DRAPERY, HAT, AND CAP STOCK.
SELLING OFF! SELLING OFF!
BAIN & CO.'S STOCK.
IMMENSE REDUCTIONS.
THIS DAY, AND UNTIL SOLD OUT
NEW TOWN HALL,
MIDDLE STREET, CONSETT. 287z

The Consett Guardian
DERWENT VALLEY ADVERTISER
AND NORTH-WEST DURHAM GAZETTE

No. 1,445 REGISTERED FOR TRANSMISSION ABROAD FRIDAY EVENING, April 20th, 1888. PRICE ONE PENNY.

THIS DAY AND UNTIL SOLD OUT.
SELLING OFF! SELLING OFF
BAIN & CO.'S
DRAPERY, HAT, AND CAP STOCK
GREAT BARGAINS.
NEW TOWN HALL,
MIDDLE STREET, CONSETT.

Money.

SPECIAL BRANCH.—M. L. ROSENBERG, 54 Westgate Road, Newcastle, advances MONEY on Reversionary Interest or Legacies under Wills, on Life Policies for £100 and upwards, on Building Society or other Shares, on Household Furniture without removal, and on deposit of Silver Plate, Jewellery, or any goods at a reasonable rate of interest, and on terms of repayment, all as arranged.—Established 1860. 739v

MONEY LENT PRIVATELY,
From £10 to £2,000,
in town or country, on approved note of hand alone, at 5 per cent. Also upon furniture, trade or farm stock (without removal), and to assist persons into business.

No sureties required. Strictly private, and no delay. Write or call on actual lender,
Mr. F. DUNBAR,
Kent Villa, St. Mary's Road, Harlesden, London

Contracts.

TO CONTRACTORS.

THE CONSETT LOCAL BOARD invite TENDERS for the Execution of the following WORK:—

1.—FINDING and SETTING about 425 LINEAL YARDS of KERBING and CHANNELLING.

2.—CEMENTING about 1,290 SUPERFICIAL YARDS of FOOTWAY.

Specifications, &c., may be seen at the Office of the Local Board on and after Saturday, the 21st April.

Tenders marked "Tender" to be addressed to the Consett Local Board will be received up till Twelve o'clock on Wednesday, the 2nd May, 1888.

The lowest or any Tender not necessarily accepted.

By order of the Board,
429z THOMAS WM. WELFORD, Jun., Clerk.

Found.

FOUND, at Waskerley Park, a BLACK-FACED EWE; Tar Mark "I.H." on near side. Owner can have the same by paying expenses.—Apply to THOMAS LOWDON, Shepherd, Waskerley Park. 427z

Wanted.

WANTED, an APPRENTICE to the Dressmaking.—Apply No. 3, Spencer Street. 441z

WANTED, an APPRENTICE to the Dressmaking.—Apply to E. WILSON, 11, Cort Street, Blackhill. 440z

TO TAILORS. — WANTED, a few GOOD HANDS at J. T. POTTS', Middle Street, Consett. 431z

WANTED, APPRENTICES to the Dressmaking. — Apply GEORGE RICHARDSON, Shotley Bridge. 435z

WANTED, on May 1st, an experienced GENERAL SERVANT.—Apply to Mrs. MERCER, Derwent Cote House, Lintz Green. 402z

WANTED, for two or three days, a few respectable BOYS about 14 years of age.—Apply at *Guardian* Office, Consett.

FURNISHED HOUSE WANTED, for a few weeks, neighbourhood of Shotley Bridge preferred.—Address, "RUSTIC," Office of this paper.

WANTED, an experienced GENERAL SERVANT, about 22 years of age. None without experience need apply. — Apply at the *Guardian* Office, Consett. 403z

A YOUTH WANTED; strong, well-recommended one preferred, that knows something of the Grocery trade, and can go with cart.—Apply at C. F. COOKE'S, Grocery and Drapery Warehouse, Annfield Plain, Newcastle. 426z

LADIES REQUIRING SERVANTS and SERVANTS SITUATIONS will do well by applying at MRS. COOKE'S Registry, 38, Durham Road, Blackhill. 889w

GIRLS REQUIRING SITUATIONS, and Ladies requiring SERVANTS.—Apply at MRS. BELL'S Register Office, 54, Sherburn Terrace, Consett. 296w

COCKBURN'S REGISTRY OFFICE. FOR SERVANTS, (Established in 1877) 13, Front Street, Consett. A call invited, when best attention will be given. 340w

Under Distinguished Patronage.

MISS ANDERSON, Register Office for MALE and FEMALE SERVANTS, and GOVERNESSES, 9, Ridley Place, Northumberland Street, Newcastle-upon-Tyne. 263w

WANTED, Ladies' and Gentlemen's CAST-OFF CLOTHES, &c. Personal attendance in Town or Country. Letters of call immediately attended to.—Mrs. J. QUIGLEY, 5, Front Street, Consett. 396v

WANTED, Men and Women to start a new business at their homes. Easily learned in an hour. No agency; no artistic work. Sixpence to Two Shillings per hour made day-time or evening. Requires no experience or large means, and is eminently respectable, extraordinarily profitable, and extremely fascinating. Samples and particulars, four stamps.—Address, CHAS. W. MORTON, 91, Hurst Street, Birmingham. 258z

WANTED it thoroughly known at Consett and the District that, for a short period before the busy season (Easter and Whitsuntide holidays) commences, HIGH-CLASS PORTRAITS, artistically finished, MAY BE HAD at very Reasonable Prices, at VENICE DUNN'S, PHOTOGRAPHER, 13, MEDOMSLEY ROAD, CONSETT. 92z

SPECIAL NOTICE. — 2,000 Female Servants, Miners, Farmers, Labourers, Quarrymen, and others WANTED for Queensland, Australia. Free and Assisted Passages granted by Mail Steamers. Immediate employment on arrival.—Apply at once to the Queensland Government Agent, WM. J. JOHNSON, 96, High Street, Gateshead. — Also, WANTED Emigrants for the United States, Canada, British Columbia, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, South America, Argentine Republic, £8.

NOTICE.—EMIGRATION TO AMERICA.—Lowest Fares to NEW YORK, PHILADELPHIA, and all parts of the United States and Canada, &c., every week from Newcastle Quay. Special arrangements for the comfort and convenience of Passengers by First-class ROYAL MAIL STEAMERS, via Rotterdam.

N.B.—Passengers are met on landing, and receive full directions how to proceed to their journey's end.

For Passage, &c., apply personally, or by letter, to GEO. R. HOBSON, Auctioneer, Catchgate, Lintz Green.

NOTE.—G.R.H. undertakes Sales by Auction on the most Reasonable Terms. 361z

To Let.

A HOUSE TO LET, at Shotley Field.—Apply to Mr. DICKINSON, on the Premises. 425z

TO LET, a COTTAGE-HOUSE and Garden.—Apply to Messrs. CHARLTON, High Waskerley.

COMFORTABLE LODGINGS for one or two respectable young men, at 63, Benfieldside Edge Road. 181z

TO LET. THREE Four-roomed HOUSES (New Fines Cottages), pleasantly situated at Medomsley.—Apply to JACOB WALTON, Overman, Medomsley Colliery. 911y

TENTS TO LET, on Reasonable Terms, 30ft. x 30ft., 60ft. x 30ft., 90ft. x 30ft., 120ft. x 30ft., up to 180ft. x 30ft., if required.—Apply to THOS. CALVERT, Grocer, Medomsley, Lintz Green. 379z

TO LET, at May Term, HOUSE and SHOP, situated in Wesley Terrace, Dipton.—Apply to A. PHILLIPSON, Auctioneer, Dipton. 408z

TO LET, at May Term, Butchers' SHOP and HOUSE, with all Conveniences, now occupied by Mr. RIDLEY, Front Street, Dipton.—Apply to Mr. J. MARSHALL, Dipton. 405z

TO LET or SELL, at Castleside, HOUSE and SHOP, with Byre, Garden, and Paddock.—Apply, Mr. MUSE, Castleside; or Miss MUSE, Hill House, Gainford. 406z

TO LET, a Five-roomed HOUSE, pleasantly situated in Delves Lane, Consett. Possession at May term.—Apply to Mrs CHRISTOPHER, North-Eastern Hotel, Blackhill. 312z

To Let.

TO BE LET in Lambton Terrace, Chester-le-Street, with entry on 13th May, a HOUSE of Five Rooms, Garden Stable, Coachhouse and other Offices attached.—Apply, Mr. JOHN S. WALKER, Red Rose Farm, Chester-le-Street. 404z

TO BE LET, at Shotley Field, near Shotley Bridge, a HOUSE, containing Six Rooms and other Conveniences. Also, a GARDEN. Can be Let to either One or Two Tenants.—Apply to JOHN DICKINSON, Shotley Field. 426z

TO LET, a HOUSE, containing Six Rooms, Bath Room, and Scullery, situate in St. Cuthbert's Terrace, Benfieldside.—For particulars, apply to Mr. PETER GIBSON, Boot-maker, 57, Durham Road, Blackhill. 261z

TO LET, a large HOUSE and SHOP where a good Furniture and Hardware business has been done for a number of years. Proprietor retiring. —Apply to W. WILKINSON, on the premises, Catchgate. 28z

CONSETT INDUSTRIAL AND PROVIDENT SOCIETY, LIMITED.

TO LET, the CO-OPERATIVE HALL (capable of seating 500 people) for Concerts, Lectures, &c. Also, ROOMS suitable for Clubs and Friendly Societies.—For Forms and Conditions, apply to the Secretary JESSE HALL, Consett. 65z

GREENFIELD COTTAGES TO BE LET, situated one mile from Tow Law, containing 30 Acres of old Grass and Pasture Land; to be entered on May 13th.—The tenant will show the farm; and further particulars may be had from Mr J. GREEN, Satley, Tow Law. Tenders received till the 4th of May, 1888. 438z

For Sale.

FOR SALE, a capital TRICYCLE.—Apply at the *Guardian* Office, Consett. 407z

STACK of Well-won Old-land HAY FOR SALE.—Apply, JOHN CRAWFORD, Auctioneer. 292z

SEED OATS FOR SALE, of fine quality.—Apply to Mr. DOLPHIN, Delves House, Consett. 394z

FOR SALE, COWS and HEIFERS at profit.—Apply, W. C. BOWMAN, Hole House, Lanchester 196v

FOR SALE, Two STOVES, BARS two COILS, and a quantity of IRON PIPES, for Heating Purposes.—Apply at the *Guardian* Office.

GARDEN SEEDS.—GARDEN VEGETABLE SEEDS, POTATO SEEDS, and CABBAGE PLANTS, to be had at JOHN LEE'S, Seedsman, Middle Street, Consett, and Front Street, Leadgate.

FOR SALE, Excellent PIANO by Collard and Collard (nearly new), and 2 Second-hand HARMONIUMS. Very cheap. — Apply to A. PHILLIPSON, Auctioneer, Dipton. 331z

TO INNKEEPERS—SPIRIT STOCK BOOKS. One Shilling each, may be obtained at the "Guardian" Office, Consett; or sent by Post on receipt of 13 Postage Stamps.

BICYCLES, TRICYCLES, and SAFETIES FOR SALE. Largest Stock, best variety, including the celebrated Rex Safety. Liberal cash discounts, easy payments. Old machines taken in exchange. See our splendid Double Frame Safety, £10 10s. Clearing out a big lot of second-hands cheap. Repairs.—Egdell, 10, Newgate Street, and 116, Northumberland Street, Newcastle. 443z

Business Announcements.

E. J. SLOANE,
PRACTICAL PIANOFORTE TUNER,
POST OFFICE, BLACKHILL, Co. DURHAM.
ALL ORDERS PROMPTLY ATTENDED TO.

THE WORKING-MEN'S PERMANENT BENEFIT BUILDING SOCIETY.

Established in 1853. Interest allowed Half-yearly 4½ per cent. Subscription Shares, £50. Payments, 2s. per fortnight. Reserve Fund, £4,500

THIS is an old Society, offering every facility to Members. For prospectus and any information, apply to the Local Agent, JOSHUA LAX, Ironmonger, Shotley Bridge. 989y

AMERICAN LINE.
UNITED STATES MAIL STEAMERS.

LIVERPOOL TO PHILADELPHIA,
EVERY WEDNESDAY AND ALTERNATE SATURDAY.

First-class, full-powered Iron Steamships.

Accommodation for Passengers equal to any European Line.

Passengers and Goods landed at Philadelphia on the Wharf of the Pennsylvania Railroad.

The Shortest and Best Route to the West.

Apply to RICHARDSON, SPENCE & CO., 19 and 22, Water Street, Liverpool; ADAM BRODIE, Town Hall, Consett; E. SLOANE, Postmaster, Blackhill; G. LEADBITTER, Catchgate, *via* Lintz Green; A. PHILLIPSON, Auctioneer, Dipton; W. ANDERSON & Co., Shipping Agents, Tow Law; J. JOHNSON, 96, High Street, Gateshead-on-Tyne; JAMES POTTS & SON, 26, Sandhill, Newcastle-on-Tyne. 217z

THE WHISKEY,
BEN-GLEN-DEW,
42s. per Case of One Dozen each, or 21s. per Gallon (packages included).

RICHARD MURRAY,
BEN-FIELD-SIDE.

XMAS CASES OF ASSORTED SPIRITS AND WINES. 790y

MANCHESTER CORPORATION
CONCENTRATED MANURE,
MADE FROM HUMAN EXCREMENT,
BLOOD, BONES, FISH, &c.,
ANALYSING ABOUT

38·66 per Cent. of ORGANIC MATTER, containing
3·60 ,, of AMMONIA.
5·08 ,, of ALKALINE SALTS, containing
1·26 ,, of POTASH.
8·57 ,, of TRIBASIC PHOSPHATE.
2·50 ,, of SULPHATE OF LIME.

Delivered in Bags at any Railway Station within 150 miles of Manchester in not less than Four Ton Lots, and within 50 miles in not less than Two Ton Lots, at £3 PER TON.

Will be sold by Analysis if written application be made.

HY. WHILEY, Superintendent,
Health Department, Town Hall, Manchester; or to
W. WOOD, Field Head, Shotley Bridge;
JOHN FATHERLEY, Washington. 799y

QUEENSLAND.
ROYAL MAIL LINE STEAMERS.
PASSAGE £17 ONLY.

LAND ORDER WARRANTS, value £20, are PRESENTED FREE TO all approved PASSENGERS travelling BY THIS LINE.

This young and promising Colony is now offering Special Advantages to all Classes.

FARMERS and OTHERS may obtain FREEHOLD LAND under the Homestead Clauses of the present Land Act up to 160 Acre Blocks, for 6d. per annum per acre, being paid as Rent for Five Years, making 2s. 6d. per acre in all, when payment ceases and the Land becomes Freehold.

LARGER FREEHOLDS and LEASEHOLDS, on specially favourable conditions, may be had under the recently-passed Land Act.

For further Particulars apply to A. BRODIE, TOWN HALL, CONSETT; WM. J. JOHNSON, 96, HIGH STREET, GATESHEAD-ON-TYNE; GRAY, DAWES, & Co., 13, AUSTIN FRIARS, LONDON, or the Brokers, Gellatly, Hankey, Sewell, & Co., London; Manchester, Liverpool, and Glasgow. 30r

Business Announcements.

SEND TO THE POST OFFICE

AND get an Order for One Pound, made Payable to WILLIAM STEWARD AND SON, and you will receive in return, Carriage Paid to any Railway Station or Carrier, 10lbs. of the Cheapest TEA in England, or 5lbs. of INDIAN TEA the Finest Tea in the World. Should it be your pleasure we can forward Half of each kind as you may direct.

