

SECTION FROM HEDDON ON THE WALL TO TYNEMOUTH.

HEDDON ON THE WALL

Wallbottle

THE NINETY FATHOM DYKE

Benwell

Elswick

NEWCASTLE

Wallsend

Percy Main

TYNEMOUTH

North Sea

Sea Level

GROVE SEAM

ENGINE SEAM

SPLINT SEAM

HIGH MAIN

BENSHAM

LOW MAIN

BEAUMONT

BROCKWELL

Horizontal Scale 2 miles to an Inch.

Vertical Scale 2000 ft to an Inch.

A Reid, Newcastle on Tyne.

AN ACCOUNT OF SOME OF THE EARLIEST RECORDS
CONNECTED WITH THE WORKING OF COAL ON
THE BANKS OF THE RIVER TYNE.

BY ROBERT L. GALLOWAY.

THOUGH a considerable amount of attention was given to the working of metalliferous ores in England during the twelfth century, the records of this period seem altogether silent regarding mineral fuel. Tin was being worked in Cornwall and Devon, iron notably in the Forest of Dean, lead in Derbyshire, Yorkshire, Cumberland, Northumberland, and Durham, and probably also in Somersetshire and Shropshire; but there is no mention of the working of pit-coal for more than a century and a half after the Norman Conquest, during the period when the severe Forest Laws were in force. Under the Feudal system all the mines in the kingdom appear to have been considered to be the property of the Crown, and the most ancient mining districts, viz., the tin district of Cornwall and Devon, the iron district of the Forest of Dean, and a large portion of the lead district of Derbyshire, formed part of the demesne lands of the King. In each of these districts bodies of miners existed, who worked the mines not by virtue of any charter, but by immemorial custom, and who were regulated by laws and usages peculiar to themselves, and in some respects at variance with the common laws of the realm, the origin of which is lost in remote antiquity.

During the twelfth century, however, we have no mention of the appropriation of pit-coal, nor any record of coal-mines being granted by charter, nor do they figure as a source of revenue in any of the accounts of this period. Grants of wood and peats for fuel, on the other hand, frequently occur.

Perhaps we cannot have a better illustration of the sources of the fuel supply of this time, than is to be found in the charter of Bishop Pudsey to the burgesses of Gateshead-on-Tyne, in the year 1164, which contains passages translated as follows:—"We have granted, and by the present charter have confirmed, to our burgesses of Gateshead, plenary liberty in forestage, rendering [each] in the half-year, that is from Pentecost to the Feast of Saint Martin, for every cart which shall go to the wood twopence, and for a horse twopence, and for a man carrying one penny, for all things which shall be necessary for his own use, save those which are prohibited. Neither shall it be lawful for any forester, within the bounds which have been appointed between our forest and the borough, to lay hand upon a burgess, or upon any one dwelling within the borough, or upon his cart or beasts of burden, for the purpose of hindering him, whether he have firewood or timber or any other thing. . . . It shall be lawful to the said burgesses to have grass or rushes, and ferns and ling, for their own use, wherever they are wont to have them; but so that they sell none thereof. And if a burgess who shall dig turves for his own fire, and not have a cart of his own, shall bring several carts to carry the turves, he may be quit on his yielding, in respect of forestage, twopence for all the carts. And it shall be lawful for any burgess to give of his woods to whomsoever he shall please, dwelling on this side of the Tyne, without intent to fraud; but to sell to no one without the leave of the forester."¹

Instances of grants of fuel might be multiplied, from charters to towns and religious houses during the twelfth century, but, so far as the writer is aware, without any allusion pointing to the use of mineral fuel being met with.

Although the ores of gold, silver, tin, copper, and argentiferous lead, at the period under consideration, and for several centuries after, were regarded as belonging to the Crown, and mines of these metals found in the lands of subjects were liable to be appropriated by the Sovereign or granted by charter to be worked by others, there appears to be no instance until a later period of any claim being made on this

¹ "Early Palatine Charters to the Burgesses of Gateshead." Pamphlet printed at Gateshead in 1853. Text of charter taken from appendix to "Boldon Buke;" Surtees Society, Vol. 25. The pamphlet appears to be from the pen of Mr. Brockett.

account to mines of iron;¹ and at no time, in this country, has the right of subjects to work coal, as such, found in their own lands, been called into question. The exemption of these minerals from the claims of the Crown, may be explained by the circumstance that at the time when the royal prerogative in minerals was most firmly established, they performed a comparatively unimportant part in the economy of the kingdom, and might be regarded as beneath notice.

After the war between King John and the barons, which resulted in this monarch being forced to sign the Magna Charta, in the year 1215, a greatly increased security was given to subjects in the possession of their lands and rights. The confirmation of this Charter by Henry III., and the granting of the Forest Charter soon after (A.D. 1217), set the freemen of the kingdom on a new and much improved footing.

In connection with the subject under consideration, chapter xii. of the Forest Charter is worthy of note. It is translated as follows:—“Every freeman, for the future, may, without danger, erect a mill in his own wood or upon his own land which he hath in the forest; or make a warren, or pond, or marle pit, or ditch, or turn it into arable land, so that it be not to the detriment of the neighbours.”² In reference to the concession of the liberty to make marle pits, it is to be remarked that the digging of pits for marle in the neighbourhood of forests, in ground not belonging to the King, was at one period frequently prosecuted in the Forest Courts, and punished with heavy fines, on account of the danger and inconvenience it occasioned to the hunters.³

The circumstance that we have no mention of the working of mineral coal, during the period preceding this amendment of the Forest Laws, would seem to point to the conclusion that it was the prohibition against the breaking of ground involved in digging for coal, which

¹ It would appear from pleadings in “Quo Waranto,” in the early part of the reign of Edward I., that the right to work iron and also lead was then regarded as among “jura regalia,” only to be exercised in virtue of a specific grant from the Crown (see “Placita de Quo Waranto,” Com. Ebor. 7, 8, 9, Edward I., printed vol., p. 211). We find the same King also authorising the application of his treasure to the working of *newly-discovered* mines of iron and lead, as well as of silver and copper, in Ireland, in the seventeenth year of his reign. See the case of “Vice against Thomas,” by Edward Smirke, M.A. London, 1843. Appendix, p. 116.

² The exercise of the same rights in all other ground in the kingdom is implied *a fortiori*.

³ An Historical Essay on the Magna Charta, etc., by Richard Thompson. London, 1829. p. 351.

operated as the principal check to its employment.¹ At all events, soon after the confirmation of the Forest Charter in the year 1224, we have evidence of the freemen of the realm, without any further concession on the part of the Crown, proceeding to treat the mineral coal found within their lands as absolutely their own property. In the North of England, as in Scotland at a somewhat earlier date, it appears first to have received attention on or near the sea-shore, which fact seems the most probable origin of the name *sea-coal*, by which this mineral was so long and so widely known, in contradistinction to coal proper, or, as it is now termed, charcoal. The variations which its Latin name has undergone point to the same conclusion, it being first designated "*carbo maris*," at a later period, "*carbo marinus*," and still later, when becoming an article of considerable traffic over sea, "*carbo maritimus*."²

The earliest mention of sea-coal, which has come under the notice of the writer, occurs about the year 1236, in a charter from Adam de Camhous (Camboise) to the monks of Newminster, in Northumberland. In this charter sea-coal is associated with sea-weed. The translation of the passage is as follows:—"And I have given and conceded to the same monks that they may take weed of the sea for fertilizing the same land, and a way for freely leading it upon the aforesaid lands, and for taking coal of the sea where it may have been found, from the aforesaid bounds as far as Blyth and towards the sea as much as belongs to the aforesaid lands."³

¹ The claim on the part of the vassals of the See of Durham of the right to work coal, which will be referred to hereafter, appears to be based upon the above chapter of the Forest Charter.

² Modern writers have not hesitated to assert that coal derived this name from being brought to London over sea, but a different opinion was advocated in earlier times. Leland remarks on this subject as follows:—"The waynes of the se coles lye sometyne open upon clives of the se, as round about Coket Island and other shores, and they as some will be properly caullyd se coale," etc. *Itin.*, Vol. VIII., part 2, p. 19. This was the opinion also held by Sir John Pettus, who, in his "*Essays on Words Metallick*," divides the different sorts of coal into:—Wood-coal, chiefly used for metals; Sea-coal (dig'd out of coal mines near the sea at Tinnuth, by Newcastle); and Pit-coal (in mines remote from the sea), near Coventry in Warwickshire, and in Staffordshire and Shropshire, &c., but these are not useful to metals. "*Fleta Minor*," London, 1686.

³ "*Et dedi et concessi eisdem monachis ut capiant algam maris ad impingendum eandem terram, et viam ad libere ducendum eam super prædictas terras, et ad carbonem maris capiendum ubi inventus fuerit a prædictis terminis usque Blithe et versus mare quantum ad prædictas terras pertinet,*" &c.—The Newminster Chartulary, published by the Surtees Society, Vol. 66, p. 55. There is no date attached to this charter, but it is immediately followed by a covenant between Newminster and Adam, Alan, and Richard de Camhus, dated A.D. 1236.

In this case the sea-weed and sea-coal appear to have been alike regarded as *wreccum maris*.

The purpose for which the sea-coal was intended is not specified in the above charter, but a few years later (about A.D. 1240) the same monks obtained another grant of sea coals from Nicholas de Ake-ton, for *the forge* in their grange of Stretton. The licence to get sea coals forms the special subject of this charter, which is couched in the following terms :—"Know ye that I have given, conceded, and by this present charter have confirmed to God, and the Blessed Mary of the Abbey, and the monks of Newminster and their successors, in unrestricted, unconditional, and perpetual alms, the power of appropriating coals of the sea in my wood of Middlewood, wherever they shall have been found, for the forge of their grange of Stretton, without hindrance from me, or my heirs or assigns, or my men" &c.¹

The smiths in various countries have shown a predilection for mineral fuel, and have used it for the purposes of their craft in preference to charcoal, whenever a supply of it of a suitable kind was to be had, at a period when this peculiar fuel was employed for few purposes and was regarded with prejudice by the bulk of the community—when, indeed, the construction of the fireplaces in common houses precluded the use of it for domestic purposes.²

That sea-coal was now beginning to receive attention, and to be sought after and dug up in different parts of England, is evidenced by its being named as one of the subjects to be enquired into by a commission appointed in the year 1245, to investigate into encroachments upon the Forest of the King since the commencement of the reign of Henry III. The inquisitions were conducted with great rigour, and occasioned the ruin of many.³ The digging of pits or trenches for sea-coal, and the taking of payment on account of the same and for toll, are mentioned under head 14 as follows :—"Let inquiry also be made touching coal of the sea found within the Forest, and who have taken payment for diggings made on account of that coal, and for toll."⁴

¹ "Potestatem accipiendi carbones maris in bosco meo de Midilwode, ubicumque fuerint inventæ, ad forgiam grangiæ suæ de Stretton," &c.—Ibid. p. 201.

² Fossil coal was used by the smiths of ancient Greece, as we learn from Theophrastus. Its use appears to have been confined to them. The legend ascribes the discovery of coal in Belgium to a pilgrim, who pointed it out to a smith. Schook on Turves, p. 223. Brand's "History of Newcastle-upon-Tyne," Vol. II., p. 252.

³ Matthew Paris. "Historia Major" ed. London, 1640. p. 661.

⁴ "Inquiratur etiam de carbone maris invento infra Forestam, et qui mercedem ceperint pro fossatis faciendis de carbone illo, et pro cheminagio."—Ibid. in Additamenta, "Inquisitiones de forisfactoris diversis super Foresta Domini Regis." The Forest Charter contains regulations as to the taking of cheminage or toll by foresters for timber, bark, and charcoal, but no provision as to sea-coal. [Chap. xiv.]

Close upon these early references to sea-coal we find it making its appearance in the great mart of London as an article of merchandise. As early as 1253 it had given a name to a lane in a suburb of the metropolis, viz., "Secole Lane," mentioned in a charter of this date.¹ This lane, which was situated in Farringdon Ward Without, appears to have been also called, "Lime-burners' Lane,"² a fact which is significant, as indicative of the purpose to which the sea-coal was doubtless applied, the burning of lime being one of the few uses to which mineral coal was put when it began to come into application.

In a roll of expenses for works to the king's palace at Westminster [A.D. 1258-9], including among other things the taking down and rebuilding a chimney of the King's chamber,³ and binding and strengthening the shaft of the chimney outside with iron, we have an account of two purchases of sea-coal for the forging of the iron work. The insignificant quantities bought points to the incipient state of the trade at this time. They were as follows:—

(3rd payment.) . . . "and for one hundred weight and a half of wrought iron, bought at London, for the use of the chimney aforesaid, 25s.; and for three quarters of sea-coal to forge the iron for the aforesaid chimney, with the carriage and freight by water [from London], 3s. 6d."

(17th payment.) . . . "and for three hundred weight of iron, bought at London, with the carriage and passage of the iron work for the use of the king's chimney, 50s.—price of the hundred weight, 16s. 6d.; and for ten quarters of sea coals, for forging the aforesaid iron work, 10s."⁴

¹ *Cartæ Antiquæ* (Chancery). L. No. 20 (in dorso). The text of this charter is given below. Can it be inferred that from it that a traffic in sea-coal formed a connecting link between this lane and Plessey in Northumberland?

