

Joshua Drake, testifies necessity compels a man that has children to let them work. But points out children are being ill-treated and over-worked. Matthew Crabtree was employed at 8 years old to 12 years old as a blanket manufacturer in a factory. The shifts were abnormal consuming 14-16 hours when trade was brisk. The employers permitted only one hour of break at noon and one hour for dinner. Matthew walked 2 miles from home to work at the factory. The children were not permitted to have no breakfast in mill. Parents woke him up every day and sometimes lifted him from bed regardless of exhaustion or pain. When children attended late, the employers severely beaten them. Constant severe criticism or punishment to discipline late children is harsh. No peace was found only the sounds of constant crying from the children. They were miserable. Matthew felt beatings were driven to keep the children working and focused not falling asleep due to the machines cutting off all the time. The children worked in fear and mostly fatigued. The children barely spent time with parents, some kids didn't eat and went to bed hungry, some ate and went straight to sleep. There was no time for a child to be a child. Working in fear, anxiety, pain, and stress was horrible conditions for the children. According to John Hall's testimony the children were using every part of their bodies to work. It's lots of movements and energy they are putting in. The children are being crippled by such harsh work conditions and it's causing deformities.

Another witness who shared her testimony was Elizabeth Bentley. She was 6 years old when she started working. The employers also expected 14-hour shifts in a flax mill. If a child was behind on work, they would be beaten as well and not feed. Their food went to the pigs. Being covered in dust all the time would make the children lose their appetites. The work conditions were intense, and they barely ate breakfast. She lived two miles from the mill with no clock. Her mother depended on her. The wage was a penny per hour if late they would subtract half a penny. Peter Smart another witness shares his testimony; he ran away twice. He was brought to the master and beaten with a whip. The employers would lock up the children night and day. Often children would try to run away but they were brought back. The employers made their own laws. Many weren't paid by the production or by the day but by stated wages. At age 17 Peter became a slave diver and worked 19 hours to produce yarn quantity. Working in a water steam mill children were exceedingly fatigued and unable to pursue their labor.