WILLIAM STEWART & SON,
33, GRAINGER STREET, AND SCOTSWOOD ROAD NEWCASTLE 3, HIGH STREET, GATESHEAD; & CORNER OF FREDERICK ROAD, HIGH STREET, SUNDERLAND.

MARBLE AND WOOD CHIMNEY PIECES,
KITCHEN RANGES
(OVER 60 SET-UP TO SELECT FROM),
STOVES OF EVERY KIND

DINNING AND COOKE,
HOT WATER ENGINEERS, IRONFOUNDERS, &c.,
PERCY IRONWORKS, NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.
SHOW ROOMS, 91, 93, AND 95, PERCY STREET.

DENTISTRY.
MR. R. COLLIER,
SURGEON DENTIST,
Supplies PRIZE MEDAL ARTIFICIAL TEETH at Moderate Chages.
PERFECT FIT GUARANTEED. CHILDREN'S TEETH REGULATED WITH GREAT CARE
TEETH STOPPED, &c. CONSULTATIONS FREE. NITROUS OXIDE GAS ADMINISTERED IF DESIRED.
50, GRAINGER STREET, NEAR ART GALLERY, NEWCASTLE

MONSTER SALE AT THE PEOPLE'S SHOPS.
JOHN T. POTTS
HAVING PURCHASED THE BUSINESS AND SECURED THE STOCK OF
T. H. BATCHELOR, CONSETT, at a large Discount from Cash Price,
THE SHOPS WILL RE-OPEN ON SATURDAY, APRIL 14,
When a GREAT SALE OF STOCK will COMMENCE, and CONTINUE FOR THREE WEEKS. Mantle Jackets, Dress Goods, Millinery, Fancy Goods, Carpets, Oilcloths, &c. Ready-made Clothing, Hats, Caps, Shirts, Ties, Collars, &c.,
WILL BE SOLD AT LESS THAN HALF THE ORIGINAL COST.
☞ BE IN TIME FOR THE WONDERFUL BARGAINS. ☜

JOHN T. POTTS,
MIDDLE STREET, CONSETT. 373

☞ WANTED! ☜
People who wish to save money to Purchase their Groceries and Provisions at
R. WILLEY'S,
WHOLESALE AND RETAIL GROCERY AND PROVISION ESTABLISHMENT,
20, MOUNT PLEASANT, CONSETT.

WILLEY'S TEA AT 2s, DEFIES COMPETITION.
WILLEY'S COFFEES ARE OF THE FINEST QUALITY.
WILLEY'S BACON, LARD, CHEESE, BUTTER, &c., are of the Finest Brands only
WILLEY'S SOAPS ARE USED EVERYWHERE.
WILLEY'S FLOUR AND FEEDING STUFFS, at Lowest Market Prices.
WILLEY'S FOR FRESH COUNTRY BUTTER AND EGGS, from several Prize-taking Dairies.
Fresh three times every week.

Orders by Post punctually attended to. Goods delivered daily by our own cart.
Bottler of Bass & Co.'s Pale Ale and Guinness's Stout. Mild and Bitter Ales on draught. The Trade supplied.
NOTE THE ADDRESS:—R. WILLEY, 20, MOUNT PLEASANT, CONSETT. 615y

WATCHES, CLOCKS, AND JEWELLERY.

WATCHMAKER TO THE TRADE. **D. GRADON,** WHOLESALE AND RETAIL.

WATCH AND CLOCKMAKER, JEWELLER, SILVERSMITH, AND OPTICIAN,
DERWENT STREET, BLACKHILL.

WATCHES.—Splendid English Patent Levers, at 55/ and 58/-. D. G. can specially recommend these Watches, as they are exceptionally good value, and are giving good satisfaction, Warranted. LADIES' SILVER GENEVA WATCHES from 15/-, a Superior Watch, made by Mathey (best maker), 36/6., also a good selection of other Watches. CLOCKS—Marble—Suitable for Presentation, from 21/-. AMERICAN Eight-days' Striking Clocks, from 15/6; Timepieces, from 3/6. JEWELLERY.—Half-dozen Nickel-Silver Tea-spoons and Gold Wedding Ring, from 7/-. A large and choice stock of Jewellery, Whitby Jet, Electro-Plate, &c. SPECTACLES AND EYEGLASSES in great variety. Steel-workers' Spectacles, 1/6 with case. D. G. *supplies the best Steelworks in the United Kingdom with these Specs.* All Watches, Clocks, Jewellery, Spectacles, and Eyeglasses repaired on the premises at Moderate Charges. Watches and Clocks Cleaned and Repaired by D. G. are upheld for one year, unless over-wound or damaged by accident.

ARTICLES MAY BE PURCHASED BY INSTALMENTS. CLUBS SUPPLIED. BAROMETERS AND THERMOMETERS.

190z **D. GRADON,** MANUFACTURER, BLACKHILL.

TRY
JOHN HUME & SON'S
CELEBRATED
"GERM MEAL."

SOUTH ACOMB, STOCKSFIELD-ON-TYNE,
June 7th, 1887.

Messrs. JOHN HUME & SON,

GENTLEMEN,

You may recollect that some time ago I purchased several tons of your Germ Meal, and as I keep an accurate account of the food used by our cows, its cost, quantity used, and the amount of milk produced per week, it may interest you to know the result.

During the week preceding the use of the Germ Meal, the cows had maize meal at the rate of 7¾ lbs. per day, and before that they had the same quantity of barley meal. A slightly less weight, 7½ lbs. of Germ Meal was given to each cow per day, with as you will see, the most satisfactory results.—The increase in the milk produced was slightly over 5 per cent., which, with the lessened cost of your meal, showed a saving by its use of close upon 20 per cent. The increase in the return of milk for the week on which Germ Meal was used, over that on which maize meal was used, reached 16½ gallons; and as the latter cost 24s. per qr. of 34 stones, as against 20s. 6½d. for the same weight of your Germ Meal, the advantage derived from its use has been strikingly demonstrated in my experience.

I am, yours faithfully,
W. TROTTER.

HARPERLEY AND CATCHGATE STEAM AND WATER CORN MILLS
NEAR ANNFIELD PLAIN, *VIA* LINTZ GREEN.
ESTABLISHED 1817.

GEORGE HOBSON,
WHOLESALE
MILLER AND CORN MERCHANT, FIELD SEEDSMAN, &c.,
HAS ALWAYS ON HAND A LARGE STOCK OF
PURE LINSEED AND COTTON CAKES, WHOLE OR READY BROKEN.
INDIAN MEAL, PEA MEAL, BARLEY MEAL, BOXINGS, SHARPS, AND BRAN.
OATS, WHOLE AND CRUSHED, and FEEDING STUFFS of every Description

THE CELEBRATED EXCELLO HORSE FEED
Thoroughly Cleaned by New and Improved Machinery, Spiced, or otherwise, to order.

HOBSON'S IMPROVED CONDIMENT FOR HORSES, CATTLE, SHEEP, PIGS, POULTRY, STACKING, &c., Cheapest and Best in the Market.

HOBSON'S AROMATIC CALF FOOD, REARS CALVES WITHOUT MILK.

This Calf Meal is an excellent substitute for Milk, and what is of very great importance to Stock Breeders, it tends greatly to save Calves from that Inflammatory Fever commonly called Quarter-ill or Black Leg. Also, Loker Meal for Calves, &c.

G. H.'S MIXTURE OF
PERMANENT CLOVER AND GRASS SEEDS has been tested and approved by the leading Agriculturalists of the district upwards of forty-two years.
☞ FIRST-RATE WELL-WON HAY. A NICE YOUNG COW, TIME UP.

PRICE LISTS ON APPLICATION. 345z

Business Announcements

FROM HEAD TO FOOT

IF YOU WANT A RIG-OUT FROM HEAD TO FOOT,
GO TO
THE 2 W.'S.

BOYS' SUITS, from 2s 11d.
MEN'S SUITS, from 16s 11d.
MEN'S FELT HATS (Newest Shapes), from 1s 11d.
SCARFS, SHIRTS, and HOSE in great variety, for Easter.

NEWMARKET STREET, CONSETT, and NEWCASTLE. 303z

W. T. SMITH,
SURGEON DENTIST,
OF 19, ELDON SQUARE, NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE,

RESPECTFULLY begs to inform the Inhabitants of Consett and the readers of the *Guardian* that he will visit at Mr. F. JONES', No. 1, MOUNT PLEASANT, EVERY MONDAY, FROM 11 A.M. TO 5 P.M., where he has every accommodation for receiving his numerous Patrons, and is performing the very highest class operations that can be done in the Dental Profession, in all its branches both Operative and Mechanical, (having received a most thorough dental education in America). Also, all diseases of the oral cavity (the Mouth), facial neuralgia, &c.

Decay can be arrested in the Teeth by stopping them with Gold, Silver, and other Materials, whereby they can be preserved to last a lifetime, if proper care is taken by keeping them cleansed from all foreign matter, such as animal, vegetable, and tartar, which is so often allowed to collect round the necks of the Teeth.

Artificial Teeth inserted with all the latest American inventions and improvements. They can be retained in the mouth by Suction (an American Invention), without the aid of springs, wires, or clasps of any description, which so often destroy the remaining Natural Teeth. The mouth is prepared to receive the Artificial Teeth on the American principal, absolutely different from the English, and no cause is permitted to remain which can in any way produce Neuralgia, or effect the eye and ear. As diseased Teeth and roots is one of the principal reasons of the various ailments of these most valuable organs so as when the Teeth are once inserted they fit perfect without the least pain in any way.

Teeth may be extracted by the aid of Nitrous Oxide Gas, and other means by which the operations become painless.

All fees for services will be most reasonable, especially for Artificial Sets. 963z

W. T. ELTRINGHAM,
AGENT for BUILDERS' STORES and SANITARY GOODS of every description,
RAILWAY TERRACE, BLACKHILL.

ALWAYS ON HAND, FERENS' and LOVE'S NEW SINK and GULLEY with CLEANING BUCKET, as approved of by the Surveyors to the Lanchester Rural Sanitary Authority and Benfieldside Local Board.

SPECIAL QUOTATIONS FOR LARGE QUANTITIES. 104z

W. RICHARDSON,
BESSEMER HOUSE, BLACKHILL,

BEGS to thank his numerous friends for the liberal support they have given him since he opened the above place, and to announce to his Customers that his Shop is now replete with a BEAUTIFUL and VARIED ASSORTMENT.

Having bought largely, and not having room for all the Goods, he is determined TO OFFER THE WHOLE STOCK AT A VERY SMALL PROFIT, as he is determined that no one shall undersell him in the trade.

Several Packages of the Newest Goods and latest Novelties for the opening Season, all carefully selected, are now ready for inspection.

Special attention is directed to the MAGNIFICENT ASSORTMENT of WASHING FABRICS, which for bloom and beauty surpass all former efforts in this class of Goods; in Original Designs and Charming Colours.

☞ CALL AND INSPECT FOR YOURSELVES. 235z

JOHNSON HEDLEY,
MANUFACTURING and WHOLESALE CONFECTIONER, &c.,
37, PERCY STREET, NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.
Superior Jams and Marmalades.
Biscuits of all kinds. 23z

EDUCATIONAL.

JON. C. WYLIE, PRIVATE TEACHER IN LANGUAGES AND MATHEMATICS.

☞ PUPILS ATTENDED AT THEIR OWN HOMES.

Evening School, from 6d. to 1s. per week. Commence on Monday, 18th October. 854w

A. HALL & CO.
PRUDHOE-ON-TYNE,
CONFECTIONERS,
PLAIN and FANCY BREAD BAKERS, CATERERS FOR TEA PARTIES, CHILDREN'S TREATS, &c.
Funeral Bread, Birthday and Bride's-Cakes made to order.
Special arrangements made with Pic-nic Committees.
Goods delivered free by our own Cart.
☞ PRICES ON APPLICATION. 52z

INMAN LINE ROYAL MAIL STEAMERS, INMAN & INTERNATIONAL STEAMSHIP Co., Ltd. LIVERPOOL to NEW YORK, Every WEDNESDAY. Calling at Queenstown every Thursday.

Apply to RICHARDSON, SPENCE, and Co., 22, Water Street, Liverpool; ADAM BRODIE, Auctioneer, Town Hall, Consett; EDWARD SLOANE, Post Office, Blackhill; ALFRED PHILLIPSON, Emigration Agent, Dipton; JOHN TULIP, Grocer, Cornsay Colliery; WILLIAM GRAY, 5, North Road Durham; WILLIAM WILSON, Cocoa Room, Chester-le-Street; GEORGE LEADBITTER, Accountant, Catchgate. 95z

THOMAS MILNER,
DISPENSING AND AGRICULTURAL CHEMIST,
☞ THE CENTRAL PHARMACY, CONSETT

SHEEP DIPS. SHEEP DIPS

T.M. respectfully draws the attention of Farmers to the

TAR ELIXER PRIZE MEDAL SHEEP DIP
Prepared by Messrs NESS & Co., Darlington, for which he is sole Agent.
PRICE 7s. 6d. PER 100 SHEEP.

☞ T. M. is likewise Agent for BELL & RIDDLE'S, McDOUGALL'S, LITTLE & Co.'S, JEYE'S, COOPER'S, and WILSON and KITCHEN'S Sheep Dips.

ALTERATIVE CONDITION POWDERS AND PURGING BALLS FOR HORSES.

FELLON AND CLEANSING DRINKS FOR CATTLE.

MILNER'S BLUE RIBBON ARMY MIXTURES
For the speedy production of a Delicious Temperance Cordial. Ginger, Pine Apple, &c. 6d. per Bottle.

MILNER'S DANDELION AND PODOPHYLLN STOMACH AND LIVER PILLS.

The excellent qualities of these Pills are too well known to be enumerated here, while the increasing demand under the Popular Name of Milner's Own Pills, is the best Proof of their efficacy. In Boxes 1s. 1½d. and 2s. 9d.

MILNER'S AFRICAN INSECT POWDER, IN TINS, AT 6d., 1s., AND PACKETS.

BALSAMIC COUGH MIXTURE.
An excellent Remedy for Coughs, Colds, Bronchitis, &c. and all Diseases of the Chest and Stomach. 1s. per Bottle.

HAIR RESTORERS PERFUMES, POMADES.
TOILET REQUISITES IN GREAT VARIETY.

MILNER'S FINEST NEW SEASON'S COD LIVER OIL.

OILS, PAINTS, COLOURS, VARNISHES, AND CLEANSING REQUISITES OF EVERY DESCRIPTION.

SPECTACLES TO SUIT ALL SIGHTS.
TRUSSES OF ALL SIZES.

Agent for Mr LAMONT'S Magnetic Belts, Chest Protectors, Knee Caps, &c. &c.

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A. E. TURNER, 41, DURHAM ROAD, BLACKHILL, begs to thank his numerous Friends for their esteemed Patronage during the 36 years that he has been in business, and respectfully informs them that by his new arrangements he hopes to give continued satisfaction in all Branches of his Establishment, including TAILORING, DRAPERY, and MILLINERY.

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WOLSINGHAM MECHANICS' INSTITUTE.

