8 6	Potatoes.	
26	0 6 0	Ditto.	
	1 5 0¾		
	0 4 1		0 4 1
	1 0 11¾		

W A Miles ~ Hand-Loom
Weavers Report c.1839
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Owing to the present system of education, the poor man's child when he becomes an adult, has no resource open whence he can derive mental gratification after his working hours; so that the interval of labour is but too frequently the period of sensuality or debauchery. The working man, for want of other means to procure amusement or recreation, goes to the beer-shop; but if he had been trained in his early years to derive pleasure from other sources than by the excitement produced by fermented liquors, the beer-shop would be abandoned by him.

Music is a means well calculated to give a rational excitement: it possesses a power as subtle, but as universal, as galvanism. It is acknowledged and felt from the prince to the beggar: the mouse, the horse, the spider, and the snake, own its influence.

I have often witnessed groups of poor children, shivering in rags, listening most attentively to the lively airs upon the itinerant organs; and why should not that natural taste be cultivated among the poor as well as among the richer classes? It would require but little time from other pursuits, and afford to the child in after life a resource, a charm, which, in his childhood, he enjoys, and which we ought to cultivate.

Music tends to unbrutalize the mind.

It may, however, be advanced, that singing has been the ruin of many young persons. I grant it; but why has it been the ruin? Because a good self-cultivated voice is scarce; it is an exception among the many; but if music and singing were taught, that voice would no longer be an exception. It may be advanced that music leads to drunkenness and debauchery. I own that, in many cases, it tends to demoralize. I know that there are many

Music the delight
of children.

Gloucestershire.

Report from
W. A. Miles, Esq.

Education.

Less drunkenness
where music is cul-
tivated.Music desirable
as a branch of na-
tional education.
Mr. Hickson's
opinion.

houses of low description, in the vilest neighbourhoods of the metropolis, where music is provided, and many meet nightly to enjoy it, and that drunkenness and crime may result, not from the music, but from the congregating of numbers; the lowest of the low, the very scum of young pickpockets, neglect to prowl the street, and resort to these places; but does this prove that music is pernicious? or rather does it not prove that music is wanted, is sought for eagerly, and that it is natural to the human ear, however degraded and lost the person might be.

Music has a genial tendency, and I therefore infer that to youth it would be beneficial. In Sweden the children sing to a scale at the public schools. Music is taught in Germany and on the Continent, yet the people are less addicted to drunkenness than in England; and I attribute it to the very circumstance that music, by being more cultivated, destroys the sottish tendency inasmuch as it imparts to the poorer classes other means of social enjoyment than drinking glass for glass, or quart for quart in a public-house or beer shop. The most striking instance in corroboration of this opinion occurs in the parishes of Coaley and Stonehouse, in this county. (Vide pages 430 and 431.)

I have thus digressed because it is an experiment of considerable import to the happiness of the working classes. Mr. Hickson, in his lecture on the introduction of vocal music as a branch of national education, shows the advantages to be derived by infusing the spirit of music in the mind and over the feelings, for he judiciously and humanely observes:—

“One of the most important of all secrets, to be learned in education, is that of cheerfizing the heart, for when we have done that, we have done that which is most favourable to the growth of kindly and generous feelings.”

“Music (he continues) may be regarded as having an indirect moral influence in weaning the mind from coarse and brutalizing pursuits, and from pleasures consisting in mere sensual indulgences. The reason is, that music is a means of pure and innocent enjoyment, which, in proportion as it is cultivated and rightly directed, will approve itself to the mind, as of a higher, better, and more satisfactory character than any of the grosser pleasures pursued by the slaves of vice.

“And here let me protest against the doctrine that it is not part, or ought to be no part, of the business of an instructor to teach the means of rational enjoyment to the people. That music is a means of social enjoyment will be admitted; and *that* ought to be a sufficient argument for rendering it, if possible, a means of enjoyment to the poorest members of the community. After all that can be done for the melioration of the condition of the working classes, they will have to submit to quite enough of privation, as compared with the lot of a rich man, without withholding from them any innocent source of pleasure which we might enable them to command.

“I have no sympathy with those who think that the duty of individuals, or of legislators, with regard to the masses, ends in teaching them resignation and submission, and in enabling them, at best, to earn their bread by the sweat of their brow; but who would do nothing to cheer their hearts or gladden their existence, by throwing a little sunshine into the cottage, as if nature had designed them to be merely living, moving, animated machines, existing not for themselves, but solely to furnish the means of gratification to a superior race of mortals.

“Happily, however, for the lot of the poor, nature has not left it to our own cold hearts to decide this question. Some amount of pleasurable relaxation from labour is necessary to every condition of animal existence. The slave will have it, though he work in chains for six days out of the seven, or without it he will die, and thus escape the lash of his cruel task-master. Some change of a pleasurable character, to relieve the monotony of a life of labour, is necessary for all; but, what is most to the purpose, we can withhold it from none—we can merely choose the form it shall assume.

“This is, then, the real question at issue, whether we shall leave the people, while in a low moral state, to choose their own sources of gratification (although we may know that, while in that state, they will choose such as will be of a low and debasing character), or shall we first enable them to appreciate, and then place within their reach rational and intellectual enjoyments? In short, will you have prize-fighting, bull-baiting, gambling, Tom and Jerry amusements, a taste encouraged for witnessing executions and reading of murders; will you have intemperance, as a means of excitement, rendered all but universal, or will you allow an art like that of music to be cultivated in their place, and teach society to obey the laws of harmony both in a moral and scientific sense?”

Confirmed by Dr.
Kay.

Dr. Kay, in his Report to the Poor Law Commissioners, 1833, upon the training of pauper children, adverts to this most desirable subject, and observes,—

“In the Prussian, Dutch, and German schools, and recently in some English, and in the schools of the Glasgow Educational Society, singing has been introduced as a branch of instruction with signal advantage. The children are practised in such psalmody as is appropriate to the devotional services of the household. The routine of school discipline is also beneficially interrupted at the point where weariness and disorder ensue, by an exercise which

diffuses new energy and harmony through the school. The children march into the school from the garden, the workshop, and the play-ground, singing such moral songs as have been introduced into infant schools with success. The intervals of any change of lesson or occupation are filled up with singing. We are also assured that in Germany the cultivation of vocal music has a most beneficial influence on the habits of the people; they have been, to a large extent, reclaimed from debasing pleasures by this innocent amusement.

"In the prison for the correction of juvenile offenders at Rotterdam. I was informed that music was valued as an important element of the moral agencies employed. I heard the national anthem and some beautiful hymns sung by the boys in the prison in a most impressive manner from notes with which each was furnished.

"Mr. Hickson has rendered a valuable service to the public by the interesting and useful lectures which he has lately delivered on the importance of vocal music as an element of popular primary instruction."

Mr. Jones, a manufacturer at Newtown, says he has encouraged music among his workpeople, and that it is a great source of rational amusement among them.

I beg to offer a few remarks upon charity schools and gratuitous education.

I have observed that, where the parents pay a penny or twopence per week for the tuition of their children, education is much more prized than when it is gratuitous. This I have often witnessed during my inquiries as Commissioner of Charities; therefore, in my opinion, the intentions of a charity are defeated by this feeling among those classes whom it was intended to benefit, and many charities become useless or pernicious. It is said that charity covers a multitude of sins; she must be her own cloak, for she generates a multitude of evils.

The charity dress debases the child, for in his earliest years he is marked and pointed out among his fellows as a poor man's child; and ostentation puts upon him the livery of pauperism. I would not use the dress so injudiciously, but I would make it the badge of merit, to be won by good conduct in the school, so that the child should feel himself raised in the eyes of strangers, rather than self-lowered and self-degraded.

There is a simple method of giving a stimulus, not only to the children, but also to the parents, that their children should be well conducted in the schools. The domestic influence over a child is half the battle, and without that powerful auxiliary, the efforts of the master are comparatively trifling. The method I propose is this: that every child, on entering the school, should pay till, by good conduct or superior talent, he is promoted to a higher class, and then payment should cease. Again, that the charity children should be selected from among the best boys of that chosen class just mentioned; and then allowed to wear the dress as a reward for diligence and good behaviour, and not as a stigma of poverty.

That in cases of extreme poverty, the amount of schooling might be lent by the Guardians to the parents, or paid to the school upon the production of the master's certificate of attendance.

I moreover propose that the highest class of boys should be actually in receipt of weekly payments, as a reward for their good conduct; by which means a constant emulation would be generated throughout the school, and tend much to the advancement of the children.

My division would be after this proportion: one-half of the scholars to pay so much per week; one quarter to be selected from those pay scholars to receive gratuitous instruction, and the remaining quarter to be promoted from the gratuitous scholars, and to receive in equal division the weekly money paid by the junior half.

Say 100 boys.

1st class, 50 boys, 1*d.* per week, 4*s.* 2*d.*

2nd class, 25 boys, free, and promoted from Class 1.

3rd class, 25 boys, promoted from class 2, and receiving 4*s.* 2*d.*, or 2*d.* per week each.

Children to be promoted by committee or trustees.

The money paid by the parents at the commencement would only be a loan, because it is repaid in a double ratio when the boy enters the 3rd class.

I earnestly beg to call your attention to this proposal, because I consider that immense benefit would be created by the most simple means.

Gloucestershire.

Report from
W. A. Miles, Esq.

EDUCATION.

Charity education
not valued by the
poor.

Charity dress de-
bases the child.

Emulation and do-
mestic influence.

Children to be paid
in upper classes as
a reward.

Gloucestershire.

Report from
W. A. Miles, Esq.

EDUCATION.

Sunday Schools.

Female education
neglected.

The Sunday-schools are useful, inasmuch as the child once a week has an opportunity of practising what it may have imperfectly learned; and there are many instances of children having learned to read and write with no other aid than what was afforded by these excellent and benevolent institutions.

Before I conclude upon the subject of education, I cannot but lament that the instruction of girls is not rendered more general and industrial. The factory girl is a sad instance of the neglect of female training. Her dress is tawdy, or else slattern; her house, when she marries, is slovenly and untidy; her bonnet may be dressed in ribands, but her stockings are in holes, and her children are in rags. When a girl leaves school, or goes into service, she has to learn how to dust a room, or light a fire, or clean a knife. She has no knowledge of her duties; and it is for the purpose that such knowledge should be imparted to her that I should strongly urge the more general adoption of the industrial system carried out further, than to the sedentary employment of sewing, knitting, and marking. The minister at Woodchester states that, there are various bequests, to the amount of £47. for instructing *girls* to sew and read. This amount is paid in equal shares to seven dame-schools in the parish—almost sinecures to the old ladies—one has one scholar only. There is scarcely a good female servant, however, to be hired in the district; at any rate, not in proportion to the bequests. Every person acknowledges the extreme difficulty of obtaining a good domestic servant; and yet how easily might the child be trained, if proper means would only be adopted by those who undertake the important charge of piloting the young mind.

Infant Schools.

Relative to the good effects of infant-schools a witness states that he has observed the children at the factory who have been brought up at infant-schools are more acute and intelligent than those who have not had that advantage. He says they have more thought, method, and observation, as well as more aptitude. "Formerly," he says, "it was usual for the mothers to leave their children in the care of some old woman, where they would sit upon a stool and mope all day over the fire till the mother returned from work and fetched them home."

I now proceed to the subject of education, and statistical remarks thereon in the county of Gloucester.

I forwarded blank returns to every minister of the church, and to every dissenting minister in each parish, wherein I considered weavers to be located.

The returns were to the following effect:—

Number of infant schools.	Number of scholars.	Male.	Female.
Some inquiries concerning	Number of scholars whose	—	—
day-schools and Sunday-	parents are hand-loom	Male.	Female.
schools.	weavers.	—	—

The number of infant, daily, or Sunday schools, supported by

Endowment.	Payments from scholars.
Subscription.	Part payment and part endowment or subscription.

The number of schools of each sort established since 1833, and number of scholars in each, together with the number of children of hand-loom weavers attending such schools.

The number of schools to which lending libraries are attached.

The number of industrial schools.

The number of teachers who may have been trained in normal schools.

I further solicited information, under the head of general remarks:—

State whether additional means of education, and of what description are required. Be pleased also to state your views as to the disposition of the working classes for more extended instruction, or any other information you may consider useful. Also your opinion concerning the moral and pecuniary condition of the hand-loom weavers in your district, comparing them with other classes.

These papers were forwarded to twenty-one parishes, containing a total population of 63,189 persons. There are no returns due from the ministers of the church; four of the returns are incomplete. There are nine due from the Dissenting ministers; but the required information is, in some cases, supplied by the minister of the parish, and probably obtained by return from the schools of dissenters.

The following is a summary of the number of daily schools and scholars:—

12 infant schools.	836 children.	139 children of hand-loom weavers.
55 daily schools.	2877 " "	463 " " " "
Total 67	4743	602

Gloucestershire.
Report from
W. A. Miles, Esq.
Education.

With regard to the returns of the Sunday-schools, as there is a variation in the total number returned by the Church and by the Dissenters, I have placed them in tabular form.

The number of Church Sunday-schools is 28; in which 3979 children are taught, of which number 302 are weavers' children.

The returns concerning the support of the school, whether by endowment or otherwise, are extremely incomplete, and in some cases totally unnoticed.

The number of schools established since 1833 are two infant and eight daily schools; but I am not furnished with the number of children attending them. One Dissenter's Sunday-school has been established since 1833, and one Church Sunday-school.

There are thirty-one lending libraries.

Eight to daily schools.

Thirteen to Church Sunday-schools.

Ten to Dissenting Sunday-schools.

There are three industrial schools.

Six teachers in the daily schools have been trained in a normal school.

Relative to the opinions of the clergymen and Dissenting ministers and others, as to whether additional means of education are considered desirable, &c., as well as their opinions concerning the condition of the hand-loom weavers, I have received various communications which may be deemed important, and which will subsequently appear in these pages.

The information afforded me is numerically as follows:—three ministers consider the present means of education to be sufficient; ten consider extension of education desirable in their parishes; fourteen ministers bear evidence to the depressed condition of the weavers, and that poverty precludes their children from the benefits of education; four state that the weavers are a moral and well-conducted class; one speaks of their drunken and immoral conduct; four consider that the weavers are either averse or apathetic concerning education; one that they are desirous for it; and four ministers very strongly deprecate the evil tendency of beer-houses.

Mr. Charles Stanton, a manufacturer, stated, that he has noticed a great indifference concerning education, not only among the weavers, but among all classes of factory people; and he considers that the working people do not sufficiently value the means of instruction afforded to them.

By returns obtained from visits made from house to house of 1125 out-door weavers, I find the total number of children to be 2824; and that 272 of that number receive daily education. Then I find that the gross total of hand-loom weavers' children in the country receiving daily tuition is 602; so that the proportion of families who send their children to school might be presumed to be 2500; but the total number of weavers' families is about 3000; so that about 500 families do not avail themselves of education for their offspring, most probably owing to the extreme poverty of the district, and fully corroborating the abundant testimonies I have obtained as to that depression.

I beg to call your attention to the fact proved by the following table, whereby it will be seen that low wages induce a proportionate deficiency of education among the poorer classes.

The average amount of wages earned by the families, say five in a family, is 10s. per week; that is to say, of the fourteen parishes in this schedule. It will be also seen that the average number on the whole population receiving education in twenty parishes is one in thirteen.

The averages of earnings are 10s.; the average of education is one in thirteen.

Of the fourteen parishes where I have been enabled to ascertain the wages from actual inquiry from house to house, and which appear in the schedule, it will be seen that the wages in seven parishes are above the average of wages, and that seven are below that average.

The effect of this upon education is, that in the seven parishes where wages

488 REPORTS FROM ASSISTANT COMMISSIONERS,

Gloucestershire.
Report from
W. A. Miles, Esq.
EDUCATION.

are higher, five educate more than one in thirteen; and in those parishes where wages are lower than the average, five educate less than one in thirteen.

SCHEDULE of PARISHES in reference to WAGES and EDUCATION.

Average wages of a family, 5 in number, 10s.

Average number, on the total population in Gloucestershire, receiving education, 1 in 13.

Wages in refer-
ence to education.

Parish.	Popu- lation.	Educated.	Wages.	Parish.	Popu- lation.	Educated.	Wages.
			s. d.				s. d.
Avening . .	2396	1 in 18	7 0	Nibley . .	1575	1 in 27	
Bisley . .	3896	1 „ 18	10 8	Painswick .	4099	1 „ 14	10 10
Cam . .	2071	1 „ 17	9 9	Rodborough .	2141	1 „ 12	15 0
Cirencester .	5420	1 „ 12		Stanley . .	2138	1 „ 23	9 1
Couley . .	1124	1 „ 10	8 2	Stinchcombe .	352	1 „ 9	
Dursley . .	3226	1 „ 20		Stonelhouse .	2469	1 „ 7	11 0
Eastington .	1800	1 „ 14		Stroud . .	8607	1 „ 10	11 5
Hampton . .	5114	1 „ 10	10 3	Uley . .	2543	1 „ 11	8 10
Horsley . .	3690	1 „ 22	9 6	Woodchester .	885	1 „ 5	11 4
Kingswood .	1446	1 „ 17		Wootton . .	5482	1 „ 21	9 7½

STATEMENT of PARISHES in reference to the AVERAGES of WAGES and EDUCATION.

Average of Wages, 10s.

Average number receiving education in the weaving districts, 1 in 13.

Parishes above the Average of Wages.	Wages.	Educated.	Parishes under the Average of Wages.	Wages.	Educated.
	s. d.			s. d.	
Bisley . . .	10 8	1 in 18	Avening . .	7 0	1 in 18
Hampton . .	10 3	1 „ 10	Cam . . .	9 9	1 „ 17
Painswick . .	10 10	1 „ 14	Couley . . .	8 2	1 „ 10
Rodborough .	15 0	1 „ 12	Horsley . . .	9 6	1 „ 22
Stonelhouse .	11 0	1 „ 7	Stanley . . .	9 1	1 „ 23
Stroud . . .	11 5	1 „ 10	Uley . . .	8 10	1 „ 11
Woodchester .	11 4	1 „ 6	Wootton . .	9 7½	1 „ 21

I now submit, in a tabular form, the returns supplied to me from the Clergymen of the different parishes, and to which I have already alluded.

Gloucestershire.
Report from
W. A. Miles, Esq.
Education.

NAME OF PARISH.	Population.	Infant Schools.				Daily Schools.				Total Number of Schools.		Total Number of Children receiving Daily Education.		Total of Children receiving Daily Education.	Total of Hand-Loom Weavers' Children.	Number of Schools in which teaching is carried on by teachers attached to Normal Schools.		Number of Industrial Schools.	Number of Teachers trained in Normal Schools.	
		Number of Infant Schools.	Number of Children.		Number of Children of Hand-Loom Weavers.	Total.	Number of Daily Schools.	Number of Children.		Total.	Infant.	Daily.	Boys.			Girls.	Infant.			Daily.
			Boys.	Girls.				Boys.	Girls.											
Avon	2,396	..	..	..	..	1	68	63	..	131	..	1	5	63	131	..	..	..	1
Bisley	5,896	..	..	..	..	5	171	97	20	265	..	..	..	..	320	..	..	..	..
Can	2,071	..	..	..	..	2	60	60	15	120	..	60	60	..	120	..	..	..	..
Cirencester	5,420	1	..	..	60	3	249	146	63	394	..	..	..	..	434	15	..	..	..
Conley	1,124	..	..	..	..	2	46	63	5	109	..	46	63	..	109	5	..	..	..
Dursley	3,226	1	..	..	42	2	120	..	..	120	..	120	42	..	162	..	..	..	..
Eastington	1,800	..	..	..	..	1	60	70	28	130	..	60	70	..	130	28	..	..	..
Frampton	5,114	..	..	..	..	3	296	217	50	513	..	296	217	..	513	50	..	..	..
Horsley	3,600	1	20	25	19	45	60	60	28	120	..	60	60	..	163	47	..	..	..
Kingswood	1,447	..	..	..	..	1	66	19	28	85	..	66	19	..	85	28	..	..	..
Nibley, North	1,575	..	..	..	..	5	12	30	13	42	..	12	30	..	42	13	..	..	..
Painswick	4,099	1	Incomplete	8	87	4	95	115	8	210	..	95	115	..	297	16	..	..	..
Rodborough	2,141	1	20	23	2	43	98	33	9	131	..	98	33	..	174	11	..	..	..
Stanley	2,438	..	..	..	..	1	57	50	23	107	..	57	50	..	107	28	..	..	..
Stinchcombe	352	..	..	..	..	1	21	20	..	41	..	21	20	..	41	..	..	..	..
Stonehouse	2,469	..	..	..	..	2	140	196	Incomplete	350	..	140	196	..	350	..	..	..	..
Stroud	8,607	2	..	..	..	5	367	247	84	336	..	367	247	..	336	202	..	..	..
By return of the Dis-		4	154	206	63	360	1	367	3	607	..	367	247	..	607	..	..	..	..
senting Minister		1	54	50	39	103	2	60	50	142	..	60	50	..	142	..	..	..	..
Uley	2,513	1	42	31	6	73	30	58	8	123	..	30	58	..	123	86	..	..	..
Woodchester	685	1	..	..	..	6	72	69	6	161	..	72	69	..	161	14	..	..	..
Wootton	5,182	..	..	..	..	4	137	120	30	257	..	137	120	..	257	30	..	..	..
	62,775	12	290	335	139	955	1943	1572	163	3877	12	55	1706	602	4743	602	..	..	..
			Incomplete.	Incomplete.	Incomplete.		Incomplete.	Incomplete.	Incomplete.				Incomplete.							