"*Henricus dei gratia Rex Anglie, etc. Omnibus ad quos presentes littere pervenerint salutem. Sciatis quod dedimus et concessimus pro nobis et heredibus nostris Dilecto et fideli nostro Petro de Ryvall' totum jus et clamium quod habuimus vel habere potuimus in domibus que fuerunt quondam Willielmi de Plessetis clerici in Secole lan' extra Neugat' in suburbio London'. . . . Teste me ipso apud Wyndlesor' undecimo die Junii anno regni nostri tricesimo septimo.*"

² *The Survey of London* (Stow's). Ed. 1618, p. 705.

³ In the year 1251, Edward of Westminster was commanded, among other things, that the low chamber in the King's garden should be painted, "and that in the same chamber a chimney should be made." (*History of the Ancient Palace, etc., at Westminster, by Brayley and Britton. 1836. p. 59.*) From a "Household Roll" for a subsequent year, however [A.D. 1259-60], it is evident that wood "billets" was the fuel used by the King. (See *Issues of the Exchequer, Henry III. to Henry VI., by F. Devon, p. 74.*)

⁴ *Issues of the Exchequer, Henry III. to Henry VI., by F. Devon. London, 1837. pp. 48, 74.*

From "The Customs of Billyngesgate," in the time of Henry III., we learn that one of the duties leviable there was:—"For two quarters of sea coal, measured by the king's quarter, one farthing."¹

Before leaving the reign of Henry III. it may be remarked that no reference has been made to the licences, said by Gardner² to have been granted by this king to the good men of Newcastle, to dig coals in the common soil of the town, in certain places *without the walls*. It seems beyond doubt that the men of Newcastle traded in pit-coal during the thirteenth century, a fact which not improbably was the cause of the licences being assigned to this reign. The supposition that the town had become enclosed by the walls referred to, so early as the date assigned by Gardner to the first of these licences [A.D. 1238]³ seems opposed to the testimony of history, but, apart from this, the evidences that the grants in question belong to the reign of Edward III. can be shown to be of the most incontrovertible character, and will be adduced hereafter.

The earliest direct notice regarding the coal trade on the Tyne, which has come under the observation of the writer, occurs in the return from an inquisition held at Newcastle-on-Tyne, in the ninth year of the reign of Edward I. [A.D. 1281], by order of the King, to investigate into certain trespasses and concealments on the part of the bailiffs and coroners of the town. From this it appears that between this date and the year 1213, when King John had given the town into the hands of the burgesses, at a fee-farm rent of £100 *per annum*, a new industry in coals had sprung up, which was a source of considerable profit to the town. The passage in reference to this subject is translated as follows:—"Also in regard to its being stated that the town of Newcastle would be worth two hundred pounds *per annum* if it were in the hand of the lord the King: They say that the lord King John, the uncle of the present King, leased the town of Newcastle to the burgesses at fee-farm for an hundred pounds, to be paid annually to the lord the King at his exchequer of Westminster for ever, which [town] at that time was not worth an hundred pounds, but now it is so improved by coals, that at times it is

¹ Liber Albus, translated by H. T. Riley, M.A. London, 1861, p. 208.

² "England's Grievance discovered in relation to the Coal Trade," first published in the year 1655.

³ The first day of December, in the three and twentieth year of his reign.

worth two hundred pounds and at other times less; as often as coals fell short, by much it would not be worth two hundred pounds.”¹

It is remarkable that the simple word “coals” (carbones) is employed in this passage. It is also the term subsequently used in the grants made to the town by Edward III. This may have arisen from the circumstance of the mineral having already become such a common article of merchandise at Newcastle-on-Tyne. Elsewhere, both in England and Scotland, mineral coal appears to have been usually distinguished by the name of sea-coal at this period.

Before the close of the thirteenth century, we find the Prior and Convent of Tynemouth turning to account the coal within their extensive property. They were owners of a large portion of the lands bordering on the north bank of the River Tyne. In the year 1292 we have an account of the various sources of the revenue derived from their lands,² from which it appears that collieries had then been opened out in the manors of Tynemouth and Wylam. For the former an entry occurs—“De carbonariis³ annuatim communiter estim’ 61s. 3d.,” and for the latter—“De bracina et carbonar’ ibidem 20s.”

Contemporaneously with these notices of the working of coal we have further mention of purchases of it at various places in the eastern counties. The following are the earliest instances given by J. E. T. Rogers, in his “History of Agriculture and Prices in England”:—⁴

SEA-COAL GENERALLY SOLD BY THE QUARTER.⁵

Dover	...	...	...	4	@	^{s.} 0	^{d.} 9	...	...	1279
”	...	...	...	4	”	1	0	...	...	1281
”	...	...	...	1	”	1	0	...	...	1284

¹ “Item ad hoc quod dictum est quod villa Novi Castri valeret per annum ducentas libras si esset in manu domini Regis—Dicunt quod dominus Rex Johannes avunculus Regis nunc dimisit ad feodi firmam burgensibus Novi Castri villam illam pro centum libris annuatim solvendis domino Regi ad scaccarium suum Westmonasterii in perpetuum que tunc non valebat centum libras sed nunc est ita apropiata per carbones quod aliquando valet ducentas libras et aliquando minus toties carbones defecerint de multo non valeret ducentas libras.”—Inquisitions (*Post Mortem, etc.*) Chancery. 9 Edward the First, No. 85.

² Extract from Tynemouth Chartulary, given by Brand in Appendix to Vol. II., p. 591.

³ *Carbonaria*, originally a place where wood was converted into charcoal, at this period was also applied to coal-pits, which is without doubt the meaning attached to it in this case. See the same word again applied to collieries in subsequent extracts from this chartulary.

⁴ Vol. I., p. 422, and Vol. II., p. 333. Oxford, 1866.

⁵ In Scotland, however, where coal appears to have come earlier and more

Waleton	...	...	19	„	s. 1	d. 0	...	...	1291
Weston	...	...	18	„	0	9	...	...	1292
„	...	...	16	„	0	11	...	...	1293
„	...	...	6	„	1	0	...	...	1294
„	...	...	5	„	1	4	...	...	1295
„	...	...	9½	„	1	4	...	...	1296
„	...	...	8	„	1	4	...	...	1297

In the taxing bill of Colchester, “sea-coal dealers” are mentioned, at the close of the thirteenth century.¹

The writer is not aware of any certain reference to the working of coal in the Bishopric of Durham previous to the beginning of the fourteenth century.² In the latter half of the episcopacy of Anthony Beck (who was Bishop of Durham from 1283-1311) we find it receiving attention. The right to work the coal was a matter of dispute between the bishop and his vassals, and the latter referred their case to the king in the year 1302. The document which treats of this subject, among other things, is entitled, “Petition to the King of the Men of the Franchise of Durham, between the Tyne and the Tees, against Anthony, Bishop of Durham, with the King’s answer thereto, or allowance made by the Bishop.” The following is the translation of the part relating to the working of coal, the original being in Norman French :—“And whereas, where it is lawful for every free man to make a mill on his own land, and to take coal mine³ found in his

rapidly into use, the chalders were the measure employed. In the account of the Sheriff of Berwick for the year 1265, there is a payment for 5 chalders supplied to the castle there :—“Item in quinque celdris carbonum marin’ empt’ ad warnisturam castri cum car’ xvs.” Chamberlain Rolls, Vol. I., p. *43. In the list of stores in the same castle, in 1292, 30 chalders are recorded :—“xxx cuedres de charbon de meir.”—“Early Records relating to Mining in Scotland,” by R. W. Cochran-Patrick. Edinburgh, 1878. Introduction, p. xlv.

¹ Rot. Parl., Vol. I. Quoted in Report of the Royal Coal Commission. London, 1871. Vol. III., p. 4.

² The passages so frequently quoted from the Boldon Buke are too indefinite and isolated to be regarded as such.

It is perhaps scarcely necessary to advert to the fact that the word *coal* (carbo) originally signified charcoal, and *collier* (carbonarius) a charcoal-burner. These words came to be applied to mineral coal and mineral coal workers in some districts, while at the same time retaining their original meaning in others. At and previous to this date, it is impossible to determine in which sense the words are used without subsidiary evidence.

³ The word “mine” is here used in its earliest signification of “ore” or “mineral.” It was commonly so used in the metalliferous districts, and is still employed with this meaning in some parts of the kingdom. Several attempts have been made to explain the origin of this word, of which that advanced by Sir John Pettus is probably the most fanciful. He conceives that the word “mine” is no other than a translation of *meus*, and that “miners” may be from *minores*, being a

own land, there come the bailiffs of the bishop, and disturb as well the lords of the vills, as other freeholders, so that they cannot by the things aforesaid make their profit, against the common law of the land.—There the king doth will, and the bishop grant, that this article be held in all points, saving the right of his church.”¹

In the agreement between the Bishop and the commonalty, in the following year [A.D. 1303], the right to take iron ore, as well as coal, is conceded.²

In a roll of the revenues of the See of Durham for the twenty-fifth year of Bishop Beck³ [A.D. 1307–8], we find mention of a mine of coals belonging to the bishop. The entry—“*Minera carbonum. Et de 12s. 6d. de minera carbonum in quarterio de Cestr’*.”—occurs at two terms in the account for this year. Other mines appear to have been opened out soon after. In 1314 Bishop Kellawe appointed Gilbert de Scaresbek’ warden of his forests, chaces, parks, and all woods whatsoever, *also of mines of coals*, within the liberty of Durham.⁴ The mines are not mentioned in the appointment of a warden by the same bishop two years earlier⁵ [A.D. 1312].

In the beginning of the fourteenth century the use of mineral coal had already taken considerable root in London, being employed by dyers, brewers, and others who required much fuel. For our knowledge of this fact we are indebted to the curious circumstance that the heavy smoke arising from sea-coal fires was beginning to attract attention, and to be looked upon as an intolerable nuisance in the

people of lesser quality than those aboveground! A more probable hypothesis would appear to be that it is derived from an eastern root, the first idea of which is “weight,” and which occurs in the Greek *μυα* and Latin *mina*. In mediæval times *mina* signifying “ore,” *Minaria* was a place where ore is got, a vein or mine. *Minaria* is the form of the word used in the Domesday Survey and commonly during the twelfth century, but subsequently it became contracted into *minera*.

¹ “*Registrum Palatinum Dunelmense*.” Ed. by Sir T. D. Hardy, D.C.L. Vol. III., p. 41. Translation, p. 550.

“Et par la ou il list a chescun fraunke homme faire molin en sa terre demeigne, et prendre myne de carbon trove en sa terre demeigne, la venunt les baillives le evesque, et destourbent auxibien les seigneurs des viles, cum autres fraunkte-nautes, que ceaux ne pount des choses avaunt dites lour profit faire, encontre la commune ley de la terre—La veut le roy, et l’evesque le grant que cest article soit tenu en touz pointz save le dreite de sa egliz.”

Mr. Surtees states that in the Parliament of the year 1302, the Bishop effected a reconciliation with his vassals, by the concession or confirmation of several important privileges. Surtees’ “Durham.” Vol. I., p. xxxiii.

² “*Registrum Palatinum Dunelmense*.” Vol. III., p. 557.

³ Published by the Surtees Society. Appendix No. 2, “Boldon Buke.”

⁴ “*Registrum Palatinum Dunelmense*.” Vol. I., p. 552.

⁵ *Ibid*, p. 114.

metropolis. Strangers repairing to the city, to attend Parliament and for other purposes, appear to have been specially struck with the effects produced upon the atmosphere of London by the use of sea-coal, and to have taken a leading part in the demonstrations against it. A royal proclamation prohibiting the use of the obnoxious fuel having produced little effect, stronger measures were resorted to. A commission of oyer and terminer was appointed¹ (A.D. 1307) with instructions "to enquire of all such who burnt sea-coals within the city or parts adjoining, and to punish them for the first offence with great fines and ransoms, and upon the second offence to demolish their furnaces."²

Notwithstanding the great opposition encountered by the new species of fuel in the city of London, its use continued to gain ground elsewhere, and even in the Thames it continued to arrive. There is an account of 10s. worth bought at London by John de Norton, clerk of the king's palace at Westminster, at the coronation of Edward II.,³ in this same year (A.D. 1307), and a few years later (A.D. 1316) we find 60s. paid to the same John de Norton, surveyor of the King's works within the King's palace at Westminster, etc., to purchase iron, steel, and sea-coal, to make divers heads for the King's lances, etc.⁴

From the earliest extant accounts of the receipts and expenses of the monastery of Jarrow, it is evident that mineral coal was now being used to a considerable extent in the neighbourhood of the river-Tyne. In the year 1313, a purchase of eighteen chalders was made for the monastery by the steward—"xviii. celdris carbonum;" and in the same year nine chalders were bought by another agent of the house—"Et in ix celdris carborum (*sic*) maritimorum cum omnibus expensis et

¹ Patent Roll, 35 Edward the First, m. 5 (dorso). In this writ the use of fires of "carbones marini" in lieu of "busca vel carbo bosci," is spoken of as a custom introduced "jam de novo." (See Appendix A.)