On Saturday, the new premises of the Wolsingham Mechanics' Institute, formerly known as the Cross Keys Inn, and purchased by the committee for £350, were opened by the Rev Chancellor Espin, D.D., president.—Mr Espin said it gave him great pleasure to be there at the request of the council to open the institute. After having had such varied fortunes for a good many years, it had now entered upon what seemed to him a prosperous career. The secretary had informed him that the institute was practically closed ten years ago, when his friend and predecessor, the late Canon Gray, came to Wolsingham and gave it a new lease of life. Since then they had had only a single room in the Town Hall, which had been used for reading, and they were therefore not able to provide such recreation as some desired. He was in favour of games and amusements, because as they all knew, "all work and no play made Jack a dull boy," and sometimes not only a dull boy, but a bad one. He would perhaps be trespassing on forbidden ground if he said he was glad they had closed a public-house. At any rate such was the case, and now that they were provided with not only a reading-room and library, but also rooms for billiards and various other games, he hoped they would have a large influx of new members. As for himself he intended qualifying for a life membership by giving a donation of £5. The rev gentleman then formally declared the institute open.—Mr S. Haigh (vice-president), as a 30 years' member, thanked Mr Espin for having opened the institute, and the subscribers for having responded so liberally to the appeal of the council for funds. —Mr J. J. Devey spoke in a similar strain.

A WESLEYAN REVIVAL AT CONSETT.

[By a Methodist.]

Having occasion to hear, away out on the hill—the little village of Whittonstall—that the great lady evangelist, Miss Wilson, of Carlisle, was conducting a series of special services at Consett, I availed myself of this opportunity, and determined that I would hear her on Sunday. On the afternoon of the day mentioned, I set out on my journey, leaving my native village about 3·20, amid "Queen's own" weather. The day was warm and genial, quite out of keeping with the blizzard-like weather which has prevailed during February and March. "Throstles" were singing, and every copse was rendered vocal with feathered songsters. The rooks were building their nests as I went past Shotley Hall, carrying and stealing each others' sticks, and many a fight took place among them; evidently their morality was very low, if they possessed any at all. During the time a pair were off seeking sticks to build their nests, their neighbours were stealing those which they had already got together on the trees. Sometimes they arrived unexpectedly and caught their neighbours stealing. Then a free fight ensued, and many were the pugilistic encounters, which were taking place among the noisy rooks as I passed on my way through Shotley Bridge. The bold robin-red-breasts were hopping about, and were warbling forth their songs of praise to their great Creator. Not many of our feathered songsters are like the robin. He sings to us in winter when the skies are overcast, and the clouds are dark and lowering, and while all the others are mute, the robin cheers us with his song. The twittering old sparrows were busy too, and though their plumage is not beautiful, nor their song melodious, yet the Saviour of men, the Creator and Governor of the Universe, did not fail to notice them when He dwelt among men. It was the third Sabbath in the present month, and were it not for the traces of snow here and there, it was real spring weather. As I climbed up the Church Bank it was really warm, and I perspired freely. On reaching the top, I called upon a good lady and partook of her hospitality, along with a buxom damsel from Shotley Field, and other two lads. After tea we set out for Consett. Arriving at the end of Benfieldside Edge now, we had a splendid view of the surrounding hills, all clad in earth's mantle. On passing through the large village of Blackhill, and up the hill towards Consett, we were joined by some five or six more young people from Shotley Bridge, all going to hear the lady evangelist at Consett. On nearing the place, we could see the people trooping in from all parts, to attend the service, while at the same time we could hear the band playing through the town (and they could play, led by a cornet player who turned out to be a very esteemed friend of mine). They were followed by some two hundred people, marching at a quick pace, considering the heavy shower of rain which was then falling, and the hearty way in which the band played would have done credit to John Wesley's time. To hear them from where we were—nearly a quarter of a mile from the place—one would have thought it a contingent of the Salvation Army in full swing. They played through the main streets, and halted at the Fountain, where they bearded the lion in his den, and after an address and an invitation to the spacious New Town Hall, they adjourned for the service. I made haste to get myself a seat, but the place was crowded to the very door, and the people were still coming. I entered the hall among many others. After a short interval, the service was opened—by singing—after which a gentleman offered up a very powerful prayer, followed by a hymn, and then the lady evangelist prayed also. A gentleman at the door kindly pointed us to seats. I dropped on to a seat close by the door, thinking I would be ready for clearing out if the service was too long. I sat here a considerable time, but the door-keeper was so assiduous in his attentions to strangers, and invited me so frequently to a seat which he pointed out up in the front until at last, not wishing to be thought stupid, I yielded to his solicitations and stepped up into the front in the midst of the praying host. Close by me was a man whose pent-up feelings every now and then got vent. As the lady led in prayer he uttered a loud shout of "Glory" at the top of his voice, and another before me chimed in "Hallelujah," and another "Praise the Lord," and every now and then there was a regular chorus of responses, until the praying host drowned the lady's voice. Then it would subside, and the lady, as she prayed, took hold of some promise, and the man beside me let go another pent-up feeling, which burst from him whether he would or no—"Glory be to God." Then as Miss Wilson led in prayer, and took hold of another promise, there was a regular chorus. And the responses were hearty; not the sentimental, half-hearted responses which are sometimes at a premium in a Methodist chapel, but heartfelt and full of life and power. I had never heard such responses before. I thought surely I must be among the Primitive Methodists—an old-fashioned "Ranter" meeting. After prayer, the congregation all joined in singing a hymn, and better congregational singing I have seldom heard. A gentleman then preached a short practical sermon, not brilliant nor highly intellectual, but full of life and power; not a metaphysical disquisition, not a theological dissertation, nor an elaborate treatise on some doctrinal point, but a plain, searching, honest, gospel sermon. He did (to use a local expression) "not clavver amang the stars for sky hauld," but gave the people a few simple truths in a homely way. He did not attempt "to feed giraffes," as John Ploughman puts it, but endeavoured to feed the lambs, as the Galilean Teacher commended His disciples to do. After he had talked for twenty minutes or so, then the lady addressed the meeting. She was very impressive, and it told on the audience, who sat as if they were spellbound under her magic spell. She gave a pointed, spirited address, and then asked all present to bow their heads, and she pleaded for those who were unsaved to come forward for salvation, when off came a young woman, and rushed up to the inquiry-room, followed by another, and another.

Hearts were glad, and shouts went up
To Israel's mighty God.

To describe what then took place would baffle a cleverer pen than mine. Old Joseph Armstrong would have called it a "glorious uproar;" Wesley and Whitfield would have enjoyed it thoroughly, and John Bell and Thomas Harker would just have been in their element in the midst of it. Old Willie Charlton and old John Lowes would have thought the old times had come back. These late years I have seldom been in such a meeting; the excitement was intense, and yet it was not all excitement. The presence of the Master was felt. There was something real and tangible about it. Then the prayer meeting began; such hearty, earnest pleading I have seldom heard. The Consett Wesleyans are brave workers, full of fire and zeal; both old and young seem imbued with one spirit. Having to go a long distance I slipped out. The meeting which I have attempted to describe is only one out of many which have been held in the surrounding neighbourhood. Chief among the workers I noticed Messrs Davison, Jones (2), Watson, Skelton, Swainston (2), Stephenson, Jos. Allison, W. Forster, and a host of other leading men. Most of the converts are young people of the town and neighbourhood.

MR J. A. PEASE AND THE MAYOR OF DARLINGTON IN WEARDALE.

On Friday night, the village of Wearhead, adjacent to the source of the river, presented a phenomenally animated appearance consequent on a visit of Mr J. A. Pease, son of the member for the division, and His Worship the Mayor of Darlington (Mr T. T. Sedgwick), who were announced to give addresses on Ireland in the large Board School-room, in aid of the Literary Institute. The son of the Baronet who for over twenty years has represented Weardale in Parliament is no stranger to those in the western extremity, having first made his *debut* in their midst during the election campaign of '86 at the still further distant hamlet of Lanehead, where he created so favourable an opinion that no sooner did the members of this useful institution find it incumbent upon them to make an effort at financial recuperation than he was at once solicited, in conjunction with Mr T. T. Sedgwick, to make the somewhat—at this season—risky journey to the village to address the inhabitants on the question of the hour. It would be needless to disguise the disappointment that prevailed amongst all classes who anticipated their guests spending the whole evening at the *fete* which followed the addresses, it being expected that they would accept the warm invitation of Mr Pease's old host, Mr Sparke, Wearhead House, but the visitors were reluctantly compelled to return by special train from the distant railway terminus at Stanhope, whither they drove after the meeting. The weather, although boisterous, was an improvement upon the wintry kind so long experienced, frowning traces of which covered the slopes around Wearhead, when Mr Pease and the Mayor entered the school.

The meeting was in connection with the Reading Room, Wearhead. Mr Geo. Race, of Westgate, presided.

Councillor J. A. Pease gave a sketch of the relations between England and Ireland from the earliest times, and then proceeded to narrate circumstances in connection with the Irish land system which had come under his own observation during his recent visit to Ireland with his brother, Mr A. E. Pease, M.P. He referred at length to various tennants on the estate of Col. O'Callaghan, in county Clare, whose rent receipts he produced at the meeting. These receipts showed that in the course of a comparatively short time the rents had been doubled, and even more than doubled. Mr Pease would not undertake to defend the Plan of Campaign, but he considered that a system of government that rendered the Plan of Campaign necessary in order to obtain justice and protection from extortion was still less defensible.

The Mayor of Darlington said Mr Arthur Pease had made two or three speeches in which he had laid special stress on the first duty of obeying the law. That might be true, speaking generally, but Mr Sedgwick thought there were cases where refusal to obey a bad law was a powerful factor in obtaining its repeal. He might specially instance the refusal of Mr Pease's own relations and other members of the Society of Friends to pay Church rates and the consequent distraint of their property which he had no doubt had much to do with the abolition of the obnoxious rate.

LOCK-OUT AT BLAYDON MAIN COLLIERY.

Mr Patrick Carling, checkweighman, on behalf of the workmen of Blaydon Main, writes the appended letter:—

Will you kindly allow me a small space in your next issue to explain the position of the workmen at the above colliery? It is with sincere regret that circumstances compel me to inform your readers that we have just got over a short struggle, but we have entered against our will into another that I doubt will prove to be a long and protracted one. A few weeks ago the workmen of Blaydon Main had great reason to complain. On the morning of the 23rd of January they went to work, and when they reached the station in the pit they were ordered home. The deputy-overman, Mr Wilson, whose duty it was to receive a report from the master-shifter, or night-overman, as to how the places were standing, &c., and then visit the places himself before the men left the station, had never seen the master-shifter, nor had the master-shifter reported any gas to him or any one else. When the deputy-overman left the station, to his surprise he found 2½ or 3 pillars of gas and foul air from the face of the working places, gas sufficient to blow the pit up. Your readers may think that a serious matter; but not all, the deputy found a man and boy working and walking all night amongst the gas and about it with their lamps unlocked. I ask your readers what would have been the consequence if one of their lamp bottoms dropped off; nothing uncommon. We complained, and rightly so. It is only fair to say that Mr E. T. Cheesman, manager, gave every facility to the workmen at the local inquiry in the colliery office. The seams were idle a week, until everything was made safe. The second cause of complaint and cessation of work for a week was in relation to the checkweigh cabin and the checkweighman not having proper facilities, according to law. A few shillings spent in labour would have put the matter right, and no strike or lock-out. Third and last, I will explain what we are locked out for at present. The cavils ought to have been in on Friday. 6th inst. A verbal notice by the manager was given to the men that the last cavils in both seams most probably would receive their notice to leave. The men called a meeting and resolved to pay 6d a fortnight to those that got notice. That and a little from our association would enable them to live until they found employment. But the men received information that two men that had worked stonework for six months and were working stonework were going to hew coals, and another man that was and is hewing coals at another pit was coming down to work stonework at the pit, where stonemen were going to hew coals, and the old coalhewers had to leave the colliery. The men objected, and rightly so, to the cavils going in; they walked away from the office protesting against the cavils until they called another meeting, but when the deputation came back the cavils were drawing, and not a coal hewer present. It has been the custom, I am informed, at this colliery for at least 17 years for the men to be present and draw the cavils. It is the general custom in Durham for the workmen to be present and draw the cavils. The workmen's contention is that it is wrong to set stonemen to hew coals, and a coalhewer from another colliery under the same firm to work stonework and turn coalhewers away. The colliery is stopped and to show that the workmen have done everything that men could honestly do to keep the pit working, Patterson, our agent, wired Mr Cheesman asking him to put the cavils in over again in the presence of the men. A deputation of workmen waited on the manager on Saturday and Sunday night and on Monday morning, and the men withdrew the first objection, and said they would work in their old places on Monday if he would put the cavils in over again, and he refused. But what is the reason of all this contrariness? It is done for a purpose, and that purpose is to smash up our local union. The manager said in the presence of our respected agent, Mr Foreman, in the office, he would smash us or be through us. I had the pleasure of informing him in plain words he could not; nothing but hunger and starvation could accomplish the object he had in view. Then the manager stated it was not the union he meant. The above is a true and unvarnished statement and opinion of our position.

Throat Irritation and Cough.—Soreness and dryness tickling and irritation, inducing cough and affecting the voice. For these symptoms use Epps's Glycerine Jujubes. In contact with the glands at the moment they are excited by the act of sucking, the Glycerine in these agreeable confections becomes actively healing. Sold only in boxes, 7½d., tins, 1s.1½d., labelled "James Epps & Co., Homoeopathic Chemists, London." Dr. George Moore, in his work on "Nose and Throat Diseases," says "The Glycerine Jujubes prepared by James Epps and Co., are of undoubted service as a curative or palliative agent," while Dr Gordon Holmes, Senior Physician to the Municipal Throat and Ear Infirmary, writes: "After an extended trial, I have found your Glycerine Jujubes of considerable benefit in almost all forms of throat disease." 310x

Sporting Items

Wrestling at Prudhoe.—The first of a series of competitions for 10-stone men, for a silver cup given by Mr Tulip, was brought off at the Half-way House. Final—Hall, Stocksfield, threw McCormack, Halfway House, twice, after two exciting bouts, and won. Messrs Colpitts and Robson were umpires.

Rabbit Coursing at Winlaton.—A large company assembled in a field near the house of Mr John Atkinson, Queen's Head, Winlaton, to witness the sweep by small dogs, for which there were 40 entries. O'Neil's Rose was first, Purvis' Monkey second, and Shannon's Drinks Around third. A second sweep followed, when O'Neil's Rose of Allendale was first, and Pearson's Raggy Lad second. Thomas Ratcliffe was judge, and Wm. Atkinson starter.

Gibside Church Cyclists Parade.—"Ordinary" writes:—Last year it was proposed by Mr T. Anderson, of the Blaydon Cycling Club, to hold a Cyclist's Church Parade at Gibside Church. The proposition was carried out on the first Sunday in May of that year, with how much success the large number of cyclists who attended can testify. It was then stated that the parade would take place annually on the first Sunday in May. I should like to know if there will be a muster this year at the pretty little church at Gibside, as I have not heard it spoken of.

Billiard Tournament at Ouston.—A most successful billiard tournament has just been concluded in connection with the Mechanics' Institute and Workmen's Hall, Ouston Colliery. Valuable prizes were presented by tradesmen of Newcastle. 49 entries were obtained, and some most interesting struggles were witnessed by large audiences. The result was as follows:—First prize, valuable timepiece, presented by Mr Turnbull, jeweller, Grey Street, won by Jos. Melville, scratch; second prize, a beautiful watch, presented by Richardson and Co., Grainger Street West, won by Thomas Maggory, 15 start; third prize, serviceable umbrella, won by J. W. Urwin, 15 start.