Gloucestershire.
—
Report from
W. A. Miles, Esq.
—
EDUCATION.

SUNDAY SCHOOLS.

[illegible]

For want of clothing and decent apparel, the children, in many instances, cannot attend religious worship at Wootton and other districts.

A weaver, named James Fowler, states, that

"It is the habit of the teachers of the Sunday school in the Established Church, to visit the absentees, and to know the reason of their non-attendance: he has frequently made these visits, and found that 50 out of 150 children, absentees, did not attend, on account of their wretched clothing."

The means of the weaver are so low, said a weaver, named Samuel Corsman, of Rodborough,

"that they cannot send their children to school; that they cannot attend Divine Service for want of clothing; and that even many weavers, in Forest-green and the neighbourhood, cannot, and are ashamed to, attend worship, on account of the wretchedness of their clothing."

Esau Burford, a weaver at Forest-green, states—

"That he has four children, all too young to earn money: complains that he can only send one child to school, in consequence of being unable to clothe them, and that they cannot get enough to eat, much more to find clothes for the children, fit for them to go out in."

Another weaver, named Dyer, of the Ham Mills, says

"That he has six children, three of whom are too young to work; two of them go to Sunday-school; and that he should send more, but cannot provide them with decent clothing."

A weaver, named Thomas Burford, of Forest Green, states—

"That he has nine children living; three are out at service, and the other six at home, in the greatest destitution and misery; that he cannot send his children to school for want of the means to clothe them; they go to Sunday-school when they can find clothes for them, which God knows, is now very seldom."

A weaver at Hampton Common, named Stevens, states that—

"He has eight children, six of whom are at home, five under fifteen years of age; that one of the children goes to church, the rest have nothing decent enough to appear in; he states that they are as barefooted as his hand, and are running about the common wild; he much regrets that they cannot attend Sunday-school, but, he observes, we are pawned and sold up, even to our bedding, and stripped of everything, in order even to find them bread."

A woman, named Deborah Lewis, a weaver, states that

"She has four children; two of them too young to work, and two that are employed; these two go to Sunday-school, the others have no clothes fit to appear in."

A weaver, named William Evans, states that

"Three of his children are educated by the kindness of three humane neighbours; they attend a national school; says he has not a penny to pay for any of his children in the way of education."

A weaver, named William Sparkes, stated that

"Out of a family of six children he educated four to the best of his ability, and as far as his means allowed him, and considers that the education they possess has been of great use to them in life; their good and steady conduct, arising from education, was the means of recommending them to persons in respectable stations in life, and thus, step by step, they have got on; the eldest is in America, 25 years old; left England two years ago; he worked at weaving till he was about fifteen years of age; trade then became dull, and he sought other employment, such as pressing, packing, &c., and finally went abroad at his own expense—that is, he joined three others, who made a common purse, and went to New York; he got work in a fortnight after he arrived there, in a manufactory, and is now at work, and continues in work; gets about 30s. a-week, and says it does not cost him six cents. a-week for beer, and has been saving four dollars a-week."

A weaver, named Thomas Payton, states, that

"He always tried to give his children what education he could afford, and that one of his boys so pleased the Rev. Dr. Williams, Rector of the parish of Woodchester, that he obtained him a situation abroad in a religious capacity; witness considers the benefits arising from education are most effectual."

The weavers at Wootton-Under-Edge, are, in general, averse to bring up their children to the trade; and one man stated that he would sooner follow his children to the grave than see them weavers.

A weaver stated, that

"In consequence of the depressed condition of the weavers they could not afford to send their children to school."

And, although there is a free School at Kingswood, a weaver stated, that

"He could not send three of his children there for want of clothing."

Gloucestershire.

Report from
W. A. Miles, Esq.
Education.

Distress of Parents
injurious to their
children.

Gloucestershire.
—
Report from
F. A. Miles, Esq.
—
EDUCATION.

Mr. Hooper, a manufacturer at Eastington, not only dismisses a drunken man from his factory, but he also requires his work-people to send their children to Sunday-schools. He gives to each child a ticket, on Saturday, which must be returned by them on Monday, signed by the teacher, on pain of being deprived that day, or the next, of work. There have been 4368 attendances of the children in his factory, and only 18 omissions.

The following is the form of ticket:—

SCHOOL TICKET.

Sunday, July 1st, 1838.—Harriett Burford has attended this school to-day.—ANN WARNER, Teacher.

Mr. S. Marling, of Ham Mills, has established an infant-school at the Thrupp, under the immediate superintendence of Mrs. Marling; and most of the parents employed at his mill, and residing in the neighbourhood, send their children to this school. He, moreover, discountenances licentious conduct in his mill, and dismisses from his employment any girl who might be pregnant. He has only had occasion to dismiss seven for such conduct; and men, whose conduct may be loose or immoral, are also punished by dismissal. The attention of these gentlemen to the behaviour of their workpeople forms a striking contrast to many manufacturers, who say that the best workmen are the greatest drunkards, and consequently are employed by them, without reference to their domestic, or rather undomesticated habits.

I subjoin the following letters—one from Mr. Wall, master of an endowed school, called St. Chloe,* the other from Mr. Price, a schoolmaster at Dursley.

Mr. Wall proposes institutions where the best English authors should be read publicly after the usual hours of labour; he further observes that the wages of a labourer ought to be adequate to his support and the education of his children, and that it should not be granted as a charity; his suggestions are best explained by himself.

"SIR,

" St. Chloe School, Hampton, 16th February, 1839.

Letter of Mr. Wall.

"I comply with your request, that I should give you my opinion on Education with some reluctance, because it is a subject on which, although I have thought much in a desultory manner, I have not formed any very definite conclusions.

"The use of Education is either to make the person more useful to the public, or to increase his own gratification; but the present complaint of the poor is the want of work on the one hand, and an inadequate means of subsistence, even with work, on the other: and I cannot see how the question of Education bears upon it; they are not now incompetent to the work required, and their state of privation must necessarily exclude much mental gratification: improved education may be suitable to an anticipated better condition of the labourers, but cannot relieve their present distress.

"I will, however, proceed to answer the intimated questions.

"Q. Whether the Education should be voluntary or compulsory?

"A. I think voluntary; because I cannot discover any compulsory mode that is not in other respects objectionable.

"Q. To what extent is voluntary education likely to be accepted?

"A. If no influence be used, the more needy parents will probably send their children to work, when it can be obtained, and to school when the employment fails; but where the parents are in better circumstances, and the children intelligent, the children will be sent to school almost constantly. It is probable that about half of those who had entered would be the average attendance, and very few would remain entirely without education.

"With this attendance, reading, writing, and the more useful rules of arithmetic may be generally acquired, while the more constant and intelligent attendants, might learn book-keeping, English grammar, geography, mensuration, and any other study suited to their peculiar prospects.

"Some persons imagine that music, drawing, and mechanics, may, with advantage, be extended to labouring individuals, and preserve them from more pernicious pleasures; and certainly. I have known examples of such persons acquiring arts and accomplishments under very discouraging circumstances, and thus obtaining much private pleasure and public respect.

* St. Chloe, St. Loe, or St. Louis School, parish of Hampton, founded in 1699, by donation of 1000*l.* from Mr. Cambridge, to be expended in purchase of house and land for the purpose of educating boys belonging to or born in Woodchester, or the tithing of Rodborough; the children not to be younger than six, and able to read before admission. The master to be a learned man and of the Established Church. The parents pay for books, and the gratuitous instruction consists in reading, writing, arithmetic, book-keeping, geography, and grammar.

Before the school at Amberley was opened, the number of scholars consisted of 42, and young children under the prescribed age were permitted, as a matter of favour, to attend.

The celebrated Dr. White, Arabic Professor in Oxford, and Dampden lecturer, had been a *Newbwick hand-loom weaver*.

"The languages are, however, seldom acquired to any considerable proficiency by persons who enter early an active business, and seem more suited to those who are to employ the greater part of their youth in study; but they are necessary to the public speaker or writer, as no person can understand his native tongue properly without the knowledge of at least one other language to compare it with.

"I think it a remarkable circumstance that no institution exists in England, at least so far as my information extends, for the public reading of the English poets and best prose writers; and I am impressed with the opinion, that institutions for this purpose, say weekly, in the evening, after the usual hours of labour, would elicit the excellence of those authors, make them better understood, more highly appreciated, and cause them to be more read at home, and thus give an expansion to the mind, and afford a pleasant, cheap, and innocent mode of employing leisure hours.

"The disputes concerning religious education are, I imagine, chiefly confined to the leaders and public speakers of the different sects; at least, I have never known the parent of any child, whether churchman or dissenter, make a *private* objection to an extensive course of reading or study.

"Q. At whose expense should the school be established?

"A. If the parents are to remain in their present impoverished state, the schools must necessarily be free, and established by a school-rate, but the far higher view of the subject is to enable the parents to pay for their own children; the liberator should be made respectable, and the education of his children should be part of the reward of his labour, and not given to him as a charity, if it could be made compatible with still more important considerations.

"Few schools in the country, where the parents pay, are at present sufficiently extensive to admit of resident branches of many different masters; those who teach music, drawing, dancing, and the modern languages, and sometimes writing and arithmetic, travelling from school to school, and teaching at each perhaps not more than two or three hours in a week; consequently, the knowledge acquired by the pupil is both expensive and superficial, and laid aside on his leaving school.

"I have sometimes imagined that in places of considerable population, establishments might be formed with the different masters in daily attendance, and made permanent by a small foundation to each branch, where a pupil might be taught to any extent required, for the usual price of one branch, or even less, so as to bring it within reach of workmen in good employment.

"Q. By whom should the master be selected?

"A. A single patron would probably bestow the situation on a favourite; and a popular election would give it to a partizan of the strongest political or religious party; instead of to the person most fit for the situation.

"It would perhaps be impossible by any general rule to procure impartiality in all cases; but the best method which I am prepared to suggest is, to choose him by a majority of a committee of say nine persons, but that the churchwarden, town clerk, or some such officer, shall advertise for candidates, receive the offers, and fix on the day of selection before the committee is appointed, and that the one shall follow the other as speedily as to afford no opportunity for a canvass.

"The committee may be taken from the school-rate in the following manner:—

"Divide the names of the payers into nine grades, according to the amounts of the respective payments, and allowing an equal amount of rates to each grade.

"From each grade draw a name by lot, and let the nine persons, whose names are thus drawn, form the committee.

"I remain, &c.

"EDWARD WALL."

Mr. Pryce, of Dursley, laments that the withering effects of sectarian zeal should be allowed to extend itself over education; he also confirms the depressed condition of the hand-loom weavers, and it is a matter of great importance whether some decisive measures should not be adopted to prevent the injury entailed upon the rising, owing to the low pecuniary condition of the present generation. The benefit of Sunday schools is acknowledged, and Mr. Pryce believes that, if these facilities were not granted, many persons would have no means of learning to read.

The following is his letter upon the subject:—

"SIR,

"Dursley, November 13th, 1838.

"The subject of education upon which you request my sentiments is one of those questions which has been rendered somewhat difficult, in proportion as it has been encouraged or retarded by the interest or selfishness of party; hence, while in religion and politics we perceive its baneful influence in the animosity enkindled by sectarian zeal and contending factions, so on the subject of education it is to be lamented that the same spirit is permitted to extend its withering hand over the best interests of the rising generation. But disclaiming all party views and feelings I beg to assure you, that I come to the question without the

Gloucestershire.

Report from
W. A. Miles, Esq.
Education.

Mr. Wall's letter.

Mr. Pryce's letter.

W A Miles ~ Hand-Loom
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Gloucestershire.

Report from
W. A. Miles, Esq.

Education.

Letter of Mr. Pryce.

slightest bias in favour of the opinions advanced by any individual to communicate to you my own decided convictions upon the subject of education, which has been matured by nearly twenty years' experience as a teacher of the young.

"That there is a lamentable deficiency of instruction afforded to the children of the poor is a fact which I think cannot be denied by any impartial observer, and I also think that, as a nation, we ought to take shame to ourselves that, in this particular, we have permitted our Continental neighbours to be in advance of us. If we refer to Scotland also, we find among its peasantry a degree of intelligence which cannot but excite the astonishment of those who are not acquainted with the religious and moral cultivation bestowed upon their minds in the period of youth; in short, a comparison between the lower classes of the community in England and Scotland can scarcely be instituted, for the latter rises immeasurably above the former both in intelligence and, I may say, moral worth; and all this is the result of education, a fact which is fully borne out by even English authorities. While the English labourer, whether he be engaged in the factory, the cultivation of the soil, or in almost any other branch of trade, is too frequently sunk, through the operation of an active spirit upon an uncultivated mind, into the lowest depths of a debasing and brutalizing sensuality, the Scottish peasant rises superior to the vices which degrade human nature, and stands boldly forth, a living example of the power with which early culture enables him to withstand the ordinary temptations to vice and profligacy which beset his path, in common with the peasantry of other countries, and to achieve a victory over himself in the mastery of his natural propensity to evil, greater than that of him who taketh a city.

"Upon inquiry I find that, in consequence of the small earnings of the hand-loom weavers, those who are by any means enabled to send their children to school, can do so but for a very limited time, as they are compelled to remove them to assist in supporting the family, just at the time likely to be most useful to them, when their minds will most readily receive impressions of good or evil. The consequence of this is evident, for as they are immediately brought into contact with men, often of the most depraved habits, so they as readily imitate their opinions, copy their example, and cherish a love for practices which are ruinous in the extreme. Happily there are exceptions, otherwise the labouring poor would be sunk almost beyond the hope of rescue. They have, indeed, large claims upon our sympathy, and it behoves the legislature to adopt some remedy for this mighty evil and speedily remove this blot upon our national character. Whether it can be done without, at the same time, devising some means for compelling parents to send their children to be educated till they arrive at a certain age, I am not prepared to say; but that the instruction of the children of the labouring population is a subject demanding the immediate attention of the Government I am fully prepared to maintain. It is my firm conviction that were it not for Sunday schools, not one in ten of the children of our hand-loom weavers, and the lower class generally, would ever be able to read the word of God; and if most of these seminaries for the young did not hold out to their pupils some little instruction in writing as a reward, they would never acquire a sufficient knowledge of letters to be able to write even their own names. It is true we have day schools for the instruction of youth, where they might obtain at least the rudiments of an education; but either from the operation of low wages, or the depravity of the parents, the opportunity is not embraced with a readiness which argues much in favour of the poor.

"My opinion of the 'moral condition' of the lower class of the people may be gathered from what I have already said. It is truly distressing to witness the poverty of many a family in this neighbourhood, and the consequent ignorance of the younger branches, whose squalid appearance betoken in some degree the nature of their privations. It might be supposed that from their situation in life, the hand-loom weavers ought to be able to support themselves and families in comparative comfort, but is this not the case; for, either from the grinding oppression of their masters, or the falling off in their trade, or both, they are so much reduced as, in many instances, to be scarcely able to provide the means of subsistence for those dependent on them, and altogether unable to give their children even a shadow of an education; and they are, consequently, not infrequently left to follow the bent of their own depraved inclinations, which lead them to the commission of crime for which they are often banished the country. I am quite satisfied that if there was more education diffused amongst the people there would be less crime in the country; and I have no hesitation in saying that if the poor were better instructed, they would feel a degree of honest pride in keeping themselves above the low and grovelling vices engendered by ignorance, and would be led to cultivate a desire to imitate whatever is 'lovely and of good report' among their fellows; our jails would have fewer inmates, and the taxes on the community at large for the support of paupers would be much lighter than they now are. I by no means expect a state of perfect innocence and happiness consequent on the general diffusion of education; but I do expect that the condition of the poor would be ameliorated beyond any thing we can at present contemplate.

"Such, Sir, is in few words my opinion of the condition of the hand-loom weavers, and of the generality of the poor in this neighbourhood. With regard to schools we have in Dursley, beside two seminaries for the education of the upper classes, one on the national system, where a penny a-week is required of each pupil, and another quite free, which is supported by Dissenters, and is conducted by a minister of the Independent persuasion. There are also four Sunday schools in the town. The following table will show the number of children in each of them and how they are employed when not in either of the day schools

DAY SCHOOLS.

National, Boys	86	} 154, total.
" Girls	68	
Back Street (Independent), Boys only	30	

Gloucestershire.

Report from
W. A. Miles, Esq.

EDUCATION.

SUNDAY SCHOOLS.

Letter of Mr. Pryce.

	Number of Children.		Total.	Number working in Factories, or at Wire-setting for Cardmakers.	Number attending Day-Schools.	Number working as Labourers, Shoemakers, &c.
	Boys.	Girls.				
National	130	69	199	140	20	39
Wesleyan	61	84	145	36	40	69
Tabernacle	70	90	160	40	50	70
Boulton (Independent)	62	115	177	60	23	94

"N.B. The day scholars in the national schools are, many of them, to be found in the Sunday schools of the Dissenters, where they attend regularly. None of the pupils in the national day schools are fourteen years of age; but I saw some there on Sunday last that could not have been less than sixteen, and one or two at least twenty.

"In the system of education pursued in the national schools there is, I think, a decided defect. The catechetical portion of their instruction is not sufficiently comprehensive; the questions of the master and the answers of his pupils are too formal and admit of little variation; while, on the contrary, in the schools on the British system the interrogatory part is infinitely superior, giving full scope to the mental powers of the masters, and eliciting answers from the pupil calculated to astonish and delight their hearers; and these, upon a vast variety of subjects, connected with their future well-being in society. If the Government intend adopting 'a system of general national education, combined with sound religious instruction,' there is none with which I am acquainted that will bear comparison with the British and Foreign system, which affords instruction to the children of all denominations without respect to sect or party.

"I have the honour to be, Sir,

"Your most obedient servant,

"W. A. Miles, Esq.

"&c. &c. &c."

"GEORGE PRYCE."

Mr. Samuel Marling, of the Ham Mills, has favoured me with his opinions in the following letter; and one important feature is the stress he lays upon the benefit of a training school. I have often observed that when men, however ignorant, may have failed in any pursuit and calling, they adopt as a last resource the calling of a schoolmaster, and to such persons the interests of the rising generation are too often consigned.

"DEAR SIR,

"Ham Mills, March 20th, 1839.

"I ACCEDE with pleasure to your request of giving you an outline of my ideas on the subject of the education of the labouring classes. Happily its importance is now admitted by all, and the present question is not, whether they shall be educated, but in *what manner*, and by *what means*, and I sincerely trust that will soon be determined by the introduction of some comprehensive and effectual scheme.

Mr. S. Marling's letter.

"I am fully persuaded that the inquiries you have been making in this district, relative to one particular class of labourers, have proved, that for that class especially, and indeed for *all*, a sound system of education adapted to fit the rising generation for their respective stations, is imperatively and immediately required.

"The system of education adapted in our common schools should have a reference to our social condition, as a manufacturing, agricultural, and commercial people; to our peculiar geographical situation and political relation. Our territory at home is limited and occupied, but we have possessions in the American and Australian continents, which ought to be rendered an easy outlet for our rapidly increasing population, and an inexhaustible supply for their increasing wants. It is my opinion that, in not a few of our schools, as much of the elements of what is commonly called learning is taught, as can be necessary for the children of the labouring classes; but the formation of those habits of industry, and the communication of that knowledge of agriculture and the arts, which are calculated to make them skilful workmen, and good and intelligent labourers, is sadly neglected.

"I am deeply impressed with the absolute necessity there is for all education being based on the principles of the Bible, and would countenance no system in which sound, moral, and religious instruction were not made the foundation of every thing else; yet I must confess my fears, that there is a tendency in many quarters to attend to this subject to the almost total

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Gloucestershire.

Report from
W. A. Miles, Esq.

Education.

Mr. S. Marling's
letter.

exclusion of other very important and very necessary parts of education; not that too much regard is paid to the former, but far too little to the latter.

"There exists at present amongst all ranks of society, a general desire to promote the cause of education, and very much is being done by personal efforts and pecuniary assistance; but most unhappily, a spirit of religious sectarianism prevails, and exhibits itself in some of its worst forms on this subject, when all denominational distinctions ought to be merged in one combined effort to benefit the rising generation. Though this spirit cannot be at once eradicated, yet much may be done to mitigate its injurious effects.

"That the people are exerting themselves is a matter of congratulation; and the Government, in my opinion, will but promote the good cause, not by superseding these exertions, but by fostering, enlightening, and aiding them.

"It is with great diffidence that I would suggest any particular plan, but I may venture to say that a great improvement may be effected by the establishment of a '*Training School*,' which might serve two most important purposes, viz., the qualifying of masters and mistresses, and present a model of what a common school ought to be, the expenses to be defrayed out of the resources of the county. A committee or council might be connected with it, before which teachers in this and other establishments might be examined, and if found duly qualified, diplomas should be granted by the said council.