² A Treatise on the Coal Trade, by Robert Edington. London, 1813, p. 41.

May not the *soubriquet* of "Auld Reekie," which is applied at the present day to the Scotch metropolis, have originated in the use of mineral fuel there earlier than in the inland towns?

³ Brand, Vol. II., p. 254. Petitiones in Parlamento, A.D. 1321 et 1322. "A notre Seigneur le Roi et a son conseil prie Richard del Hurst de Loundres q'il luy voille comandez de payer xs. pur carboun de meer q' Johan de Norton nazguers clerk du palleis, prist de li a Loundres al coronement notre Seigneur le Roi: dont il ad bille del dit Johan et unke ne fut paye, E ceo fut pur carboun pris al paleys al dit coronement." etc.

⁴ "Issues of the Exchequer," Henry III.—Henry VI., by F. Devon. London, 1837, p. 130.

aliis minutis vijs. iiijd.”¹ Among the stores in the castle of Norham, in the following year (A.D. 1314), mention occurs of 40 quarters of sea-coal—“xl. quarters de garboun de mere.”²

As early as 1325 coals were also exported from the Tyne to the territories of the King of England in France, mention occurring of a vessel belonging to one Thomas Rente, of Pontoise, as bringing a cargo of corn to Newcastle-on-Tyne and returning with a cargo of sea-coal.³

In the roll of the revenues of the monastery of Tynemouth for the year 1292, already referred to, there is no allusion to the existence of any collieries at that period in the manor of Elswick. In 1326, however, we find the Prior and his house obtaining possession of a loading berth on the bank of the Tyne at Newcastle, as appears from a charter translated as follows:—“Know all persons, etc., that I, John de Felton, Chaplain, have granted to the Prior, etc., all that land, with all the buildings and appurtenances thereof, in the town of Newcastle, which I had of Master William de Bevercote, Clerk, upon ‘les stathes’ to the Tyne, and whatever could be gained from that water. etc.”⁴ Shortly after this date, we find the Prior and his house actively prosecuting the opening out of collieries, in several parts of their adjoining manor of Elswick. The following are translations of entries which occur in their chartulary:—

“Memorandum that the colliery of Elswick, called *the Heygrove*,⁵ has been leased to Adam de Colewell, from the feast of Saint Martin in the year of the Lord 1330 until the same feast a year turned, for 100s. at the feast of Pentecost and Saint Martin, the first payment to begin at the feast of Pentecost next following.”

¹ “The Inventories and Account Rolls of the Monasteries of Jarrow and Monkwearmouth.” Surtees Society, Vol. 29, pp. 5, 8.

² “Registrum Palatinum Dunelmense.” Vol. I., pp. 599, 671.

³ Brand, Vol. II., p. 255. Rotuli Parliament, Vol. I., p. 433. Petitiones in Parlamento, A.D. 1325, 19 Ed. II. No. 9. “A notre Seigneur le Roi et son conseil supplie Thomas Rente le soen homme lige de Pontise qe come il mena sa neef charge de blee a Novel Chastel sur Tyne et carca arere sa dite neef de charboun de meer en son reuener” etc.

⁴ “History of the Monastery of Tynemouth,” by William S. Gibson, Vol. I. p. 138. In a two years’ lease, evidently of this same land, granted by the Prior in 1338, it is spoken of as “quandam placeam terre super quam carbones marini reponi consueverunt.” Brand, Vol. II., p. 255, note.

⁵ This colliery had evidently been in existence previous to this year. We have here the name by which it was popularly designated. In the vernacular, “grove” or “groove” was the term for a mine. A relic of the word exists in the neighbourhood at the present day in the “Groove seam” of Walbottle colliery.

"Memorandum that another new colliery, which Hugh de Hecham¹ once held, in the west field of Elswick, has been leased to the same Adam de Colewell, for a payment of six marks, the year to begin when he has dug it."

"Memorandum, also, that the colliery of the west field, near the road, has been leased to Ralph Bullock, from the feast of the Annunciation of the blessed Mary in the year of the Lord 1331 until the feast of Saint Peter *ad vincula* next following, he paying for it each week 2s."

"Memorandum that John the Carter, Richard de Colewell, and Geoffrey Lene, of Elswick, have taken one colliery to be newly dug upon the moor of Elswick, nigh to the Gallowflat, to be held from the feast of All Saints in the year of the Lord 1334 until the same feast a year turned, for 40s., to be paid at the feasts of the Purification of the blessed Mary and Saint Peter *ad vincula*, in equal portions."²

These ancient memoranda forcibly illustrate the extreme simplicity of the operation of coal-mining at this time. The last, especially, is curious, where a co-partnery of three have "taken" a colliery on Elswick moor, near Gallowflat, the term being for one year, though the pit requires to be dug, and the rent 40s.,³ payable half-yearly in equal portions.

The activity displayed at this period in opening up new collieries

¹ Hugh de Hecham was one of the bailiffs of Newcastle for several years at this period, and was mayor in 1334 and 1335. See Bourne, p. 193 *et seq.* The name occurs in the inquisition at Newcastle, 9 Edward I., referred to above.

² "Memorandum de carbonar' de Elstewyk que vocatur le Heygrove demissa Ade de Colewell a festo Sancti Martini anno Domini 1330 usque ad idem festum anno revoluto pro 100s. ad festum Pentecost' et Sancti Martini, incipiente prima solutione ad festum Pent' proxime sequent'."

"Mem' de alia carbonar' nova quam Hugo de Hecham quondam tenuit in campo occident' de Elstewyke dimissa eidem Ade de Colewell, pro 6 marcis solvend' anno incipien' cum ipsam effoderit."

"Item memorand' de carbonar' del Westfield juxta viam dimissa Radulpho Bullock a festo Annunciationis beate Marie anno Domini 1331 incipien' usque ad festum ad vincula Sancti Petri proxime sequens reddend' inde pro qualibet septiman' 2 sol."

"Mem' quod Johannes le Carter, Ricardus de Colewell, et Galfridus Lene, de Elstewyk, ceperunt unam carbonariam de novo effodiend' super moram de Elstewyk juxta le Galowflat, habend' a festo Omnium Sanctorum anno Domini 1334 usque ad idem festum anno revoluto pro 40s. solvend' ad festa Pur' beate Marie et Sancti Petri ad vincula per equales porciones." Quoted by Brand, Vol. II., p. 255, note.

³ In this, as in all other sums given in this paper, the money of the period must be understood to be quoted, which was about twenty times as valuable as that of the present day. Taking this fact into account, it will be seen that the monks of Tynemouth had already begun to derive a considerable revenue, in money, from the letting of collieries in Elswick.

in Elswick, is indicative of the growth which was taking place in the demand for mineral fuel. An increase is also observable from time to time in the quantities purchased. In the year 1337, King Edward III. having ordered anchors to be made for his ships called the *Christopher* and the *Cog Edward*, he directed the Sheriff of London to provide for that purpose 5,000 lbs. of iron, 200 Eastland boards, and 100 quarters of sea-coal, to be delivered at the Tower.¹

Other indications of the spread of the use of coal are observable in notices to be met with of the existence of collieries at many points of the Great Northern coal-field, as also of the increasing employment of mineral fuel for domestic purposes. In opening out collieries at this period the choicest localities were open to selection, and the seams of coal being found at or close to the surface, little difficulty or expense was incurred in commencing operations.

Out of various references to show that the working of coal was now being carried on pretty generally throughout the coal-field, the following may be cited:—

The earliest notice of coal in Lumley on the Wear, according to Mr. Surtees, is contained in a charter which is without date or witness, but was granted by *the father of* Waleran de Lumley, Mayor of Newcastle 1339. It is translated as follows:—

“To all, etc. Henry, son of Peter de Lumley. Know ye that I have given, etc., to Gilbert de Lumley, all my mine and my part of the sea coals in the land of Great Lumley.”²

In the tenth year of Bishop Beaumont [A.D. 1327–8], John de Denhum died seised of half the Vill of Coxhow, with mines of coal there, held of the Bishop by 40s. rent.³

In the roll of the bailiff of the manor of Auckland for the year 1337–8, among the petty expenses, an entry occurs, “Item comp. in xxiiij. quart. carbonum maritimorum empt., pro quodam thorali calcis comburendo, 2s.”⁴ The sea coals were not used alone, but in

¹ *Fœdera*, Vol. IV., p. 730. Quoted in “Annals of Commerce,” by David Macpherson. London, 1805. Vol. I., p. 517. On this passage Macpherson remarks—“This is the earliest express notice we have of so large a quantity of coals in London.”

² Surtees’ “Durham,” Vol. II., p. 165. “Omnibus, etc. Henricus fil. Petri de Lumeley. Sciatis me dedisse, etc. Gilberto de Lumley, totam mineram meam et partem meam carbonum maritimorum in campo de Magna Lumley.” *Sans dat. ni tesmoignes.*

³ Surtees’ “Durham,” Vol. I., p. 70.

⁴ “Bishop Hatfield’s Survey,” Appendix I. Surtees Society, Vol. 32, p. 206. A translation of the roll is given in “Auckland Castle” by the Rev. J. Raine. Durham, 1852. p. 26, *et seq.*

conjunction with underwood; the next entry being—"In bosco col-pando pro dicto opere 7½d." It was customary at this period, and even much later, to use only a proportion of mineral fuel, the new fuel becoming as it were dovetailed on to the old, which it slowly but steadily supplanted.

A coal-mine is mentioned in the ordination of the vicarage of Merington in 1343:—"Necnon et medietatem pecuniæ de decima mineræ carbonum Willielmi de Het," etc.¹ "As also a moiety of money from the tithe of the mine of coals of William de Het."

In the Inventories and Account Rolls of the Priory of Finchale for the year 1348-9, mention occurs of a coal-mine at Lumley, belonging to this monastery. Among the receipts for this year is an entry of 19s. 5d., obtained for coals sold:—"Et de xixs. vd. de carbonibus venditis hoc anno de minera nostra de Lumley."²

In the southern portion of the coal-field we have a curious account of the opening out of a new mine at Coundon in 1350, with the cost of the same and the appliances used:—"Item in 1 minera carbonum maritimorum de novo fundenda in campo de Coundon cum cordis, scopes, et wyndas emptis et factis pro eodem opere 5s. 6d."³

Coal mines at Plessey, near Blyth, are incidentally mentioned as being worked at this date. In 1349 Roger de Widdrington covenanted to build a house within the site of the manor of Plescys, for Margaret, the widow of Richard de Plessis. "The covenant for fuel to be used in this house," says Mr. Hodgson, "was, that she should yearly have ten wain loads of peat, and liberty to pull as much ling as she pleased on the wastes of Plessys and Schotton; besides two chaldrons (6 fotheres) of sea coal at the mines of Plescys."⁴

The notices which occur in the accounts of various religious houses in the North, indicate that mineral fuel was now very commonly used by them.

¹ Surtees' "Durham." Vol. III., p. 396.

² "The Priory of Finchale." Surtees Society, Vol. 6. Inventories and Account Rolls, p. xxxi.

³ "Bishop Hatfield's Survey." Surtees Society, Vol. 32, p. 219. In the Glossary, "scopes" is translated "probably buckets." From a lease granted by the Prior of Durham in 1447 they appear to have been used for the conveyance of coal. The lessees were "to wirke and wyn cole every day overable with thre pikkes, and ilk pike to wyn every day overable lx scopes." "Historia Dunelmensis Scriptores tres." Surtees Society, Vol. 9, Appendix, p. cccxiii.

⁴ Hodgson's "Northumberland," Vol. II., Part 2, p. 303.

In an inventory of the monastery of Monkwearmouth for the year 1337, we find mention of 6 chalders of sea coals:—"de carbonibus marinis vi. celdræ."¹

The accounts of the expenses for fuel at the monastery on Holy Island, show that the bulk of the fuel used there consisted of coal. For the year 1344-45 the entries are:—

"Fifty-seven and a half chaldrons of coals, for the brewhouse, lime-kiln, hall, prior's chamber, kitchen, and infirmary, £4 14s. 5d."

"Brushwood, fewel, and bent bought, 43s. 4d."

In the year 1346-47 the entries are:—

"Sixty-six chaldrons and a quarter of coals, 104s. 3d."

"Twenty-six trusses of hather (de hather) for the bakehouse and brewhouse, for lack of other fuel, 9s. 10d."

"Brushwood bought at Dichard, 53s. 4d."

"To men digging peats at Howeburne Moss, 8s."²

In the accounts of Jarrow Monastery, we find wood and coal bought simultaneously for fuel. In 1346 an entry occurs "in focali empto per tempus compoti videlicet fagotis et carbonibus marinis;" and in the account for the year 1351 the respective quantities of each are specified:—"Item in XV^c. fagots et XXI. celdris de carbonibus emptis xxvijs. iiijd."³

The fuel used at Finchale Priory at the same period, consisted variously of "ling, coals, and thorns;" the entry for the year 1346-7 being:—"Item in empcone focalium diversorum, videlicet bruer', carbonum, et spinarum, xvijs. vijd."⁴

There are numerous entries of purchases of small quantities of sea coals in the account rolls of the bailiffs of different manors in the Bishopric of Durham for the year 1349-50. In the Coundon account the purchase is stated to be made in order to save straw:—"In ij plaustris carbonum maritimorum empt. pro famulis curiæ in hieme, pro stramine salvando 6d."⁵

¹ Surtees Society, Vol. 29, p. 142.

