

which they have hewn, about 2 hours longer, or 11, 12 and 13 hours, which are sometimes protracted to 14 and 15." In Derbyshire "from 13 to 16 hours are reckoned a day's work . . . 8 hours make half a day's work."

In some districts children and women were reckoned in terms of parts of a man. Thus when a boy went to work at seven or eight years of age he was considered to be equal to one-eighth part of a man and got 5s. a month. At ten years of age he was deemed the equivalent of two-eighths of a man; at thirteen years, three-eighths; at fifteen years, one-half; at eighteen years, three-fourths; at twenty-one the whole of a man. A girl at sixteen was regarded as the equivalent of one half of a man, and at that equivalent remained whatever her age might be.

The sort of life which was lived by these children, described by one of the witnesses as "worse than the slavery of the West Indies," may be judged from the evidence of Mrs. Roker, the mother of Thomas Roker, a pit-boy. This woman informed the sub-Commissioners that her son "was aged about six years and seven months, and that he had been down the pit about a month or six weeks. The boy was at school at three years old, and his father wished to make him a better scholar before he went down. Always puts him to bed early, because he must get up every working morning at three o'clock; and he often rubs his eyes when he is woke, and says he has only just been to sleep.