"Thus the first step would be gained, the next would be to induce the patrons, committees, or managers of the existing schools through the country, to employ *only such* teachers as have passed their examination before the council, of what might be called the National Training School. This, I think, might be done by offering to every school where such a teacher is employed, an annual pecuniary grant on one other condition, viz., that certain prescribed branches of knowledge be taught. The grant need not be large, but a moderate amount would be a powerful inducement to establish schools, and would do much to insure an efficient discipline in all schools which receive the grant; for I should further recommend, that visitors be appointed, and that those schools should lose their grant for the year in which the conditions were not complied with.

"In connexion with these schools, I think it would be well to have for the elder boys (if not for the girls) an *industrial department*, in which gardening, and the rudiments of agriculture *especially* should be taught, and as much practical knowledge in other departments of industry as might be found attainable.

"For this purpose an extensive plot of land would be required, where perhaps each boy might have his own allotment; in this I cannot anticipate much difficulty, as it would not be necessary to have the land attached to the school. In London it might not be so practical, but in all country places, and even in large towns, it might be effected.

"Some such system as this, I am convinced, is wanted. It must be evident to all reflecting minds, that in the present enterprising age, when changes and improvements in almost every department of our social economy are constantly taking place, the children of the labouring population should be trained to habits of *adaptiveness*, so as to be able to apply themselves to those new circumstances in which they may be placed; thus mitigating the painful vicissitudes which are frequently occurring, especially in our manufacturing districts. Extensive changes in any long established system, however beneficial in these ultimate results, can hardly ever be effected without considerable suffering to those, whose daily bread has been obtained under the exploded system.

"The habits and acquirements of those who generally emigrate from our distressed districts, are for the most part but ill adapted to cope with the difficulties which they must encounter in any of the colonies. The same training necessary to render a man a *successful emigrant*, would also render him a more useful member of society *at home*.

"After a tolerably extensive acquaintance with the state of the manufacturing population of this district, I am convinced that those whose ingenuity is most conspicuous in the culture of their gardens and in their other domestic arrangements, are the best workmen, husbands, and fathers.

"In these schools, too, considerable attention should be paid to history, especially of England; the advantages of our well-balanced constitutional Government should be rendered clear to the children; the instruction should be given respecting the laws which as they advance to years of maturity, the children will be expected to obey. Their reasonableness and equity should be rendered apparent, as well as the advantages resulting to all classes of society from their general observance. No one department of national education has, I think, been so much neglected as this; surely it is but reasonable that those who are to obey the laws should be informed what those laws actually are.

"But my limits will not permit me to proceed further into detail; but I must observe, that if the Government is to give any efficient aid to education, it *must have no respect to religious parties*. But in all schools a certain system of moral and religious training must be adopted, therefore, that must be left to the patrons of the school to supply that which may be most generally approved; and it is my opinion, that this branch will be far better attended to by them, than if controlled in any way by the public authorities.

"Assistance should be given to the building of school-rooms as at present, but on a more liberal scale.

"I conceive that any system of parochial or district taxation for the purposes of education, would work badly in this county, on account of the peculiar position of religious parties; it would tend to perpetual irritations and disputes. If the resources of the country will not allow of any large appropriation of money for aiding in the support of schools, some *specific* tax for

Gloucestershire.

Report from
W. A. Miles, Esq.

EXECUTION.

Mr. S. Marling's
letter.

"I am, &c..

(Signed) "SAMUEL S. MARLING.

Opinions of clergy-
men and others.

Avening.

It is only, however, within the last few years that they have been rendered at all efficient; the number of scholars is now increasing every quarter. I think the working classes are beginning to become alive to the benefits of education; because the influence of a religious education is becoming visible in the improving conduct and morals of the young. If the inquiries are made with a view to know whether a system of education would be supported, which included all denominations of Christians, by excluding any definite system of religion, I conceive that such a plan would not be encouraged by those who now support the school in Avonington.

"Avening is an extensive parish, and there are many hand-loom weavers there. A day-school belonging to the church is the only one in the parish; if another could be established among ourselves it would be desirable.

The minister of Bislev states that—

Bisley.

"I need scarcely say, that the extreme poverty of the people operates in various ways as an impediment to any attempt to provide additional instruction for the children of the poor, greatly as it is needed."

As to the state of education in this parish, so far as it is conducted under the eye of the Church, the following may be relied on as a correct statement:—

There is also a free school for educating 15 boys free of expense, in which school there are at present four vacancies. Mr. Brotherton, the master of the two schools has 6 private scholars. His number of scholars altogether is therefore 31.

Total number of daily scholars at Bisley is

[illegible]

The weavers are patient under their distresses; and he has seen fine specimens of Christian principle shining in the darkness of poverty.

There are three boys' day-schools in this neighbourhood; there is no systematic education, and he considers it absolutely necessary; suggests the propriety of national education in such a neighbourhood as this.

The minister of Cam says—

"I came only to reside in the parish last week, and being a perfect stranger as yet to the parishioners of Cam, I am able to give but very little of the information required. The hand-loom weavers in this parish are generally in great distress, on account of the want of work; with regard to their moral state I forbear to say anything, as I could not give information yet, which I could feel certain was correct."

The curate of Coaley says—

"As far as the branches of knowledge are concerned, which are essential towards rendering persons capable of superintending their own business and guarding their own interests, no additional means of education are required. The disposition of the working classes at Coaley is inimical to instruction generally; and it is only by adopting a system of patient, mild, and persevering exhortation, that they can be led at all to fall in with the views of their clergyman on that point. And with respect to those that profess to be favourable to it, poverty is the grand hinderance they plead; and a plea which might readily command the sympathy of all, were it not that in the majority of cases, both as regards the weavers, and other manufacturers, and agricultural labourers, that poverty is superinduced by the fatal propensity to strong drink—which is indulged to a most lamentable and heart-rending extent—and the facilities which the existing laws have continued to afford ever since the period of their enactment, to the idle, the drunken and the debauched, will, it is most seriously to be apprehended, swell the amount of the nation's responsibilities.

"So many haunts of vice and wickedness; schools where incipient vice is matured to crime, and infamy, and eternal ruin. Would to God they might be suppressed from one end of the land to the other. Would that our rulers may at length be convinced of the irreparable injury that the nation has sustained in the prevalence of these sinks of all that is horrible, evil, and devilish.

"If I could possibly compress into the compass of a single sheet all that I have known since the period I have, by the mercy of God, admitted into the number of the labourers in his vineyard, I am sure it would in the highest degree confound and astonish the senses of any well-ordered mind; instances in which individuals have been entirely ruined, and families been furnished and driven to desperation.

"It must also be borne in mind that the poverty of the class whose interests are now sought to be promoted, arise in great measure from habits of personal intemperance; and although, doubtless, the introduction of machinery some years ago must have tended greatly to depress the honest and sober workman, yet it is a positive fact, that it matters not in most cases what extent of wages may be earned, the majority will, as opportunity allows, spend the greater portion in the licensed houses for drunkards and dissipated wretches.

"To my own knowledge the father of a family in the parish has, together with three children, earned four guineas a week, and still the whole family have been in the most abject condition possible, entirely through his habits of drunkenness."

The minister at Dursley says—

I think, *generally* speaking, that the working classes here are desirous of receiving proper instruction, and our means for that purpose are rather limited, and we would be glad to receive assistance.

Mr. Harris, a manufacturer at Dursley, stated to me that—

The weavers are a steady class of men, but that many families for want of decent clothing cannot send their children to the schools.

The dissenting minister says—

"There are but few hand-loom weavers in the town. From my short residence in the town I cannot speak fully of their condition, but I should think them to be the worst off of any of the poor. I consider it would be highly desirable to have additional means of education; and from the great majority of the poor being Dissenters, it should be upon liberal and comprehensive principles."

The minister of Frocester says—

"A weekly school for children under ten years of age would be acceptable to many families in this parish. During last winter I had a weekly school, but was induced from circumstances to give it up at the beginning of the summer; but I hope soon to establish one on a permanent footing, though I do not think that more than twenty, on an average, would be able to attend.

"The population, though stated at the last census to be 414, does not now I think exceed 376.

"There are no hand-loom weavers in the parish."

The minister of Minchin-Hampton states that—

"An infant-school has been tried in the parish for many years until Midsummer last, when on account of the very small number of children, never exceeding forty, it was not thought advisable to continue it. Children as young as three or four years of age are admitted into

Gloucestershire.

Report from
W. A. Miles, Esq.

EDUCATION.

Opinions of clergy-
men and others.
Cam.

Coaley.

Dursley.

Frocester.

Minchin Hampton.

W A Miles - Hand-Loom
Weavers Report c.1839
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500 REPORTS FROM ASSISTANT COMMISSIONERS,

Gloucestershire.
Report from
W. A. Miles, Esq.
Education.

the daily schools. All the Sunday-schools are for boys as well as girls, except one of those connected with the church, which is for boys: this being the case with only the daily schools except one, there being of these

Two for boys and girls, and
One for boys exclusively.

Opinions of clergy-
men and others.

"Of the 513 children attending daily schools 380 likewise attend Sunday-schools within the parish.

"It is well to observe that the children of the hand-loom weavers who are receiving instruction, are almost entirely confined to one district of the parish: that the two daily schools in the town, containing 323 children return only 12 as having parents hand-loom weavers.

Minchin Hampton.

"I would remark that I do not think the great body of suffering poor will be at all reached by this inquiry: it is the whole manufacturing population, of whom weavers form a very small proportion, and not merely one branch, who are in such deep distress. Had the inquiry extended to this, I believe nine-tenths of our children would have been found to belong to this class of persons. The distress of the entire district is beyond the conception of any one who has not witnessed it: it was not only want, but actual starvation which was endured throughout last winter. Their condition is now but little better than it was then, except that they have not to endure cold as well as hunger.

"One step, which would tend greatly to the moral improvement of the poor, would be the putting down of beer-houses: they will be found in every direction, placed at the very gates, or even within the courts of manufactories, presenting temptation, and even forcing it upon the poor. Besides this bad influence upon the more steady and industrious classes, their general effect is most injurious, being placed frequently in the most retired spots as receptacles for the most vicious and abandoned characters. These remarks do not extend of course to those houses licensed to sell beer *not to be drunk on the premises*. These are as good as the others are bad, because they prevent a man sitting down and drinking cup after cup till he is almost insensibly led into habits of intoxication, and on the contrary lead him to buy at once what he thinks sufficient, and to take that home to his family like any other part of their provisions.

"The putting down of beer-houses, however thus desirable, will be found a very insufficient remedy for the overwhelming distress of this district.

"Emigration seems to be the natural remedy, and indeed, the only one that can fully meet the exigencies of the case. Even emigration must be conducted on a very extended scale to be productive of any real good, and from the favourable reports which have been received from those already gone out, I do not think there would be found any indisposition among the poor to avail themselves of this means of relief."

The petty constable of Woodchester states that—

"In reference to education in the parish of Hampton, that he made close inquiries of the parents, and that the answer invariably was, that the children could not attend the school in consequence of their destitute and ragged condition. There are many schools in this parish, and education is cheap, but not available to the poor, in consequence of the distress existing, not only among the weavers, but also among the labouring classes generally."

W A Miles ~ Hand-Loom
Weavers Report c.1839
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The dissenting minister at Hampton states that—

"Although a large number of children are instructed in the schools supported by members of the Established Church, still I think another daily school might be very advantageously established in our district of the parish, but the Dissenters here are too poor to be capable of supporting it. Many of the hand-loom weavers are Dissenters. I think their moral condition quite equal, if not superior, to that of any other class of the poor. As it regards their pecuniary condition, it is very bad, and is daily becoming worse in consequence of the gradual introduction of power-loom."

Horsley.

The minister at Horsley thinks

A larger infant school would be very desirable, as affording the means of preparation for the other schools, and allowing the parents the opportunity of obtaining work from home, both of which objects they appear anxious to secure.

Kingswood.

The minister of Kingswood says—

"There is wanted a daily school for girls. The endowed school here is designed for boys, but from the want of a female school, girls are admitted into it. I know not whether an infant school would not answer still better, but I much doubt whether funds could be raised in the parish for either, as the circumstances of the people are much reduced through the depression of trade. There is a good school-room ready for use."

Nibley.

The minister of Nibley says—

"I am of opinion that no additional means of education are required, but many children are deprived of the means already afforded them, from the great poverty of their parents."

Painswick.

The minister at Painswick states that—

"There are certainly wanted additional means of education, especially day schools; but the disposition of the working classes for education is not very encouraging to any one to

attempt such a thing, as the far greater part are altogether indifferent on the subject. Where religion has made an impression, there a desire for education is awakened; parents become anxious for the training of their children, and are willing to exert themselves to obtain it; otherwise it appears to me that if they do send their children to school, they do it more as a sort of favour to you, and the children are left to do much as they like, but of course their interest is not much attended to."

"There is no doubt but the beer-houses have done much to lower the moral and social feelings of the poorer classes in England; these houses necessarily prove places of real temptation to the poor man. Here he finds a comfortable fire and plenty of companions; he remembers that at home there will be hardly any fire and likely a noisy set of children; these houses give credit to a large extent, which is another temptation the poor man had not before. When there were only public-houses the people who kept them were more respectable, they would not give that credit that the beer-houses do, and they did not offer the same facilities and attractions to the poor man. Added to this, from the number of beer-houses, there are the unfrequented places in which many are placed, the law which limits them to *ten o'clock* at night is almost useless. It would require a regular police to go round the country to enforce that law. It may well then be conceived what favourable places for plotting crime and carrying it on these beer-houses are; for my own part I am fully convinced that no material good can ever be expected to be done to the country while they remain: and I believe that many a family, once respectable, has reason to mourn the passing of that Bill, as one of the greatest evils brought to their doors. You have only to place yourself in the situation of a poor man to see how great the temptation of such places must necessarily be to him, and when the father of a family once takes to drinking, he becomes at once a most thoroughly selfish being; all ties of family are forgotten, everything indeed is sacrificed, wife and children to obtain drink. It would, doubtless therefore, be a great blessing to remove the temptation to drunkenness out of the way of the poor person, and if they were thus taught to look for happiness at home, instead of the beer-house, there would be, putting religion out of the present question, more prospect of their being anxious about the education of their children.

"The first requisite, as it appears to me, is to excite among the people a desire after education, for which, at present, the greater number are without care. Where the parents are impressed with religion there is in general a feeling for the education of the children, that they may be properly trained; but this is not rarely found; one obstacle with the hand-loom weavers is want of money.

"As to the working classes themselves desiring education, I do not think they do, but that they would willingly remain in ignorance and let their children grow up in the same state. Religion, as I before said, making the exception; to promote education, therefore, you must promote religion."

The dissenting minister of Painswick states that—

Painswick.

"This parish is not so disgraced by bigotry as many; our vicar is a gentleman of liberal mind, yet it is highly desirable that some system should exist, to the benefits of which dissenting children might have unshackled admittance. I cannot say that the working classes are anxious for extended instruction, though, generally, they set a high value upon the advantages of *sunday-schools*. The number of hand-loom weavers has decreased much of late; many having been compelled to seek their bread by other means; hence the return will show a smaller number of hand-loom weavers' children than you will be prepared to receive.

"I think the hand-loom weavers of this district may be justly considered a moral class of men, perhaps, compared with others—religions also. Their pecuniary state is deplorable, and it has been so for years, though not equally so. How many have supported life, it is difficult to say; I know some, who, during the last three or four years, have not had work more than half their time, and when working they have not earned more than 6s. or 7s. per week. Their looms, too, seem to have rendered them unfit for other labour when they have followed weaving for many years. The condition therefore of many aged men, whom I know, is very distressing."

The minister of Randwick observes—

Randwick.

"Great advantage must accrue from a system of general national education, not however, merely combined with, but entirely based upon sound religious instruction; this can be only upon accredited Christian principles, and through the channel of the national church. The projected plan by which Christian truth is to be so frittered down, as to be satisfactory to all parties (a thing impossible), can serve only the progress of infidelity, and it will become a platform for the 'deceivableness' of popery."

The officiating clergyman at Rodborough says—

Rodborough.

"I have not distinguished between the children of hand-loom weavers and others; such an inquiry would be attended with much trouble and would issue in no good that I can possibly discern."

After this reply to the information I requested, the Reverend Gentleman continues to observe that—

"Additional means for securing a sound religious education to the children of the labour-

Gloucestershire.

Report from
W. A. Miles, Esq.

EDUCATION.

Opinions of clergy-
men and others.

Gloucestershire.

Report from
H. J. Miles, Esq.

EDUCATION.

Opinions of clergy-
men and others.

Redborough.

ing poor, are greatly wanted in this parish; their disposition to instruct their children has been much lessened from the necessity of the times. Where there is an inability to obtain for their offspring common food and clothing, it is folly to expect a desire to educate them."

The dissenting minister at Redborough says—

"My conviction is, that additional means of instruction are required for this parish, particularly day schools: under this conviction the congregation, of which I am minister, worshipping at the Tabernacle, have within the last twelve months built a school-room in a destitute part of the parish, intended for a daily and a Sunday school for boys and girls, and capable of holding comfortably 140 children; this school will be opened next month and be conducted on the principles of the British and Foreign School Society. I regret to think that the lower orders are not as alive as might be desired to the benefits of education for their children; the pecuniary condition of hand-loom weavers is most distressing, very many of them being out of regular employ. Their moral state is not so low, perhaps, as that of some other classes of the labouring population, such as those particularly denominated *labourers*, and out-of-door workmen, generally, compared with the latter; my belief is, that weavers are of more sober habits and far less disposed to violence and rioting. I should think them to be, generally, a more intelligent class than those above named."

Stanley.

The minister at Stanley states—

"That every child in this parish may be taught the first principles of our holy religion, reading, writing, and accounts for a mere trifle, and, where the parents are very poor, for nothing. In addition to this day-school instruction, all the Sunday schools are free; I have not observed that any of the poor wish for a higher education.

"The beer-shops on their present plan must be stopped; I am an advocate for the free sale of beer, but not to be drunk within a certain distance of the house where it is bought, except in the purchaser's own house. I state this because I have observed beer retailers erect sheds near their own houses, where their customers sit and drink, and the only way to prevent this is, by not allowing it to be drunk within a given distance."

King Stanley.

The dissenting minister of King Stanley observes that—

"Many of the hand-loom weavers' children will not be able to attend school in the winter for want of clothing and shoes, and several of them are now obliged to have their clothes washed of a Saturday evening, in order to appear at all clean on Sabbath morning, and often the children are not in time to read because their clothes are not dry; it appears that most of the hand-loom weavers are in such circumstances that they cannot pay either rent or rates. When the hand-loom weavers were permitted to work in their own houses, their condition both in a moral and pecuniary point was better than now, and I believe, when compared with the state of other labouring classes, it is far inferior to them. It seems that all classes now see the value of education, and would gladly avail themselves of any means of acquiring it."

Stinchcombe.

The minister of Stinchcombe states

"That new school-rooms are very much required, and a memorial was sent up last year in August, consideration of which has been deferred till the next year.

"There are only two hand-loom weavers in the parish; several who were engaged in that employment have gradually given it up, and employed themselves in agriculture or road-making.

"In this district, generally, the weavers are the most destitute of all classes, but are generally as well instructed. And, in general, I do not think there is any very great want of more extended instruction in this neighbourhood."

Stroud.

The minister at Stroud considers

"The means of education to be in reasonable sufficiency. The working classes do not appear, as a body, to value them as schools so much as in the light of nurseries for their children, or as affording them an opportunity for getting their families out of the way for the day. Their chief object is to get their children employed at the earliest possible age, and the school is relinquished directly an opening presents itself, the wages, however small, being esteemed as of more importance than instruction.

The prime want, in this parish, is not of additional means of education, but of additional employment. When a law was enacted, requiring that children in factories should have a certain quantity of instruction in school per diem, the manufacturers discontinued the employment of children subject to that restriction. The effect of this was, that the children were unemployed and uneducated too, for no responding number of admissions have taken place at the schools with which I am connected."

The dissenting minister, the Rev. J. Burder, of Stroud, says—

"It is evident, from the tabular view of education in Stroud, that the children of the poor have hitherto been dependent chiefly on Sunday schools, and the majority of them on dissenting schools. As a dissenting minister I may be thought a prejudiced person; but my firm conviction is, that the dissenting Sunday schools in Stroud are, for the most part, as much superior in sound religious instruction to the generality of the schools of the establishment in this parish as they are in the number of the children. Nearly 200 gratuitous teachers of good

character have the charge of 1100 children. These teachers, with myself and other ministers, meet quarterly, for the purpose of reporting the state of the schools, and of giving and receiving instruction with regard to the work of teaching. A large proportion of these teachers were once scholars in our Sunday schools. Most, but not all, the children in our Sunday schools are of poor parents. Some few are the children of tradesmen. Few night-schools, containing so much destination, have been so orderly and quiet as Stroud. I attribute this, under God, to the circulation of the Bible and other good books by the Bible and Tract Societies, partly to public instruction in our churches and chapels, but chiefly to Sunday schools. Our ministers and Sunday school teachers are a moral constabulary, more valuable than police, efficient and useful as that is.

"Still, I am quite of opinion that our education of the poor is, neither in quantity nor quality, everything it ought to be. I had the pleasure of getting an infant school established in Stroud 16½ years ago, and we are about to build a British school-house at the bastion of the town.