² Raine's "North Durham," pp. 86, 89. In 1358 the house was in debt £73 13s. 4d., of which sum a small item of 14s. was due to the pit owner (*carbonarius*) of Howburne.

³ Surtees Society, Vol. 29, pp. 30, 35.

⁴ "The Priory of Finchale." Surtees Society, Vol. 6, p. xxiv.

⁵ "Bishop Hatfield's Survey."—Appendix II. The terms "carbones," "carbones marini," and "carbones maritimi," appear to be used indifferently in these rolls, according to the caprice of the individual making the return. In the North,

The instances given above may be regarded as sufficient to show that coal was already largely employed in the North for domestic purposes. We are therefore prepared to expect an increased demand for it, and a proportionally increased vigour displayed in the opening out of collieries.

Among situations favourable to the prosecution of mining, the high grounds on the north and south banks of the River Tyne, near Newcastle and Gateshead, presented a combination of natural advantages rarely to be met with. Seams of coal of good thickness and excellent quality were to be found cropping out on the hill sides.¹ They were easy of access and water free; while the proximity of the river provided a ready outlet for the produce of the mines to numberless markets. We have already seen that the men of Newcastle, and the monks of Tynemouth, had begun to derive a profit from the mineral resources of the lands on the north bank of the river. At what period the coal on the south bank first commenced to be worked we have less certain information. The men of Newcastle, in virtue of privileges conceded to them by various kings, disputed the right of the inhabitants of the Bishopric to traffic freely upon the river. Several inquisitions were held with a view to arriving at the truth of the matter. In one of these, before the Sheriff of Durham in 1323, the ancient division of the river was ascertained to have been as follows:—"That a moiety of the water thereof, from Stanley-Burn to Tynemouth, belonged to Saint Cuthbert and the Church of Durham, and another moiety to the County of Northumberland, and that the third part of the same water in the middle of the stream was common and free." The only allusion to coals in the return from this inquisition occurs in the following passage:—"pretereā predicti ballivi perturbant omnes cariantes boscum carbones et meremium cum aliis necessariis descendere ad terram episcopatus sine redemptione." The authorities at Newcastle, however, continued to interfere with the traffic of the Bishopric, and in 1334, upon the application of Bishop Bury, King Edward III. issued a writ forbidding the mayor and bailiffs of Newcastle to hinder the mooring of ships on the

where mineral fuel was now becoming an article of general use, the simple term "coal" was becoming attached to it, and was superseding the earlier name "sea coal." Coal-mines were also usually designated "*mineræ carbonum*."

¹ See the Geological Plan of the Tyne Valley, prefixed to this paper.

south side of the river. In this writ "pisces, carnes, boscum, car-bones, etc.," are mentioned. Even this did not put an end to the dispute, the subject continuing to be a vexed question for a long time after.¹ "The most important portion, perhaps, of the Borough history of Gateshead," says Mr. Surtees, "is that of the perpetual dispute betwixt the See of Durham and the powerful and wealthy Corporation of Newcastle, for the free navigation of the river Tyne, and the right of building quays and ballast-shores on its banks."²

The following allusion to the removal of obstructions in the river is interesting. In the 11th year of Bishop Bury [A.D. 1343-4], John, the Prior of Durham, and seven others, were appointed justices of Oyer and Terminer, to try forty-one individuals [including Richard de Galeway, mayor, and William de Akton', Thomas Flemyng, and John de Durham, three of the bailiffs of Newcastle-on-Tyne] "who, not being Bishop's officers, had forcibly broken and cut the weirs in the river Tyne at Gateshead, Quikham, and Ryton, and had taken away certain vessels laden with corn, coal, and other merchandize at Quikham, to unload without the liberty of the Bishop, and prevented vessels plying or unloading or bringing provisions or goods to Heworth-upon-Tyne, Heberne, Jarou, or Wyvestowe; and fishermien from bringing and selling fish there."³

We have now arrived at the period when the men of Newcastle obtained their first licence from the king, to dig and to take coals and stone in certain portions of land outside the walls of the town, and to make their profit therefrom in aid of their fee-farm rent. In the year 1350, upon supplication made, they obtained a grant in the following terms :—

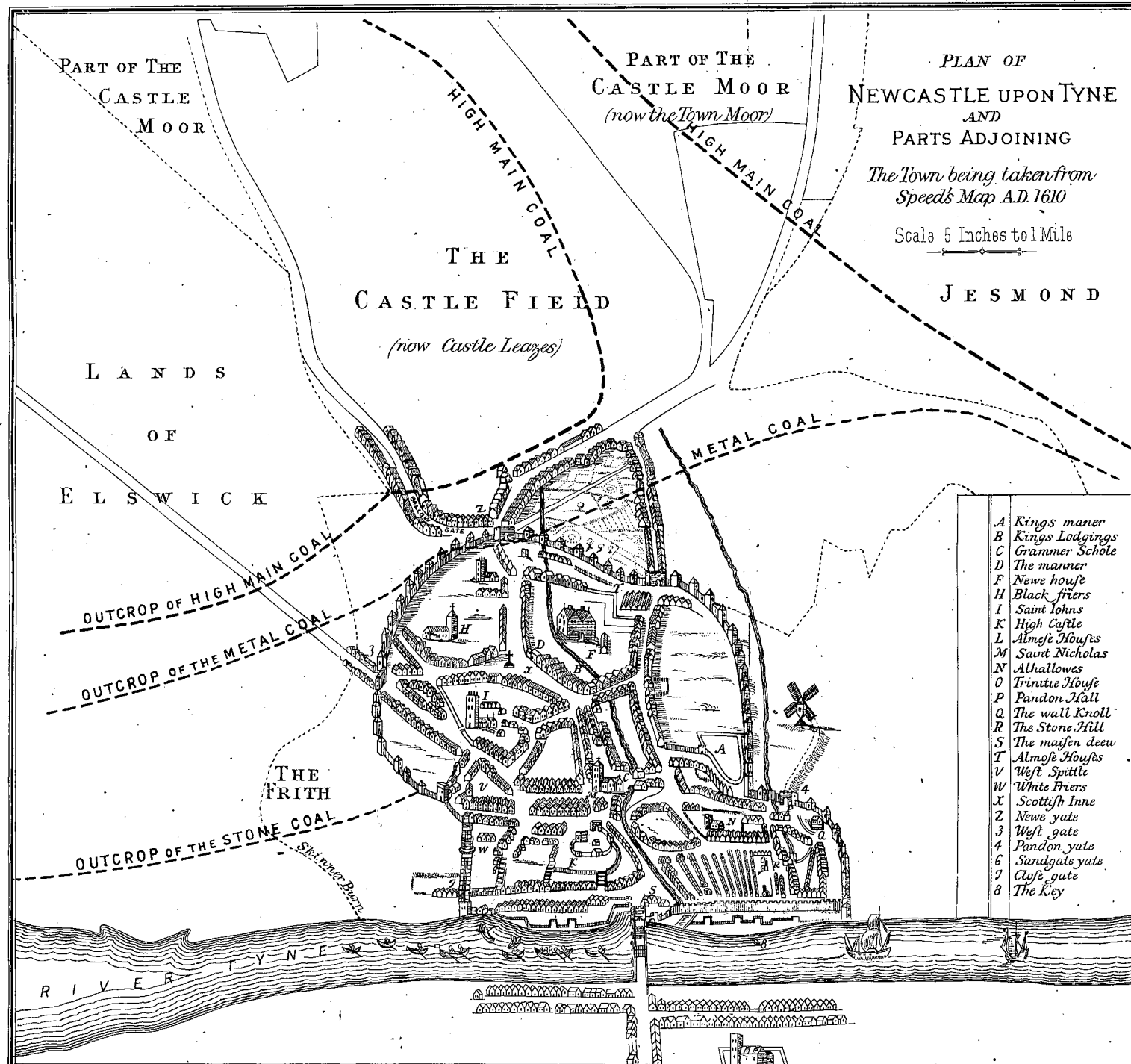
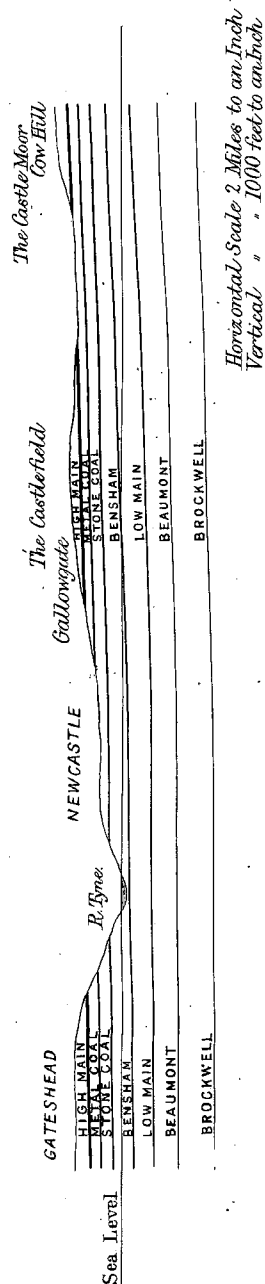
"The King to his beloved Mayor and Bailiffs and good men of our town of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, greeting. Because on your part petition has been made to us that since you hold the town aforesaid from us at fee-farm, we may be willing to concede to you that in the common ground of the town aforesaid, without the walls of the same town, in places called the Castlefield and the Frith, you may have the power to dig and to take coals and stone from thence, and to make your profit

¹ See Brand, Vol. II., p. 10, *et seq.*

² Surtees' "Durham," Vol. II., p. 109.

³ Rot. Bury. 31st Annual Report of the Deputy Keeper of the Public Records, p. 61.

SECTION FROM NEWCASTLE TOWN MOOR TO GATESHEAD..



of the same in aid of your farm aforesaid, as often and in such a way as may seem to you to be expedient; we, favourably acceding to your petition in this matter, have caused a licence of this kind to be granted to you. And this, to you and others whom it may concern, we signify by the present letter to have effect during our good-pleasure. Witness as above [witness the King at Westminster, the first day of December], by the King himself and council, and for 20s. paid into the hamper."¹

The above payment is acknowledged in the Exchequer roll for the same year:—"Maior ballivi et probi homines ville Novi Castri super Tynam dant viginti solidos solutos pro licencia fodiendi carbones et petram in communi ville predictæ extra muros ejusdem ville."²

The licence recited above occurs on the patent roll of the twenty-fourth year of Edward III. That this is the licence usually stated to have been granted to the men of Newcastle by Henry III., on the first day of December, in the twenty-third year of his reign, is evident, not only from the terms of the grant, but also from the circumstance that Gardner (upon whose sole authority the statement seems to rest) having given it as belonging to the reign of Henry III., makes no allusion to it under the reign of Edward III., among the rolls of whose reign it is now to be found. Several writers have noticed a difficulty in connection with the date which Gardner has assigned to this grant, but the patent roll for the year to which it was referred happening to be one of the few which are missing,³ the detection of the error was the more difficult. The Exchequer roll for the twenty-third year of Henry

¹ "Rex dilectis sibi Majori et Ballivis ac probis hominibus ville nostre Novi Castri super Tynam salutem. Quia ex parte vestra nobis est supplicatum ut cum vos teneatis villam predictam de nobis ad feodi firmam velimus concedere vobis quod in communi solo ville predictæ extra muros ejusdem ville in locis vocatis le Castelfeld et le Frith fodere et carbones et petram inde extrahere et commodum vestrum inde facere possitis in auxilium firme vestre supradictæ quociens et prout vobis videbitur expedire: Nos supplicationi vestre in hac parte favorabiliter annuentes licenciam hujusmodi vobis duximus concedend'. Et hoc vobis et aliis quorum interest innotescimus per presentes. In cujus, etc., pro nostro beneplacito duratur'. Teste ut supra [Teste Rege apud Westmonasterium primo die Decembris] per ipsum Regem et consilium et pro viginti solid' R' solut' in Hanaperio."—Patent Roll 24 Edward III., Part 3, m. 6.

² "Abbreviatio Rotulorum Originalium," Vol. II., p. 215.

³ "The series of Patent Rolls at the Tower is complete from the third of John to the end of the reign of Edward the Fourth, with the exception of the rolls of the tenth, eleventh, and twelfth years of John's reign, and those of the twenty-third and twenty-fourth years of the reign of King Henry the Third, which are known to have been missing for some centuries, etc."—Introduction to "Rotuli Literarum Patentium." Vol. I., Part 1. Printed in 1835.



EARLY WORKING OF COAL ON THE BANKS OF THE TYNE.

III. is however extant, and there is no such payment from the men of Newcastle entered upon it.

In regard to the second grant stated by Gardner to have been made to Newcastle by Henry III., in the thirty-first year of his reign, it need only be remarked that it is evidently a mistaken reference to that given to the town by Edward III., in the thirty-first year of his reign. The Patent and Charter Rolls for the thirty-first year of Henry III. are in existence, and in neither of them is such a grant to be found.

