

Collingwood  
Ont

Canada

Oct 5/09

Sam

My Dear Sir

Your favor of the 29<sup>th</sup> ult reached me on my return from a brief trip away from town. I hasten to give the information you ask for. In 1842 during Sir Robert Peel's administration Lord Ashley (afterwards Earl of Shaftesbury) secured the passage of a bill prohibiting the employment of women and children in coal mines or at the pits. Having secured this reform Lord Ashley then traversed the country by his visits to the factories in the north of England and a series of measures (Factories Acts) were passed that dealt with the employment of the same classes in the making of nails and chains etc. These reforms followed that relating to coal mines within a few years; so that it is more than fifty years since any child or woman in England worked at the mines or "made chains at the forge" as your correspondent asserts. Should you mention these facts in the American I should value the gift of a copy to mail to friend.

Yours very truly  
(Rd) G. F. Asiter