"On the subject of a Government plan of education I know not what to say. If a religious education can be secured to the population generally, without invading on religious liberty, I shall rejoice."

The minister at Uley says,

"I believe no additional means of education are required. I believe the working classes themselves consider the present means of education abundantly sufficient; and it is my firm conviction that the education of the poor on a more extended scale is neither necessary nor desirable. I believe all the children in the parish are receiving instruction in one or other of the schools. The population of the parish has been very much reduced since the census of 1831, owing to the decay of the manufacturers in the place."

Captain Slade, of Uley, states,

"That the means of education are ample at Uley.

"The school-room was built by Miss Shepherd; it has about 300 daily scholars. An infant school is attached.

"The schoolmaster, Ralph Ashmead, is a shrewd man; he went to Cheltenham to learn his duties. The plan is upon Stowe's circulating principle.

"Miss Slade visits the school daily.

"Education was neglected in prosperous times, as the children went to the factory, and the parents were much more careless of education than at present. A trifle was formerly paid with each child; the education is now gratuitous."

A schoolmaster at Uley informed me, that many children cannot attend Sunday-school for want of clothing, though they attend weekly school.

The minister at Woodchester states that,

"Although seven schools are supported by endowment, they were only endowed for girls to be taught to read and sew. The boys pay a small sum to be taught to read under the mistresses of the girls' schools. Those above seven years of age are entitled to attend a boys' school at St. Chloë, in the parish of Minchinhampton.

"If a classical schoolmaster were placed in every parish, or in every district, it would relieve the clergyman from the duty of teaching his own sons, which must necessarily occupy much of his time where his family is large, and his income too small to pay for their education elsewhere.

"Many of the working classes complain that they are obliged to pay for the instruction of their boys out of their small earnings. It would be well if the trustees were legally empowered to divert some of the income bequeathed to this parish for girls, to the instruction also of boys. No less than \$12. are paid to dames to instruct girls to sew and read."

The vicar of Wootton-under-Edge observes,

"Excepting our infant school, which is a very great desideratum, and which would have been established long ago but for the impoverished state of this once opulent town, we have schools sufficient for the instruction of the poorer classes. Most of those who cannot afford to pay the small stipend required, meet with a friend willing to assist them, and I regret to say that these opportunities, particularly with regard to the females, are not embraced as might be wished. Many benevolent persons assist the children whom they place in the schools, with clothing; and it would be well if we could do more in that way, as the condition of the poorer classes is such, that they are unable to procure proper raiment for their children, particularly of a warm kind, and hence the attendance in the schools is much worse during the winter season than in summer.

"The education afforded to the working classes is considered by them ample. The hand-loom weavers are not more distressed than the other classes. They sometimes earn much more than agricultural labourers, but are more frequently out of employment. They are not so provident a class of persons as farmers' labourers, nor do their children attend with the same regularity, probably on account of the uncertainty of their earnings. All our daily schools have most efficient teachers, and I regret they are so inadequately paid."

The dissenting minister at the Old Town meeting-house, Wootton-under-Edge, states,

"That the hand-loom weavers are in distress owing to the irregularity of their work; and that this is always the case with the weavers even in good times, owing to a surplus of labour.

Gloucestershire.

Report from
W. A. Miles, Esq.

Education.

Opinions of clergy-
men and others.

Uley.

Woodchester.

Wootton-under-
Edge.

Gloucestershire.

Report from
W. A. Miles, Esq.

EDUCATION.

"As regards education, Wootton is very well off, and every poor man's child can obtain it at the cheapest possible rate; in fact, there is provision for all classes in this respect; but considers the poor people do not rightly appreciate the means, either as regards Sunday or week-day education. Many, no doubt, cannot send their children for want of clothing; but, on the whole our schools are tolerably well attended; but this attendance is sought for by the teachers, and is not voluntary always by the parents. Can corroborate the statement of the Church Minister, that the poor get their children out to work as early as possible, to earn a little money for their support."

Mr. Long, a manufacturer at Wootton, stated to me that

The weavers are not deficient in scriptural knowledge or attendance at Divine Worship. The poverty of the weavers will not allow them to send their children to day-schools, but most of them attend Sunday schools. The children of most other classes go to school, and therefore possess an advantage over the weaver's child; knows that the parents, weavers as well as others, are most anxious for education for their children; there are schools at Wootton and the parishes round, but they are unavailable to the weaver for want of money.

Schools.

The following summary refers to the personal inspection of 14 schools, wherein 948 children are daily instructed; of which number I have ascertained 198 to be the children of hand-loom weavers, and about two-thirds of the number educated are boys.

It appears that the average period of schooling is only three years, and that the period of leaving school is from 11½ to 13 years old.

I regret that I could not carry out my investigations more completely, owing to want of means to employ some agent for that purpose.

Summary of 14
schools, containing
948 children.*Summary.*

Total number of scholars in the 14 schools, 948; of whom,
514 can read, write, and cipher.
582 can write, but not cipher.
621 can read.
82 cannot read.
268 cannot write.
Period of schooling is 3 years.
Age of leaving school is 11½ years.
183 children whose parents are hand-loom weavers.

State of Adult Education.—Shop-Loom Weavers

Adult Education.

The following is a summary of 195 adult shop-weavers, of whom

108 can read and write.
72 can read and not write.
15 can neither read nor write.

Summary of 535 children of 195 shop-weavers, of whom

135 earn wages.
60 attend pay-schools.
26 attend free schools.
195 attend Sunday-schools.

REMEDIES AND SUGGESTIONS.

Remedies and sug-
gestions.

My inquiries have been closely directed to this subject. I have sought with diligence among all classes for their opinions, in hopes of eliciting some clue for the benefit of the weavers. Various points have arisen during those inquiries, advocated by some and reprobated by others; the principal of which are as follows:—

BOARDS OF TRADE,
APPRENTICESHIP,
REPEAL OF THE CORN LAWS.

Candidly confessing my inability to point out or to recommend any legislative enactment likely to benefit in a sound and permanent manner the interests of the weavers, I respectfully leave the matter to your superior judgments.

Gloucestershire.
Report from
W. A. Miles, Esq.

BOARDS OF TRADE.

Every person (except a weaver) is of opinion that boards of trade are impracticable. BOARDS OF TRADE.

This opinion is founded upon experience; for no agreement or arrangement between masters and masters, or masters and men, either in reference to the selling prices in the markets, or connected with wages of labour, have ever held good in this county, or been productive of any beneficial results to the one class or the other. This is fully confirmed under the head "Combinations and Strikes," p. 448 to 457.

It is the general opinion of masters as well as others not connected with the cloth trade of this county, that natural competition and the rules of supply and demand, are and must ever be the most effectual law.

Moreover, a standard of wages in the fine cloth trade is doubly impracticable, because the material used is extremely uncertain, that is, whether fine or coarse, and moreover the make of the different masters vary, and the alterations are frequent, and it is therefore considered that these causes would bid defiance to any regulation concerning wages, even supposing masters and men would feel inclined to name and adopt a standard price.

It is in evidence under the head of "Combinations and Strikes," p. 448—457.

1. That if a rate of wages could be fixed, the men would be the first to under-sell.

2. At the time of the strikes, wages were forced up beyond the market value of labour, and the weavers were the first to prove the fact, by being the first to lower.

Mr. Wight, of Sheepscombe, informed me that at the period of the strike, 70 or 80 weavers came into his mill-yard requiring his signature to a scale of wages; that he signed the paper, and the men departed: this strike lasted six weeks. After matters were adjusted, and the scale was agreed to, Mr. Wright was astonished when the two leaders who required him to sign the paper, came to him and eagerly sought to have work, 6s. less per chain, than the stipulated price!

This fact proves there is no stability as to a scale of wages, and it ought to be a lesson to the working classes how they part with their hard-earned money to maintain such advocates, who live by the delusions they can create.

The weavers in Gloucestershire consider boards of trade would be a benefit to the manufacturers, and a protection to the weavers. The weavers, however, at Kidderminster view the matter in another, and, in my opinion, in a more correct light. The following is the reply of the Chairman of the Delegates to my queries:—

Q. Do you consider that any regulation to fix wages would be ultimately beneficial to the weavers?

A. *I, personally, consider it would not. I consider it would be injurious to the manufacturer and workman,—that it would ultimately engender strife between the two interests; I refer MOST PARTICULARLY TO MR. FIELDEN'S BILL: I consider that his Bill would leave the labourer at the mercy of the needy speculator in cheap labour,—that it would be his constant aim to keep wages low. It would also injure the manufacturer when there might be a necessity for a reduction; if, through the state of the market, there should be a necessity for a reduction, the manufacturer could not effect the necessary reduction owing to the enactment. On the other hand, should a rise be just and reasonable, the enactment would likewise prevent the men attaining their object; THUS BOTH PARTIES WOULD BE INJURED. I consider that the consequences would be ruinous to capital, and injurious to trade.*

Opinion of Boards
of Trade at Kidder-
minster.

The following is an extract of a letter addressed to me by the Chairman of the Delegates, namely, Timothy Exell, wherein, among other things, he lays great stress upon the establishment of Boards of Trade:—

"To Her Majesty's Commissioner.

"HONOURED SIR,

"It was with feelings of the greatest joy and gratitude that I read over the pages of your instructions, touching the distress of the hand-loom weavers of this county; which instructions you have carefully, perseveringly, and impartially abided by.

W A Miles ~ Hand-Loom
Weavers Report c.1839
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Gloucestershire.

Report from
W. A. Miles, Esq.

BOARDS OF TRADE.

"You have patiently and laboriously found out their real and actual condition, which condition is really distressing. You have, with the same promptitude, inquired into the causes, or imaginary causes, and the distress, and the causes of the distress, of the out-door hand-loom weavers, which I consider to be,—

"First, the throwing open of the trade, which overstocked the weavers' labour-market. Secondly, a combination of the manufacturers to reduce the weavers' wages. Thirdly, the introduction of shop-looms and power-looms. Fourthly, the lengthening out of the warping bars far beyond the proper measure that was long fixed by law and custom. Fifthly, the truck system has completed the horrid history of the hand-loom weavers' distress.

"I perceive, by your instructions, that the *third* subject of inquiry, which is the most difficult of all, is the means by which the present distress is to be removed and prevented for the future.

"I, as an individual, and the weavers as a body, in this county, have long wished for the Government to interfere; and I believe that a Board of Trade, allowed and sanctioned, would be a great benefit to the respectable manufacturers, and a protection to the industrious weaver, and prevent the disasters which may again be brought on by the low-paying manufacturers underselling in the market; and I perceive by your instructions that any person who proposes a remedy is to explain the means to be used to bring about the desired object.

"Therefore, I beg to suggest the following plan: First, that Government will allow the privilege of a Board of Trade to the manufacturing counties, and that Board to consist of a fixed number of manufacturers, viz. 12, chosen by themselves, to represent the body, and as many to represent the general body of weavers. The Chairman or President, to be appointed by Government, and the weavers allowed an attorney or counsel to plead their cause; and whatever wages are fixed for per ell or per hundred, shall be binding, for the time-being, on all manufacturers residing within the boundaries of the said county, and no reduction to be made by any manufacturer without laying the cause why he wishes to make that reduction before the aforesaid Board, and no rise on the part of the weavers without submitting the same to the said Board; and I believe that this will be one remedy towards restoring peace and prosperity.

* * * * *

"I remain, your obedient servant,

"TIMOTHY EXELL.

"William Augustus Miles, Esq."

W A Miles ~ Hand-Loom
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The weavers of the county of Gloucester have likewise presented a petition on this subject to the House of Commons.

Deeply anxious to ascertain how far such proposed measures could benefit the weavers, I called before me Timothy Exell, the chairman, and John Iddles, one of the principal delegates.

Timothy Exell considered that a board of wages would benefit the manufacturer, by preventing his neighbour from underselling him in wages, and that it would prevent combinations and strikes among the weavers. He thinks a Board of Trade would tend to raise wages; but on being pressed to show by what principle wages would rise, he says, "he never turned his attention to the plan whether or not wages would be raised." On continuing my inquiries, Timothy Exell acknowledged that the labour market became overstocked, that manufacturers availed themselves of low-priced workmen, that a low-paying manufacturer influences the wages of better paying masters. He then states that, in his opinion, if Boards of Trade were established, the high-paying masters would be more inclined to lower than the low-paying master would be to raise wages; and in reference to his statement, in the commencement of his evidence, that *Boards of Trade would have a tendency to raise wages*, and be therefore beneficial to the weavers, he must confess that his opinion is "somewhat shaken;" and on being asked if he thought the weavers would be benefited by the proposed plan, he said "he did not know that they would, and *he threw up the idea of a Board of Trade as a bad job.*"

He is of opinion that a Board of Trade, by interfering with the master, would tend to the introduction of power-looms. (He then suggested, as a collateral remedy, that power-looms should be curtailed.)

I found that no probable benefit could accrue to the weavers by causing a rise in their wages, but that, in all probability, Boards of Trade would tend to their depression, as the lower-paying master (who is, in fact, upheld by the public in proportion as he can sell cheap), influences the higher-paying master, who would be compelled to reduce in order to sell his goods. As, then, I found no positive good, but a probable evil, to exist, I further found a positive evil, and no probable good, in the proposed measure, because any interference between the master and his market, relative to wages of labour, would induce power-looms, and the weaver, with his palladium, would be dismissed.

Timothy Exell has already shown the probable position of affairs if Boards of Trade were to be established. The conclusion of my examination is thus :-

Question. Am I to understand that you uphold the principle of **BOARDS OF TRADE** as beneficial to a weaver's interest?

Answer. I repeat, as I said before, *I give it up as a bad job*, but the bulk of the weavers in this county are in favour of it, and I leave the subject to the judgment of wiser men than myself.

Gloucestershire.

Report from
W. A. Miles, Esq.

BOARDS OF TRADE.

(Here follows his signature to the evidence)

The subsequent evidence of John Iddles shows no better result in favour of Boards of Trade; and though he pertinaciously adheres to the system which he (as a delegate) considered himself pledged to support, the following is the conclusion of his evidence, when I urged him if he could recommend **BOARDS OF TRADE** as beneficial to the weavers:—

"It is my conviction that **BOARDS OF TRADE** would be *injurious*. I cannot get over it, or I would! Of course, as I cannot recommend them, I must abandon them."

His signature follows this reply.

I deem it best to submit the evidence of John Iddles, wherein will be seen the means by which he arrives at his last conclusions.

Evidence of *John Iddles*, master weaver, and a delegate.

Are you one of the delegates of the weavers?—Yes; I have been appointed to act on their behalf.

Have you read the petitions that were sent up to the House of Commons, concerning Boards of Trade and the Apprenticeship System, as remedial measures for the weavers?—Yes, I have.

Have you thought the subject over?—Yes, in some measure.

Do you consider first that Boards of Trade would be beneficial to the weaver's interest?—Yes, I do.

Will you show more fully how it would?—I consider it would prevent the manufacturer from taking undue advantage of the operative in reducing the prices, and also it would be the means of preventing unpleasantness among the weavers; it would also guarantee regular prices, and thereby prevent strikes and combinations. I proposed the subject to Mr. Maclean, a magistrate, and late a manufacturer.

Do you propose that Boards of Trade should extend to other classes of manufacturers?—I am not concerned in any trade but the weaving.

But do you not understand by Boards of Trade that they refer to trade generally?—Certainly.

Then the wages of spinners and others would be regulated by Boards of Trade?—I have nothing to do with spinners.

What do you understand by Board of Trade, whether it refers to the weavers, or to the Trade generally?—I understand the proposition, but I am not prepared to answer it.

Supposing Boards of Trade were established, do you think the weavers would adhere to the price?—Most certainly, if on the system we have proposed; that is, for there to be a sufficient number of manufacturers and operative weavers to enter into an agreement what prices shall be paid for six to twelve months, as fluctuating circumstances do require alteration of wages between master and man, it would be necessary for a fresh arrangement, to be binding for the time being.

Is the trade fluctuating?—Sometimes it is; but provisions are the same whether wages be high or low.

Do you consider that any restriction can be beneficial to a trade which is constantly fluctuating?—The period of fluctuation is uncertain.

I repeat the question?—Yes, I do. There is a variety of goods being made which requires, according to the different calls in the market, more labour to perform the work at one time than at another, owing to the fineness of the abb or chain.

What do you propose should be the standard of pay?—The smallness or fineness of the draft.

Does a manufacturer's *make* frequently alter?—Yes.

Then how could you fix a standard, a fixed measure, for that which is constantly altering; would it not in that case operate injuriously both to master and man?—What I mean by constantly altering is, that manufacturers are constantly altering their work and their draft; that is, we get no more for a 70 skein shoot than for 22.

How would you propose any rate of wages to be established, when a man's make so much differs?—*I don't see how any rate of wages could be established.*

Then am I to understand that a Board of Trade upon this point would be inefficient?—I believe it would be efficient.

I repeat again, how would you propose any rate of wages to be established when a man's make so much differs?—In reference to the hundred and the draft of the material.

And do you think that where make is constantly differing, that a standard of wages could ever be brought to bear upon it?—Why, yes, sir. Prices to be regulated, as I said before by the hundred and the draft.

Gloucestershire.

Report from
W. A. Miles, Esq.

BOARDS OF TRADE.

In what way would the weavers be benefited by the regularity of wages?—It would prevent the unprincipled manufacturer from taking the undue advantage which many have taken.

Am I to understand by taking advantage that you mean lowering wages?—Yes, that is what I mean.

Do you know if weavers are in the habit of underselling one another?—It has been the case.

And is it not sometimes the case now?—I believe it is.

Supposing Boards of Trade were established, and a rate of wages fixed, how would you prevent the weavers from underselling each other as they do now?—I believe there would be a unanimity of principle among the operative weavers, not to undersell one another, as they have heretofore done, if a Board of Trade was established.

Is it not necessity that now makes them undersell one another?—I believe it is.

Would not that same necessity exist supposing Boards of Trade were established?—No; I do not consider it would, because one regular rate of wages would prevent it.

How would it prevent the necessity which now makes them undersell?—Because no one would offer less.

That refers to the price, and not to the necessity, which compels a man: I therefore ask you how you would prevent this system of underselling each other as they are now obliged to do from necessity?—I am not prepared to answer that question, further than that if certain prices were fixed, the masters could not offer, and the men could not take it.

How would you prevent a master offering lower wages?—They could not offer it if a regular price was established, until there was a fresh rate of wages made.

What is to prevent his offering it?—He has a right to offer of course.

What is to prevent a weaver from taking a lower price if offered?—I don't see what is to prevent him, except it is the provision made by the law to protect him.

Do you not think that a weaver, if in great necessity, would avail himself of such bargain that he could make with his employer?—He would not be under the necessity of a bargain if wages were fixed.

You have, however, stated that there is nothing to prevent a manufacturer offering lower wages?—I don't see there is; a man has a right to offer what wages he thinks proper.

Then as wages are optional upon principle, what is the use of a Board of Trade? How would it be binding?—It would prevent the master from offering lower wages.

I must again repeat the question, how would it prevent him from offering lower wages?—I am not prepared to answer the question.

Do you think Boards of Trade would have a tendency to rise or fall wages?—Sometimes it would have a tendency to rise, and sometimes to fall them.

Under what circumstances would the tendency be to a rise of wages?—A good trade.

And what would depress wages?—Want of trade.

Do not good and bad trade at present regulate wages?—Yes, among some manufacturers.

Then by your previous answers Boards of Trade would be self-regulating, the same as wages are now self-regulated; therefore, what peculiar advantage would arise from a Board of Trade?—It would lead to an uniformity of price.

How can that be when you state that you cannot prevent a manufacturer from offering what wages he chooses?—If a Board of Trade were established the operative would not be under the necessity of taking it.

Do not men undersell, and will they not continue to undersell one another in spite of Boards of Trade?—They have done it, but Boards of Trade would prevent it.

How will you prevent a manufacturer from offering a less sum than that established by a Board of Trade, and how will you prevent a man from taking it?—I don't see how it could be prevented.

Then what is the use of a Board of Trade when a master cannot be prevented from offering less, and where a man cannot be prevented from taking less, according as his necessities compel him to seek for work?—I do not see that Boards of Trade would be of any use unless provisions were made to prevent the lowering of wages.

I must again repeat the question; how would you prevent lower wages, or a man from taking them if necessity compel him?—I give the previous answer, that I cannot prevent it.

Then am I to understand that Boards of Trade without that provision would be useless?—Yes; I conceive they would.

Are there not many manufacturers who pay very low wages, and are always glad to avail themselves of low-priced labour?—Yes, there are.

What is the cause of men deigning to accept very low wages?—Necessity; from too many on the ground they are under the necessity, rather than go to the union workhouse.

What does that necessity arise from?—Too many operatives for the work required to be done.

If Boards of Trade were established would there not be the same surplus on the ground?—It would be the case.

Then would not the weavers of necessity be glad to get chain as they do now?—I don't see but what they would.

If the wages are to be settled by Boards of Trade, would not the lower-paying masters be always inclined to reduce, in order to make the next scale as low as they could?—Most likely they would.