Of the two tracts of ground outside the walls of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, mentioned in the above licence of King Edward III., the Frith lay on the west side of the town, and, according to Grey, was a gift to the town from this king "for the good services of the townes-men."¹ The Castle-field in the reign of Edward III. was claimed to have already belonged to the town "time out of mind," although the townsmen appear not to have been put into formal possession of it as yet.

That the difficulties attending the shipment of coals occasioned by the interference of the men of Newcastle, did not prevent the working of the mines on the south bank of the river, is evident from a lease of mines there granted by Bishop Hatfield in 1356. This lease comprised five mines in the manor of Whickham, and was granted to Sir Thomas de Gray, knight, and Sir John Pulhore, rector of Whickham, for 12 years, at 500 marks rent *per annum*. From the large sum paid, and the number of mines leased, it would appear that the working of coal had then already become an industry of some importance on this side of the river also.

A transcript of this lease, taken from the rolls of Bishop Hatfield, will be found in the Appendix.² It is somewhat lengthy and detailed, but furnishes us with some curious information regarding coal-mining in this neighbourhood at this early period. The following are a few of the points most worthy of note :—

¹ "Chorographia, or a Survey of Newcastle-upon-Tyne." First printed in 1649. For the position of these tracts of ground outside the walls of the town, as also the outcrops of the coal seams therein, see the Plan of Newcastle-upon-Tyne and parts adjoining, attached to this paper.

² See Appendix B. It is quite clear from this lease that the Whickham mines had already been working for some time. Mr. Surtees ["Durham," Vol. III., p. 239.] states that a lease of the mines in Whickham and Gateshead had been granted to the above parties by Bishop Bury, and refers to "Rot. Bury" as his authority. There is, however, no mention of this lease in the Calendar of Bury's Rolls, printed in the Thirty-first Annual Report of the Deputy Keeper of the Public Records, and it appears from the above lease of Bishop Hatfield that the Gateshead mines were being worked by others.



EARLY WORKING OF COAL ON THE BANKS OF THE TYNE.

The rent was to be paid in equal portions at the quarterly terms usual in the Bishopric, and if any payment were forty days in arrear, *double* the stipulated sum was to be required.

No new mines were to be opened out on the water of Tyne, or elsewhere in these parts, by the Bishop or any other person, "save those of the said Bishop at Gateshead which are now going, and the coals from which will not be carried nor sold to ships."

The lessees were to work the mines as far as they could be wrought by five *barrowmen*, according to the view and oath of the chief forester and of the *viewers* (veieurs).

They were not to draw from each mine more than *one keel¹ per day*, in like manner as the custom had been in times past.

They were to have a reasonable supply of timber from the Bishop's woods for repairing and keeping up the mines and the *stairths*.

In the accounts of the coal-mining operations of this period we begin to find a drain or aqueduct for carrying off water, spoken of as a common appendage to the pits.

In 1354, Thomas, son of Richard de Fery, leased to John, Prior of Durham, all his coals and seams of coal in certain lands in the north part of the vill of Fery, for thirty years, with licence to dig in any place whatever, and carry on operations for his pits and watergate "in quocunque loco fodere et manu operari pro puteis suis et water-gage," etc.²

A few years after the men of Newcastle-upon-Tyne had obtained licence to dig coals in the Castle-field and the Frith, a complaint was made to the King by the Prior of Tynemouth, of trespasses upon the coal in the manor of Elswick, together with an attempt to damage a sewer or watercourse, from a mine in the moor of Elswick, which mine was the principal source of revenue to the Prior and his house. A-commission was thereupon appointed, to ascertain and determine the true boundaries between the town lands and those of Elswick by a writ, issued 26th January, A.D. 1357, in the following terms:—

"The King to his beloved and faithful Henry de Percy, Thomas de Seton, Richard Tempest, John Heroun, John Moubray, and Roger de Blaykeston, greeting. Know ye that whereas lately, on the part of the

¹ Probably about 20 tons.

² Surtees' "Durham," Vol. III., p. 285.

mayor and bailiffs and good men of our town of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, petition was made to us, that since they hold the town aforesaid from us at fee-farm we might be willing to concede to them, that in the common ground of the town aforesaid without the walls of the same town, in places called the Castle-field and the Frith, they might have power to dig and to take out coals and stone from thence, and to make their profit therefrom in aid of their farm above mentioned, as often and in such a way as it might seem to them to be expedient; and we, acceding to their petition in this matter, by our letters patent, to remain in force during our good-pleasure, made a licence of this thing to be granted to them; and now, on the part of our beloved in Christ the Prior of Tynemouth, we have learnt that the aforesaid mayor and bailiffs and other men of the town aforesaid, overstepping our said licence so granted to them, under colour of the same licence, have dug in the moor of the Prior himself, adjoining to the said places called the Castle-field and the Frith, beyond the ground of the said town, as by limits and bounds anciently placed there evidently appears; and are endeavouring to cause to be destroyed a certain sewer there to a mine of coals of the said Prior in his moor aforesaid, which is the greatest part of the sustenance of the Prior himself and his Priory aforesaid, to the heavy loss and manifest ruin of the Prior himself and his Priory aforesaid; on which account he has petitioned us concerning a remedy to be provided by us for him. And because, at the time of the concession of the licence aforesaid, it was not our intention, nor is it yet so, for anyone to be injured in his right under pretext of the same licence; being desirous to be assured regarding the foregoing, we have appointed you five, four, three, and two of you, to survey the said places called the Castle-field and the Frith, and the moor and mine of the aforesaid Prior there; and to inform yourselves by an inquisition thereafter, to be held in the presence of the mayor and bailiffs of the town aforesaid should they wish to take part, and by other ways and means which you shall see to be most expedient, concerning the ancient limits and bounds between the ground of the Prior himself and the ground of the town aforesaid there made: and, if it shall be needful, to cause them to be repaired and improved; and in the case where there have been no limits and bounds there, to appoint and place anew, sure, and evident limits and bounds for ever

to remain; and to certify to us in our Chancery concerning the limits and bounds aforesaid, and concerning your whole proceeding in this matter, under your seals, five, four, three, or two of you, clearly and openly, etc." Witness the King at Westminster, the 26th day of January.¹

In the same year [A.D. 1357], on the tenth day of May, Edward III. granted a charter to Newcastle-upon-Tyne, reciting and conforming the liberties previously enjoyed by the town, and, upon supplication made, putting the burgesses into formal possession of the Castle-field and Castle-moor, with licence to dig and to have mines of coals and stones there, and to make their profit from thence in aid of their fee-farm rent. After a detailed description of the boundaries of the lands granted to the town, the right to work coals therein is conceded in the following terms:—"and that the Burgesses themselves and their heirs may have power to dig in the same moor and land within the limits and separations aforesaid, and to have mines of coals and stones there, and to take out coals and stones from thence, and to make their profit from the same coals and stones and other proceeds arising from the same moor and land, in aid of the payment of their farm aforesaid, in such manner as it may seem to them best and most serviceably to be expedient, without hindrance from us or our heirs. . . . Given by our hand at Westminster, on the tenth day of May.—by the King himself and council, and for a fine of 40s. paid into the hamper."²

On the south bank of the river also the working of coal continued to progress. In 1364, Bishop Hatfield granted a lease of coal in the land of Gateshead to John Plummer, burgess of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, and Walter de Hesilden, burgess of Gateshead. The terms of this lease, as recited in its confirmation by King Edward III., are given below:—

"The King to all to whom, etc., greeting. We have seen a certain

¹ Patent Roll, 31 Edward III. Part 1, m. 25 dorso. (See Appendix C.)

² "et quod ipsi Burgenses et eorum heredes in eisdem mora et terra infra metas et divisas predictas fodere et mineras carbonum et petrarum ibidem habere et carbones et petras inde extrahere et commodum suum de eisdem carbonibus et petris ac aliis proficuis de eisdem mora et terra provenientius in auxilium soluciois firme sue predictae facere possint prout eis melius et utilius videbitur expedire absque impedimento nostri vel heredum nostrorum, etc. Dat' per manum nostram apud Westmonasterium x. die Maii.—per ipsum Regem et consilium et per finem xls. solut' in hanaperio."—Charter Roll, 31 Edward the Third. No. 6.

indenture between the venerable father Thomas, Bishop of Durham, and John Plummer, Burgess of the town of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, and Walter de Hesilden, Burgess of Gateshead, made in these words:— This indenture made between the right honourable Father in God, Sir Thomas, by the grace of God Bishop of Durham, on the one part, and John Plummer, Burgess of the town of Newcastle-on-Tyne, and Walter de Hesilden, Burgess of Gateshead, on the other part, witnesseth that the aforesaid bishop, by his steward, grants and to farm lets to the aforesaid John and Walter, their heirs and their assigns, a mine [or seam] of coals within the land of Gateshead, to make a pit and get coals and work to their profit, to have and to hold the aforesaid mine to the aforesaid John and Walter, their heirs and their assigns, for a term of twenty-four years, [they] paying for it yearly to the said Bishop and his successors 100s. at the feasts of Pentecost and Saint [Martin] in winter by equal portions; commencing their term of payment from the hour when they have won a pit from which they can get and have full work of coals from day to day, in like manner as is taken from the pit within the land of Whickham, provided that they do not have at one time more than one pit working; and commencing their term of payment at the next term of Pentecost or Saint Martin after a pit of coals is won in the manner above mentioned; and the aforesaid John and Walter will win the said mine at their own cost; and to do this the said Bishop grants sufficient timber in his park of Gateshead, under the view of the forester, for constructing their pits, and their Watergate, and to make their Staiths in a place convenient for putting their coals upon the water of Tyne to make their profit, at the risk of the said John and Walter, which place will be shown to them by the master forester or some other minister the said Bishop has appointed for this purpose, as often as they shall require to have timber to make these works during their term aforesaid; and the said Bishop grants them a road [or wayleave], convenient for them and all others getting coals there, to the said pits, in going and returning for their profit from the said pits to the staiths, without disturbance from him, or any of his, or his successors; and the said Bishop grants to them that no pit will either be let to farm, or made by him, or by another, within his land of Gateshead, during their term aforesaid; and should any be made

during their said term, that it shall be quite lawful for the aforesaid John and Walter to destroy them without being hindered by the said Bishop or his successors; and the said Bishop will guarantee to the aforesaid John and Walter, their heirs and their assigns, the said mine in the form aforesaid during their term aforesaid. In witness of which things the aforesaid parties have interchangeably set their seals to these indentures. Given at Durham, the first day of April, the year of grace mcccclxiii. We, moreover, holding the aforesaid concessions and demises settled and agreeable, for ourselves and our heirs, as much as in us lies, have conceded and confirmed them in such manner as the indenture aforesaid reasonably witnesseth. In witness of which, etc. Witness the King at Westminster, the 10th day of November, for five marks paid into the hamper.”¹

The lessees of the coal in the manor of Gateshead having addressed a complaint to the king, regarding hindrance and disturbance which they suffered at the hands of certain of the town of Newcastle, who themselves had coals to sell, on the 20th of May, in the year 1367, a writ was issued taking them and all others bringing coals from the Bishopric of Durham, into the special protection of the king. It is translated as follows:—

“The King to his faithful Sheriffs, Mayors, Bailiffs, Ministers, and others, to whom, etc., greeting. On the part of John Plomer and Walter de Hesilden, Merchants leading sea coals to divers places of our kingdom, for the use of the people of the same kingdom, it has been pointed out to us with grievous complaint, that since they, in the leading of this kind of coals, in boats, from the Bishopric of Durham across the water of Tyne to the town of Newcastle-upon-Tyne and other places in the neighbourhood, have suffered manifold hindrance and disturbance, through certain of the said town of Newcastle who have coals there to sell, which is admitted to result not only in our damage, but also in the no small loss of us and our said people, and of the state, as also the losing altogether of our custom which is due to be paid from those coals in the same town of Newcastle and elsewhere, on this account petition has been made to us by the aforesaid merchants that we may cause a suitable remedy to be applied to hindrances and disturbances of this kind. We, considering that by

¹ Patent Roll, 38 Edward the Third. Part 2, m. 26. (See Appendix D.)

the leading of coals of this kind to all places within our kingdom, the greatest advantage will come to us and our people, and wishing to look to the benefit of the state in this matter, have taken the aforesaid John and Walter and their servants, as also all others leading sea coals from the aforesaid Bishopric in boats across the water of Tyne to our town of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, and from thence, after paying the customs due from the same, to other places within our kingdom by land and by water, into our special protection and defence. And therefore we command, and firmly enjoin upon you, and each one of you, that you maintain, protect, and defend the aforesaid John and Walter, and others so leading sea coals, and each one of them, not bringing upon them, or allowing to be brought upon them, any injury, hurt, loss, violence, hindrance, or grievance. And if any forfeiture or injury happen to them, you are to cause it to be duly corrected and remedied without delay. Always provided that they do not lead, or cause to be led, any coals without our kingdom, to any place except to our town of Calais, under our heavy forfeiture, in any way in opposition to the form of the ordinance made thereupon. In testimony of which, etc., to remain in force during one year. Witness the King at Westminster, the 20th day of May."¹

The town of Calais, at this time, was the only market out of England to which the staple commodities of the country (including sea coals and grindstones)² were allowed to be exported.