Shooting Match at Consett.—On Monday afternoon, a shooting match at pigeons, for £10 a-side, between J. Proudlock, Consett, and Wm. Howe, of the same place, at 11 birds each, was decided in a field near Crookhall. The weather was delightfully fine, and favourable to shooting. There was a large muster of spectators. A good deal of speculation took place, the betting running mostly in favour of Proudlock, who won easily, the scores being:—Proudlock, 111001101—6 out of 9; Howe, 000100l—2 out of 9. Mr John Carnon was referee.

Wrestling in Weardale.—The winter gatherings of the Athletic Club were brought to a conclusion, when the foregone conclusion of all who witnessed the sudden return to his old form of John Peart, Moss, last year's winner, was verified, and he now secured this year's trophy right off by three successive wins. Results:—First round—John Peart, Moss, threw Wm. Thompson, Burnhope; Harry Bell, Hill, threw Bayne Robinson, Burnhope; Wm. Bell, Hill, threw Thomas Hodgson, Burnhope. Second round—H. Bell threw W. Bell; J. Peart, odd man. Final—J. Peart threw H. Bell twice in succession, and won.

Wrestling Competitions at Consett.—The wrestling competitions now progressing at the house of Mr Harry Lee, the Coach and Horses Inn, Consett, were further advanced a stage on Saturday night. The spacious room was again completely filled. Results:—First round—R. Glendenning threw H. Stewart, Wm. Turnbull threw J. Walton, G. Ferguson threw W. Milner, A. Ferguson threw Jake Hall, C. Brodie odd man. Second round—Brodie threw A. Ferguson, G. Ferguson threw Turnbull, Glendenning odd man. Third round — Brodie threw Glendenning, G. Ferguson odd man. Final falls—Brodie threw G. Ferguson twice out of thrice, and won.—For all-weights (open to all England):—First round—D. Wilkinson threw Lochrane, W. Lardlow threw J. Young, J. Bell threw J. Routledge. Second round—Lardlow threw Wilkinson, Temple odd man. In the final falls, Temple threw Lardlow twice in succession, and won. Messrs Miller and Graham were umpires.

Consett (No. 1) Grounds.—On Saturday afternoon, the trial heats of the £7 10s 120 yards foot handicap, promoted by Messrs Henry Lee and J. Redshaw, innkeepers, Consett, were run at the above-named grounds, there being a large company present. The grounds have undergone much improvement lately, and are perfectly smooth and flat; its condition is regarded as second to none in England. The following were the successful runners in the several heats:—Davison, Castleside, 15 yards start; Haggerstone, Leadgate, 15; Holiday, Blackhill, 21½; Rowan, Gateshead, 10; Stephenson, Hebburn Quay, 19; Harrison, Leadgate, 17½; R. Nevins, Lintz Colliery, 14; Nelson, Crook, 14½; Parker, Consett, 18; Ashman, Castleside, 14; Douglas, Blackhill, 14. The draw for the final heats resulted as under:—Heat 1—Nevins, Ashman, Rowan, and Douglas. Heat 2—Davison, Stephenson, Haggerstone, and Parker. Heat 3 — Nelson, Hobday, and Harrison. The judge and handicapper was Mr Jos. Dodds, while Mr N. Lamb was starter. The event secured nearly 60 entries, but owing to counter attractions some of the competitors did not put in an appearance.

Sports at Annfield Plain. — In connection with the ninth annual exhibition held under the auspices of the Annfield Plain and District Poultry, Pigeon, and Rabbit Society, some sports were brough off on Saturday afternoon, in spacious fields granted for the occasion by Mr [illegible]ley, Railway Inn. Appended are the results:—120 yards foot handicap—Heat 1—J. Elliott, Tantobie, 13½, 1; W. Turner, West Stanley, 8, 2; G. Watson, Benfieldside, 9, 3; T. Gordon, South Pontop, 10½, 4. Heat 2—F. Williams, Consett, 13½, 1; J. Wilson, Annfield Plain, 18, 2; H. Turner, Stanley, 17, 3; T. Hutchinson, West Stanley, 17, 0. Heat 3—J. Watson, Tantobie, 13½, 1; R. Gardener, West Stanley, 10½, 2; James Teasdale, Dipton, 9½, 3; W. Keers, West Stanley, 13, 4. Heat 4—T. Murray, Oxhill, 17½, 1; H. Ashman, West Stanley, 15½, 2; J. Eltringham, Dipton, scratch, 3. Final heat—Elliott 1, Murray 2, Williams 3, Wilson 4. Won by a yard; one foot dividing second and third. Wilson was left at the post. Mr M. Snowdon acted as handicapper, while Mr Ross was judge.—Association football competition (open) — First round—Dipton Wanderers beat Oxhill Rodneys by three goals to one; Annfield Plain True Blues 1st and 2nd were drawn together, as also the Greencroft Fowlers 1st and 2nd, the first teams in each case being conceded the tie without a contest. Second round—Greencroft Fowlers beat Annfield Plain True Blues by two goals to one; Dipton Wanderers, a bye. Final—Greencroft Fowlers beat Dipton Wanderers by four goals to one. The weather was of the most brilliant description, and there was a numerous gathering of spectators, who viewed the football matches with the greatest interest.

NORTH DURHAM FOXHOUNDS.

The North Durham Foxhounds have been giving good sport lately, more especially since Easter. Last Monday week, the meet was at Waterhouses. A fox was found immediately at Hedleyhope, and after a capital run of 45 minutes went to ground. Another fox was found near Waterhouses, which took a line through the Middles Plantation to Tanner's Hall, Bowden Close, Crook, and back to the Middles, where it was lost. Another fox was found at Stockerley Gill, which went over to Pit House, and after a good run the hounds were stopped at 5 o'clock, as the fox was viewed and found to be a vixen.

On Thursday, the meet was at Knitsley. Two foxes were found directly at Woodlands, and after a sharp run of half-an-hour our run fox went to ground at Consett. Three foxes were afterwards found at Rippon Burn, on one of which the hounds settled and ran a good ring back to cover, where it was seen to be a vixen, and the hounds were stopped. The sixth fox for the day was then found, which made for Broadwood, then turned north for Woodlands and back for Butsfield, and away for Broomshields, where he was headed and came back to Broadwood, where he was lost after a run of nearly two hours.

The meet last Monday was at the pretty village of Lanchester, where a very large company assembled, there being an unusually large number of ladies on horseback and in carriages. The master—Colonel Reed—soon gave the signal for marching, and a fine dog fox was found at Langley Moss, near Maiden Law, which went at a rattling pace down to Burnhopeside and back to Burnhope Colliery, then again for Burnhopeside, where the hounds were running very fast and soon pulled the fox down in the open, after a splendid run of 45 minutes, Mrs C. E. Bell being one of the first up at the death. The brush was given to Mr Fawcett, a grandson of the Rev A. D. Shafto, of Brancepeth. The hounds were then taken across the water to Hamsterley, where a large dog fox was spied in his lair by Mr Alan Greenwell, who soon had Reynard on to his legs, and giving a welcome view-halloa the hounds were on his line directly, and then the fun commenced. The fox turned westward as if bent on making for Rackwoodside, but turned to the north and crossed the river Browney and the North-Eastern Railway, made for the cover at Burnhopeside, through which the hounds pressed him, and he was compelled to take to the open, the hounds going a tremendous pace. Reynard had to seek shelter in a garden and hearing the hounds close behind him thought Mr Cummings' house would be a safer retreat in the hour of peril, so he dashed though the drawing-room window, and he had evidently meant staying for afternoon tea, as the huntsman—Freeman—who is always near his hounds, on going into the house by the front door found Mr Reynard coming downstairs, and they both went into the dining room, the fox making for the sideboard, evidently in search of Mr Cummings' "best Irish," but Freeman—being very abstemious, although no doubt dreadfully thirsty after such a gallop in so hot a day—collared his friend, and the pair quickly appearing, a tremendous cheer was given by the members of the hunt for their plucky huntsman, who soon had Reynard on his legs again, and having given him another chance for his life, the hounds were allowed to give chase, and eventually ran into their quarry. The brush was given to Miss Baker, of Elemore Hall, who had ridden remarkably well in both runs, and the head was presented to Mrs Alan Greenwell, to whose husband the members were indebted for finding the fox, and who is such a staunch preserver of foxes at Lanchester.—"Westward Ho."

Foot ball.

FIXTURES.

April 21—Leadgate 2nd v. St. Ann's, at Newcastle.
" 21—Leadgate Exiles v Bill Quay Albions, at Leadgate.
" 21—Burnopfield v Tyne, at Newcastle.
" 21—Hobson Temperance Rangers 2nd v Villa 1st, at Newcastle.
" 21—Tantobie v Rendel, at Newcastle.
" 21—Swalwell v Newcastle N.E.R., at Swalwell.
" 21—Swalwell 2nd v Gateshead St. Joseph's, at Gateshead.
" 21—Swalwell Juniors v Morley's United Juniors, at Newcastle.

ASSOCIATION.

Clinton Stars played the Birtley Stars on the ground of the former, and the game resulted in a draw, each team scoring two goals.

West Wylam Harriers v Mickley.—Played on the ground of the former, the result being a draw, after an exciting game, of one goal each.

Washington Plungers 2nd v Edmondsley Strangers 2nd.—These teams met on the ground of the former, and after a pleasant game the Strangers won by two goals to one.

Pelton Fell Harriers 2nd v Teams Colliery.—Played at Pelton Fell, and resulted in a win for the Harriers by six goals to none. M. Dixon, J. Emery, and W. Stanger played a good game for the winners.

Leadgate Exiles are playing in splendid form at present, and it will take a team of no mean class to lower their colours. They have only lost three matches this season, including their Cup tie with Birtley.

Swalwell Rangers Juniors v Blaydon Juniors.—Played at Swalwell, and ended in a victory for the Rangers by seven goals to one. The goals for the victors were scored by T. Wilkinson (3), Marshall (2), J. W. Ryle (1), and Dixon (1). Wilkinson put the ball between his own posts for the visitors, this being the only point they got.

Sunderland v Birtley.—Played on the Newcastle Road ground, Sunderland. Monaghan, Davison, and Kilpatrick scored for Sunderland in the first half, Birtley failing to get a point. After crossing over, Jackson, Bolam, Stanley, and McAvoy each put the ball through for Birtley, and Gloag scored for Sunderland, the result being a draw of four goals each.

Leadgate Exiles v. Newcastle Harps.—These teams met on the Exiles ground in glorious weather, the ground being in splendid condition. The visitors were strongly represented, having picked men from the most prominent clubs in Newcastle, whilst the home team was only moderately represented, as four of their best men were absent. However, the home team played one of their very best games, and achieved a rather clever victory, defeating their opponents by three goals to two. The visitors won the toss and Costello kicked off for the home team, and for a while the game was of a very excitable nature, the home team having slightly the best of matters. At last the visitors got the oval into the home territory English made a swift shot, but Callaghan easily saved, the centre returned the oval, and the ball going by, a goal kick transferred play into midfield, and there Quinn and Costello getting possession of the oval took it within a few yards of the visitors' goal; here the Harps handed the oval and this relieved the momentary danger. Some even play ensued at half-way, but Gracey sent in a long kick, which the home team custodian failed to obstruct, and the first point was scored for the visitors, after twenty minutes play. The home team commenced the second half with great dash, and succeeded in forcing the oval into the visitors' territory, when McGee sent in a splendid shot, but to the Exiles surprise the ball struck the cross-bar. Play became very fast, and the home team having their usual hard lines, until just before half-time when the green jerseys equalised, the teams crossing over with a score of one goal each. In the concluding period of the game the home team scored twice, and the visitors once. Team:—Harps:—Goal, R. Lakey; backs, Quinn and Ladarze; half-backs, Coope, Finley and Moran; forwards, Nugent and Lakey (right-wing), Gracey, (centre), English and G. Gracey (left-wing). Umpires, Messrs J. Hagan, and Gilligan. The visitors were entertained to tea, and a most enjoyable evening was spent.

FOOTBALL NOTES.

The annual meeting of the Birtley Football Club was held in the School-room, Birtley—Mr Stoker occupying the chair. The secretary's report was read and adopted, the balance to be carried forward being very satisfactory. A match committee, consisting of three honorary members and three playing members, was appointed. The officers for the ensuing year are:—1st team, captain, Mr Geo. Miller; vice-captain, Mr E. Bell; treasurer, Mr S. Pearson; match secretary, Mr Chas. Lonsdale; financial secretary, Mr Chas. Moore.

Trade Notes.

New Lead Mining Company in Weardale.—The Lower Weardale Minerals Company, Limited, with a capital of £50,000 in £1 shares, has been registered. The object of the company is to carry on the mining business, and to acquire a leasehold mineral property containing about 1,600 acres in the neighbourhood of Frosterley and Wolsingham, chiefly known as the Harvey Hill and Harehope Gill royalties.

Holloway's Pills.—Pure Blood.—When the Blood is pure, its circulation calm and equable, and the nerves well strung, we are well. These Pills possess a marvellous power in securing these essentials of health by purifying, regulating, and strengthening the fluids and solids. Holloway's Pills can be confidently recommended to all persons suffering from disordered digestion, or worried by nervous fancies, or neuralgic pains. They correct acidity and heart-burn, dispel sick headache, quicken the action of the liver, and act as alteratives and gentle aperients. The weak and delicate may take them without fear. Holloway's Pills are eminently serviceable to invalids of irritable constitution, as they raise the action of every organ to its natural standard, and universally exercise a calming and sedative influence.

POULTRY, PIGEON, AND RABBIT SHOW AT ANNFIELD PLAIN.

The ninth annual exhibition under the auspices of the Annfield Plain and District Poultry, Pigeon, and Rabbit Society was held on Saturday afternoon, in a field at the rear of the Railway Inn, granted for the occasion by Mr Langley, under the most favourable and successful circumstances. The weather was delightfully fine, and consequently there was a numerous attendance of visitors—larger even than in preceding years. The entries numbered close upon 400, being slightly in excess of the last show; while the quality of the exhibits could not possibly be surpassed or excelled. Some magnificent specimens of poultry were on view, while the display of rabbits were *par excellence*. The show was open to all the world, and the exhibitors came from all parts of the country. The judges were:—for poultry and pigeons, Mr H. Hall, of Kendal; and for rabbits, Mr J. F. Aldred, Leeds. These gentlemen experienced considerable difficulty in the task of adjudication, in consequence of the keenness of the competition in the majority of the classes. The exhibits were arranged in a spacious marquee, and the following is a

LIST OF AWARDS.

Section 1.

Class 1—Lop buck or doe, any variety (9 entries)—1 and 2, A. H. Jule, Halifax; 3, T. Wallace, Carville, Durham.

Class 2—Belgian hare, buck or doe, any variety (11 entries).—1, J. A. Gott, Horsforth, Leeds; 2, Wm. Gomersall, Heckmondwicke; 3, Hy. Brewer, Ryhope.

Class 3—Silver grey buck or doe, dark, medium, light shade (9 entries).—1st and extra 3, George Fowler, jun., Halifax; 2, A. Robson, Banbury; 3, R. Morley, York.

Class 4—Silver buck or doe, any other colour not mentioned (17 entries).—1 and 2, George Forster, jun, The Loud; 3, J. Norvell, Holbeck, Leeds.

Class 5—Dutch buck or doe, any colour (11 entries).—1, J. A. Gott, Leeds; 2, John Meynell, Darlington; 3, A. Potter, Otley.