Do you think the lower-paying masters, if Boards of Trade were established, would be more inclined to raise their wages, or that the higher-paying manufacturer would be more

inclined to come down to the minimum rate established?—I believe the higher-paying manufacturers would wish to retain their price, and the lower ones must come up to their standard.

Does not the low-paying manufacturer influence the wages of the higher-paying master?—It has been the case to our great distress.

And would not the same influence operate with the lower-paying manufacturer in the case of a Board of Trade—that is, to lower wages: that is to say, if the lower-paying manufacturer's quantity placed him within the schedule proposed by Mr. Fielden's Bill?—Yes, that might be the case.

Who are the manufacturers in this district making the greatest quantity of cloth?—Playne, Stanton, Stephens, Marling, Davies, Hooper, Barnard, Hunt.

Do you consider that if the average of the wages of these manufacturers (as being the largest makers) were taken, it would be beneficial to the weavers?—Yes.

Do you not think from your own experience that the same influence would operate with the lower-paying master, in the case of a Board of Trade, to lower wages?

[Witness here observed, he would not wish to speak anything injurious to the trade, or to commit himself.]

I repeat whether the influence of those manufacturers who are inclined to pay low wages would not have an effect on the next schedule of prices, at the fixing of the scale?—Likely it might be the case.

What is your opinion whether it would or not?—If I give my positive opinion I must say it would.

Then is it your opinion that Boards of Trade would have the ultimate tendency of reducing wages, owing to the influence of the low-paying manufacturer?—No, I cannot see it.

Does not the low-paying manufacturer influence wages?—Yes.

Would he not influence the scale of wages, supposing he made sufficient quantity to bring him in the schedule?—Yes.

Are the manufacturers, as a body of men, more inclined to raise wages or to lower them?—They are all inclined to lower wages.

How would a Board of Trade tend to the rising of wages?—I do not see it would have any tendency to rise wages.

As you have stated that the majority of manufacturers are inclined to reduce, do you not think that a Board of Trade would have a tendency to the reduction of wages, inasmuch as the manufacturers will keep their wages low, in order to regulate the next standard of wages?—Taking that into consideration I believe it would be the case.

Then how would you propose to prevent that tendency to reduction?—I don't see that it could be prevented; I cannot propose any measure.

Then as you consider that as Boards of Trade will have a tendency to reduce wages, do you recommend them as a safe measure for the benefit of the weavers?—I should not like to recommend any measure that would be injurious to the weavers.

Do you consider Boards of Trade would be injurious to the weaver by tending to the reduction of wages?—*I must own then that it is my conviction Boards of Trade would be injurious. I can't get over it, or else I would.*

Then as you state that you would not recommend any measures injurious to the weaver, am I to understand that you abandon the subject of Boards of Trade as being beneficial to their interest?—Of course as I cannot recommend them I must abandon them.

Will you sign this, your evidence?—Yes.

(Signed) JOHN IDDLES.

Gloucestershire.

Report from
W. A. Miles, Esq.

BOARDS OF TRADE.

APPRENTICESHIP.

It is the opinion of the weavers that their earnings would be increased, and their "culling" protected, by a renewal and strict observance of the apprenticeship system; and a petition to that effect was presented, in the name of the weavers, to the House of Commons.

The chairman of the delegates, Timothy Exell, in a letter addressed to me, "inter alia," thus alludes to the subject:—

"A second remedy that I beg leave to propose is, that no person, male or female, for the time to come, shall enter upon the trade of weaving, without serving the space of five or seven years, and the stamp duty to remain at one pound; and that no person under the age of 14 years commence the performance of weaving, and that no manufacturer shall be allowed to take apprentices, as he does not know the trade, and no man, being a wool-loft man, or a foreman, shall be allowed to take apprentices under any pretence whatever.

"The object to be effected is as follows: 1st. To keep the weavers' labour market steady. 2nd. To prevent, amongst the weavers' children, the system of early marriage, which has been practised to a shameful extent, as there has been no rule nor order existing among us, as a body. And this apprenticeship system extending to all classes of weavers, power-loom weavers as well as hand-loom weavers, will bring into the revenue near 10,000*l.* per annum, and soon restore the hundreds of thousands of Her Majesty's subjects, the hand-loom weavers, to their former state of respectability and comfort possessed by their forefathers, and they would also become a great blessing to society.

"But, before I conclude, I enter my solemn protest against shop-looms, power-looms, long

APPRENTICES.

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Gloucestershire.

Report from
W. A. Miles, Esq.

APPRENTICES.

warping bars, and truck, which have caused the weavers to drink deep into the cup of poverty and adversity.

"With these remarks, honoured Sir, I have the honour to remain, your obedient servant,
"TIMOTHY EXELL.

"William Augustus Miles, Esq."

With regard to the subject of shop-looms, power-looms, and truck, I fully agree with Timothy Exell, that they have had a tendency to reduce the condition of the weavers, that is, of the out-door weavers. The long warping bars of which he so justly complains, are a downright fraud upon labour, not only on the weaver, but other workpeople, I do not, however, believe that these fraudulent measures are in general use. This evil, however, can be remedied by a power to be vested in the Factory Inspectors to regulate the bars to a proper standard, and to fine the offending master.

With regard to the system of apprenticeship, I am fearful it would not benefit the weavers to the anticipated extent, because the market would become stocked by cheap labour, for apprentices under the eye of a skilful weaver would be put into the looms, and by the time a youth had learned his trade, and required higher wages, he would be replaced by some apprentice nearly out of his time, so that few adult weavers would obtain employment. Again, supposing that the labour market should even become limited, and wages, in consequence, tend to a "rise," in consequence of this legislative enactment, the weavers would be injured, if this rise threatened to exceed the cost at which a piece could be woven by power, because the manufacturers would be induced to dispense with human labour, and adopt the steam loom.

The evidence upon this subject I insert at length, because it touches upon the time requisite to learn weaving, and elicits facts of import from unwilling witnesses.

Evidence of Timothy Exell.

Question.—One of the proposed remedies in your letter to me is, that no person, male or female, for the time to come, shall be allowed to enter the trade of weaving, without serving apprenticeship, and the stamp duty to be 1*l*. Will you explain to me how that will be beneficial to the weavers?—*Answer.*—As I believe it would keep the weaver's labour market steady.

Have you ever known any good resulting from the apprenticeship system, with regard to the weaver?—The apprenticeship system was repealed before I entered upon the trade.

Then as you do not know practically the working of it. Explain to me the theory of it?—It would make it more difficult for weavers to enter the labour market, thereby lessen the number of hands, which would make the weavers more independent, and without combinations and strikes would naturally tend to better their condition. It would also give a power to the employer of young persons to keep them in subjection, and thereby prevent many disasters which now happen to the young and inexperienced, whereby they have been plunged into ruin having no protector. Before they have known their trade, they have become their own masters, and at an early age they enter marriage state and are ruined for life.

At what age do young persons begin to take to the loom, generally speaking?—At 16 or 17, but they are not competent hands sufficient for a manufacturer to intrust his chain to; but I have known them intrusted with chain at 18.

How long does it take a person to learn the trade?—To learn all the branches, it would take seven years.

What do you mean by all the branches?—I mean plain felt, cassimere, ratteen (not now made), and patent twill (not now made); to take out, set to work, complete, and deliver a piece of cloth in a perfect state without any assistance.

Were you apprenticed?—No.

How long were you learning weaving?—I never learnt all the different branches to the present day.

What branches do you know?—I know plain felt, ratteen, lady's cloth, and six treadle or patent twilled.

How long did you learn before you were able to earn a maintenance?—Two years.

Did you go into the loom without being previously brought up to manufactures, or being about a loom?—I was always in the vicinity of looms, brought up from a child.

At what age did you go into the loom?—About 14.

And at 16 you could earn a maintenance?—Yes, with an overlooker.

How long do you consider it would have been before you could dispense with that overlooker?—I cannot exactly say, it might have been at 18 or 19.

At what age could a person be able to work a piece, taking it from the raw state and ringing it to the perching pole without any assistance?—About 18 or 19.

At what period must he have commenced?—I do not know, but think about 14.

Do you consider that a boy of 14 would have sufficient muscular strength to work the loom?—Yes I do; but not to be hurried.

Then am I to understand upon your own showing, that 4 years is sufficient instead of 7?—4 years is sufficient to learn; but I do not consider a person at 18 is fit to be his own master.

At what age would you propose young persons should be admitted to apprenticeship?—14 years old.

Do you propose that they should receive any pay?—Yes.

On what scale?—I allude to two sorts of apprentices, the out-door and the domestic. The domestic apprentice, I propose, should be fed and clothed; the bounty to be optional. The out-door apprentice to be paid weekly wages according to the terms made by the parties contracting. Bounty also, optional; in both cases I propose a stamp of 1*l*.

To whom do you propose they should be now apprenticed?—To a man who thoroughly understands the trade of weaving.

Have you not told me that not one in a hundred is a perfect master of the trade of weaving?—No; I said that 2000 out of 3000 are not competent.

Do you solemnly state that you believe there are 1000 weavers who do understand their business?—No; I will not take an oath of it.

What number could you vouch for out of the 3000?—I could vouch for none.

Of your own knowledge, could you find 20?—Yes.

Could you find 50?—Yes, I could; who could give instructions upon all the sorts I have mentioned, but I cannot say any more.

You are well known to all the weavers of the county?—Yes, I am.

Do you think that manufacturers would, if they could, for the sake of cheap labour, employ apprentices instead of adults?—Yes; if they could get at them.

Would not master weavers prefer apprentices to adult journeymen?—He could dismiss the one, but not the other.

Would not he prefer the work of an apprentice who has been at work 2 years, and enabled to work tolerably careful?—No doubt some would, but I, as an individual, should prefer a perfect workman.

Do you not think that such a system would tend to the preference of young labour, and the exclusion of adult labour?—I do not think it would.

Do you think that any body would bind a child to the trade of weaving?—Not unless there is a better prospect of the trade benefiting.

Do you consider that good weavers are now out of employ?—No, I do not.

Do you consider the apprenticeship system would have the effect of raising wages?—Yes, I do.

To any extent?—Yes; to a considerable extent after awhile, but it would be a work of time.

Do you not think that manufacturers foreseeing this would beset themselves about employing power, to the exclusion of human labour?—No, it would not be so, because they cannot employ a power loom without human labour.

Do you consider the power loom produces more than human labour in a given time?—Yes, I do.

Then supposing power could be made to do one-third more work, would not the introduction of it tend to decrease labour one-third in quantity?—I believe it would, but I do not believe the manufacturer would be benefited by it.

Is it requisite that the person, who attends a power-loom, should be a thorough-bred weaver?—It certainly is, unless he is aided by a foreman.

Is there not a division of labour in the power-loom?—Yes, there is.

Is there not a person whose duty it is to size, another to tie on, and another to set to work, and another to attend the loom?—Yes.

Is it requisite that the person, who stands at the power-loom, should be a thorough-bred weaver?—No, it is not.

Then supposing, at any rate, apprenticeship to be established, the person who stood at the loom need not be an apprentice?—No; I do not consider a person watching a power-loom need be an apprentice.

How many power-loom could a weaver, a legal weaver I should say, superintend?—I cannot say.

Do you think he could look after four?—Yes; I should think he could.

Then in that case, supposing there were 40 looms in a factory, 10 legal weavers would be the total number required to superintend the looms?—Yes, I should think 10 legal weavers could do it.

Then in that case, where 40 weavers are now employed, 10 would only be needed; are you of that opinion?—Well, I am of that opinion, if it refers to a factory of power-loom.

You have already acknowledged that the apprenticeship system might tend to the introduction of power-loom; do you think it, therefore, advisable to the weaver's interest to adopt any measures that would bring power into the district?—Yes; I believe it would. It would bring things to a crisis,† and remove the painful suspense from the weavers at once.

* He could overlook 4 or 40.—*W. A. M.*

† In allusion to the crisis above alluded to, in the last reply of Timothy Exell, he is not singular in his opinion; because John Cook, a weaver at Chalford, in reference to the present condition of the weavers, is of opinion, that, if weaving entirely ceased in the district, the population, at the end of six or eight months, would be better off than now; because they would not linger on in daily hope of chain, dragging out a miserable life, with scarcely sufficient to support it; but they would emigrate, or seek by migration other work.

Gloucestershire.

Report from
W. A. Miles, Esq.

APPRENTICES.

Gloucestershire.

Report from
W. A. Miles, Esq.

APPRENTICES.

Timothy Exell states that he gives this evidence, not as chairman of the delegates, but as his own individual opinions; and he called the following morning, requesting that a concluding sentence might be attached to his last answer of yesterday, relative to the policy of introducing any measure that might bring power-loom into the district, to the detriment of the weaver's interest; and his remark is as follows: he, however, states that he has not attended any meeting of delegates in the interim:—

"It must remain for the Government to decide whether the body of weavers shall be annihilated and ruined, for the purpose of giving place to power-loom, which I believe would not be to the general interest of the country."

(Signed) TIMOTHY EXELL.

Evidence of John Iddles, master weaver.

Are you aware of the petition presented to the House of Commons recommending apprentices?—Yes, I saw it, and I consider it very beneficial; it would prevent the trade from being overstocked.

Do you consider the trade is now overstocked with labour?—Not so much as it has been; but it is overstocked.

At what age do you propose children should be apprenticed?—Fourteen.

At what age could an apprentice earn his living?—Nineteen years old.

Would a lad of 19 be enabled to work at a cheaper rate than a man with a family?—Certainly he would; he would have no incumbrance.

Would not the manufacturers prefer having the cheaper labour of young men instead of adults, by reason of the cheapness of labour?—Yes; but a lad could not perform the work, he would not be so well qualified to perform the work as a man of maturer years.

Why not?—Not having sufficient experience in the trade.

Are there not many persons of 19 enabled to earn their own living by weaving?—Yes, if they are in the shop, and have persons to overlook.

Then would not a manufacturer be inclined to stock his looms with young labour, and pay for a person to overlook them, and be a gainer by the bargain?—If the apprenticeship system was established he could not provide sufficient number of hands of that description to perform his work, or to materially injure the trade.

Do you think if a manufacturer found himself crippled, either for want of numbers, or else high wages, he would introduce power?—Yes, he would; but I should recommend that the power-loom should be worked by apprentices.

Do you consider it requisite that a person should understand weaving to stand at the power-loom?—It is not requisite; he can do it without being apprenticed, with an overlooker.

Do you consider that power weaves more than hand?—Not so much, on some work; on other, more.

Can you say what work cannot be done by power?—Yes, the fine kerseys and the stripes; neither the finest sort nor the most inferior, by reason of the fineness or the rottenness of the thread, which cannot stand the blow.

As it has been already stated that the apprenticeship system might tend to the introduction of power, how do you consider, if the system were adopted, it would be beneficial to the outdoor weaver?—I don't see as it would, except there was a limitation of looms; meaning the same as it used to be. No person to have more than three looms in his possession, and the same limitation to extend to power.

Then you think that limiting the capital of an employer, and the quantity he makes, and consequently restricting the amount of wages, would be beneficial to the weaver?—I consider it would be beneficial to the weaver, as it would secure the trade to ourselves.

Do you not consider that if weavers were restricted to three looms, to be worked in their own houses, they would be inclined to bring up their children as apprentices to themselves?—It has been the case, and most likely would again.

Then would it not tend to the overstocking of the labour market, by the introducing so many young persons?—Yes, it is very reasonable, and it would overstock the market.

Then you state that the apprenticeship system would have two tendencies:—1st, the introduction of power. 2nd, by allowing limitations to exist, the tendency would be to the overstocking of the market. How do you, therefore, consider the apprenticeship system would be beneficial to the weaver?—I cannot answer that question.

Is it beneficial or injurious: how would it work?—I should hope it would be beneficial.

Do you think it would from your previous evidence?—No, I do not think it would.

Will you sign this, your evidence?—Yes.

(Signed) JOHN IDDLES.

W A Miles ~ Hand-Loom

Weavers Report c.1839

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Evidence of William Keene, master weaver.

Are you a weaver?—Yes; I was apprenticed.

How old are you?—Sixty years.

At what age were you apprenticed?—About eight or nine years old.

Can you weave any sort of work?—Yes; every sort made in this county.

Do you consider that many weavers understand the trade as well as you do?—No; I know there are not many who can. I can weave a sort of cloth in which flowers are worked,

called "Lappett work;" it was used for waistcoats, but none has been made since the time when George III. was first said to be deranged. The pay was very good on that work; I could earn 30s. a-week, because it requires more skill.

Do you consider it requires much skill to do the common work of the county?—No, not so much as the lappett work, but yet it requires some skill and judgment to take a chain, and put it to work, and take it back as cloth to the perching-pole.

How long would a person of moderate capacity be learning to weave?—About three or four years.

Would he be a thorough master of weaving in that time?—Yes, he would.

That is, to earn his living?—Yes, provided the wages paid by the master are sufficient.

Do you think the apprenticeship system would be beneficial to the weavers if again established?—Yes, I do.

In what way?—There would not be so many.

Have you ever known any good resulting from the apprenticeship system, with regard to the weavers?—Yes, until they were broken in upon by the repeal of the Apprenticeship Act; since which hundreds have got into the trade.

Then I presume it is not very difficult to learn weaving?—Yes, it is; they get into it as colts, but they do not half understand it; they creep on bit by bit.

How long was it before you were enabled to earn your maintenance at weaving?—Seventeen years old.

Did you then work without an overlooker?—No; I was not capable without some one assisting me.

Supposing the apprenticeship system, or rather your idea of the apprenticeship system, was acted upon, to whom should the children be apprenticed?—To the weavers, not to the clothiers.

Do you think there are many weavers who could teach, to whom children could be apprenticed?—Yes, there are sufficient able weavers for that.

Do you think that manufacturers would if they could, for the sake of cheap labour, employ apprentices instead of adults?—O yes, that I do.

Do you not think in that case such a system would tend to the preference of young labour?—Yes, I think it would.

And to the exclusion of adult labour?—Yes, Sir.

Would not the wages of young labour be cheaper than that of adults?—Yes.

Then if young persons are preferred to do the labour, the quantity of cloth woven in the county, in the course of the year, will be made at a cheaper rate?—Yes, it would.

To what amount of difference?—About as much as 4d. in a shilling. That, in my opinion, would be the effect of the apprenticeship system.

That is, I understand that, instead of 100l. wages, 70l. only would be in circulation?—Yes.

Do you think that would be beneficial to the county?—O certainly not.

Then how can you uphold the apprenticeship system?—Because so many should not get into the trade without serving a lawful apprenticeship.

You say a person can learn in four years?—Yes.

At what age do you propose that they should enter the loom?—About 14 is plenty young enough.

Then at 18 he would be on his own hands, earning money?—Yes.

Could not a person at 18 afford to work for lower wages than a man with a family?—Yes, he could afford it, but I don't think it proper that he should.

Have you not stated that manufacturers would prefer cheap labour, if they could get it?—O yes, that I have. There are proofs every day.

Then, if I rightly understand you, the labour of young persons at 18 would be more in request than that of old weavers, supposing that a lad at 18 is enabled to weave properly?—If a man is a perfect workman, he ought to have equal wages.

It is well to say "ought," but I ask you, would they not prefer a lad at 18, who could afford to work cheaper than an adult?—Yes, certainly.

Then the labour of persons, aged 18, would be preferred, if the work could be done properly and cheaper?—I don't see that.

You have already stated that a boy at 18 can work for less money than a man with a family; you have also stated that there are daily proofs of manufacturers preferring cheap labour; then would not the manufacturers prefer the cheap labour of persons at 18?—They would prefer any one, Sir, that they can get cheap.

Then would not the apprenticeship system, by restricting trade, lead by that means to lower wages, by making young labour preferable to that of a man with a family?—No, I don't see that it would; there would not be so many know the trade by being apprenticed; there are not many brought up to the trade now; low wages have checked that.

Do you still maintain, notwithstanding your acknowledgment concerning the cheap labour of young persons, do you still maintain that wages would be raised under the apprenticeship system?—Yes, I believe it would, because the hands would be fewer.

If there was a demand for young labour, do you not foresee that apprentices would be brought into the trade to meet it?—I cannot answer that, whether it would or not.

Do you not see that, if manufacturers foresaw a rise in wages, owing to the apprenticeship system, they would immediately resort to power?—That is very likely.

And what would be the effect of that upon the weavers?—It would bring them to the Union workhouse, for power is one of the greatest evils.

Gloucestershire.

Report from
W. A. Miles, Esq.

APPRENTICES.

Gloucestershire.

Report from
J. A. Miles, Esq.

APPRENTICES.

Then am I to understand that the apprenticeship system would be likely to bring about an evil, and send the men to the Union workhouse?—Yes, if power is not stopped.

Then do you consider that the apprenticeship system is beneficial?—No, not without power is stopped.

Then do you think that any good would result to the weaver's interest from the re-establishment of the apprenticeship system?—No, that is my opinion, unless power is stopped.

(Signed) WILLIAM KENNEDY.

With regard to general remedies in a larger and more comprehensive view, the following letter from Mr. Samuel Seville embraces many points of important interest; and in calling your attention most particularly to his suggestions, I cannot omit pointing out the expediency and utility of the immediate transfer of the knowledge of any new experiments or improvements from the continent to the industrious capital of this country, and the consequent employment of labour. In reference to the inventions of the continental manufacturers, he observes, that "the French take the cream, and leave the skim milk profit for John Bull."