A few days later (25th May), a writ regarding the above subject, was addressed to the mayor and bailiffs of Newcastle in the following terms :—

"Edward, by the grace of God, King of England and France and Lord of Ireland, to the mayor and bailiffs of Newcastle-upon-Tyne greeting. Roger de Fulthorp, John Plomer, John de Britley, and Walter de Hesildon have petitioned us that we may be willing to concede to them a licence, that they may have power to lead sea coals which they have dug and hereafter shall dig in the lands of the town of Gateshead, in the Bishopric of Durham, near the water of Tyne, from mines there, to the said town of Newcastle across that water. We, assenting to their petition in this matter, have caused a licence of

¹ Patent Roll, 41 Edward III. Part 1, m. 19. (See Appendix E.)

² "*petræ vocatæ gryndstones ac carbones maritimi.*" *Fœdera*. New ed. Vol. III., Part II., p. 688.

this kind to be conceded to the same Roger, John, John, and Walter, and therefore we command you to allow the aforesaid R., J., J., and W. to load the foresaid coals into boats on the side of the said town of Gateshead, and to lead them to the said town of Newcastle, the custom due from thence being paid to us at the same town of Newcastle as it behoves. Witness myself at Westminster, the 25th day of May.”¹

In connection with the subject of bringing coals across the Tyne from Gateshead to Newcastle, the attention of the king appears to have been directed to the customs due to him from sea coals. It had now become usual to treat coals in a more wholesale manner, doubtless owing to the great increase in the quantities purchased rendering the minute measuring of them impracticable, or at all events troublesome. The king being led to understand that a loss in the customs due resulted from the estimating of the coals in gross, addressed a writ to the mayor, bailiffs, and certain burgesses of Newcastle, appointing them to take charge of the measurement of coals. The writ is dated 20th May, 1367, and is translated as follows:—

“The King to the Mayor and Bailiffs of the town of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, Richard Scot, John de la Chaumbre, and Robert Reynald, burgesses of the same town, greeting. As we are made to understand that numbers of men of the town aforesaid, cause sea coals, from mines of coals there, to be led in their boats called *Keels* by the water of Tyne to the port of the town aforesaid to ships coming to the said port to buy cargoes of this kind of coals to be taken away from the same port, and to be placed in the aforesaid ships without measurement of the aforesaid coals, and thus because those coals are not measured by our standard measure before being put into the same ships, nor pay custom according to the measure of those coals but in the gross, great prejudice to us arises in many ways in connection with our customs due from this kind of coals: We, wishing to look to our indemnity in this matter, have appointed you jointly and severally to cause all sea coals led to the port aforesaid, to be loaded into ships in the manner aforesaid, to be measured previous to their being put into those ships, so that those coals be not at all put into ships of this kind previous to the measure of the same being settled with you as beforesaid; and to arrest and cause to be arrested all boats which you shall have found at the

¹ Patent Roll, 41 Edward III., m. 19. (See Appendix G.) Quoted by Brand. Vol. II., p. 257, note.

port aforesaid leading sea coals for loading those ships before the measurement of the same coals, together with the coals lying in the said boats, and to detain them under this arrest until you have received further instructions from us. And therefore we command you to be attentive in carrying out and performing the foregoing in the manner aforesaid, and to certify to us concerning an arrest of this kind when it shall have been made, as also concerning your whole proceeding in this matter into our Chancery, under your seals, clearly and openly from time to time. In witness of which, etc. Witness, the King, at Westminster, on the 20th day of May."¹

At the instance of the community of Newcastle and others, the above mandate was revoked in the following month, a certain fixed payment being allowed to the town of Newcastle in aid of their farm from every boat belonging to natives of this country loading coals there, the king reserving to himself only the usual customs due from merchants and other strangers who exported coals.²

Nicholas Coke, of Newcastle, was appointed keeper and vendor of the Bishop's coals within the manors of Gateshead and Whickham, on the 24th day of July, 1367,³ a duty for which he is stated to have been paid 13s. 4d. per annum.⁴

In addition to the mines at Gateshead and Whickham, coal was now also being worked at Winlaton on the same side of the river. There is a record of a large purchase of coal made there by the Sheriff of Northumberland in the year 1366-7, by order of the king, for the works at Windsor Castle. The coals were carried in keels and boats from Winlaton to Newcastle-on-Tyne, where they were re-loaded into the ships which conveyed them to London. The following translation of the particulars of this transaction, extracted from the "Pipe Roll,"⁵

¹ Patent Roll, 41 Ed. III. Part 1, mem. 16, dorso, "*De navibus vocatis Keles amensurandis.*" (See Appendix F.)

² Patent Roll, 41 Ed. III. Part 1, mem. 11 and 12. (See Appendices H and I.)

³ "Thomas, etc. Omnibus, etc. Sciatis quod constituimus dilectum nobis Nicholaum Coke de Novo Castro super Tynam Custodem carbonum nostrorum de Gatisheved et Whickham et ad vendend' dictos carbones et de denariis inde provenientibus nobis respondend' et satisfaciend'. In cujus rei testimonium, etc., patentes quamdiu nobis placuerit duraturas. Dat' Dunelm', etc., xxiiij. die Julii."—Durham Cursitor's Records, No. 31 (23rd year of Bishop Hatfield).

⁴ "The Chronicles and Records of the Northern Coal Trade," by W. Green. Transactions of the North of England Institute of Mining and Mechanical Engineers, Vol. XV.

⁵ 40th, Edward III.

furnishes us with a picture of the coal trade of the Tyne, at this early period, from another point of view:—

“Particulars of the account of Henry de Strothre, Sheriff of Northumberland, of moneys paid by him for the provision and purchase of sea coals for the requirements of the lord the King, bought in virtue of a letter of the lord the King, under his privy seal, addressed to the same sheriff, under date the 19th day of February, in the 40th year of the reign of the same lord the King of England.

Purchase of Coals.—The same accounts for 576 chalders of sea coals by the long hundred bought at Wynlatone, the price of the chalder 17d., £47 17s. 8d.; and for 33 keels and one boat, with men labouring in the same, namely, in each keel 5 men, and in the boat 4 men, each of the said keels containing 20 chalders, and the boat aforesaid containing 16 chalders, employed in carrying the said coals from Wynlatone to the port of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, and there loading them into ships, each of the said men taking for his wage 6d., and for the hire of each of the said keels and the boat 12d., 118s. 6d.; and for the wages of one John Taverner, superintending the conveyance and loading of the said coals, as also the procuring and freighting of divers ships, into which to put the said coals for carrying the same to London, namely, from the 14th day of April, in the 40th year, to the 6th day of June next following, for 54 days, each day being reckoned, he receiving per day by agreement 12d., 54s.; and to one Hugh Hankyn, for work and expenses in going to London and staying there to receive the aforesaid coals from the masters of the ships and delivering the same by indenture to Adam de Hertynghdone, clerk of the lord the King, and returning home, namely, for 74 days, he taking per day by agreement 18d., 111s.; and to divers masters of ships for the freight of 589 chalders and 3 quarters of coals from the aforesaid port to London, and there delivered as appears by the indentures of delivery of the same coals indentured between the said Henry and the masters aforesaid testifying to the delivery aforesaid, namely, for each chalder 3s. 6d., £103 4s. Sum of the expenses, £165 5s. 2d.

Sea-Coals.—The same accounts for 576 chalders of sea coals by the long hundred bought and provided for the requirements of the lord the King, in virtue of a letter of the said lord the King, under the privy seal, addressed to the same sheriff as appears above, which

make 676 chalders by the lesser hundred ; sum, 676 chalders by the lesser hundred ; regarding which he accounts in delivery made to Adam de Hertyingdone, clerk of the works of the King of the castle of Windsor, in virtue of the letter aforesaid, by indenture of the same Adam, testifying to the said delivery, by measure of the river Thames in London, 561 chalders and 3 quarters by the lesser hundred [which make by measure of the river Tyne, 504 chalders by the long hundred, as appears by the indenture aforesaid¹], and to allowance given on the quantity aforesaid, according to the custom at London, that is to say on each score of chalders, one chalder, 28 chalders ; and in loss arising from the throwing overboard of coals on account of a great storm which came on suddenly at sea, as also by the excess of the London measure compared with the measure at Newcastle-upon-Tyne, 86 chalders and a quarter. By a letter of the King, addressed to the Treasurers and Barons, dated the 24th day of May, in the forty-second year, the matters above written are set forth more at length, and on the oath of Henry himself. Sum as above, and it balances."²

The measures employed in the sale of coals underwent considerable change from time to time, but at this date the weight of the chalder appears to have been about a ton.

The working of coal was now being actively prosecuted at many points of the coal-field, among others in various parts of the lands belonging to the Prior of Durham and the Prior of Finchale, but it is beyond the scope of this paper to do more than allude to these operations. Before concluding, however, a change which was taking place in the furniture of the domestic fire-hearth, consequent upon the substitution of mineral fuel for the wood and peats formerly employed, may be adverted to. The ancient hearth-stone and andirons were now giving way to the *iron chimney* or fire-grate which begins to appear frequently in the accounts, and which was better adapted to the use

¹ This clause struck out in the original. 504 chaldrons is the quantity given by Mr. Taylor in his translation of the clause, but in the original Latin, which he also gives, it reads "Diiii. celdras."

² "The Archæology of the Coal Trade," by T. J. Taylor, Appendix No. 2 ; Archæological Institute of Great Britain and Ireland, 1858, Vol. I.

Though the stratum of coal known at the present day as the "High Main" seam, which came out to the surface at Newcastle and Gateshead, afforded coals admirably adapted for domestic purposes, the produce of some of the lower seams was peculiarly suitable for smith-work. This fact may possibly explain why the King obtained the above supply of coal from Winlaton, where the lower seams "crop out."

of coal. As early as the year 1310 the monks of Jarrow had *ij camini ferrei* in the hall of their monastery. In 1362 we find the monks of Holy Island having a chimney made of their own iron, and a little later [1379-80] they bought another iron chimney for 12s. In 1362, also, the monks of Monkwearmouth purchased an iron chimney for their hall. Regarding the iron chimney Mr. Raine remarks that it was not a fixture attached to the wall like our modern fire-grates, but loose and moveable from room to room. It was so important an article of furniture that it was frequently entailed by will upon son after son in succession.¹ Subsequently we find "1 porr and 1 pare of tangys," that is the familiar poker and tongs, mentioned as appendages to the iron chimney, these implements of the smith's craft having accompanied mineral fuel, in its passage from the forge, into a wider sphere in the "kitchen and hall."

¹ Raine's "North Durham."

APPENDIX A.

Patent Roll, 35 Edward the First. M. 5 (dorso). [Commission to enforce the observance of a proclamation prohibiting artificers from using sea coals in their fires in the city of London and neighbourhood.]

“Rex dilectis et fidelibus suis Radulpho de Sandewyco et Johanni le Blund salutem. Cum nuper ex gravi querela tam prelatorum et magnatum regni nostri frequent’ London’ pro utilitate reipublice de mandato nostro confluencium quam civium et tocius populi inibi et apud Suthwerk ac eciam apud Waplyng et Estsmythefeld habitancium accipientes quod rogorum artifices ipsos rogos qui in civitate et villis predictis ac earum confiniis ex busca vel carbone bosci fieri consueverunt jam de novo preter solitum ex carbone marino concremant et componunt de quo tantus et talis prosilit fectus intollerabilis quod diffundens se per loca vicina aer ibidem inficitur in immensum preceperimus majori et vicecomitibus nostris civitatis predictae quod in eadem civitate et vicecomitatu nostro Surr’ quod in predicta villa de Suthwerk ac eciam vicecomitatu nostro Midd’ quod in dictis villis de Wapling et Estsmythefeld publice facerent proclamari quod omnes qui in eisdem civitate et villis seu earum confiniis rogorum exercere vellent ministerium ipsos ex busca seu carbone bosci more solito facerent carbonibus marinis in factura eorundem nullatenus utendo et jam ex iterata querimonia eorundem prelatorum magnatum civium et aliorum intellexerimus quod predicti rogorum factores predictam proclamacionem parvipendentes et lucra sua incolumitati hominum preferentes dictos rogos marinis carbonibus nec sicut prius facere non desistunt in dictorum prelatorum magnatum civium et aliorum dispendium non modicum et sanitatis corporee detrimentum Nos hujusmodi periculo precavere et incolumitati prelatorum magnatum civium et aliorum prospicere volentes assignavimus vos ad inquirend’ per sacramentum proborum et legalium hominum de civitate et comitatibus predictis per quos rei veritas melius sciri poterit qui in civitate et villis predictis et earum confiniis post proclamacionem nostram predictam in factura hujusmodi rogorum usi sunt carbonibus marinis et ad omnes illos quos inde

culpabiles inveneritis primo per graves redempciones et si iterato deliquerint per hujusmodi rogorum prostraciones puniendos et ad hanc ordinacionem in eisdem civitate et villis et earum confiniis inviolabiliter futuris temporibus observandam, etc. . . . Teste Regè apud Caldecotes, xxviiij die Junii." [A.D. 1307.]

APPENDIX B.