Class 6—Himalayan buck or doe, any variety (10 entries).—1, A. Merry, Banbury; 2, Wm. Lindsley, Hetton-le-Hole; 3, John Henderson, Dipton.

Class 7—Common rabbit, buck or doe, any variety (11 entries).—1, F. E. Brooke, Cleckheaton; 2, J. and W. Mullan (Wharfedale Beauty), Otley; 3, John Hall, Annfield Plain.

Class 8—Selling class, buck or doe, any variety; price not to exceed £1 (13 entries).—1, Joseph Towers, Esh Winning; 2, J. A. Gott, Leeds; 3, C. Heslop, Darlington.

Class 9—Local class, any variety, within a radius of 4 miles of Annfield Plain (7 entries).—1, Alex. Hendry, Hare Law; 2, Thomas Gales, Catchgate; 3, Ralph Forster, The Loud.

Class 10—Best English Tom cat (6 entries).—1 and 2, Jas. Mottershead ("Jim" and "Joe"), Manchester; 3, Roger Robson (Silver King), Hexham.

Class 11—Best English Queen cat (9 entries).—1, Ambler and Pace, Annfield Plain; 2, Edward Wailes, Catchgate; 3, R. Forster, The Loud.

Section 2.

Class 12—Brahma cock and hen, any variety (4 entries).—1, John Henry Davison, Bearpark; 2, R. Shield, Swalwell; 3, M. Masterman, Havannah, West Stanley.

Class 13—Plymouth Rocks, Scotch Greys, Wyandottes, cock and hen (7 entries).—1, Thomas Dowson, Thornley, near Tow Law; 2, R. Staindrop, Hansker, Whitley; 3, J. A Gott, Horsforth, Leeds.

Class 14—Spanish, Minorca, Andalusian, and Leghorn cock and hen (7 entries).—1, Robert Shield, Swalwell; 2, I. A. Walker, Newark; 3, James Nutt, Hetton Downs.

Class 15—Gold and silver-spangled cock and hen (4 entries).—1, Thos. Dodd, Thornley, Tow Law; 2, Thos. Barkas, Crawley, Stanhope; 3, T. and G. Kidson, Old Ormsby, Middlesbro'.

Class 16—Gold and silver-pencilled cock and hen (6 entries).—1, T. and G. Kidson, Old Ormsby; 2, J. and G. Parker, Middleton-in-Teesdale; 3, Thos. Pearson, Bedale.

Class 17—Black or brown red game cock (12 entries).—1, J. and T. Currah, Woodcroft, Frosterley; 2, J. W. Simpson, Silloth; 3, Jas. McCullock, Middleton.

Class 18—Black or brown red game hen (7 entries).—1, G. Barkas, Broad Meadows, Stanhope; 2, D. Cheyne, Cowpen Lane; 3, William Robson, Dipton.

Class 19—Game cock, any other variety (9 entries)—1, J. Smith, East Rainton; 2, Smith and Paxton, Ashington Colliery; 3, John and Thos. Currah, Frosterley.

Class 20—Game hen, any other variety (7 entries).—1, J. and T. Currah, Frosterley; 2, J. McCullock, Middleshaugh; 3, Matthew Hodgson, Chester South Moor.

Class 21—Original game cock (7 entries).—1, Dan Pearson Wigton; 2, J. W. Simpson, Silloth; 3, Cameron and Steel, Westfield, Workington.

Class 22.—Cock and hen, any other variety not named (9 entries).—1, Frank Heugh, Bedale; 2, J. A. Gott, Leeds; 3, John White, Warlaby, Northallerton.

Class 23—Duck and drake, any variety (1 entry).—No prize awarded.

Class 24—Cock or hen, duck or drake, any variety. Prize not to exceed £1 (8 entries).—1, Smith and Paxton, Ashington Colliery; 2, Robert Smiles, Pelton Fell; 3, F. Heugh, Bedale.

Section 3.

Class 25—Black or brown red game bantam cock (7 entries).—1, W. Wardle, Gosforth Station; 2, W. Grey, Alma Cottage, Tow Law; 3, Davis and Scott, Highgate, Kendal.

Class 26—Black or brown red game bantam hen (7 entries).—1, T. Cardy, Leamside; 2, W. Wardle, Gosforth Station; 3, George Marshall, Handen Hold.

Class 27—Game bantam cock, any other variety (12 entries).—1, R. Irving, Milton, Carlisle; 2, Wm. Spoors, Whickham; 3, Maggie Barnes, Bury, Lancashire.

Class 28—Game bantam hen, any other variety (4 entries).—1, T. Cardy, Leamside; 2, W. Grey, Tow Law; 3, Maggie Barnes, Bury.

Class 29—Bantam cock and hen, any variety, except game (7 entries).—1, W. Moore, Hainworthshaw, Keighley; 2, R. H. Ashton, Mottram, Manchester; 3, R. Irving, Milton, Carlisle.

Section 4.

Class 30—Pouter cock or hen (7 entries).—1, F. T. Atkinson, Darlington; 2, I. E. Winspear, Scarbrough; 3, J. Guthrie, Hexham.

Class 31—Carrier cock or hen (7 entries).—1, R. Woods, Fullerton Lodge, Mansfield; 2 and 3, I. and W. Winspear, Scarbrough.

Class 32—Dragon Cock or hen (11 entries).—1 and 2, Richard Woods, Mansfield; 3, Robert Shield, Swalwell.

Class 33—Antwerp cock or hen (12 entries).—1, J. Capes, Trippett, Hull; R. Woods, Mansfield; 3, T. Rhodes, Otley.

Class 34—Jacobin cock or hen (6 entries)—1, E. Pepper, Dunston Hall, Lincoln; 2, M. Masterman, West Stanley; 3, F. T. Atkinson, Darlington.

Class 35—Magpie or nun cock or hen (6 entries).—1. T. Eden, Fishergate, Ripon; 2, H. G. Lawrence, Beedes, Suffolk; 3, R. Woods, Mansfield.

Class 36—Tumbler short-faced cock or hen (5 entries).—1, E. Bland, Fisher Green, Ripon; 2, R. Woods, Mansfield; 3, John G. Smith, jun., Sheerness, Kent.

Class 37—Tumbler long-faced cock or hen (3 entries).—R. Woods, Mansfield; 3, M. Masterman, West Stanley.

Class 38—Owl cock or hen (15 entries).—1, Richard Woods, Mansfield; 2, Wright Hinchliffe, Holmforth, Huddersfield; 3, J. D. Hedley, Gateshead.

Class 39—Turbit cock or hen (7 entries).—1 and 2, Richard Woods, Mansfield; 3, Wright Hinchliffe, Holmforth.

Class 40—Fantail cock or hen (3 entries).—1, G. L. Nicholson, Great Broughton, Northallerton; 2, I. E. Winspear, Scarbrough; 3, Wm. Walker, Newark-on-Trent.

Class 41—Homer Cock (11 entries).—1, 2, and 3, W. Hutchinson, Gateshead.

Class 42—Homer hen (5 entries).—1, Priestman and Selby, West Stanley; 2, T. Irving, Town Foot, Haltwhistle; 3, W. Lishman, Greenside.

Class 43—Any other variety (12 entries).—1 and 2, I. and W. Winspear, Scarbrough; 3, J. Capes, Trippett, Hull.

Class 44—Homer cock, any colour (11 entries).—1, Matthew Pears, Shield Row; 2, J. Gailes, The Winning; 3, R. Henderson, Oxhill.

Class 45—Homer hen, any colour (8 entries).—1, J. Forster, Dipton; 2, M. Pears, Shield Row; 3, Priestman and Selby, West Stanley.

Class 46—Selling class, cock or hen, any variety, price not to exceed £1 (13 entries).—1, F. T. Atkinson, Darlington; 2, W. Lishman, Greenside; 3, C. Gales, Catchgate.

Class 47—Duck eggs (3 entries).—1, Mrs Bowes, Pontop Row; 3, C. Heslop, Darlington.

Class 48—Hen eggs (6 entries).—1, John Lambert, Highgate, London; 2, Mrs Howe, Greencroft.

During the afternoon, a number of sports were brought off (particulars being given in another column) and capital selections of music were performed by the South Derwent Colliery Prize Brass Band. In the evening, a ball was held in the tent, and was well patronised. Mr T. Walker's quadrille band supplying the music. The show was decidedly the best ever held in connection with the society, and much of the success attending it may be attributed to the excellent endeavours of the secretary (Mr F. Thompson), ably assisted by a representative committee.

CONSETT LOCAL BOARD.

On Monday evening, the annual meeting of this body was held in the Board-room, Parliament Street, the following gentlemen being present:—Mr W. Jenkins, J.P., Messrs T. Siddell, J. Collinson, T. Dunne, J. W. Davison, Geo. Wade, W. R. Taylor, Geo. Ainsworth, the clerk (Mr T. W. Wilford), and the surveyor (Mr W. Rippon).

THE RECENT ELECTION.

The Clerk submitted, as returning officer, the result of the recent Local Board election, when the four retiring members were again returned.

APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN.

The former chairman (Mr Wm. Jenkins, J.P.), was unanimously appointed to again act in that capacity for the next 12 months.

THE PARKS COMMITTEE.

The Clerk suggested that the Board appoint another gentleman to act on the Parks Committee, several of the members being of opinion that it was advisable.

Mr Ainsworth said it was his opinion that it would be better not to try to put another gentleman on this Committee, as the Benfieldside people might not agree with them.

The majority of the members coincided with Mr Ainsworth as to the manner in which the Benfieldside Board would treat such a procedure.

ELECTION OF COMMITTEES.

It was resolved that the various committees should remain as heretofore, the same gentlemen acting on the committees in the same manner as previously.

PLANS.

Mr Dunne proposed that the plan of the Consett Co-operative Stores for erecting houses be placed in the hands of the Building Committee, with power to pass the same.

Mr Davison seconded the motion, which was carried.

THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BILL.

A letter was read from Mr Trenbar, secretary to the new Association for the Protection of Local Bodies. The purport of the letter was an invitation to the Board to join the Association along with a large number of other Local Boards. Their terms were £1 1s per annum.

The Chairman wished to know what the Clerk thought about the matter? Would the new Bill affect the Board to any considerable extent?

The Clerk did not think it would affect them materially. The name was the only thing that would be changed.

Mr Siddell: I think from the letter just read by the Chairman that it will affect us very considerably.

Mr Ainsworth: It will decidedly do so. The election of members will be by ballot, consequently some of the old, easy-going members of the present body will not be returned. Only those members who whipped their supporters up to the poll would get in.

The Chairman: In what manner will the members retire? Will it be *en bloc*, or in rotation?

The Clerk was of opinion that it would be the former method. They would be entirely re-elected.

A short discussion here ensued on the merits and demerits of the Local Government Bill.

The Chairman desired to know if there was anything they could do in regard to the association? If there was nothing, then he did not see why they should go out of their way to pay a subscription of one guinea per year.

Mr Davison thought it was not necessary for them to do so.

Mr Dunne was of opinion that they would not derive any particular benefit by joining the Association.

The matter was subsequently allowed to drop.

THE CEMENTING OF THE FOOTPATH FROM CONSETT TO THE WORKS.

The Surveyor said, in answer to Mr Ainsworth, that the contract for the cementing would have to be advertised, according to the Public Health Act, for 14 days.

Mr Ainsworth: If this weather continues, the sooner it is done the better!

The Board afterwards adjourned.

Cricket.

FIXTURES.

April 21.—Blackhill Royal Oaks v The Spen, at Shotley Spa.
" 21.—Leadgate 1st v West Stanley, at West Stanley.

Ouston v Newfield. — Played on Saturday. Scores:—Ouston, 64; Newfield, 33.

Ouston Club has the following dates vacant:—At Ouston, April 21st, May 19th, June 30th, Aug. 11th, Sept. 22nd; away, May 12th and 26th, July 21st, Sept. 1st.—Address W. Armstrong, Hylton Terrace, Pelton.

Chopwell Blue Lillies Juniors C.C.—There has been a cricket club formed at Victoria Garesfield, under the above name, and the secretary is anxious to arrange matches with junior, ages from 12 to 14. Address John Laws, 3, Chopwell Cottages, Victoria Garesfield, *via* Lintz Green.

Medomsley Cricket Club have the following dates vacant:—First team—June 23 at home, Sept. 8 away. Second team—June 30, July 7, and Aug. 4, away; June 2 and 23, July 14 and 28, and Aug. 25, at home. The secretary—Wm. G. Thompson, Medomsley Edge, Lintz Green—will be glad to hear from secretaries who have those dates not yet filled in, as soon as possible.—The members of the above club held a ball on Friday night, in the Templars' Hall, Medomsley, There was a good gathering, and the event was a success. The club is well worthy of the support of the public. All the members work hard to popularise cricket in this neighbourhood, by improving their ground and bringing good teams to play upon it.

SACRISTON v BURNHOPE.

The above clubs met on Saturday, on the Burnhope ground, and, after a very good contested game, resulted in a victory for Burnhope, for whom Wm. Dyson batted in splendid form, while Swiney and Hamilton did good service for Sacriston. Score:—

SACRISTON.		BURNHOPE.	
W. Swiney c Knowles	11	J. Gair b Ramsay	0
J. Hamilton c Heckels	15	M. Johnson b Lowes	0
J. H. Lowes c Knowles	0	W. Dyson b Stoddart	22
T. Stoddart c Heslop	1	A. Heckels c Hamilton	5
J. Lowery b Robinson	3	G. Heslop b Ramsay	6
J. Green not out	6	J. Robinson c Ramsay	4
Wm. Ramsay c Knowles	1	J. Lawson b Lowes	7
J. Scott b Robinson	6	H. Knowles b Stodd'rt	0
G. Samuels b Gair	1	H. Burnett b Stoddart	0
J. Renwick b Gair	2	J. Mason b Lowes	0
J. Rollins b Gair	0	J. Burnett not out	0
Extras	3	Extras	9
Total	49	Total	53

WESTWOOD v RYTON.

These clubs played on Ryton Willows on Saturday, and resulted in an easy victory for the visitors. Score:—

WESTWOOD.		RYTON.	
J. Walton b Benson	7	G. Robson c and b Walton	0
T. Bell run out	6	M. Clark b Weston	1
W. Weston b Benson	11	G. Barron b Weston	2
T. Murphy run out	0	A. Benson b Walton	9
J. Brown b Shaw	19	D. Shaw b Weston	1
G. Dixon run out	4	F. Iceton c and b Weston	2
T. Simpson b Shaw	0	W. Liddle c Wood b Weston	2
D. Clark b Shaw	0	R. Newton c and b Walton	0
W. Simpson c and b Shaw	5	J. Newton c Wood b Walton	4
W. Wood c Robson b Shaw	0	W. Allison not out	0
R. Bell not out	5	J. Pearson b Weston	1
Extras	2	Extras	0
Total	59	Total	22

Towle's Pennyroyal and Steel Pills for Females quickley correct all irregularities, and believe the distressing symptoms so prevalent with the sex Boxes 1s. 1½d., and 2s. 9d., of all Chemists. Sent anywhere for 15 or 34 Stamp by the Lincoln and Midland Counties Drug Co., Lincoln. — Beware of Imitation

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CONSETT PETTY SESSIONS.

FIRST COURT.

MONDAY, April 16th. — Before JON. PRIESTMAN, Esq. (in the chair), Rev J. P. DE PLEDGE, W. B. VAN HAANSBERGEN, Esq., and J. W. WALTON-WILSON, Esq.

THROWING SNOWBALLS.

