state that, "doubtless the Company have paid for sinking "the whole 25 fathoms." Before making such an assertion as this, it had been well if you had enquired into how ground wrought in shafts was paid for. Had you done this you would have found that it was impossible that the Company could have paid for more than was really wrought. For instance, in Scott's shaft, which is, I presume, the one you allude to, you would have found that the collar was not put on the shaft until it was below the ten fathom level, and that since then all the measurements in sinking were taken from that level. You would also have found that the 25 fathoms to the bottom of the level were measured from a mark near the roof of the house over the shaft, and which mark was horizontal with the collar of the old engine shaft. If the levels were all struck at 25 fathoms from the mouth of each shaft, any reasoning being must see that they would nearly follow all the inequalities of the surface, and might in one place be many feet higher than another. The only practicable method of getting a level is, by taking a certain fixed point higher than the mouth of any one shaft, and making all measurements from an imaginary horizontal line running through that point, allowing for the underlie of the lode, if any exist. Such being the fact, your assertion that the Company has over paid one eleventh part for the shafts sunk to this level, not only falls to the ground as unsubstantiated, but proves how little dependence is to be placed, upon your other statements regarding subjects, with which you are naturally not conversant.

I am sorry to see that the levels driven last winter do not meet correctly. This is the effect of carelessness, and the natural tendency which men driving always have to rise, but as far as the drainage of the Mine is concerned, I dont think it is of so much consequence. It never was, I believe, the intention of any Captain of the Mine to carry the water on the ground along the bottom of the level, as both Mr. Borron and you appear to suppose, but to conduct it in