He writes as follows:—

REMEDIES and SUGGESTIONS for the increase of trade, or the benefit of the hand-loom weaver

—Opinion concerning the effect of boards of trade, local or general.—Presumed effect of any legislative enactment regulating wages, or interfering between master and man.

Suggestions and
Remedies proposed
by Mr. Seville.

"By local boards of trade, or enacting laws which would interfere between master and man, I do not think any good would result from either.

"I do, however, think that there are two or three sources from which considerable benefit would flow. The first I have already alluded to under the head of No. 1, the allotment system; and hundreds, indeed I may say thousands, of half-starved creatures in the parishes of Disley and Minchinhampton, (Gloucester,) might be relieved in the course of next summer, by enclosing and allotting part of the common lands, which are admirably well situated for that purpose. This would afford the speediest and most permanent relief to the hand-loom weaver, and many others who are almost equally in want.

"The second means of benefiting not only the labouring classes generally, but opening a new source of wealth to the clothing districts of this country, would be the completion of the Cheltenham and Great Western Union Railway; which had it been begun when the "Act" was first obtained, might nearly or quite have been finished by this time.

"I have never heard a good excuse for not beginning it at first—the right moment. The subscription list was full, and the shares were for some months at a premium of from 5 to 7 per cent.; but now, although a new Act has been obtained to "alter and amend" the line, they are at a discount of 10 or 12 per cent. It is true that the Directors are going on with some spirit to complete the two ends of the line, viz., from Cheltenham to Gloucester, and from Swindon to Cirencester; the cutting on both which will be nearly a dead level. And it is also true that they have made a show of doing something in the middle part of the line, by sinking some shafts at Sapperton; but still the most *difficult* and *tedious* part is not touched, about four miles through the vale of Chalford, which would take at least two years to complete, and unless this be done, the completion of the two ends will be comparatively of no use to the clothier, or the suffering population in the borough of Stroud. If the whole line were finished, there would then be a certainty of coal on this side of the Severn, (by railway from Coal-pit Heath,) almost as cheap as the Yorkshire clothier obtains his; so that with cheaper labour than the north, and the depreciated value of water-power in the west, there is no doubt but capital would gradually flow into the neighbourhood, and this county would, in time, regain its lost position. A greater variety of goods would, no doubt, then be manufactured, and a cloth-hall would be opened at Stroud with a certainty of success. A market-day for the exhibition and sale of cloth, once a week at least, would be the result. The London houses would attend, and probably nine times out of ten return on the *same day*. This advantage of doing business in *one day*, would also belong to the clothier, in buying his wool and other articles in London. I consider this power of transacting business to and from London in *one day*, of very great importance to this county. Time is money to the tradesman, and there would be a saving of both, besides the advantage of getting an article in *one day* from the west, which could not be obtained in less than *two* from the north.

"There is no doubt in my mind, but the introduction of railroads will have this effect, that of lessening the stock of goods now generally held by the wholesale and retail dealers, and the natural result will be an increase of travelling to buy much smaller quantities at a time than formerly, and from the stock of the manufacturer. Still, fewer orders may not be given by letter, particularly if a penny rate of postage was established.

"But how does the West of England now stand in comparison with the North? Why, thus:—The line of railway travelling is complete from London to Manchester, and ere long will be so to Huddersfield and Leeds.

"My conviction, therefore, is, that the only means of affording relief to the clothing districts of Gloucestershire, and of Stroud in particular, lies in the completion—the carrying THROUGHOUT of the Cheltenham and Great Western Union Railway; that unless it is, these districts will virtually be railed off, and out of the market.

"I am the more anxious and desirous, if possible, to call the attention of the Secretary of

Cloth-Hall recom-
mended.

State for the Home Department, the noble member for Stroud's attention to this subject, because I think it a matter of national importance to encourage the *leading* manufactures of the Kingdom, to spread themselves into districts, where there is a large and scattered population, in preference to fostering them in concentrated spots, such as Leeds, Manchester, &c.:—places which, at every fluctuation in trade, are almost sure to become political volcanoes, of turbulence and contention, within and without.

"You, Sir, must be well aware of what would probably have been, and may be yet, the consequence in this country, if the operatives had been concentrated within the circumference of one or two miles, instead of about forty. Situated as they now are, there are many obstacles to their associating together and putting each other into a spirit of rebellion, against everything above themselves.

"Look at the Manchester people on the corn-law question; how they cried out—how they are still crying out before they are hardly touched, much less seriously hurt;—and this not because they have not been getting as fair profits as any other leading manufacture of the country, but because they have been looking through Time's telescope, and see that their profits will probably be less. What then may not be expected from these masses when a year of real distress comes upon them? It will only want a few such 'Lucifers' as Feargus O'Connor to 'torch-light' every mill in Lancashire. My decided opinion is, that as far as exports go, the cotton and woollen trade to the Continent have seen their best days, at least that the cotton in particular, cannot hope to progress in the same ratio that it has done for the last twenty or thirty years. Indeed, it strikes me as a mixture of conceit and ignorance in some of the cotton manufacturers, to think they can keep pace with the foreigner, when he sees all the best machinery of England being manufactured every day, under his nose in Manchester, for the purpose, not only of enabling the states of Europe to supply their own wants, but to come into competition with us eventually, in every market of the world.

"My reason for making a distinction between the two manufactures is, that there is much more skill required in the whole process of finishing most of the broad and narrow woollen cloths, than there is for a piece of cotton, which goes through fewer hands, and is much less liable to damage or deterioration. In fact, the manufacture of cotton goods is reduced to such a certainty, that machines may almost be said to be the manufacturers, rather than men.

"As to the condition of the labouring classes generally, and of the operatives in particular, my decided opinion is, that with the exception of some hand-loom cotton weavers, in Lancashire, and some of the clothing districts in Gloucester, particularly the parish of Bisley, which is now proved was almost entirely dependent on the East India Company's exclusive privilege of trading to China; the operatives of this country are quite as well, and in most cases better off, than those of the Continent, and are doing as well now, as at any former period of the history of England.

"My third remedy or suggestion, is for the improvement of trade in general. I think that the general board of trade ought to institute a sort of sub-board of trade, more particularly to represent, and in connexion with the arts and manufactures of the country.

"I am not aware how the 'general board of trade' is at present managed, but I have an impression that it does not embrace all the objects I have in view.

"I should say that men who have been, and are practically acquainted with *one* particular manufacture, but at the same time possessing a general knowledge of mechanism, with a hand that does not always want a veil, in the shape of a glove, a head that can take an extensive view of a subject, can trace effect up to cause, and from cause up to its probable results; men who from experience know that all the shades of falsehood, are all the tests of truth; who having tried what is wrong, are the more likely to know what is right; who have been something more than horse-wheel, counting-house merchants, manufacturers, or commercial men; nor the mere matter-of-fact plodding, money-scring man, who because he has made a fortune by attending to trifles, might say, 'I am the sort of man you ought to choose; don't you know, Sir, that I have succeeded in life? and who, therefore, so able as me to direct others how to prosper?'

"I know that it is rather difficult to find out the sort of men that I am attempting to describe; because misfortune has probably either clipped their wings and thrown them in the shade, or good fortune has placed them out of reach. But still such men are to be found, and ought to be selected on their merits, totally regardless of party.

About three or four such men would be sufficient to represent all the merchant, manufacturing, and commercial interest of the country. The manufacturing in particular ought to be well chosen, because the arts and sciences ought to be considered as forming a part of the object. One or two such men ought to be constantly travelling from England to the manufacturing states of Europe, to watch and make comparison of the progress made by either party, whether in goods or the machinery by which it was produced. But to qualify a man for such an undertaking, he should be perfectly acquainted with the best mode of producing the same articles in England, so that if he saw a novel production, or merely an improvement, or if he could not by a careful examination of the article itself, see the means by which it was brought about, he should then set to work, and by some means or other find out, and see the machinery. But it would not be of much use for a man to look at it, who was not pretty familiar with similar machinery in England; and he should know the parts as well as the whole. From having been connected with mechanical inventions, I know how difficult it is for a man to follow out the consequences of what may at first sight appear but a trifling alteration, or one of no consequence. But let any man go to the Patent Office, or examine the 'London Journal of Arts and Sciences,' a monthly publication which professes to give a

Gloucestershire.

Report from
W. A. Miles, Esq.

SUGGESTIONS AND
REMEDIES.

Mr. Sewell's Letter.

Scattered population less turbulent than concentrated masses.

Board of Trade.

Gloucestershire.

Report from
W. A. Miles, Esq.SUGGESTIONS AND
REMEDIES.

Mr. Seville's Letter.

correct drawing and description of every new machine, and he may see the account of one, ninety parts out of a hundred of which may be old, and yet, by the trifling addition, or even subtraction of one minor part of that machine, may produce a more valuable article. Still, when at first sight a person saw that so much of it was old, he would be strongly inclined to suspect that the thing was altogether a mere trick in trade; that 150*l.* (about the price of a patent) was embarked in the shape of a puff, for the privilege of stamping the article with the word "*patent*." Yet this might not be the case, for a single wheel, or a single tooth in a wheel, more or less, might produce a decided improvement. To corroborate this, I will mention a case in point. I know a man who within the last two or three years, has invented a novelty in a cider-mill; and I know parties, mechanics too, who have been to look at it, and they say that for the life of them they cannot see the least novelty from this, and other cider-mills, of the same kind, and yet they acknowledge that the effect produced is different, that the kernel of the apple is crushed, and the rind ground more perfectly than any other mill will do it. Now all the difference lies here—that one of the grinding or pressure roller revolves rather faster than the other, which is effected by one of the wheels having one or two less teeth on it than the other. This simple fact I think must show of how much importance trifles are in mechanism, as well as in the world, and makes me think that all the leading manufactures of England ought to be represented by a sort of 'commercial ambassadors.' I mean cotton, wool, silk, and flax, in particular; nor ought minor articles of manufacture to be left out of view; and as fashion has more to do in the present day with trade than may at first sight appear, I would not have fashion lost sight of, whether it consisted of an article for a lady's bonnet, or a button for a man's coat.

"This brings another case in point. A great many French buttons have lately been imported into this country. The material itself—the basis at least—is nothing but that of the horns of cows or sheep, &c., melted, and run or formed in a mould. These moulds are made to any pattern, and then the composition is poured in and cooled to hardness.

"It is true that our Birmingham men are now making these buttons to a great extent; but if a person of taste and judgment, one whose business it had been to watch these novelties, had been in Paris at the time they first came out, and sent over a few sample buttons, the die-sinkers of Sheffield and Birmingham would at once have gone to work, and made a considerable profit, which has now gone into the pockets of the French.

"It is on novelties, on fashion, on things that have '*a run*,' when they first come out, that the greatest profits are obtained. I have no doubt but that while cottons and woollens, permanent manufacturers were only realizing 5 or 7 per cent., button *weavers* were paying 1 or 200 per cent. to foreigners. The profits to a manufacturer, shopkeeper, or tailor, are probably three times as much on a new fancy waistcoat (relatively) as on the coat your tailor sends home with it.

"The good taste of the French in dress and trifles is notorious; and, as I have said before, a man of taste, judgment, and skill, would very soon see whether a new thing was likely '*to take*' in England; and by sending them to the fashionable tailors, milliners, &c., in the west end of London, and getting them started by half a dozen fashionables, the élité, the thing would be sure to have '*a run*' through all grades of society:

'Which takes from three to seven years,
Ere comet-like it disappears.'

My argument comes to this, That the French take the cream, and leave the skim-milk profit for John Bull.

"Some may oppose the appointment of this sort of commercial embassy, by saying that this has been done in the person of Dr. Bowring and others. But these are not exactly the sort of men I have in view. I mean who have been in trade, practical men; yet, at the same time, men who do not despise philosophy, and are aware that theory is the foundation of practice; men who are neither old nor young, and who could and would associate with those below them, and would occasionally, if necessary, put on a working dress to effect a particular object. This could not be done by men who go out with the '*prestige*' of official consequence in their *tout-en-semble*, in their faces, words, and actions.

"Others might say, 'Nonsense, the communication is now so constant and rapid, that what takes place in Paris one day, is known two days afterwards in London.' It is not because this is true with regard to men and letters, and '*men of letters*' do this, that my argument is wrong; nor because another might say, 'O there are people in trade always ready enough to catch at, and introduce any novelty that is likely to answer their purpose.' I admit this principle is always in action, but I still contend that the foreigner takes more of the cream than is necessary; that although the Englishman will eventually make 500 buttons, or more, for every five that are imported, yet the profits on those five will very far exceed the profit on a similar number, made as it were, at second-hand in England. Besides, why should not the French act upon the same principle that is constantly done in England? If a cotton printer has good taste and judgment, and thinks he has hit off a new pattern that will become fashionable in the spring, he is not in the habit of sending out half a dozen pieces, to see if they are likely to please; but on the presumption that he is right, he has hundreds of pieces ready stamped against the proper moment, when he sends them off to all the best shops in London and the country. The consequence is, that however much the print may take before others in the trade can get the same pattern engraved on the cylinders, the market is tolerably stocked, for of course the original inventor keeps working away the moment he finds that he has made '*a hit*,' that before others can come into the field, the butterflies may be gone and the fashion with them.

'The same system is carried out more or less in all trades. I know a 'house' in town, one of the partners is constantly in the Manchester and Huddersfield markets; not only watching every new fancy article that presents itself, but endeavours to see the original design, and even suggests his own ideas of what is likely "to take;" and if he sees what he considers a *decided* thing,—produced by a novel process of weaving,—a new combination of materials,—or a particular colour, he then engages with that manufacturer to take a certain quantity up to a certain time; but upon these conditions,—that he shall not sell a similar article to any other man in the trade.

"This principle of doing business is much more profitable in the long run, than wasting money on patents; not one in a hundred of which ever repays the cost.

"The sort of demi-official characters I am proposing, should, at least, know enough of the French language to make their way in the world. They might, or not, be under control, and in communication with the English minister at a foreign court. If they were, they might probably sometimes be able to give information which could not so easily be obtained through any other channel.

"As knowledge extends, so will the wants of mankind; I do not mean bread and cheese, knife and fork wants, but as well as the palate, those which please the senses,—the eye and the ear,—the charm of music,—the beauties of painting,—the arts and sciences, and the thousand other trifles which do, and will still further make up the total of human existence.

"Great events will not so often happen, but small ones will increase.

"Look at the city of London, and three parts out of four of all the towns in the country. Well might Buonaparte call us a nation of shopkeepers: we were so in war, and we are still so in peace.

"If nothing but the absolute necessities of life were wanted, what would become of them and us?

"I admit that we are a-head; the masters of nearly all the great mechanical inventions of the world; but by exporting those inventions, as we are now doing, they will soon be common. We must of necessity, therefore, gradually become more dependent upon trifles; and here foreigners excel.

"It is, therefore, to meet these changes, that I propose these demi-official, commercial agents. Men quite competent to the object could be found for 300*l.* or 400*l.* a year; but I would also, if necessary, allow them to call in the assistance of a good working mechanic.

The parties, however, ought to be men of character, who would be too high-minded to make a contraband trade of their situation, and sell the interest of their countrymen for the benefit of self.

"I could go much more into detail, but it may be useless. I have, however, a strong impression that 2000*l.* or 3000*l.* a year might be profitably spent in this way.

"In closing these hasty remarks, allow me to say that, if there should be any novelty in the plan,—if it should ever be acted upon, and men should be wanted to carry it out, there is one,—I know one, at the service of his country.

"I am, &c.

"SAMUEL SEVILL.

"Burley, February 17, 1837."

"William Augustus Miles, Esq."

Gloucestershire.

Report from
W. A. Miles, Esq.

SUGGESTIONS AND
REMEDIES.

Mr. Seville's Letter.

Artificial wants to
be encouraged in
the social state.

CORN LAWS.

Corn laws are universally stated to be the cause of serious injury to trade. I have the testimonies in abundance of masters and of men upon the subject.

There is a surplus population of weavers, and that being the case, I firmly believe that any alteration in the price of food would make no increase in the quantity of food that a weaver could obtain in exchange for his labour, because since 1820, wages have decreased more than 30 per cent., yet wheat is three-pence a quarter dearer (Vide p. 404). The masters would lower wages in order to carry on, as usual, their competition in the markets, and the labourer, in my opinion, would not be benefited, or permitted, by competition among themselves, or from other causes, to earn more money than would purchase a certain supply of food, whatever the cost of those provisions might be, either high or low.

The introduction of female and juvenile labour to the loom, and the use of power looms, have fixed the maximum of a weaver's wages, and he is not in the same position as other labourers in the market.

Nathan Oldham, a weaver at Chalford, observed that—

"Three years ago, when bread was five-pence a quarter loaf, manufacturers referred to the price of provisions and said the wages were sufficient, but now that bread is eight-pence a quarter there is no rise in wages."

"The price of bread does not appear to have any regulating power over the wages of weavers, although low priced bread is deemed a sufficient reason by some manufacturers to justify their low wages. I refer to the Tables of wages and corn prices, p. 404.

It has, however, been stated to me, that the foreign market is annually becoming more limited for sale of British cloth owing to the establishment of machinery and rapid improvements on the continent.

CORN LAWS.

Gloucestershire.

ALLOTMENT SYSTEM.

Report from
W. A. Miles, Esq.Allotment system
not beneficial in an
impoverished dis-
trict.

It has been said, and I do not deny the assertion, that the allotment system is good, inasmuch as it gives to the labourer "a stake in the hedge," and therefore binds his interests in the welfare of the community. This remark holds good where a labourer is in regular employment, and where his wages are remunerative in proportion to his labour, and where his labour, as long as he is well conducted, will be employed; but in districts where employment is uncertain,—where wages even when employed are scarcely remunerative, the effect of the allotment system, if carried to a large letting of ground, may induce the labourer to cling so closely to that stake in the hedge, that he will not seek employment in another field, and he will be induced to remain in a state of pauperism bordering on, or tending in extreme cases to, a state of destitution as deplorable as that in Ireland.

Thus, in a manufacturing county, as in Gloucestershire, the allotment can only be advantageous in those districts where the population are in a greater degree dependant upon wages than they would be upon their plot of ground for the means of support, otherwise the population, in a very poor district, would cling to their allotment instead of "beating out" for other work, and the land might in the course of seven years become impoverished, and for want of capital, care, and manure would become ultimately unproductive. Mr. Hall, of Througham, near Bisley, one of the principal farmers in the district, observes that the allotment system would only be a temporary aid and likely to entail pernicious effects. If there was employment for the men the system would not be required or would come to an end; but, as he remarks, in reference to Bisley, one of the poorest and most distressed parishes in the manufacturing districts in Gloucestershire, the allotment system, to a starving population, would only induce them to lean on it for entire support, and only cause them to linger instead of seeking other work.

It will be seen in the course of the following evidence, that it is proposed to enclose the whole of an extensive common in Bisley, and that the poor should have small allotments for their support.

For the reasons previously mentioned, and seconded as they are by the opinion of a clever and practical informant, I only foresee, under the present circumstances of distress, that the parish of Bisley would ultimately suffer by such a plan, and that the population would ultimately become, if possible, more impoverished than at present. There is not sufficient capital for the population, and *any plan which might bind the population to that district, would only tend to the still further impoverishment of the poorer classes, and the destruction or removal of the capital now remaining.*

The same remedy has been proposed for the parish of Hampton, and also for the parish of Coaley; but, if carried into effect, it should be in a limited degree, so as not to be the principal means of support to the poor man.

The principal object of an allotment should be to induce the renter to abstain from the contamination of the beer-shop, so that while labouring on his ground he would not only save the sixpence which he might have expended at the beer-shop, but he gives a certain value of labour on his ground, so that he would be a double gainer. Moreover there is the benefit of example to the children, who would be trained to early habits of patient industry, and who, in after life, would covet the possession of a plot of ground to occupy their leisure time.

In reference to the Bisley enclosure, Mr. N. Jones, a manufacturer at Chalford, thinks it would benefit the poor.

A document was presented to me by some of the weavers, proposing that—

"The common should be portioned out in 'lotments' to families in proportion to their number, and to descend, *by right of inheritance*, from heir to heir, and that every possessor should pay a penny per lug annually, to assist in maintaining the workhouse poor; and in default of heirs, that the minister of the parish should let the land to some other family." Moreover it is proposed in the same document "that the persons convicted of robbery, felony, or any crime against the peace of the country, or persons not diligently cultivating their land, should forfeit it, and that the future disposal should be vested in the discretion of the minister of the parish."

The plan above proposed would have, in my opinion, a tendency so glaringly injurious, that I presume I may pass it over. I have, however, done my duty in submitting it to your consideration.

The following communication is from Mr. Samuel Seville, who has taken great pains with his subject, and to whom I feel myself much indebted for the trouble he has taken in this and other subjects connected with the inquiry.

"Sir,

Burleigh House, June, 1839.

Gloucestershire.

Report from
W. A. Miles, Esq.

ALLOTMENTS.

Mr. Seville on allotments.