William Adamson, a young man, was accused by P.C. Mitcalfe of throwing snowballs in Front Street, Consett, on the 25th ult. Defendant and others were pelting an old man in a cart.—Adamson denied the charge, asserting that they were only throwing loose snow "for fun."—He was let off on payment of costs.

EXCISE ACT.

George Wainwright, of Consett, pleaded guilty to keeping a dog without a license, and was fined 7s 6d and costs.

WHOLESALE THEFT OF SOOT.

John Forrest, of Gateshead, and *Joseph Kelly*, of Easington Lane, chimney sweeps, were placed in the dock to answer a charge of stealing 24 bags of soot, valued at about 50s, the property of John Proud, a chimney sweep, of Church Street, Gateshead, on April 10th. Mr J. T. Proud (Bishop Auckland) defended the prisoners.—Prosecutor stated that for the past 10 years he had had the contract for sweeping the chimneys and flues connected with Messrs Joicey and Co.'s collieries at Tanfield, Tantobie, and White-le-head, at 3d per chimney. On the 19th Feb., he engaged the prisoner Forrest, John Johnson, and Wm. Freeman, and they commenced to sweep these chimneys, and the soot was deposited in a suitable place till it should be collected together. When he (Proud) returned for the bags of soot, on the 12th inst., he ascertained that they had been taken away, and he gave notice to P.C. Christon.—Cross-examined: He had known Forrest since he was a child. Forrest was working one of the machines, and he paid him 10s a-week over and above a share of the profits. Forrest and himself were not, and never had been, in partnership together. He calculated that over a ton of soot had been stolen, and it was worth 50s.—Mr Van Haansbergen said that soot would not fetch more than 30s a ton. —Prosecutor: Oh, it is worth 50s. I received £2 5s for a ton of soot only a few days previously.—Forrest: And I should have had a share of that. (Laughter.)—Further cross-questioned: Proud denied that there was partnership existing between Forrest and himself, and that the former was not entitled to the soot. Forrest did formerly live with him; but now he was lodging in Pilgrim Street, Newcastle. He (prosecutor) had been in gaol five or six times, mostly for drunkenness. He was once imprisoned for receiving money belonging to Forrest's relations; but bore no grudge against the prisoner.—Matthew Adamson, butcher, The Leazes, spoke to purchasing the soot, on the 10th inst., for 30s; and a cartman named John Jackson, stated that he was engaged to cart the soot away, Kelly being also employed by Forrest to assist him.—P.C. Christon received information of the soot having been stolen on the 12th April, and he communicated with Supt. Harrison, of the Gateshead County Police, who knew the prisoners, and had them arrested.—In answer to Mr Proud, witness recognised Proud as the master of the chimney sweeps, as he gave him a bag of soot.—Mr Proud submitted that a partnership subsisted between Proud and Forrest, and therefore the latter was as much entitled to the soot as he (prosecutor) was. There was a dispute between the parties, which ought really to have been settled in the County Court; but prosecutor had been very cute in having the prisoners arrested for theft. There was no evidence whatever against Kelly.—John Johnson, labourer, Pilgrim Street, Newcastle, was called, and declared that Forrest and himself were engaged together by Proud upon the same terms. They both received 10s a week.—Cross-questioned: A professional sweep with a machine could command a higher wage than a labourer. He did not see Forrest receive any money from Proud. It was not the custom, when a sweep was paid so much for the week, for him to claim the soot.—The magistrates discharged Kelly, and sentenced Forrest (who had been previously convicted) to undergo six weeks' hard labour.

DRUNK ON LICENSED PREMISES.

John Rogers, *John Leadbitter*, *John Toole*, and *Samuel Taylor* (the latter of whom did not appear) were summoned by P.C. Phillipson for having been drunk on the licensed premises of Mr Lamb, beerhousekeeper, Durham Road, Blackhill, at a quarter to seven o'clock on the night of the 31st ult. The officer called the attention of the landlord to the men, and he sent them away.—Taylor was fined 10s and costs, or seven days' imprisonment; the others pleaded guilty, and were mulcted in a fine of 5s and expenses.

A LIVELY EASTERTIDE PARTY.

Janet Musgrove, of Milkwell Burn, and *John Rogers*, *William Routledge*, *Samuel Taylor*, *Charles Harris*, *Joseph Telford*, *Samuel Murphy*, *Robert Jameson*, and *William Sayers*, all of Blackhill, were charged with having been drunk on the premises of the Railway Inn, kept by Wm. Blackburn, in Durham Road, Blackhill, on the 3rd inst. Mr Dix (Newcastle) appeared in defence.—At the commencement, Mr Dix raised a technical objection to the summons, which disclosed no actual offence.—The Chairman stated that the summonses could be amended; and the Clerk (Mr Granger) advised the magistrates to proceed with the cases, there being no doubt as to the precise meaning of the offence.—P.C. Lawson testified that at a quarter-past ten o'clock at night, he heard a disturbance inside the house, and on entering, he found about 20 men and women more or less under the influence of liquor, the defendants being in the worst state of intoxication. They were cursing and shouting, and indulging in filthy language. They had drink on the table before them. He complained to the proprietor that these people ought to be turned out, and the latter promised to do so. The officer returned at a quarter to eleven, and saw the whole of the defendants in a very excited state. Routledge was sitting upon a longsettle, lying back nodding and asleep, and Taylor was leaning against him in a similar condition; Musgrove was likewise on the longsettle, and had a glass of beer in her hands. She was so drunk that the contents were spilt upon her lap.—Cross-examined: The men were in various parts of the house. Some of them were in a "loose-box," which he could he could hardly describe. The rest were in the parlour. Witness remained eight or nine minutes on each occasion. The men and women were all "carrying on," and it was high time they stopped. When he went in, there was not any singing or dancing; and the female defendant was not playing a concertina or melodian. He observed a musical instrument of some sort in the room. There had been dancing and music earlier on in the evening. The landlord was in the bar, whilst the landlady was in the passage. It was contrary to law for men to be found sitting drunk and asleep during opening hours on licensed premises. At eight minutes past eleven o'clock, he found two drunken men just outside of Blackburn's premises.—P.C. Phillipson spoke to observing two men in an inebriated condition in the vicinity of the Railway Inn just after closing time on the night in question. Sayers told him there had been a queer carry-on in the house that night.—Mr Dix contended that the Court of Queen's Bench had decided that the fact that drunken people were observed proceeding from a certain public-house was not admissible as evidence against the landlord of that particular house.—Mr Blackburn was sworn, and deposed that when the officer first came in he said, "Blackburn, if I were you I would chuck these men out." He did not charge any of them with being drunk. Witness, however, went into the three rooms where there were customers, as well as the bar, and did not observe a single drunken person in the house. All the company left a few minutes before eleven o'clock, very quietly, and not one of them was intoxicated. After closing time, his house was visited by Sergt. Tate and P.C. Phillipson.—By the police: He had not any drink himself that night. Musgrove was quite sober. He was not aware that Samuel Murphy had been "done" out of 2s in the parlour.—Mrs Blackburn stated that there were five rooms where drink was being supplied that evening, as well as the bar. She did not notice anyone in the house the worse for liquor. It was Easter Tuesday, and there was a party who were dancing, playing, and "carrying-on." When the constable appeared, at a quarter to eleven o'clock, he said to her "Are you aware there are two drunken men asleep in the back parlour?" She replied not, and on proceeding there she did not find anyone in the state described. They were all merry, but not drunk. They had not had any drink served to them for an hour-and-a-half before that. She did not see the officer when he visited the house the first time, but she called after him to point out the drunken people in the house.—In answer to the police, witness stated that she did not see any tipsy persons in the bar, and there was no disturbance going on. She knew nothing about the Murphy's. All the drink she herself partook of that night was a half-glass of whiskey. She was perfectly sober, otherwise she could not describe all that transpired. The officer did not tell her there were 20 men in the house, all more or less under the influence of liquor. She did not know that Murphy had been duped of 2s. —Sayers, put on oath, declared that he only had two glasses in the house that night. After closing time, Lawson and Phillipson were throwing snowballs at Harris's door, and they said to him "Had away and get them out, Bill." Lawson threatened to summons them all [illegible] had [illegible] in the Railway Inn and he (Sayers) replied "It will be a d—— shame if anybody is summoned. It was only a jolly Easter 'carry on.'" (Laughter.)—By the police: He never told Phillipson that he had got a bat on the eye; nor did he say that they could not utter two words before they were knocked down by the "Kicking Cuddy." (Much laughter.)—Harris also gave evidence denying that he was intoxicated, while Janet Musgrove stated that she had been to Consett to get her melodian, and on returning home called at the public-house, when the landlord asked her to play a few tunes. (Laughter.)—Lawson, re-called, stated that the reason he knew Murphy was drunk was because a woman was putting her arms round his neck and kissing and "cuddling" him in the small snug. (Roars of laughter.)—Murphy denied that the woman was embracing him, although he was sitting beside a stranger from Annfield Plain. He did not know Mrs Harris was near to him.—The Bench, after a short consultation, found the defendants guilty, Taylor being fined 10s and costs, or seven days, for non-appearance; the female offender 2s 6d and costs; and the others were ordered to pay 5s fine and the fees incurred.

AN AGED COUPLE'S DOMESTIC FEUDS.

Adam Ross, an old man, a wholesale salt dealer, of Catchgate, was summoned by his wife, Marion Ross, for having assaulted her, on the 10th inst.—Complainant stated that on the day referred to, they were at Newcastle, and although they had a horse and cart there, they decided to walk home. Whilst on the road at Sunniside, near Marley Hill, defendant wanted 6d from her to get a glass of ale. She had an abhorrence to the cursed drink, and declined to let him have the money, whereupon he struck her on the side of the right cheek with his walking-stick, the place being covered with a plaster. During the 20 years they had been married, he had frequently ill-used her and the family, but hitherto she had forgiven his misdeeds. Her husband was all right when he kept away from the liquor. Complainant also applied for a separation order, as she was afraid that her husband would do her some serious injury. She could not live comfortably with him, and he was constantly annoying and insulting her.—Defendant's story was that he gave his wife £2 before they went to Newcastle, and he spent all his pocket money in buying her bits of things, and procuring her something to eat in Newcastle. She wanted to go to the railway station to catch the train an hour-and-a-half before the usual time, and then declared that she would walk home, and insisted upon his accompanying her, although they had a horse and cart in Newcastle. He became dry, and when he asked her for 6d to get a glass with, she turned her cheek round and told him to take it out of that. (Laughter.) She provoked him, and he might have struck at her. (Turning to his wife): Is that not the fact?—Complainant: Yes, except that I did not turn my cheek to you.—Defendant: Well, that finishes the job then. (Laughter.)—The magistrates did not deem the evidence sufficiently strong to warrant them granting a judicial separation, but fined defendant £1 and 7s 6d costs for the assault.—Defendant said he would not pay, and they could "take it out of her." (Laughter).—He was committed for one month in case of default.—Prosecutrix offered to pay the money, amidst considerable merriment, and the defendant was liberated.—Mrs Ross desired her husband to be bound over to keep the peace, as she dared not return home to him.—The Clerk: If you are afraid of him, why did you not let him go to gaol? You would have got rid of him for a time.—Ross was cautioned by the Bench that if he again assaulted his wife, he would be sent to prison without the option of a fine. It was a disgraceful act for an old man like him to strike at his wife.

SECOND COURT.

Before JAMES ANNANDALE, Esq.

DRUNKENNESS.

Samuel McIvor and *James McCoy* were charged by P.C. Sanderson with having been intoxicated at Dipton, on the 31st ult., and were fined 5s each and costs.

James Haggnew, who was summoned by Sergt. Best for committing a like offence, at Consett, was fined in the same amount.

John Bradley and *Thomas Crawley* appeared in answer to charges, instituted against them by P.C. Mitcalfe, of having been drunk and disorderly at Consett, and were also mulcted in penalties of 5s each and pay expenses.

Patrick Salmon was found guilty, upon the testimony of P.C. Stankley, of drunkenness at Consett, and was similarly dealt with.

Matthew McLeer was accused by P.C. Richardson, of having been found drunk at Consett, was ordered to bear a fine of 5s and costs.

Sergt. Tate summoned *Samuel Murphy* for having been in a very drunken condition at Blackhill, on March 31st, and a similar fine was inflicted.

Thomas McDonald and *Peter Campbell*, for being guilty of drunkenness and disorderly behaviour at Iveston, were fined 5s and costs.—P.C. Newton proved the offences.

George Irwin and *James McCoy* were both proceeded against by Sergt. Thornton, for having been tipsy at Dipton, on April 7th, and were mulcted in fines of 5s each, with the costs.

William Rafferty appeared in his recognisances to answer a charge, made against him by P.C. Stankley, of having been drunk at Consett, on Saturday night last.—Fined 5s and costs.

Andrew George Kirkup, a young man, was brought up by P.C. Lawson for having been drunk and disorderly at Blackhill, on the previous Saturday night, and was similarly punished.

LOCAL ACT.

John Crawford, jun., was charged by P.C. Mitcalfe with wheeling a barrow on the footpath at Consett, on March 23rd.—Defendant pleaded that, on account of the heavy snowstorm, he could not take the wheelbarrow along the roadway.—After hearing the evidence, the case was dismissed.

ALLEGED DAMAGE TO HOUSE PROPERTY.

James Henry Linton was summoned for doing damage to a dwelling-house belonging to Francis McLean, at Burnopfield, on the 22nd inst.—He was let off on payment of the costs.

THE UPROAR IN A LODGING HOUSE.

The Frenchman, who tendered the name of *Augustus De Fivas* (30), on tramp, was brought forward (on remand) on charges of having been drunk and disorderly, and committing wilful damage to the extent of 10s to the property in the lodging-house of Mr Michael McNally, in Green Street, Consett, at an early hour on the preceding Friday morning.—P.C. Mitcalfe and Mr McNally gave testimony against the prisoner, the circumstances of the case being detailed in last week's issue of the *Guardian*.—For being inebriated, Augustus was fined 5s and costs, and for the second offence, he was mulcted in 1s fine, 10s damage, and costs; or three weeks' hard labour in default.

CATARRH OF THE BLADDER.—Stinging, irritation, inflammation, all kidney and kindred complaints, cured by "Buchu-paiba." At chemists. Newbery and Sons, Agents, King Edward Street, London, E.C.

"HOW TO BEHAVE, price sixpence.—To be had of Robert Jackson, bookseller, 9 and 10 Newmarket Street, Consett.

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MAN'S NOBLEST WORK.—This is an age of great and works wonderful inventions. Steam, electricity, water, air, all are made to serve man, but unquestionably the greatest inventions are those which preserve man's health and prolong his life, and among the greatest of these are Stanton's Cough Pills. There effects are truly wonderful, and hundreds are happy to-day who once looked forward to an early grave. For Coughs, Colds, Bronchitis, Asthma Loss of Voice, Hay Fevers Hoarseness, Croup, or any Affection whatever of the Throat, Chest, or Lungs, Stanton's Cough Pill, will positively cure. We can cheerfully recommend them to all, and can unhesitatingly say they are the only sure cure for Throat and Lung Affections. Sold by all Chemists in Boxes at 13½d, and 2s. 9d. Box sent post free on receipt of 15 or 36 stamps. Wm. Mather, Wholesale Druggists Manchester.

[illegible] RAIDS—AN

ACQUITTAL OF A DEFENDANT.

AN UNFOUNDED ACCUSATION.