Durham Cursitor's Records, No. 30, membrane 11 (dorso). [Lease granted by Bishop Hatfield to Sir Thomas de Gray, Knight, and Sir John Pulhore, parson of Whickham, of five mines of coals in Whickham.]

"Ceste endenture faite a Duresme le jour de seint Martyn l'an de grace Mil trois centz cynquant et sisme et du sacre l'onerable Piere en dieu Sire Thomas par la grace de dieu. Evesque de Duresme duszisme tesmoigne que le dit Evesque ad lesse a ferme a monsieur Thomas de Gray Chivaler et a Sir John Pulhore parsonne de Qwycham et a lour heirs et a lour assignez cynk Miners des charbons dedeinz le Champe de Qwycham del jour de la feissance de cestes tanqu' a terme de xij ans, proscheins ensuantz pleinement acompliz Rendant au dit Evesque cynk cent marcz par [an] durant le terme susdit les queux ils ferront paier en l'escheker de Duresme a quatre grandes termes usez et a custumez en l'evesche de Duresme par owelles porcions par les meyns du Conestable de Duresme que pur le temps serra, par endenture faire entre eux et lui par la quele ils serront descharge devers le dit Evesque a le dit Constable charge sicome appertient et comencera le primer terme de lour paiement a la seint Cuthbert en Marz proschein et ensy de terme en terme come dessus est dit Et si lour paiement au dit Evesque soit aderere par quarrante jours d'ascune terme ils paieront au dit Evesque la double soume de chescun terme qu'ensi serra aderere Et le dit Evesque ne ferra lever ne gagner nulle nouvelle Miner dessus l'ewe de Tyne ne aillours en celles parties nen quantqu' il purra destourber par la ley ne soeffra par nul autre estre gayne que purra estre en damage ou empairement de les Miners de Qwycham salve ceux du dit Evesque a Gatished que sont meyntenant allantz et les char-

bons de celles ne serront cariez ne venduz as Niefs les queux ils prendront a lour volente a tiel ferme come autres voillont doner pur eux apresque le terme de ceux que sont ore fermers soit acompli. Et les ditz monsieur Thomas et sire John ferront touz les coustages et despenses qu'appertiegnont estre faitz par nulle voile entour les ditz Miners et charbons sique le dit soume de cynk' cent marcz serra neitement paie au dit Evesque sanz riens abatre pur despenses ou coustages et averont deux Miners alantz en le nouvelle champe a lour volente et trois en le viel champe les queux ils ferront meynurer silongement come ils purront estre meynurez par cynk Barrowemen par la vewe et serrement du chief fforester et des veieurs et ne ferrens treire de chescun Minere forsqu' un Keel le jour sicome adeste usee et fait en temps avant ces heures et ils ferront tutditz meynurer les Miners qu'ore sont alaitez et ceux qu'ils comenceront si longement come ils purront endurrer resonablement come dessus est dit sanz fraude ou malengrie et ils comenceront nul Miner a gagner de nouvelle sanz la vewe et l'ordinance du chief fforeste[r] que ferra redresser et amendre touz les defautes et trespases des ouverours et autres gentz que serront trespasantz par ascune voie totefoitz quant besoigne y serra ou qu'il soit requis par les ditz monsieur Thomas et sire John auxi avant come il ferroit si les ditz Miners estoient en la mayn le dit Evesque les amerciementz reservez au Seigneur les amendes pur les trespases as ditz monsieur Thomas et sire John en manere come adeste usez et acustumez avant ces heures. Et si damage soit fait a nul des tenantes du dit Evesque a Qwycham par cariage des charbons ou par gagner des Miners paront ils perdonc¹ le profit de lour terre les ditz monsieur Thomas et sire John ferront restorer a eux tantqu' appertient a la quantite de la ferme sique le dit Evesque ne perdra de sa ferme par ycelle cause durant le terme de dusze ans susditz. Et toutz soit qu'ils eient meinz que cynk' Miners alantz mentineinz ils paieront au dit Evesque cynk cent marcz par an come dessus est dit. Et le dit Evesque veet et grant as ditz monsieur Thomas et sire John que nul de overours des ditz Miners ne serra pres hors de son overaigne d'aler ne de passer nulle part ovesque le dit Evesque encontre lour volonte ne le cariage des charbons destourbez par lui ne par nul de ses Ministres qu'ils ne puissent carier lour charbons toutditz quant temps serra a lour volente.

¹ ? Perdront.

Et si ensi soit que par cause d'ascune gurre survenant les overours de les Miners nosont overer a les Miners ne les gentz du paus d'overrer a lour mesons pur la venu des esnemyes paront le profit des ditz monsieur Thomas et sire John soit retret et destourbe qu' adonques ils eient dewe allowance en lour paiement au dit Evesque du tant come appertient a la quantite du temps par jugement des bones gentz choisez d'une part et d'autre que sur ce serront sermentz la verite niger et les ditz monsieur Thomas et sire John ne serront constreyntz de gaigner nul Miner en la more de Qwyham tanque l'un champe ou l'autre purra endurrer. Et le dit Evesque voet et grant que les ditz monsieur Thomas et sir John puissent avoir et prendre compaignons a lour volonte que serra obligez ovesques eux au dit Evesque par estatut de marchant et par recognisceance¹ faite en la Chauncellarie de Duresme en manere resonable et come il plerra au conseil du dit Evesque. Et le dit Evesque par ceste endenture lui oblige et ses successours de tenir et garanter as ditz monsieur Thomas et sire John et a lour compaignons et a lour heirs et assignez toutez les condicions et covenantes susditz durant lour terme de dusze ans susditz et les ferra confermer par le Chapitre de Duresme. Et en cas qu' ensy aviegne que les ditz monsieur Thomas et sire John ou nul de lour compaignons denie dedeinz le terme de dusze ans susdit qu'ils voillent et grantont et chescun de eux voet et grant que lour heirs lour executours et lour assignez et touz lour biens moebles et meut moebles soient obligez au dit Evesque et ses successours de tenir et parfournir toutez les covenantz suisditz. Et le dit Evesque voet et grant que le chief fforester que pur le temps serra lour face deliverer merryn de ses boys pur amendre et sustenir les dits Miners et les Estathes selonc ce que resonablement busoignera a gaigner et carier lour coustages. As queux covenantes bien et loialment faire d'une part et d'autre en manere come ils sont dessus escriptz le dit Evesque et les ditz monsieur Thomas et sire John et lour compaignons as parties de ceste endenture entrechangeablement ont mys lour sealx. Escrit a Duresme le jour et l'an susditz."

¹ In the Recognizance the lessees admit that they owe the Bishop four thousand pounds of silver, of which they bind themselves to pay 500 marks *per annum*, viz., 125 marks at each of the terms of—the feast of Saint Cuthbert in March, the feast of the Nativity of Saint John the Baptist, the feast of Saint Cuthbert in September, and the feast of Saint Martin in winter, until the whole sum be paid. It is dated 14th November, 12th year of Bishop Hatfield. See Durham Cursitor's Records; No. 30, membranc 11.

APPENDIX C.

Patent Roll, 31 Edward the Third. Part 1, m. 25 dorso. [Commission appointed by the King upon the complaint of the Prior of Tynemouth, that the men of Newcastle-on-Tyne were digging beyond the boundaries of the town lands, and were endeavouring to destroy the watercourse from his mine of coals in Elswick Moor.]

“Rex dilectis et fidelibus suis Henrico de Percy, Thome de Seton, Ricardo Tempest, Johanni Heroun, Johanni Moubray, et Rogero de Blaykeston salutem. Sciatis quod cum nuper ex parte majoris et ballivorum ac proborum hominum ville nostre Novi Castri super Tynam, nobis fuisset supplicatum ut cum ipsi teneant villam predictam de nobis ad feodi firmam velimus eis concedere quod in communi solo ville predictae extra muros ejusdem ville in locis vocatis le Chastelfeld et le Frith fodere et carbones et petram inde extrahere et commodum suum inde facere possent in auxilium firme sue supradictae quociens et prout sibi videretur expedire et nos eorum supplicationi in hac parte annuentes per literas nostras patentes pro nostro beneplacito duraturas licenciam hujus eis duximus concedend’ ac jam ex parte dilecti nobis in Christo Prioris de Tynemuth acceperimus quod prefati major et ballivi ac alii homines ville predictae dictam licenciam nostram sibi sic concessam excedentes colore ejusdem licencie in mora ipsius Prioris dictis locis vocatis le Chastelfeld et le Frith contigua extra solum dicte ville prout per metas et bundas ibidem ex antiquo positas evidenter apparet foderunt et quandam seweram ibidem ad mineram carbonum dicti Prioris in mora sua predicta que est maxima pars sustentacionis ipsius Prioris et Prioratus sui predicti destruendam facere moliantur in ipsius Prioris et Prioratus sui predicti grave dampnum et destruccionem manifestam ac contra formam licencie nostre supradicte super quo nobis supplicavit sibi per nos de remedio provideri. Et quia intencionis nostre tempore concessionis licencie predictae non extitit nec adhuc existit alicui super jure suo pretextu ejusdem licencie prejudicari volentes super premissis certiorari assignavimus vos quinque quatuor tres et duos vestrum ad supervidend’ dicta loca vocata le Chastelfeld et le Frith, ac moram et mineram

predicti Prioris ibidem et ad informand' vos per inquisitionem inde in presencia majoris et ballivorum ville predictæ si interesse voluerint capiendam, ac aliis viis et modis quibus melius videbitis expedire, de antiquis metis et bundis inter solum ipsius Prioris et solum ville predictæ ibidem factis, et ad eas si necesse fuerit reparari et emendari faciend', et in casu quo mete et bunde ibidem non fuerint ad certas et evidentes metas et bundas perpetuo duraturas de novo ordinand' et ponend', et ad nos in Cancellaria nostra de metis et bundis predictis ac de toto facto vestro in hac parte sub sigillis vestris, quinque, quatuor, trium, vel duorum distincte et aperte certificand'. Et ideo vobis mandamus quod ad certos dies quos, etc., ad hoc provideritis apud loca et moram predictam conveniatis et premissa omnia et singula fac' in forma predicta salvis, etc. Mandavimus enim coronatoribus nostris in Comitatu Northumbriæ quod ad certos dies quos, etc., eis scire fac' venire fac' coram vobis, etc., apud loca et moram predict' tot, etc., de Comitatu predicto tam infra libertates quam extra per quos, etc., et inquire. In cujus, etc. Teste Rege apud Westmonasterium, xxvi., die Januarii. [A.D. 1357.] Per consilium."

APPENDIX D.

Patent Roll, 38 Edward the Third. Part 2, m. 26. [Confirmation by the King of a lease of coal in Gateshead, granted by Bishop Hatfield.]

"Rex omnibus ad quos, etc., salutem. Inspeximus quandam indenturam inter venerabilem patrem Thomam, Episcopum Dunolm', et Johannem Plummer, Burgensem ville Novi Castri super Tynam, et Walterum de Hesilden', Burgensem de Gatesheved, factam in hec verba:—Ceste endenture fait parentre le treshonorable piere en dieu Sire Thomas, par la grace de dieu Evesque de Duresme, d'un part, et John Plummer, Burgeys de la ville de Noef Chastel sur Tyn, et Wauter de Hesilden, Burgeys de Gatisheved, d'autre part, tesmoigne que l'avantdit Evesque, par son senescheall, ad grante et a ferme lesse a les avantditz Johan et Wauter, lour heirs et lour assignes, un myne des charbons dedeinz le chaumpe de Gatesheved, a pusce faire et charbons quere et menurer a lour profitz, a avoir et tenir l'avantdit myne a les avantditz Johan et Wauter, lour heirs et lour assignes, a

terme de vynt et quatre ans, rendantz ent par an al dit Evesque et a les successours cent soldz as festes de Pentecost et seint¹ en yver par oweles porcions, comenceant lour terme de paiement a quel heure qu'ils ont gaynez un pusce des quele ils purront quere et avoir plein overeine des charbons de jour en jour come est pris de pusce dedeinz le chaumpe de Whicham, issint qu'ils neient a un temps forsqu' un pusce meynurant, et comenceant lour terme du paiement al proschein terme de Pentecost ou seint Martyn apres ce q'un pusce de charbons est gaigne en la manere comme dessus est dit. Et les avantditz Johan et Wauter ferront gainer le dit mine a lour custages demesne. Et a ce faire le dit Evesque ad grantez merin suffisant dedeinz son park de Gatesheved par veue de fforester dedifier lour puscez et lour Watergate, et de faire lour Stathes en un place covenable pur mettre lour charbons sur l'ewe de Tyne, pur lour profit faire al peril des ditz Johan et Wauter, quele place lour serra livree par le mestre fforester ou aucun autre ministre le dit Evesque a ce depute, tant foitz come ils enbusoignerent de meryn avoir pur yceux overaignes faire durant leur terme avantdit. Et le dit Evesque lour ad grante chmyne covenable pur eux, et touz autres querantz charbons illeoques a les ditz pusces en alant et revenant pur lour profitz des ditz pusces tanqu' a les estathes, sanz estre destourbee par lui ou nul de soens ou ses successeurs. Et le dit Evesque lour ad grante que nul pusce ne serra lesse a ferme ne fait par lui ne par autre dedeinz son chaumpe de Gatisheved durantz lour termes avantditz. Et si nul soit faitz deinz lour ditz termes que bien list a les avantditz Johan et Wauter de les abatre sanz estre empeschee del dit Evesque ou ses successeurs. Et le dit Evesque garantera a les avantditz Johan et Wauter, lour heirs et a lour assignez, le dit mine en la fourme avantdite durante lour terme avantdite. En tesmoignance des quelles choses a cestes endentures les avantditz parties entrechangeablement ont mis lour sealx. Done a Duresme, le prime jour d'april, l'an du grace, mill' cccxiiii. Nos autem concessiones et dimissiones predictas ratas habentes et gratas eas pro nobis et heredibus nostris quantum in nobis est concedimus et confirmamus prout indentura predicta rationabiliter testatur. In cujus, etc. Teste Rege apud Westmonasterium, x die Novembris. [A.D. 1364.]—pro quinque marcis solutis in hanaperio."