"Before I received the printed list ('heads of subjects') connected with your present inquiry, I had not given any particular attention to the subject of the allotment system, beyond a general conviction that it ought to be adopted and encouraged wherever time, place, and circumstances would admit of it. Wishing to have that conviction supported in every way I could, I have taken some trouble, not only by reading the best source of information, viz. the tracts published by 'The Labourers' Friend Society,' but also by personal inspection, and by written communications, to get at the merits of the system.

"I know, by experience, that the most useful things are often the most dangerous when improperly applied; that the same fire which warms, will burn us; that water, as well as support life, will destroy it; and so, but in a small degree, I find it is with the allotment system.

"The true principle seems to be that of letting to every labouring man only as much land as will occupy his idle hours, or the time of his wife and children, if they have nothing else to do.

"As a general rule, it may be laid down that one-quarter of an acre is sufficient for a family, though less will sometimes do, and three-quarters of an acre may sometimes be allowed. That carried to a greater extent, the labourer is apt to lean too much on it for support, which makes him a nondescript sort of character, neither a labourer, and still less a farmer. The least untoward circumstance—an accident, want of manure, or a bad season—reduces him to misery, and he is obliged to fly to the parish for relief.

"Knowing that the system had been carried to some extent in the neighbourhood of Uley (Gloucestershire), and that Mr. Harding, a surgeon of that place, had taken considerable interest in the subject, I wrote him, asking the following questions:—

My Question.

"How has the allotment system to poor cottagers worked? to what extent has it been carried; and if let at a farmer's rent per acre? and if not, what is the difference?

Mr. Harding's Reply.

"Not worked well for the rate-payers, having been the means of keeping many families here who would otherwise have removed; and it has been generally found that the allotment tenants have been amongst the foremost to seek parochial relief. About 40 acres, the average rental of which is 3*l.* per acre, inclusive of tithes and taxes; whereas the rental of the land adjoining is not above 1*l.* 10*s.* per acre.*

"From this reply, other questions seemed to be necessary, and I addressed another letter to Mr. Harding, asking if more than one-quarter of an acre was allowed to one family, or if there was such a surplus of labour that families attempted to live upon the produce of their allotments, coupled with a little assistance from the parish?

"Do you think the allotment system has been judiciously managed, and, if not, why not?

"Mr. Harding has not favoured me with a reply to these questions. I wish he had, for Uley is the only place I have ever heard of read of in which the system did not work well.

"You will observe, Sir, that the poor people of Uley are charged double the farmer's rent; if the allotments of land have been too large, or let to parties who have attempted to live on the produce, without labouring some part of the week for money wages; it is very clear to me, that the system has not been fairly carried out; and that this exception, whatever may be the cause, does not affect the general happy result of the allotment system.

"If you happen to have made yourself acquainted with the villages of Bussage, Eastcombs, Brownshill, Oakridge-Lyneh, France-Lyneh, and Chalford-Lyneh, on the borders of Bisley and Oakridge Commons, inhabited principally by hand-loom weavers, you probably observed how admirably they are situated for reaping all the advantages of the allotment system, and, by extending it towards them, it would prove the most easy and permanent relief. This might be easily effected, if the parties who may be said to own the commons could agree amongst themselves, and at once appropriate 50 or 100 acres in lots of from one-eighth to one-quarter of an acre.

"I mention so small a quantity as one-eighth of an acre, because every cottage at present has more or less of a garden: still there are but few who would not rejoice to get more. Unless substantial relief is afforded ere long, the population will be in the grave, the workhouse, or scattered over the face of the earth, and their houses in ruins. As the matter stands at present, if the mills that are now shut up were suddenly set to work, there would not be hands enough to keep them going, although, but a few years ago, there was an excess of population, and all the mills in full work.

"The first difficulty which would seem to present itself in extending the weavers' present gardens is, how they would be able to get manure for an additional quantity of land—enough to keep the soil in a healthy state of cultivation; for, unless the land is *fed* it will not *feed*.

"This objection is often made, and by some considered almost fatal to the system, particularly in villages distant from a town, and situated in a hilly district. This difficulty is raised by parties who have not seen what a cottager can do in the course of a year by having a reservoir in his garden—a mere hole—and throwing everything that goes into his house into this hole, when it comes out of the house; which, added to the leaves, stalks, and almost any other odd matter that comes in his way, will furnish a much greater quantity of manure at the end of the year than most people would imagine.

* This is probably a mistake of Mr. Harding.—W. A. M.

Gloacestershire.

Report from
W. A. Miles, Esq.

ALLOTMENTS.

Mr. Seville on allot-
ments.

"I therefore think it may be laid down as a principle, that if *everything* which is grown upon the land is consumed on the premises, whether in the house or in the pig-stye, and returned to the same land in the shape of manure, it would be sufficient to keep that land in a healthy state of cultivation. How does the farmer himself cultivate, except upon this principle?"

"Besides this, cottagers who have gardens close to a common, that is regularly depastured by the farmers' cattle during the summer months, have another resource, and are in the habit of sending out their children to 'pick the common;' and last summer I constantly saw men, women, and children, with all sorts of articles to hold it, 'robbing the common,' as the farmer calls it. I could have bought waggon-loads full of sheep's dung, at 2d. per wheelbarrow-full. Such was the depressed state of the stripe-cloth trade, that many families looked to the 2d. or 3d. per day that they could earn in this way as no unimportant sum towards their daily bread.

"But in speaking of one *great advantage* that a large garden is to the cottages, I ought not to forget that, with industry and economy, it gives him a chance of keeping a pig, '*the poor man's best friend*.' I have often observed that nothing contributes so much towards smiling happy countenances in a cottage family as a pig in their sty; the pig becomes their household god whilst alive, and their sheet-anchor when dead.

"I will now go into the subject of '*enclosure of waste lands*.'"

"It has always struck me that there was a confusion of *terms* with regard to the words '*commons*' and '*waste lands*.' Many people seem to think that '*commons*' are almost or literally waste land, good but for little or nothing, for want of cultivation.

"With a view to put this question, in some measure, on its real merits, I have taken considerable pains to ascertain the value of the commons belonging to Bisley parish, in their present condition, and whether, by enclosing them, their value would be enhanced.

"The principle laid down, and acted upon as the law on the subject, is, that the farmers of the parish, or any other person, may turn out and depasture in the summer as much stock as they can maintain in the winter. Though this rule was not rigidly adhered to with regard to the weavers, who, till within the last few years, were in the habit of keeping ponies or donkeys to fetch the yarn and carry the cloth back to the mills; but now there are not probably half a dozen kept in the parish, and perhaps not one for that specific purpose.

"The whole of these commons contain about 800 acres, and lie in four distinct parts of the parish. Their situation and quantity of acres in each is nearly as follows:—

"*Custom-scrubs Common*,—say 40 acres.

Bisley Commons.

"This common lies to the north-east of the town of Bisley, and does not contain about two or three acres that would be worth cultivating. Thorns and brushwood now grow upon it, which the parishioners have a prescriptive right of cutting whenever they like.

"*Nottingham-scrubs Common*,—say 50 acres.

"Lies more to the north-east of the town, and, though perhaps of a somewhat better soil, still it would not pay cultivating, either with the spade or the plough. Thorns and brushwood is present produce.

"It must not be imagined that these two scrub commons are valueless, because they produce comparatively nothing at present; for I should say that all the wood the poor people cut in the year is not worth 5*l.* They lie too far off the population to render an inferior fire-wood, as this is worthy of carriage at least to but a few.

"About twenty years ago my brother sold some timber that grew upon Custom-scrubs, the most barren part of the soil too, and these trees, on the average, probably contained thirty feet of timber each; and were particularly clean-grown and good timber of their kind.

"I mention this circumstance to corroborate what I am about to say, as to the value of these two scrub commons to the parish of Bisley; if they were sold, my own rough guess of their value was 5*l.* or 6*l.* per acre. I then asked a party who ought to know their value better than myself, and he put them at 8*l.* per acre. Now, in the event of the two most valuable commons being enclosed (Bisley and Oakridge), the sale of the two scrub commons would produce a sum of money to begin with.

"The following is the situation and character of the two commons that might be enclosed; the soil being pretty much of the same quality as that of the other land in the parish, which lets for about 22*s.* per acre.

"*Bisley Common*

"Contains about 400 acres of what may be called '*table-land*;' and lies to the north of the town of Bisley. There is no brushwood, or other vegetable matter growing upon it, that interferes with its natural growth of grass.

"*Oakridge Common*

"Contains about 300 acres of land that will do for the plough, and is in every respect very similar to Bisley Common. It lies to the south-east of the town.

"Stroud is the nearest town whose population would be so large as to interfere with the enclosure of these commons, but the distance being four miles, there is no objection on that score.

"My first object was to ascertain the quantity of cattle that was generally depastured upon these two commons. With this view I applied to the shepherd of the common to ascertain the number of each sort; and for a better elucidation of the subject, I have made the following Dr. and Cr. statement.

"Rough estimate of the value of Bisley and Oakridge Common:—

Dr.	£	s.	d.	Cr.	£	s.	d.
"The run of 1000 sheep, from the 1st of May to 29th of September, 22 weeks, at 3d. per head, per week	253	0	0	By the extra quantity of hay and corn grown by the farmers whilst their cattle are feeding upon the commons, as shown by the other side	553	0	0
"The run of 200 horses and horned cattle for 20 weeks, at 1s. 6d. per head, per week	300	0	0	And if Custom and Nottingham scrubs were sold, say 100 acres, at 8l. per acre, 800l. at 4 per cent. would produce an annual income of	32	0	0
	553	0	0				

Gloucestershire.

Report from
W. A. Miles, Esq.

ALLORMENTS.

Mr. Seville on allotments.

Bisley Commons.

"N.B. The tenter hills of Chalford, used by the clothiers for drying their cloths, are common land, say 5 or 6 acres, are not reckoned in the above estimate.

"N.B. In the following page it will be observed, that Mr. Hall considers that Oakridge and Bisley Commons are worth 500l. per annum to those who have the right of depasturage.

"Comparison is the test of truth; and, in order to ascertain how far my estimate was correct, I proposed (by letter) the following questions, to the most extensive, and, I think I may add, the most intelligent rack-renter in the parish of Bisley. Mr. Thomas Hall, of Thorougham.

"1st Question.

"Do you think the parish of Bisley, generally, would profit by enclosing the commons?"

"Mr. Hall's reply.

"If the commons of Bisley and Oakridge could in any way be enclosed without incurring the heavy expense of going to Parliament for an Act, or calling in attorneys, land-surveyors, &c., it might and would, I think, answer; but how this is possible to be effected I am at a loss to know. Unless some new plan of enclosure can be adopted, instead of that which has been adopted in the enclosure of other commons, the expense would be nearly equal to the value of the commons.

"2nd Question.

"The shepherd (or hayard) of the commons, tells me that there are turned out on Bisley and Oakridge Commons, on average of seasons, 1000 sheep and 200 horses and horned cattle. Are the sheep worth 3d. per head, per week, and the horses, &c. 1s. 6d.?"

"It is a great misfortune that our commons have always been overstocked, and, consequently, cattle depastured, do not improve so much as they would if a smaller quantity were turned out. Their value would be increased if an arrangement could be made not to overstock the commons. I think you might value 200 horses and horned cattle at something more than your calculation.

"The following is Mr. Hall's estimate of the annual value of Oakridge and Bisley Commons,—say 700 acres.

	£	s.	d.
50 horses for 15 weeks, at 2s. per head, per week	75	0	0
150 horned cattle for 15 weeks, at 1s. 6d. per head, per week	168	15	0
800 (instead of 1000) sheep for 22 weeks, at 3d. per head, per week	256	13	4
	500	8	4

"3rd Question.

"What do you think the two commons of Custom and Nottingham scrubs would sell for per acre?"

"Mr. Hall's reply.

"I think from 8l. to 10l. per acre.

"4th Question.

"Would the commons be of more value to an individual, enclosed or unenclosed, supposing that he built farm-houses, barns, stables, sheds, walls, put up gates, made roads, &c. And can you give a rough guess at the expense per acre of all these necessary expenses, independent of attorneys, land-surveyors, and other contingent expenses?"

"If the commons were now the property of one or two persons, there is no doubt but it would answer well to divide them into proper sized fields, to erect one or two moderate sized farm-houses, barns, &c., and to convert the greater part of them into tillage. I cannot possibly calculate the cost of doing this; but as stones are on the spot, perhaps 2500l. might be a sufficient sum to expend in enclosing the commons into fields, building, barns, walls, &c.

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Gloucestershire.

Report from
W. A. Miles, Esq.

ALLOTMENTS.

Mr. Seville on allot-
ments.

Bisley Commons.

" 5th Question.

" Suppose Bisley Common to be made into one farm of 400 acres. How many fields would you divide it into? " If 400 acres of the commons were to be converted into an arable farm, it must of necessity be divided into seven fields. If I was the farmer I should prefer it divided into double that number.

" As a matter of pounds, shillings, and pence, the case seems to me to stand:—if the two commons of Bisley and Oakbridge contain 700 acres, their *present* annual value is 500*l.*—say 1*l.* per acre, and I should say that, if they were enclosed and let for a lease of seven years, they would be worth at least 2*l.* per acre.

" The result of my inquiries as to the propriety of enclosing these commons, leads me to view the question in two lights. The first, as to its national importance. For although the extra produce might not be so much as some people imagine,—for many amongst the '*masses*' look upon all commons as little better than waste land,—still there would be a considerable increase of produce; which, with the chances of a foreign war gathering around us, makes it a matter of importance that England should render herself as much, and as soon as possible, independent of other nations for the staple article of life—bread,—to say nothing of the increased employment that would be given to her growing population.

" My second view of the case takes off from the value of an enclosure, at least from the value which some, at first sight, might imagine would result to those who now enjoy the common rights.

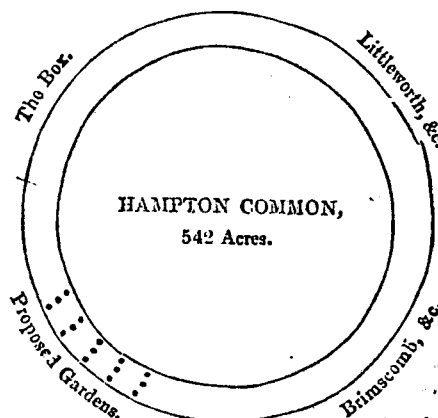
" If they were enclosed, the lord of the manor and the 'great tithe' owner, would take one-tenth each. The value of these two-fifths is at present enjoyed by the landlords or tenants of the parish.* Then comes the expenses of the enclosure. (I will leave the question of an Act of Parliament out of the case at this moment. Mr. Hall probably was not aware that by recent Acts of Parliament '*an Act*' is not absolutely necessary.) A land-surveyor must be employed to map and measure; and how the conflicting interests of the different claimants are to be settled, without the expense of a commissioner, vested with almost arbitrary powers, I cannot at present imagine.

" To this must be added, the expense of the necessary buildings (though in Bisley parish, new farm-houses, would not be wanted, as there are plenty that would, perhaps, answer the purpose, in the villages on the borders of the commons). There being plenty of stone on every spot, the wall-fencing might be done; a wall 5 feet high and 15½ feet long, can now be built for 3*s.* 6*d.*; (per 'lug'), making the roads would also be a considerable expense, as well as the gates and pools to catch water.

" If the commons were enclosed, and the rents applied towards the poor-rates, the great difficulty that I foresee is, the satisfying the mill owner, who may be rated as high as 100*l.* or 200*l.* a-year, and yet not have land enough to keep more than a cow or a horse. I fear he would expect to be relieved in proportion to the amount of his rates, rather than in proportion to the quantity of land. The equitable decision seems to me to be, that the landed interest would be entitled to all the advantages they enjoy at present, and have so long enjoyed; and that the house and mill-holder cannot expect to reap a greater benefit than he does now.

" With regard to the expenses of the enclosure of the commons of Bisley parish; I should sell off all those parts which would not repay cultivation; for all these parts are very congenial soils for the growth of beech, larch, spruce, and Scotch fir-trees. I should also sell off detached lots, and odd corners, wherever parties would give an extra price, which some of the land-owners would probably do, in order to make their fields which bound the commons, more regular and compact. The money deficient after these sales might easily be raised by way of mortgage.

I beg now to observe, that what I have said of the parish of Bisley in particular, every thing I have said about the allotment system, applies with equal force to the adjoining parish of Minching Hampton, which has a common of 542 acres, and which is nearly *fringed* all round with cottages. If both parishes were at my disposal, I should immediately enclose a belt of land between two walls, somewhat thus:

Hampton Com-
mons.W A Miles ~ Hand-Loom
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* Though probably the tithes would not be worth so much as at present—for the tithe-owner may now be said to reap some of the advantages of depasturing on the commons. If the farmer had not the right of turning his cattle on the commons. If the farmer had not the much hay and corn upon his farm as he now does, consequently the tithe owner derives some portion of the advantages although not to the extent of the one tenth of the whole, which he would gain by an enclosure.

is a weaver, and has casual work; told Captain Slade, that if he had not had this piece of land he should have been starved.

Previous to the allotment system drunkenness was very prevalent, men used to go by the chapel-house roaring in gangs. If a man who has an allotment proves a drunkard, he is dismissed; and the moral condition of the working man is much improved.

Gloucestershire.

Report from
W. A. Miles, Esq.
ALLOTMENTS.

— Stevens, a weaver at Uley, states, that—

The allotment is an excellent thing: if a man has plenty of work, he would not need the land: it takes up his time when he is at play for work; he has half an acre; himself, wife, and one child at home, who quills for him; he grows potatoes, wheat, vegetables; works about two hours a day when he has chain, and the whole of the day when he has no work.

Diminution of poor-rates attributed to the allotment system.

Considers that the allotment system refreshes and invigorates a weaver, whose employment is in the house; and that it keeps the labouring classes generally from the beer-shops.

Had the allotment system not been adopted at Uley, more than half the people must have been upon the parish; the rates have been so high, that no person will rent land in the parish; the clergyman even has paid 15*l.* more than his tithes.

About eight years ago, although Mr. Sheppard's factory was at full work, the rates have been 17 and 18 in a year; now that there is no weaving in the district, the rates are about five in a year.*

Considers the above-named number of rates about eight years ago to have originated from a bad administration of the Poor Law.

He further states, that he was never on the parish; and he is convinced, that the present Poor Law Bill is a good and excellent bill for the really honest and industrious man.

Nathaniel Clissold, a weaver at Stroud, states, that—

Stroud.

He rents quarter of an acre of some allotment-ground belonging to Mr. Watts, of Stroud; that he pays 10*s.* per annum for the land; he spends his leisure time upon it; he produces cabbages and other vegetables, which he sells, and purchases other provisions for his family with the money; last year, after paying all expenses, and providing for the house, he was 20*s.* in pocket from his "bit of ground."

Peter Gay, a weaver at Stroud,—

Also rents quarter of an acre under Mr. Watts, and pays 10*s.* a year for it; he finds it very useful when he has nothing to do; but when other work is plenty, it is of no particular advantage.

— Hitchins, a weaver at Stroud,—

Likewise rented under Mr. Watts; he has quarter of an acre, and pays the same rent as Clissold and Gay; but the land is now taken from him, as the poor-house garden is upon the site; he found this land very useful, and he has produced his 10 and 12 sacks of potatoes, which were of great help to him.

Horsley.

There are 26 acres and 3 roods, 2 perch, allotted in this parish:

Horsley

	A.	R.	P.
Allotment of Colonel Kingscote and Mr. Wilbraham	15	3	2
" Mrs. Young	6	0	0
" Mr. Stephens	5	0	0

This allotment system has been established about four years; the quantity to each person is about 40 perch; the land lies in three parts of the parish; potatoes and corn are grown; the regulation is, that the crops shall be varied, and that from 12 to 16 loads of manure shall be annually laid on per acre; the manure to purchase is worth from 2*s.* 6*d.* to 3*s.* a-load; if the holder does not manure the land, he is liable to be dismissed; the crops are grown for their own use, selling is prevented; many of the men keep pigs; the allotment system keeps men from the beer-houses, which are, without exception, the greatest nuisances in the district.

If after six months' possession a man applies for relief, he is liable to forfeit the land; about 12 of the persons now holding land used to be very frequently upon the parish; there are more applicants than can be supplied with land; the poor consider it an unqualified benefit; they say that it keeps them from starving, especially in winter.

The agricultural labourer was not so much out of work last year and the year before, as in some previous years; has known as many as 70 able-bodied men on

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* In reference to the present improving condition of Uley, compared with its condition when the factories were flourishing, I beg to state that it is not entirely owing to the allotment system, but partly to a very considerable migration and emigration, when trade failed and work was scarce.

Gloucestershire.

Report from
W. A. Miles, Esq.

ALLOTMENTS.

surface, and where consequently allotments may be obtained tolerably contiguous to the dwellings of the working people. If, in enclosing waste lands, a certain portion could be allotted for the use of well-conducted working men who had never applied for parochial relief when advanced in years (say 50) and divided into portions of, say quarter of an acre, such persons to enjoy it for the remainder of their lives free of rent, or any other charge,—such a provision, small as it is, would, I think, prove an incentive to good conduct, and be of invaluable service to the poor."

Coaley.