On Monday, at the Consett Police Court, before Mr Jon. Priestman, (chairman) and other justices, was resumed the hearing of the charge preferred by Christiana Trotter, a single young woman, of Dipton, against Emmanuel Maddison, a married master grocer and provision merchant, Dipton, for committing an indecent assault upon her, on the 18th ult. Mr J. T. Proud (Bishop Auckland) again appeared to prosecute; while Mr C. M. Dix (Newcastle) defended. As on the previous hearing, the court and its approaches were thronged.—At the outset, Mr Dix re-called the prosecutrix, who stated that she did not know Robert Stoker. On the evening of the 17th March, she was not in the stable of the defendant, when Stoker brought home the defendant's horse and cart. She was not at the defendant's shop, on Wednesday, 14th March. She did not see Mrs Maddison, and never said "I've come to see what you say about me stealing," nor did Mrs Maddison reply: "It is mischief you've come about, I won't hear you," and thereupon shut the door. Complainant was not at McIvor's house, nor at the door, on the Monday following and neither McIvor or herself said anything about perjured villians. On the 27th March, neither her sister or herself said to Ann McIvor: "I hear you are going to give evidence against us, and tell what took place between us; but if you do, we will swear lies and truth against you, and shame you in the Court."

By the Bench: She had been in the stable when she was defendant's servant, taking messages to the hind.

By Mr Dix: On the occasion referred to in October, when she alleged that defendant endeavoured to commit an assault upon her, she did not, after Mr Maddison had gone upstairs and changed his trousers, take and rip the article right down, in the presence of Margaret Fail.

Defendant, sworn, deposed that he had lived at Dipton about 18 years, and had been married about 14 years. Prosecutrix was in his employment from May to November, 1887, as domestic servant, leaving at the expiration of her term in November last. In October, 1887, between seven and eight o'clock in the morning, his wife complained to Trotter about the children being left unwashed, prosecutrix having persuaded the nurse to go to bed without attending to them. Trotter became very impudent, and he ordered her out of the room. She then commenced to abuse him. He told his wife to give Trotter her money, and set her away at once. He (defendant) offered her her money (£3 10s) to the end of October; but she demanded her full wages. His wife said she would rather give the girl the money up to the end of the term, and better be done with her, and he was going to get the money, when she flung a stick at him, the weapon grazing his head. He went and took hold of complainant, to put her out, when she caught hold of his trousers' pocket, and tore it half-way down to the knee. He afterwards changed his breeches. The next time he saw the articles, they were torn right down the leg to about two inches from the bottom. That had been done by some one after he had taken them off—he lately learnt it was the prosecutrix. Margaret Fail (nurse) was in the back-kitchen, nursing the baby. That was the only time that complainant had ever torn any trousers belonging to him. He did not, on that morning, attempt to take liberties with Christiana, nor did she, to his knowledge, make any such complaint to his wife or anyone else in the house. Mrs Maddison did not say to her anything about him getting into disgrace with one of the girls in the post-office. She never made such an accusation against him till it was mentioned in Court the other day. Mr and Mrs Kirk and the prosecutrix formerly occupied a cottage belonging to him at the bottom of his yard. Defendant gave them 14 days' notice to quit on February 13th, and a fortnight latter he sent a second written notice claiming double rent from that date as long as they tenanted the house. On March 12th, he received a counter-notice to quit from Kirk. It was not in Jonathan Clark's writing. He had never seen Clark write at all. He produced receipts——

Mr Proud objected to this evidence.

Mr Dix said he had seen some of Jonathan Clark's signatures, and he would swear that the notice was not in his handwriting.

Mr Proud: We have plenty of witnesses without you, Mr Dix. (Laughter.)

Maddison went on to say that during the six weeks the Kirks were in the house, he was subjected to annoyances of all kinds—coals and dirt being thrown at the doors and windows of his house and shop. On the Wednesday before the 18th March one of his windows was broken by some person throwing a missile from the outside. On March 17th, he lent his horse and cart to Robt. Stokoe, and he made a complaint to him respecting the prosecutrix. He received the letter produced on the 18th of last month.

Mr Dix explained that this was the letter produced at the last Court. He should be able to prove by a school-mate of the prosecutrix's, that the epistle was, to the best of her belief, in Trotter's handwriting.

Mr Proud held that such testimony could not tell against his client, who had sworn that she could neither read nor write.

Examination of defendant continued: On the 17th March, Mr and Mrs Kirk were in his shop, and there was a conversation respecting the rent; and he told Kirk that he would swear his life away. Kirk replied "Yes you b——, I will swear your life away yet." On Sunday, 18th, he went to chapel, between 5·30 and six o'clock p.m. He saw the prosecutrix, and she observed him. It would be about 8·15 when he left the chapel, reaching his place about half-past eight. He entered the premises by the entrance near the Black Bull, behind his garden. The road from the Vicarage end was private into his own yard. When passing the stable, the door was shut, and he noticed there was a light inside. Just as he was about to enter the stable door, however, he looked back and saw a woman peering into the kitchen window. He watched a moment, and then saw her making her way towards the privy or hen-cree in a stooping position. He thought at first it was one of the villians trying to "clag up" the door or windows again. He ran towards the woman, and found it was the prosecutrix. He said to her "Hallo! what are you doing here?" She turned round and asked "Is that Maddison?" He replied, "Yes, what are you doing here? Have you not done plenty this six weeks, without doing more?" She enquired "What has the mistress and you been saying about me stealing?" He answered, "Nothing but what we can prove. If you'll go away like a good girl, and come back in the morning, we'll tell you what the charge is." Complainant began cursing and swearing, and throwing her umbrella about. She likewise caught hold of him by the coat collar and said that she would make him tell her there and then. He pushed her away, and bent her fingers off his coat, when she "bashed" him over the head with the umbrella, but he took hold of the article, and threw it away down the yard. Complainant was still clinging to him, and he got hold of her arms, gave her body a swing round, and threw her down in the yard, and she fell right forward upon her hands and knees. Complainant did not shout then. Defendant afterwards went to the door to try to get in the house, and found it was fastened. Before the door was opened, however, Christiana rushed in at him again, and just as he was entering, she caught hold of him by the back of the collar, and got partly into the house. He turned himself round, and pushed her out again, and she had her foot and arm partially in the door. His wife, hearing an unusual stir, then came to the door with the coal-rake in her hands. He took the weapon from his wife, and asked Trotter whether she would go away or not? She replied "I'll be in, and rive the livers out of you both." She was in a very excited state. Defendant took the shank-end of the coal-rake and rapped the back of her hands and arms, and then complainant began to shout "Police! Murder!" with all her might. Trotter never made to his wife or any-one else any accusation of an indecent assault having been attempted upon her. It was utterly false that he seized her by the wrists, dragged her towards the stable door, and threw her down. He did not put his hands up her clothes or over her mouth. He never thought of such a thing, let alone attempt it. It was not true that he dragged her along the yard and tried to pull her into his house. Whilst complainant was at the door, a man came up, and said "Hello! what's up?" Defendant replied, "For God's sake, will you pull this crazy woman out. I think she's going mad." Smith (the witness) replied "Yes, I'll take her away," and he (Maddison) asked "Have you hold of her?" His answer was "Ease the door," and he did so. Complainant went away with Smith like a lamb, and never spoke a word. He shut the door for a few moments, and subsequently opened it and peeped down the yard, but all was quiet. There was no one in the house at that time, except his wife and himself. He went to bed at a quarter to eleven o'clock. The two servants came into the house shortly before ten o'clock, and went to rest just before him. The height of the kitchen window was five feet one or two inches from the ground. The floor of the kitchen was fully 18 inches higher than the ground outside. There would be two feet of snow lying under the window on the 18th March; the sink was open, but the snow was still surrounding it. About three days after the assault, John McIvor made a statement to him of what he had been told by his daughter.

The Magistrates' Clerk (Mr Granger) said it was immaterial to the bearing of the case what McIvor said, [illegible] as in exceptional cases the law permitted conversations between other parties, relative to a plot or conspiracy, to be admitted as evidence.

Mr Proud said that that was a law of Mr Dix's own, as he knew nothing about it. If they began to take down conversations as to the credibility of witnesses, there would be no saying where it would end. [illegible]

Mr Dix stated that it was very important that the evidence should be taken down on the depositions, but it was agreed to obtain the statement from the girl herself.

Resuming, defendant admitted that Annie McIvor had worked in his fields for a fortnight or three weeks. He never attempted to take liberties with her. He never gave her 6s worth of butcher meat for any immoral purpose, nor sent in to her parents a bill for meat.

Cross-questioned by Mr Proud: It was not a fact that he had supplied McIvors with meat since the last court day. Complainant was not standing close to the window when looking in. There were large stones underneath the window. He could not say whether they had been removed since the last court. He was quite sure the trousers produced where those he had on at the time spoken of by the prosecutrix. Would swear that that was not a new tear, and not done since the last court. The trousers were not torn across the top. It was during the last week he had learnt how the trousers had been ripped further down. He would swear that he was not taking liberties with complainant on that particular morning. He did not meet the girl Fail in going upstairs. She was in the passage when the trousers were torn. Prosecutrix never made an accusation against him about a post-office girl till the last court. He knew what it meant; there was a girl in the post-office named Ridley, who, he read in the newspapers, was charged with concealing a child. He knew nothing further about the matter than that. They had tried to set any amount of stories against him. He was never accused, either directly or indirectly, about that child. He was not aware that his little boy broke the window spoken of the first time. Complainant had her hat on when she first appeared before him. He could not throw the umbrella 84 feet. He would not say that she had the hat on when Smith came on to the scene. P.C. Sanderson did not come to his door shortly after the girl was taken away—he might have passed, but he never rapped at the door. Defendant generally went into the house by the back door. He never said anything in the presence of Smith that he charged complainant with stealing. This happened in former times, when she was living as servant with him. He sent for the sergeant that night, after the row was over, but he never came. He first got hold of McIvor a few mornings after, when he was going round with the letters. Both father and daughter arranged to come on his behalf at the next court. He did not know the reason that the father was absent. Was not aware that this daughter and himself had been fighting, and had given each other black eyes. (Laughter.) The daughter had black eyes when she was here at the last court. (Laughter.) He could not account for the hat being thrown down the yard—probably Christiana threw it down, as she was quite qualified to do anything of the kind. His hind (Curtice) and other three men were in the stable at the time of the alleged assault, but he had not thought it necessary to bring Curtice as a witness. It was not a fact that the reason was that he refused to come and tell the story he wanted him to. Curtice was away leading spirit for Mr Richard Murray.

Defendant became angry, and declared that he wondered how they dared to sit there and suggest such base insinuations.

By the Bench: They generally called the girl "Christy," and not "Tina," when in their service. He found out that she had broken the window a few days after the alleged offence.

Annie McIvor, living with her parents at Dipton, attested that she had known Trotter all last summer. She had been frequently to Kirk's house, where she lived, and complainant had also been to her father's house many a time. She had often had tea there, and knew her parents perfectly well. On Monday, 12th March, Mrs Kirk said to her, in the presence of prosecutrix and Kirk, "Annie, let us summons the old devil (Maddison) for 9s a-piece for out-work." Witness replied, "I could not do that. He does not owe me any money for working-out." On the Wednesday following, the 14th, witness was at Maddison's shop with prosecutrix, who said to Mrs Maddison, "I want to know what I've stolen out of your house." Mrs Maddison retorted, "Go away. It is mischief you want. I wont talk to you Christiana," and then she shut the door. The same evening, Christiana came to their (McIvor's) house for some coals, and invited witness to help her down. When they got opposite the defendant's front window, complainant said, "Let's rest and put the coals down." The latter took up a handful of coals, and threw them at an upstairs window, where there was a light. Witness heard the window crack. Complainant took another handful and flung them also, and witness heard it break. Trotter exclaimed, "We'll break the window for the old devil." On arriving at Mrs Kirk's, there were several of the family assembled, as well as a man who was a stranger to her, and who left shortly after witness entered. Mr Kirk spoke first. He said, "Annie, we've made up a clever plot." Christiana then said, "Annie, will you do as we want you to do?" Witness asked, "What *is* it?" Prosecutrix rejoined, "You wont tell anybody," and witness replied in the negative. She then brought out two coarse aprons, and told her to put on one, whilst she put on the other one, adding, "We'll go to Maddison's potato-house, and get two apron's full of potatoes. We'll make a noise so that Maddison will come out to us, and say that we've been stealing. I will shout murder! he's going to commit a [illegible] on me; while you shout murder, police, and go to seek my brother-in-law, and tell him that Maddison has put his hand up my clothes, and then we will get a warrant for him, and have him taken, and he will be brought before the court and bailed out. Then he'll come and try to settle, and I'll halve the money with you—whatever we get, and we'll have two velvet frocks and two new hats." (Laughter.) Witness replied, "I would not do such a thing for all the defendant's worth." She (McIvor) did not hear anything more that night. On the Sunday following (18th) she went to what was known as the "Blackleg Rows," and remained at Mrs Woodman's house from 6 o'clock till 8·30 p.m. Thence she went straight home. Just after she got into their own house, Meggie Trotter rapped at the door. In consequence of what the girl said, witness accompanied her home. It was not true that they were walking out at 7·30, and they observed a crowd standing in the street. When she went to Mr Kirk's, P.C. Sanderson, along with others, was standing in the kitchen. Witness noticed the prosecutrix holding her wrists and crying, and that her finger was bleeding. She (McIvor) remained till after Sanderson had gone, when Meggie Trotter was despatched for the doctor. Before she went, however, Meggie said to her sister, "Take fits and make yourself worse, and I'll go for the doctor." (Laughter.)

The Bench: Can she take fits at will? (Loud laughter.)

Mr Dix: I don't know, your worships. Some of the girls can go into fits and hysterics whenever they like. (Roars of laughter.)

Proceeding, witness said that Christiana begged of her to remember what she told her the other night, and asked her to say that "You were along with me, and saw Maddison put his hand up my clothes." Witness replied, "No, I cannot do such a thing. I was not there." She (McIvor) stayed until the doctor and Mr Richardson came. On the succeeding Tuesday, Meggie Trotter again came to their house, and witness returned with the girl to the house of Mrs Kirk, who said, "Annie, I hope you wont meddle with anything I've told you till after this case is over." She replied, "I want nothing to do with neither side." Witness did not see either the prosecutrix or Mrs Kirk on Wednesday, 21st ult. Nor did she ask either of them to summons her, and did not have any of the conversation sworn to by Mrs Kirk about telling lies, or winning a case in the police court by falsehoods. She never mentioned the police case in which she was concerned. Never said that she could have given Maddison five years herself. Defendant never attempted to take liberties with her whilst she was working in the fields. On the 27th March, after she had been served with a witness summons on behalf of the defendant, complainant said to her, "Annie, I hear you're going as witness against us." She replied, "Yes, and I'm going to speak the truth." Prosecutor tipped her hand upon witness's shoulder, and exclaimed, "If you interfere with anything we have told you we'll go and swear lies and truth against you, and shame you in court."

Cross-examined: She was not afraid to go out to the fields alone, nor was she frightened that defendant would molest her. She had arranged to go to Ireland, and not to America, as soon as this case was settled. She would have been off to Ireland before now had she not been summoned at that Court. She never offered to give evidence for the Trotters first. The Trotters did not tell her that they would not have anything to do with her. Witness was getting her breakfast on the 19th ult., along with her father and mother, and they asked what she knew about the case? She said that she was very sorry for Maddison, as she thought he was in the wrong, as he was innocent of what the Trotters charged him with. She never told Mr Beattie that she would make a good witness for the Trotters. Her father and herself did not have a quarrel on the following day in a public-house. They were not all drunk together "neck over crop." She got the two black eyes before the last Court-day by running against the sneck. (Laughter.) Her brother was summoned there for being drunk [illegible] that Saturday [illegible] public-house to drink. She told her father and mother about Christiana Trotter throwing coals at the upstairs window the same night.

