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**LETTER FROM JOHN RENSHAW TO PHILIP LORD WHARTON,
LORD OF THE MUKER AND HEALAUGH MANORS. 10TH. JULY 1685.**

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Barker, Esq. Healaugh.

Mye Lorde,

In order to your Honours command, these may informe A.B. (Adam Barker) hath beene over to see his friends, and returned both towards Swaledale last Munday the accounts he give of the works are as follows, that they have opened the forfields shaft att honawitt and then come to another sumpe which they have opened 11 fathom but had not when he come then soeld it, but hopes it may by this time, they founde it very darker of winde, that they tooke a fann downs into the gronde to helpe to winde which would not doe but was forced to carrye downe a pair of bellows and place lykewise, the wich before he come away did make helpe that they continued working, but how farr the oulde man hath gon they could not tell, neither was they come to the vaine but hopes in time (though uncertain when) to see now the oulde man hath left that worke.

Fraifoulds both the forefields ingenerall are bare and then a bob of oar but very uncertaine, he still intends to drive forwards in hopes of amendment but att present it doith very little more than bear charges if anye and doubts that worke will fayle.

Att Merifields they have sunke a new shafte, att 14 fathom they come to a greate feeder of watter, the rise a sumpe 8 fathom to meete tat shafte betwixt wich they was forced to boare 13 fathom to take off that watter, which boarhole was 2 inch and a halfe, and near filled with watter, belowe att 35 fathoms deepe the height of a shafte wich returned all the watter otherwyse all then cost and labour had beene lost, but in sinkeing that 13 fathom after it was boared, the boarhol stoped 3 times that the watter stoped of them wich they had much difficulty to open, and the last time it stoped it rise soe fast that the workmen fled and left it, but A.B. being present of the fields, immediatlye went downe and after the watter was risen above a mans height leapt into his clothes as he was and dived 3 times to the bottome of the watter otherwise that worke had being lost, an action would have dread most men to have done besides the prejudish to health, but I thanke god he received noe harme, but the wetteing of his clothes, wich I hope none will be against giveing him recompences for it but when he left the worke to come into this contrye he had prepared an instrument of iron to put in the boare hole for the watter to run through, the wich instrument whould prevent the stopeing of the watter and he hoped before he gott backe they would have holed the shafte, they had a stock of oar that they drive forward att wich they sometime get prettye well or oar, and sometime verye bare, [24] but at the sincke to see if it will mende on a deepe fielde.

In order to a slag harth miln, he had before he come away levelled and brought the watter from Blackeberye gill, and layed the foundation of the miln, with with watter macks greate helpe to our other milne.

Now my Lorde as to new tryalls he saieth he hath not picked upon any place to mack tryalls att, if your Lordshipe shoulde consent, wich is as your Honour pleaseth, but my Lorde considering the manye inconveniencys that may arise both to your Honour and to us by manadgment, and the fitness, and suitableness we are by our friends A.B. for the manadgment therof wa are not only willing but desierous, your Honour woulde alter that covenant that debarrs us and admitte us still as your Honour's Partenors for that wa are willing to venture our monye in new tryalls according to our parte.

We have hitherto in our places bene instrumentall in the manadgment of those works in sum sense and much might be said, that your Honour might alter that covenant as the certaintye of charge, if you consider manye tryalls R.B. (Robert Barker) hath mayd wich doubtlesse to his thinkeing was in the lykeliest and most hopefulest places wich never preduced any effect of profitt, besides the trouble it would be of dividing of nessecaryes accounts, and of what whease gott, lyikwise aboute workemen, laborors and carriers etc. if in the dispose and ordering of present manadgers, the trouble it woulde be and inconveniencys, differences, and misunderstandings, that may happen if others shoulde manadge such new tryalls.

But shall leave it to your Honours consideration, wich if your Honour please to sugnifie by a lyne, directed to Mr. Frances Holdsworth in Chesterfield, Derbyshire, for me it will come to hande, and if your Honour thinke well to consent to the alteration of that covenant att a time convenient I shall meete Mr. Gunter att Hartforde to confirm the same begging your Honours pardon for these trouble with my Humble services present and rest. Your Honours most humble servant to command.

JOHN RENSHAW.