

## Robert Allan

Robert Allan, aged about 21, journeyman joiner in the employment of William Forsyth above designed, and the Declarant resides in North Cumberland Street of Carlton near Glasgow. Declares that the Declarant was at work in the new building referred to in Precognition, and saw the two chimney sweeps referred to going about the premises. That about three in the afternoon the little boy came down the chimney of an apartment where declarant was at work, and the boy was complaining bitterly of cold and seemed to be very much exhausted & *'far through*:

That his clothes were in a wettish state, and the boy on leaving said apartment went to the one immediately above, & as the flooring was not laid the Declarant could see betwixt the joists.

That Hughes the prisoner was there and he was swearing at the boy and threatening him. That after the boy had got so far up said chimney, Hughes took a stick and put it up the chimney & kept thrusting away there but whether he hit the boy or not the Declarant cannot say but at all events the boy did not cry out as if hurt with the stick.

That the boy had been a good while in said chimney when the Declarant asked if the boy was sticking and Hughes said he was but after the lapse of half an hour or so Hughes said he was moving on. That the Declarant wrought at the building till half past four when he left it, at which time he had not heard of anything having gone wrong. That the Declarant did not see Hughes strike the boy, and altho he swore at him for his delay, he seemed kindly disposed to him in so far as he took him by the hand & led him across the joists in case he might fall. And all this is truth.