Captain Thompson, of Coaley, also recommends that "the waste land in his parish should be enclosed, and given to the poor, according to the number of the family."

The waste land at Coaley is principally at Coaley Peake, at the Ham's Hill, and Fir Green, amounting to about 30 acres, and of good quality.

Coaley is a very distressed and ignorant district. It is remote, and scarcely accessible on account of the badness of the roads. I refer to the lamentable picture given of the population by the minister, p. 468, and also the remarks in the district observations, concerning this parish, p. 430; and I fear the result of Captain Thompson's plan would, under present circumstances, tend almost to brutalize the people, unless they could be more occupied and better educated.

Allotments to be
given as rewards
for good conduct.

The principle of giving a small portion of land is best met by Anthony Fewster, of Nailsworth, who purposes that it should be given to persons advanced in life who had never received parochial relief; a plan of that kind would greatly tend to elevate the conduct of the poor, who under present systems of management, are more surrounded by punishments than stimulated by rewards.

Randwick.

The Rev. J. Elliott, minister of Randwick, informs me that—

In his parish the allotment system is adopted to a limited extent. He observes that the labouring classes are usually desirous of renting a bit of land: to be beneficial, the plot of ground should be near their cottages; but sufficient gardens apportioned to the size of the family, will generally be found most convenient, as well as conducive to industry and cottage comfort.

Mr. Charles Stanton thinks—

The allotment system to be very advantageous to the labouring classes; it is not equally temporary in its relief with emigration, and it produces a moral benefit by keeping men from beer-shops.

Mr. Hone, late Governor of the Stroud Union workhouse, states, that—

The allotment system would be beneficial in breaking up the injurious effects of the beer-shops; he is not aware that it is carried on to any extent in this district, but knows the beneficial result of it in the county of Sussex.

Mr. Hubbard, of Nailsworth, thinks—

The allotment system would be very beneficial to the weavers and other workpeople, if more generally adopted. The widow of the late Admiral Young, in the neighbourhood, has let out some allotments near Nailsworth, and it has proved of great service to the poor: men who had been in public-houses soting away their time, may now be seen with their children at honest work.

Mr. Hubbard states, that—

Beet-root a nutri-
tious esculent.

He has tried to introduce the beet-root instead of the potatoe; it is a rich esculent, full of saccharine matter, full of nutrition, and better than the potatoe. He states that a beet-root baked and ate with vinegar is a good dish. In Wilts they brew with beet, and many prefer it; has tasted some at Mr. Loyd's at Malmesbury, and it is very good; it requires a little practice, but it is excellent; considers its introduction would be advantageous; the leaves are as good as spinage; and a succession of leaves continue from spring till winter.

Uley.

Captain Slade, R.N., residing at Uley, observes, concerning the allotment system in his parish, that—

About 60 acres are let in small allotments to the poor.

20 acres of the land were bad land, but are now rendered productive, carrying double the crops, and are as good as any of the other land.

The quantity of land allotted is regulated by the abilities and facilities of the man and his family who apply, varying from quarter, half, to three quarters of an acre.

Informant superintends the allotments. The rents are punctually paid, although last year great distress prevailed.

The land is let including poor's rates at farmers' prices; some is let at 28s. an acre, some at 4l.; and the higher priced land is cheaper than the 28s. per acre land.

The allotment system is of great use to the poor man; for instance, James Smith has a wife and five children; he rents about three quarters of an acre; is a prudent and hard-working man; is now using his potatoes of last year's growth; can keep a pig; has a sow in the sty big with young; killed a pig some time ago; cured it for himself, and sold none;

The inside line would then be the boundary of the common. Experience proves that it would not be necessary to have partition walls to every allotment; 'weir-stones,' as they are called here, would be sufficient as marks of separation.

"I confess, that looking at the present prospects of England, both at home and abroad, I have changed my opinion as to the propriety of enclosing such common lands as those of Hitley and of Minching Hampton. On a first view of the subject, seeing that all the produce in their present state goes to support the farmer's cattle in the summer months, while he is growing mowhay and corn at home, and coupled with the fact, that nearly the whole surface is fertile grass land; I was inclined to think (which may still be the case) that the enclosure would cost more than the increased produce under a regular system of farm cultivation would compensate. But when I consider the necessity of increasing the production of corn, and the necessity also of creating labour for the agriculturist—that it may be the means of making the one keep pace with the other—I am in favour of enclosures, and I would say, of a general enclosure bill; but not of a bill worded so as to forward the interest of a party, to the annoyance and expense of the whole.

"I observe that in the 6th and 7th Wm. IV., cap. 115, there is a clause prohibiting the enclosure of commons, or waste lands, within a certain distance of a town with a certain population. There is something to be said both for and against this clause. On the one hand it would be a most desirable thing to give the mechanics and operatives of large towns, not only the chance, but the time for cultivating a garden. It would be a much more rational and healthy manner of spending his time, than in the beer-shop or the gin-palace. On the other hand, it is desirable to have something more than turnpike-roads for people occasionally to walk on—a space that Nature has carpeted with grass,—instead of narrow lines that man has covered with dust or dirt. But if the common be large, perhaps the difficulty may be reconciled by splitting it.

"I am unwilling to conclude my remarks without again alluding to what I conceive to be of the greatest importance—the allotment system.

"I do not, however, see how the government could interfere to advantage, except by introducing a general enclosure bill, but not a bill that by a single clause or expression, left it open to an individual, or even a minority in a parish, to indulge in a factions or litigious disposition.

"The carrying out of the allotment system to, its fullest extent, must be left to private inclination and exertion; and I would press the subject upon, not only what is called the landed interest of the country, but upon every master; who though he may have but a few fields, still to let every labouring man that wishes it have an interest in the land of his birth. It will make him a better husband, a better father, a better subject, and a better man. Let him have as much land as will occupy his waste hours. Every moment engaged in this manner will not only be property to himself, but capital added to the wealth of the country. Idleness is the reservoir of mischief. Opportunity is the source. Look at the recorded facts,—that those who have enjoyed the benefit of the allotment system, have not only *not* joined the incendiary of his own neighbourhood (and those who know how difficult it is for one labouring man to stand apart from his neighbour under such circumstances, can alone appreciate the fact,) but have been amongst the foremost to extinguish the flames.

"If any man is in doubt, let him go into those parts of the country where the allotment has been longest tried. Let him ask the Bishop of Bath and Wells, who has seen the effect of 40 years; let him appeal to Captain Scobell and others, who have tried the thing for 20 years and more. It has, or rather is being tried in the borough of Stroud. Mr. Ricardo, in the parish of Minching Hampton, has appropriated about 8 acres; Mr. Watts, of Stroud, about 40; Mr. Hyett and the Rev. Mr. Sreng, of Painswick, about 20; Colonel Daubeney, of Bisley, 5 or 6. The latter gentleman regrets that his residence in Bath, and the distance of his land from the weavers' cottages, operate against his wish to appropriate a considerable quantity more land for the same purpose.

"It appears to me that the principles of democracy are rapidly spreading in this country. That the aristocracy and large landed proprietors, are viewed, particularly by the mechanics and operatives of the towns, as men who monopolise more of the soil than they ought to possess. Mr. Elliott, the Sheffield 'corn law rhymist,' is doing, in degree, for England, what Moore, by his 'Melodies,' did for Ireland, by declamatory assertions; and, decking them off in the charms of poetry, he is enlisting the passions against the tardy convictions of reason. At the Westminster 'demonstration,' he talked of the 'glorious three days,' and held up France as a pattern to England, 'a nation of freeholders.' But if that question had been put fairly, it could have been shown that by this perpetual sub-division of land, which is going on in France every succeeding generation, the consequence, in the end, must be another revolution, or a pauper population.

"I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

"SAMUEL SEVILL.

"William Augustus Miles, Esq."

Gloucestershire.

Report from
W. A. Miles, Esq.

ALLOTMENTS.

Mr. Seville on allotments.

Hampton Commons.

Allotment system of great importance to the labouring man.

W A Miles - Hand-Loom Weavers Report c.1839
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Anthony Fewster, of Nailsworth, observes, that—

Nailsworth.

"The allotment system (as recommended by the labourers' friend society) was introduced into this neighbourhood to some extent about four years ago, and here, as elsewhere, with almost uniformly good results. Sound policy, patriotism, and benevolence, all unite to recommend a much more enlarged extension of the system in agricultural as well as in those manufacturing districts where the population is scattered (as it is here) over a large extent of

Gloucestershire.
Report from
W. A. Miles, Esq.
ALLOTMENTS.

the parish; the reason why labourers have been employed is, that farmers have been doing better; produce and prices were better.

Since the union, the rates have been raised in this parish from 1100*l.* to 1500*l.*; there are more persons now relieved; but the relieving officer has too much to do.

The rent of the land is 37*s.* per acre, including taxes and tithes; the land is very good; the people work it well, it is their interest so to do; and it produces remarkable crops.

20 perch will produce 12 sacks of potatoes, and the remaining 20 perch will yield from 4 to 5 bushels of wheat.

ACCOUNT OF EXPENDITURE AND PROFIT OF 20 PERCH OF LAND.

To	£.	s.	d.		£.	s.	d.
12 sacks potatoes, at 5 <i>s.</i>	3	0	0	Rent	0	4	9
4 bushels of wheat at 7 <i>s.</i>	1	8	0	Grubbing land	0	5	0
Straw	0	10	0	Seed for potatoes	0	5	0
				" wheat	0	1	7
				Hoeing and earthing	0	1	4
				Digging	0	4	0
				Reaping	0	0	9
				Thrashing	0	1	6
				Wear and tear of implements	0	0	6
	4	18	0				
	1	4	5				
Net profit	3	13	6½		1	4	5

In this calculation is included work which the labourer himself, or his family, could do, amounting to 12*s.* 7*d.*, which, in fact, would then leave a profit of 4*l.* 6*s.* 1½*d.*

On first allotting the land it was thought that the weaver would not work it so well as the agricultural labourer, but they do it as well.

Of the 66 persons who hold allotments under Mr. Harvey's settings,

Agricultural labourers	31	Shoemakers	2
Weavers	16	Blacksmith	1
Widows	6	Shopkeeper	1
Plasterers	4	Carpenter	1
Cloth-workers	3	Mason	1

MIGRATION AND EMIGRATION.

MIGRATION AND
EMIGRATION.

David Ricardo, Esq., of Gatcombe Park, in a small pamphlet upon the subject of emigration, in reference to the poorer districts in his neighbourhood, says,

I anticipate the greatest advantage from a well-conducted system of emigration. If we saw a man with a large family, and struggling with difficulties in finding the means for their support, let us take away half his children, and half his difficulties would be removed. Such is the case here: this neighbourhood is but one vast family, and if we were to take away a portion of the more active, and put them in a situation to provide for themselves, the bread that supported them is still left behind, and will be divided among those who remain, and will be given to them in the shape of an increase of wages; the demand for all the necessities of life will continue just the same, only that they will be divided more abundantly among a set of people who, from being too numerous, have hitherto enjoyed but a scanty portion of them."

The humane and benevolent exertions of Mr. Ricardo, the anxious and zealous care with which he endeavours to benefit the state and condition of the poor, is not surpassed in the neighbourhood; while, at the same time, he firmly upholds those principles in the new Poor Law Bill which tend to give a tone of energy to the labouring classes.

Owing to the active exertions of Mr. Ricardo, emigration has been carried on to some extent in this district.

Migration has also taken place. A parish once full of factory people, is now an agricultural district, and happier than ever it was—I mean Uley.

Many favourable accounts have been received from persons who have emigrated.

Extract of a Letter from James Macey, late of Kingswood, to the Rev. D. Jones, Perpetual Curate of Kingswood.

Gloucestershire.

Report from
W. A. Miles, Esq.

—
MIGRATION AND
EMIGRATION.

"Paramatta, June — 1838.

"I have 40*l.* a year, with house, food, and firing. Provisions are much cheaper than at home: clothing rather dearer. The privileges held out to emigrants are extremely good. We was free the moment we landed, and was provided with a comfortable house and victuals at no expense, until we got situated; but the greatest number was engaged the first day. A mechanic can earn from 1*l.* 15*s.* a week to 2*l.* 10*s.*; a labouring man 1*l.* 5*s.* a week.

"If any persons are desirous of emigrating to New South Wales, I would recommend them to come immediately, for, with industry, people can do extremely well, and maintain their families respectably."

Extract of a Letter from the same to his Mother.

"Tell M. and his family to come out; they will find employ directly, and good wages for their labour; they will soon be master of many pounds. If we choose to return to England again, we can save money enough in two years to free our passage back."

There is a great desire for emigration at this time among the working classes in Gloucestershire; but, unfortunately for the weavers, they are not a class of persons in request, yet there are many of them who are fully capable of following rural occupations, and would be useful members in a colony.

The Rev. W. Cockin, jun., of Hampton, in reference to the impoverished state of the working classes in his parish, observes,

The distress of the entire district is beyond the conception of any one who has not witnessed it. It was not mere want, but actual starvation, which was endured throughout last winter. He then continues to remark, that emigration seems to be the natural remedy, and, indeed, the only one which will fully meet the exigencies of the case; and even emigration must be conducted on a very extended scale to be productive of any real good; and from the favourable reports which have been received from those already gone out, he does not think there would be found any indisposition amongst the poor to avail themselves of this means of relief.

Mr. Harvey, of Horsley, says,

Within twelve months 200 persons have been sent to Australia from the following places: Horsley, Kingscote, Stauley, Uley, Avening, Hampton, Owlpen, and Kingswood; that the demand for the colony was agricultural labour, but about twelve of the above number were weavers. This draught did not, in any way, affect wages.

Last year thirteen families from the parish of Bisley, consisting of 68 persons, emigrated to Australia and America; they were taken to Clifton Hot-wells, and placed on board a steam-vessel on the 31st August, 1837, to join the ship lying at Kingroad; 42 of the children were above seven years of age, and 26 under seven.

The parish borrowed 200*l.* for the purpose of emigrating these families, of which the following are the items, viz.;

To clothing 68 persons at 1 <i>l.</i> 10 <i>s.</i> 8½ <i>d.</i> per head, including Bibles, Prayer Books, &c.	104	9	7
Cash paid for two waggons and a cart, to take the 68 persons to Bristol, their victuals on leaving and on the road, and breakfast at Bristol	24	13	6
Cash for one day's victuals, the first day put on board the steam-packet	2	0	0
Cash paid Dr. Rogers, the emigrant Surgeon, for two men and their wives that were above the age allowed to go <i>passage free</i> , 15 <i>l.</i> each	60	0	0
	£ 191	3	1

Of these emigrants no account has, as yet, been received; and of the thirteen families, eight were weavers, as will be seen by the following enumeration:

- No. 1. Mason's labourer
2. Rower.
3. Weaver.
4. Weaver.
5. Weaver.
6. Weaver.
7. Shoemaker.
8. Weaver, but turned carpenter.
9. Baker and Sawyer.
10. Sawyer.
11. Weaver.
12. Weaver.
13. Weaver.

W A Miles ~ Hand-Loom
Weavers Report c.1839
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The above statement was given in by the Churchwarden of the parish of Bisley.

Gloucestershire.
Report from
W. A. Miles, Esq.
MIGRATION AND
EMIGRATION.

The following information has been given to me concerning the migration from Bisley of families to the north :—

Persons migrated from Bisley, at the cost of the parish, as follows :—

March 1837.	Robert Mason and wife, weavers, with 4 children, into Yorkshire	6
"	Two girls of the name of Damsell, cloth-workers (as a part of Mason family)	2
"	Mary Gardner (widow) weaver, with 4 children; into Yorkshire	5
"	Sarah Faukes, deserted by her husband, she a clothworker, 4 children, into Yorkshire	5
		<hr/> 18

The above three families had situations of employ found them by the migration agents.

Persons migrated to Shrewsbury (employed in Messrs. Marshall's flax manufactory), at the cost of the parish.

In the spring of 1837 :—

Isaac Hunt and wife, weaver, with 6 children	8
Maria Berriman, widow, cloth-worker, and 5 children	6
Phœbe Franklin, widow, with one child	2
Martha Rowles, single woman (Minchin Hampton parish)	1
— Smart, deserted by her husband	1
About 19 others went to Shrewsbury, but have since returned	19

In the fall of 1837, to Shrewsbury :—

William Clift and wife, cloth-workers, with 6 children	8
Charles Gardner and wife, weavers, with 4 children	6
Keziah Poulson, widow, cloth-worker, with 4 children	5
Mary Gardner, widow, weaver, with 3 children	4
Eliza and Phœbe Workman, single, cloth-workers	2
Rebecca Gardner, weaver, and illegitimate son	2
Two girls of the names of Trotman and Pearce, single	2

Number emigrated to Australia were	66
Into Yorkshire	18
To Shrewsbury	66

Total . 152

In addition to the number before stated, many families have migrated into different parts of the country, where they could find employ.

WILLIAM LONG,
Overseer for the Parish of Bisley for 1837-8.

A weaver at Uley stated that many families had left that place lately, especially since the failure of Mr. Sheppard; some have gone as navigators on the Bath and Bristol railroad, some into other manufacturing districts, and others to Australia and America. Letters have been received of a favourable description from America.

In consequence of migration and emigration about 200 houses are vacant in the parish of Uley.

Mr. N. Jones considers that—

Emigration would be a good thing for the Chalford district, for they are too thickly populated.

Mr. Harris, a manufacturer from Dursley, states that—

Emigration would be beneficial to the men; would emigrate them to Australia, or some other of our own colonies, whence we could get produce in return.

Mr. Hubbard, chemist and druggist, of Nailsworth, states, that

Many tradesmen in the district have serious thoughts of emigrating, as they cannot support their families by their trade here.

Captain S., of Uley, states,

That emigration and migration took place when Mr. Sheppard failed.

The Overseer of Uley states,

That five heads of families, and their families, containing 78 souls, went to Canada about five years ago; emigrated at the cost of the parish.

33 persons, 20 of whom were weavers, went to the United States about 18 months ago.

17 wives of men who had gone to the United States at their own cost, went to Boston last April, at request of their husbands; two of the men sent money, one 10*l.* and the other 12*l.*, saved in six months.

' 20 persons went last year to Australia, but only one was a weaver, and she was the wife of a labourer.

Thinks about 500 persons have left the parish; many at their own cost.

Emigration is a great relief, as the people would have remained paupers, and would have generated paupers.

Mr. Peter Playne observes, that

Emigration would certainly be beneficial to the working classes, and would not make it worse for the manufacturer. Many have gone from this neighbourhood, but labourers are so plentiful that they are not missed. If (says he) we have a vacancy, we have ten applications in the course of the day. States that he is not aware of any manufacturer being opposed to emigration, nor never heard of any manufacturer threatening to turn off hands if any relatives of his workpeople emigrated; would not object to emigration to a limited extent.

Anthony Fewster, of Nailsworth,

Considers migration and emigration to be both serviceable, especially where there is a redundancy of working people. He adds that, in his district, they promote both in some respects; but the large payers of rates, particularly farmers, are, as a body, opposed to granting sums from the rates, even by borrowing, for the purpose of emigration.

Joseph Lewis, butcher, at Minchin Hampton, states, that about 40 or 50 persons left the above place for Australia, in November, 1838.

The Rev. J. Elliott, of Randwick, says,

That emigration, as a remedial measure, is considered beneficial to all parties, and, as such, ought to be encouraged; but does not contemplate much relief from this source to parishes.

Mr. Charles Stanton states, with reference to emigration as a source of relief to the weaver,

That, locally, it might be beneficial; as a general principle it is like bleeding a person—only a temporary expedient.

Gloucestershire.

Report from
W. A. Miles, Esq.

MIGRATION AND
EMIGRATION.

CONCLUDING REMARKS ON THE GLOUCESTERSHIRE TRADE IN WOOLLEN CLOTHS.

I have considered it my duty to lay before you the foregoing mass of evidence, and the various tables, in consequence of the various contradictions which occurred at every step of the inquiry. The evidence I have collected leads me to conclude that the wages of weaving have been materially injured by the introduction of female and juvenile labour to the loom under the name of "colts" or "half-taught" weavers; that the system of making cloth upon commission for the London houses forced the contracting manufacturers of this county to seek a profit from the only source from which a profit under that system *could* be procured, namely, wages of labour; that, in consequence of the many persons who, in better times, were brought up to the loom, the labour market became overstocked, and consequently the commission houses obtained labour at the cheapest rate, as the weavers were the first to undersell each other; that wages thus had a tendency to reduction, and other better paying manufacturers were compelled to have recourse to the lowest rate of wages, in order to meet the goods of the commission houses in the market.

The distress exists amongst the out-door weavers and their journeymen, in consequence of the scarcity of work among them since the establishment of the shop-loom factories, where the weaving is performed upon the premises.

It is evident that the distressed condition of the out-door weavers is in a great measure attributable to the fact of a surplus number of hands, who are glad to receive work at any price and on any conditions, rather than leave their precarious trade, or seek for other labour, whereby they drag their fellow-workmen to their own level by constantly underselling them in wages.

With regard to the capital which employs labour, the manufacturers are in keen competition in the market; and though the same quantities of cloth may be produced, yet the profits are considerably diminished.

Labour, on the one hand, is overstocked; and capital, on the other hand, has become less productive.