¹ (?) "Martyn" omitted.



APPENDIX E.

Patent Roll, 41 Edward the Third. Part 1, membrane 19. [Mandate to the King's officers to protect persons bringing sea coals in boats across the River Tyne, from the Bishopric of Durham to Newcastle-on-Tyne, etc.]

“Rex Vicecomitibus Maioribus Ballivis Ministris et aliis fidelibus suis ad quos, etc., salutem. Ex parte Johannis Plomer et Walteri de Hesilden Mercatorum carbonēs maritimos ad diversa loca regni nostri pro utilitate populi ejusdem regni ducencium nobis sit graviter conquerendo monstratum quod cum ipsi super duccione carbonum hujusmodi per batellas de Episcopatu Dunolmensi ultra aquam de Tyne ad villam Novi Castri super Tynam et alia loca vicina per quosdam de dicta villa Novi Castri carbonēs ibidem ad vendend^o habentes sint multipliciter impediti et inquietati quod non solum in nostri prejudicium verum eciam in nostri et dicti populi nostri ac rei publice dampnum non modicum ac custume nostre que in eadem villa Novi Castri et alibi de carbonibus illis solvi debet amissionem cedere dinoscitur unde nobis est supplicatum ut predictis Mercatoribus super impedimentis et inquietacionibus hujusmodi remedium congruum apponi faciamus. Nos advertentes per duccionem carbonum hujusmodi ad quecumque loca infra regnum nostrum nobis et populo nostro commodum maximum provenire ac volentes utilitati rei publice prospicere in hac parte suscepimus predictos Johannem et Walterum et eorum servientes ac quoscumque alios carbonēs maritimos de Episcopatu predicto per batellos ultra aquam de Tyne ad villam nostram Novi Castri super Tynam et abinde, solutis custumis inde debitis, ad alia loca infra regnum nostrum per terram et per aquam ducentes in proteccionem et defensionem nostras speciales. Et ideo vobis et cuilibet vestrum mandamus firmiter injungentes quod predictos Johannem et Walterum et alios carbonēs maritimos sic ducentes et eorum quemlibet manuteneatis protegatis et defendatis Non inferentes eis vel inferri permittentes injuriam molestiam dampnum violenciam impedimentum aliquod seu gravamen. Et si quid eis forisfactum vel injuriatum, id eis sine dilacione debite corrigi et emendari faciatis. Ita semper quod carbonēs aliquos extra regnum nostrum ad aliquem

locum preterquam ad villam nostram Calesii sub gravi forisfactura nostra non ducant seu duci faciant ullo modo contra formam ordinationis inde facte. In cujus, etc., per unum annum duratur'. Teste Rege apud Westmonasterium xx die Maii." [A.D. 1367.]

APPENDIX F.

Patent Roll, 41 Edward the Third. Part 1, m. 16 dorso. [Writ appointing the Mayor, Bailiffs, and certain Burgesses of Newcastle-on-Tyne, to take charge of the measurement of sea coals.]

"Rex Majori et Ballivis ville Novi Castri super Tynam Ricardo Scot Johanni de la Chaumbre et Roberto Reynald' Burgensibus ejusdem ville salutem. Quia datum est nobis intelligi quod quamplures homines de villa predicta carbonem maritimos a mineris carbonum ibidem cum batellis suis vocatis Keles per aquam de Tyne ad portum ville predictae ad naves ad dictum portum pro hujusmodi carbonibus emendis et ab eodem portu educendis venientes carcand' duci et absque mensuratione carbonum predictorum in navibus predictis poni faciunt et sic pro eo quod carbonem illi mensuratione standardi nostri antequam in eisdem navibus ponuntur non mensurantur nec juxta mensuram eorundem carbonum set in grosso custumantur grave prejudicium nobis de custumis nostris de hujusmodi carbonibus debitis multipliciter generatur: Nos indemnitati nostre prospicere volentes in hac parte Assignavimus vos conjunctim et divisim ad omnes carbonem maritimos ad portum predictum ad naves ibidem in forma predicta carcand' ducendos antequam in navibus illis ponantur mensurari faciend' Ita quod carbonem illi in hujusmodi navibus prinsquam de mensura eorundem vobis constiterit nullatenus ponantur ut predictum est et ad omnes batellos quos carbonem maritimos ad naves illas carcand' ante mensurationem eorundem carbonum ad portum predictum inveneritis ducentes una cum carbonibus in dictis batellis existentibus arestand' et arestari faciend' et eos sub hujusmodi aresto quousque aliud a nobis habueritis in mandatis detinend'. Et ideo vobis mandamus quod circa premissa faciend' et exequand' intentatis in forma predicta. Nos de hujusmodi aresto cum factum

fuerit ac de toto facto vestro in hac parte in Cancellaria nostra sub sigillis vestris reddatis distincte et aperte de tempore in tempus cerciores. In cuius, etc. Teste Rege apud Westmonasterium xx die Maii. [A.D. 1367.] Per consilium.”

APPENDIX G.

Patent Roll, 41 Edward the Third. M. 19. [Mandate to the Mayor and Bailiffs of Newcastle-on-Tyne, to allow certain parties to load sea coals into boats on the Gateshead side of the River Tyne, and to lead them across to Newcastle-on-Tyne.]

“Edwardus Dei gratia Rex Anglie et Francie et Dominus Hibernie majori et ballivis ville Novi Castri super Tynam salutem. Supplicarunt nobis Rogerus de Fulthorp, Johannes Plomer, Johannes de Britley, et Walterus de Hesildon ut eis licentiam concedere velimus quod ipsi carbones maritimos quos ipsi in campis ville de Gateshead in episcopatu Dunelmen’ prope aquam de Tyne in mineris ibidem foderint et exnunc fodient, ad dictam villam Novi Castri ultra aquam illam ducere possint ad commodum suum inde ibidem faciend’ Nos eorum supplicationi in hac parte annuentes licentiam hujusmodi eisdem Rogero, Johanni, Johanni, et Waltero duximus concedend’ et ideo vobis mandamus quod predictos R.J.J. et W. carbones predictos in aqua predicta ex parte dicte ville de Gateshead in batellis carcare et usque ad dictam villam Novi Castri ducere permittatis solvend’ nobis apud eandem villam Novi Castri custum’ inde debit’ prout decet. Teste meipso apud Westmon’ vicesimo quinto die Maii.”¹ [A.D. 1367.]

APPENDIX H.

Patent Roll, 41. Edward the Third. Part 1, m. 11. [General revocation of the above Letters Patent, regarding the measurement of sea coals.]

“Rex omnibus ad quos etc. salutem. Cum nuper dato nobis intelliigi quod quamplures homines de villa Novi Castri super Tynam

¹ Brand’s History of Newcastle. Vol. II., p. 257. Note.

carbones maritimos a mineris carbonum ibidem cum batellis suis vocatis Kelis per aquam de Tyne ad portum ville predictæ ad naves ibidem pro hujusmodi carbonibus educendis venientes duci et absque mesuracione carbonum eorundem in dictis navibus poni fecerunt et sic pro eo quod carbones illi per standardum nostrum antequam in navibus illis ponebantur mesurati non fuerunt nec juxta mensuram standardi set in grosso custumabantur de custumis nostris carbonum illorum decepti eramus assignaverimus ballivos dicte ville Novi Castri et quosdam alios ad omnes carbones maritimos ad portum predictum extunc ducendos mensurari faciend' prout in literis nostris patentibus inde confectis plenius continetur et quia tam per literas sigillo communitatis dicte ville Novi Castri signatas nobis directas quam alias per testimonium fidedignorum sumus plenius informati quod dictæ litere de dictis carbonibus amensurandis ad procuracionem dominorum minerarum carbonum illorum et Mercatorum eosdem carbones ab eisdem dominis emencium in dicta villa vendend' ut majus proficuum et lucrum de dictis carbonibus si per standardum amensurati fuissent quam si in dictis batellis vocatis Kelis sine amensuracione prout antea fieri consuevit positi essent habuerunt percipere possent impetrare extiterunt quod si toleraretur tam in nostri quam tocius populi nostri grave dispendium et jacturam presertim cum carbones illos undique per totum regnum nostrum ex diversis causis necessario duci et cariari oporteat cederet manifeste et quod custuma aliqua de hujusmodi carbonibus nisi tantum quoddam certum¹ quod communitas dicte ville in auxilium firme ejusdem de quolibet batello carbonibus sic carcato percipiunt de indigenis nobis minime debetur Nos volentes indemnitati nostre et rei publice in hac parte providere dictas literas nostras patentes pro amensuracione de carbonibus illis faciend' sic factas penitus revocamus et adnullamus per presentes. Proviso quod Mercatores et alii extranei in educacione carbonum hujusmodi a portu predicto custumas nobis solvant prout hactenus facere consueverunt. In cujus, etc. Teste Rege apud Westmonasterium, xxij die Junii. [A.D. 1367.] Per ipsum Regem et consilium."

¹ A "fixed payment."

APPENDIX I.

Patent Roll, 41 Edward the Third. Part 1, m. 12. [Letter addressed to the Mayor and Bailiffs of Newcastle-on-Tyne on the same subject as the preceding.]

“Rex dilectis sibi Majori et Ballivis ville nostre Novi Castri super Tynam salutem. Cum nuper dato nobis intelligi quod quamplures homines de villa predicta carbones maritimos a mineris carbonum ibidem cum batellis suis vocatis Kelys per aquam de Tyne ad portum ville predictæ ad naves ibidem pro hujusmodi carbonibus educendis venientes duci et absque mensuratione carbonum eorundem in dictis navibus poni fecerunt et sic pro eo quod carbones illi per standardum nostrum antequam in navibus illis ponebantur mensurati non fuerunt nec juxta mensuram standardi set in grosso custumabantur de custumis nostris carbonum illorum decepti eramus assignaverimus vos et quosdam alios ad omnes carbones maritimos ad portum predictum extunc ducendos mensurari faciend’ et vobis mandaverimus quod in villa predicta publice proclamari et ex parte nostra firmiter inhiberi faceretis, ne quis cum batellis suis carbones maritimos ad portum predictum ad naves inde ibidem carcandas priusquam de mensura eorundem carbonum juxta standardum et non in grosso per estimationem custumarentur vobis constiterit sub forisfactura batellorum et carbonum predictorum ac omnium aliorum que nobis forisfacere posset duceret vel duci faceret clam vel palam prout in literis et mandato nostro predictis plenius continetur, et quia tam per literas sigillo communitatis dicte ville Novi Castri signatas nobis directas quam alias per testimonium fidedignorum sumus plenius informati quod dicti litere de dictis carbonibus amensurandis ad procuracionem dominorum minerarum carbonum illorum et Mercatorum eosdem carbones ab eisdem dominis emencium in dicta villa vendend’ ut majus proficuum et lucrum de dictis carbonibus si per standardum amensurati fuissent quam si in dictis batellis vocatis Kelys sine amensuratione prout antea fieri consuevit positi essent habuerunt percipere possent impetrate exstiterunt quod si toleraretur tam in nostri quam tocius populi nostri grave dispendium et jacturam presertim cum carbones illos undique per totum regnum nostrum ex diversis causis necessario

duci et cariari oporteat cederet manifeste, et quod custuma aliqua de hujusmodi carbonibus nisi tantum quoddam certum quod communitas dicte ville in auxilium firme ejusdem ville de quolibet batello carbonibus sic carcato percipiunt de indigenis nobis minime debetur Nos volentes indemnitati nostre et rei publice in hac parte providere literas et mandatum nostrum predicta pro amensuracione de carbonibus illis faciend' sic facta tenore presencium revocand' duximus penitus et adnulland'. Proviso quod Mercatores et alii extranei in educcionem carbonum hujusmodi a portu predicto custumas nobis per ipsos inde debitas nobis solvant prout hactenus facere consueverunt. Et ideo vobis mandamus quod execucioni literarum et mandati nostri predictorum et quibuscumque aliis sic directorum ulterius faciend' omnino supersedeatis. Et si quid inde feceritis vel per alios factum fuerit id sine dilacione revocari et adnullari faciatis. Teste Rege apud Westmonasterium, xxiiij die Junii. [A.D. 1367.] Per ipsum Regem et consilium."