By Mr Dix: Her father was not well at the last Court day. There was not a shadow of truth in the insinuations of the prosecuting solicitor.

At this stage (six o'clock) Mr Dix asked if their Worships thought there was sufficient evidence upon which any Grand Jury would convict the defendant of such a serious charge? If not, he urged upon the Bench to dismiss the summons. He had 17 or 18 witnesses to call, and there was no possibility of finishing the case that night.

Mr Proud considered that a *prima facie* case had been established to go before a jury.

Mr Dix replied that their testimony had been shattered to atoms.

The Magistrates retired to consult in private, and on re-appearing in the Court the Chairman announced that they were determined to sit till the case had been completely investigated.

Mr Proud stated that he was obliged to leave by the 6-20 train, otherwise he could not reach home that night. He left the case entirely at the mercy of the Bench.

John Ritchie, grocer's assistant, employed by Mrs Porter, Dipton, affirmed that he was in defendant's stable at 8·30 on the Sunday evening in question, along with Joseph Parker, Curtice, and Alex. Ritchie. When witness left the stable, he perceived Maddison standing at his door. Previous to that he had not heard any shouts, but after quitting the place he heard the voice of a woman (whom he did not know) screaming. If there had been any scuffling or shouting whilst witness was in the stable, he would certainly have heard it.

Joseph Porter, also a grocer's assistant, adduced substantiative evidence. He did not hear any person come towards the stable, nor did he notice a hat or umbrella lying amongst the snow.

At seven o'clock, their Worships stopped the case, and acquitted the defendant, the chairman stating that he believed an unfounded accusation had been made against the man.

Mr Dix mentioned that there was a summons taken out by Maddison against the young woman Trotter for having assaulted him on the same occasion, but, under the circumstances, and in view of the result of the present trial, he asked that the case should be withdrawn, without prejudice on behalf of his client, who might, after mature deliberation, deem it necessary to prefer other charges against certain parties, but acting upon his (Mr Dix's) advice, he would take time to consider the precise nature of the accusations he should make.

The Bench agreed to the summons being withdrawn, without costs, and rose at 7·30 p.m., after an exceptionally heavy day's work.

ANNFIELD PLAIN AND DISTRICT NOTES.

The weather has so far improved that the snow has within the last few days almost disappeared, and the farmers are very busy preparing the land for tillage. Cottagers, too, are very busy with their gardens, and altogether the country is beginning to look more cheerful. There will probably be great efforts made by many of our cottagers to carry off the various prizes at our local flower and vegetable shows. Such efforts on their part are highly commendable, and tend more to improve the health and ennoble the various competitors than other announcements.

Now that the Lanchester Highway Board has taken up the old railway at Loud Bank, I trust that a suitable footpath will be put down in its place. The workmen have left the ground in a very uneven state, and the land being of a clayey nature, pedestrians are put to in considerable inconvenience in tracing their steps through the quagmire. I believe that the attention of the Highway Board and Surveyor has but to be directed to the state of the roads to secure their favourable consideration of the project.

BENEFIT CONCERT AT CONSETT.

A very enjoyable concert, in aid of Mr H. McGurk, who, we understand, has been in very poor health for some time, and consequently unable to follow his employment, was given in the New Co-operative Hall, Consett, on Monday evening, before a crowded and enthusiastic audience. With one exception, all those who contributed to the enjoyment were local, the exception being Mr J. Nevin, a gentleman, however, very well known in the district, who, along with the local vocalists, very kindly tendered his services gratuitously. The following artistes volunteered their services:—Miss Cairns, Consett, soprano; Miss McNally, Consett, soprano; Miss Lumsden, Consett, contralto; Mr C. Davison, Consett, tenor; Mr C. Stephenson, Blackhill, tenor; Mr P. Surtees, Consett, bass; Mr J. Nevin, Irish comedian. Programme:—Pinsuti's "In this hour of softened splendour," perhaps one of this composers prettiest concerted pieces, was nicely rendered by Misses Cairns and Lumsden, and Messrs C. Davison and P. Surtees. Mr Stephenson next gave "The white squall" tastefully, but lacked spirit and the necessary fire. His effort was well received, however. "Norah, the pride of Kildare," by Mr C. Davison, was given with that gentleman's accustomed finish, and narrowly escaped an *encore*. The pretty duet, "In the dusk of the twilight," by Misses Cairns and Lumsden, showed the latter lady's voice to advantage. Mr Surtees was greatly improved, to our thinking, in style. He gave "Simon the cellarer," a song with which his name has been long associated, with a proper appreciation for the humour of the piece, securing well-merited applause. And now we come to what, without doubt, was the item of the evening. We refer to the "Come back to Erin" of Miss McNally, who, we understand, is under the tutorship of Mr Chas. Stephenson, and who made her first bow to a public audience on this occasion. We are diffident about saying too much or too little in favour of amateur vocalisation. It is, for many reasons—for our own sake as well as for the sake of those of whom we speak—very often advisable to curb our opinion and to express it so that neither pain may be given on the one side, nor undue laudation, with its attendant evils, on the other. Let it then be quietly said that we were impressed with Miss McNally's singing very favourably. She has a good voice, and "throws it out" well, and her enunciation is particularly clear and distinct. With a little more experience she will throw off her present natural nervousness, and we doubt not that before long she will be prominently forward amongst our local amateurs. We would strongly advise her, however, to entirely discard comic songs, which do not suit her in the least, and which she can very well afford to ignore. We have spoken thus lengthily of Miss McNally by reason of the fact that her "maiden" effort, if the term may be allowed, was very noteworthy. The trio, "Maiden fair, a word I pray," was effectively given by Miss Cairns, and Messrs Davison and Surtees, and loudly applauded. The second part of the programme opened with the "Cuckoo" quartette, by Misses Cairns and Lumsden, and Messrs Stephenson and Surtees, which was creditably rendered and well received. The fine classical song, "Ora pro Nobis" (with chorus obligato) was nicely given by Mr C. Stephenson, and was applauded. "Killarney," by Miss Cairns, followed, and was rendered with very expressive feeling, and of course *encored* vociferously. In response, "Erin, my country," was tastefully given. "The crooket bawbee," by Miss Lumsden and Mr Stephenson; "Afton water," by Mr Davison; "Katie Avourneen," by Miss McNally; the duet, "Home to our mountains," by Miss Cairns and Mr Stephenson; the humourous song, "As I'd nothing else to do," by Mr Surtees, were all very successfully rendered, and each of them evoked the heartiest applause. Mr J. Nevin, in his character sketches was very successful, particularly in that of "The School Board man." His efforts provoked the heartiest merriment, and deservedly so. At the conclusion Father Foran, in a few pithy sentences, thanked the audience for their presence, and the vocalists for their kindness in giving their services in aid of a cause so really good. The efficient accompanist, Mr E. Sloane, worked hard and well.

"RUPTURES."—WHITE'S MOC-MAIN LEVER TRUSS is the most effective invention for the treatment of Hernia. The use of a steel spring, so hurtful in its effects, is avoided, a soft bandage being worn round the body, while the requisite resisting power is supplied by the Moc-Main Pad and Patent Lever, fitting with so much ease and closeness that it cannot be detected. Send for descriptive circular, with testimonials and prices, to J. WHITE AND CO. (Limited), Piccadilly, London. Do not buy of Chemists, who often sell an IMITATION of our Moc-Main. J. White and Co. have not any Agents.

[illegible] STOCK AUCTION MARTS.

BENFIELDSIDE.—Mr J. S. Murray had forward on Monday:—12 fat cattle, 43 fat sheep, 7 veal calves, a number of store cattle, 12 cows, 4 pork pigs, 14 small pigs, a quantity of seed oats, potatoes, harness, and a number of poultry, &c. Prices:—Fat cattle, £9 to £17; fat sheep, 32s to 54s 6d; calves, 14s to 47s; pork pigs, 32s 6d to £4; small pigs, 15s to 25s; oats, 10s per sack; potatoes, 7s per load; poultry, 1s 2d to 2s 6d each. Cows, to £15; stirks, to £6; two-year-old heifers, to £10 2s 6d. A large company was present, and trade was good, with the exception of cows, which were a dull trade and prices low, but only in sympathy with other markets.

TOW LAW.—Mr Vickers had forward on Monday:—18 cows, up to £15; 17 fat cattle, up to £17 5s; 16 store cattle, up to £9 7s 6d; 5 calves; 25 sheep, up to 50s 6d.

NOTES FROM WEARDALE.

A party of emigrants—men, women, and children—left Frosterley on Wednesday for Canada.

No stranger is permitted to starve in the dales. Some time ago a poor man with a family went from the Croft or Darlington district to get a share of the extensive cartage of ironstone in Weardale, whither he removed. The weather, however, was bitter. The dale had been snow-bound for two or three months, and the poor stranger was well nigh at the far end. The dale's people saw the poor man's plight, and they have since made collections for the relief of his family and himself. This story was told at one of the parochial meetings.

The fire that occurred not far from the Wolsingham Market Place the other Saturday night is another indication of what a large amount of property may be destroyed before means can be had to do efficient battle with a raging fire. Numbers of people who saw the fire were observed to know nothing of the whereabouts of ladders or hose-pipe or the situation of the fire-plugs. It is high time that the leading men of the town (as there is no Local Board) made some little provision for such contingencies as were witnessed the other Saturday night. Fires have not been of frequent occurrence in the town yet. Nevertheless a little precaution would prevent a serious waste of property when such like occurrences do take place. We understand that the Newcastle secretary of the Scottish Union and National Insurance Company was in Wolsingham on Monday, and, along with Mr Devey, solicitor, local agent of the company, took measures to have the damage immediately made good.

Mr Walter Beaumont, writing from Newcastle to the *Northern Echo*, says:—"The very high mortality lately prevailing in our Upper Weardale, and if possible on the increase since the beginning of this year, may seem to you a matter of vital importance, as it certainly does in the districts, which I have just left. It is a fact that in the small township of Westgate, of which the last census gives 978 as the number of souls, nine have died since January 1st; indeed eleven coffins went from there. Again, in the Stanhope Weardale district, whose natural beauty (especially in the village of Burtree, at the foot of this, cemetery) would proclaim its remarkable healthiness under ordinary circumstances, over 40 bodies have been interred since January, 1885. That is (1) within 14 weeks, 9 deaths; (2) within 40 months, 40 deaths. At times, suddenly, at others after months of suffering, &c., death comes on old, middle-aged, and young. Drains, damp houses, &c., do aid local debility, &c."

"Music hath charms where language does fail,
Feelings long buried t'will often restore."

The Primitive Methodists of Stanhope have every reason to be proud of their organist, Miss Harriet Temperley, daughter of Mr Joseph Temperley, merchant tailor, Stanhope. Her artistic and exquisite performances on the handsome organ which graces their gem of a chapel, is in itself an attractive feature in the Sunday services. She is an excellent player, and although young, her equal is exceeding difficult to find in the dale, and the music she performs generally is of a very high class—the music of the old masters. No wonder that some carping critic should have the bad taste on a recent Sunday morning to suggest to her guardian that the music was too high class for the congregation. What a pity! Too good music for the audience. If we must have music let us have it good? the best that can be had—Handel's, Mozart's. That of the great masters! The fault of the majority of organists is that they cannot play it, and so have recourse to the short-lived threadbare ditties and songs of the novices and amateurs, which old Mr Benson (a well-known authority and composer of music in Stanhope) said were mongrel bred things from America, scarcely worth the paper they were written on. This critic might well suggest to some of the preachers too that they were preaching too high for the audience. Organists are not the only faulty ones aiming high in that same chapel. Why should they be singled out so?

Heenan and Sayers at Stanhope, on Saturday night, is the latest from that spirited little place. Two farmers at loggerheads and then at blows. "As a man sows he reaps" is an inexorable law, and the cowardly fellow who can deal a blow with a stick on an unarmed reporter is fortunate to have his back to him met with his deserts, and was paid back in his own current coin by one of his chums. The little reporter wishes him to know "What's sauce for the goose, is sauce for the gander" too. Probably he has found that out to his sorrow now.

Nothing is now said of the Town Hall for Frosterley, and yet it would be a decided acquisition to the place. The agitation for it has sadly died out. I hear also that the poultry show which was to have been re-floated next month has again fallen through, owing to disagreement in the old and new committees. It seems a pity that so splendid a poultry show as that of Frosterley should be allowed to go down. Can nothing be done to resuscitate it?

A Local Board for the old town of Wolsingham—and she needs it. Just a hundred years behind in the matter of footpaths and lighting, she is outdistanced by younger villages. Her footpaths and flagging are a positive disgrace to a town with so many of the affluent and wealthy. Her dark streets on winter evenings almost equal Egyptian darkness. The writer going one night for the half-past eight train up the valley to Stanhope, remembers very well another poor fellow running to catch the same train, and tumbled head over heels into a water race. He had a terrible scramble to get out, and in the struggle he had lost his hat. There was no protection from the water, and in the Egyptian darkness many people have walked into the same race. Evidently voluntaryism amongst the Wolsingham ratepayers is a dead letter. The place belongs to a few and no one seems to care for it. It is high time there was a Local Board for the old town.

One of Stanhope's best singers seems to have got the cold shoulder among the Stanhope Wesleyans. They do not seem to appreciate talent. Perhaps they will value it the more when it is beyond their grasp. The Church party are not slow to appreciate talent and to encourage it, and if the Stanhope Wesleyans do not recognise merit, the Church party will welcome it to its fold. Mr Walker, a talented singer who is at a discount in one body will find his services thoroughly appreciated and encouraged in another. Mr Walker is an able exponent of song, and it is a thousand pities that a man gifted with such talent for song should have to eke out a miserable pittance in a limestone quarry. He would have graced Durham Cathedral, and it is not out of the range of possibilities that he might land there some day. His fellow-worshippers resemble those of old who said of a greater than he, "Can any good thing come out of Nazareth?" The Church party at Stanhope no doubt will give him that encouragement which his extraordinary talent as a working man deserves. Ever ready, ever willing to help the different sects at their concerts, entertainments, &c., Mr Walker has made himself a name and fame amongst the people of his choice, who are slow to recognise his merits. His debut among the Church party at their effort this week, will be a warm welcome.

Business Announcements.

SIXTEENTH YEAR OF ATTENDANCE.

MR. H. MARKHAM,

SURGEON DENTIST,

OF 50, NORTHUMBERLAND STREET, NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE,

ATTENDS CONSETT EVERY MONDAY, from 1 p.m., to 3 p.m., at Mrs LOWSON'S, 22, MOUNT PLEASANT. ARTIFICIAL TEETH, to suit Youth or Age, inserted with all the latest and Best English and American Improvements, at Moderate Charges. A Perfect Fit Guaranteed.

ADJOINING CONSERVATIVE CLUB, MOUNT PLEASANT. ESTABLISHED 1830.

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WHITEFRIAR LANE, COVENTRY.

SOLE MAKERS OF THE COVENTRY IMPERIAL BICYCLES AND TRICYCLES, SAFETIES, and TANDEMS

ALL GUARANTEED MACHINES BEAR THE REGISTERED TRADE MARK OF THE COMPANY.

PRICE LISTS, 3 STAMPS. 876v

WATCHES! WATCHES!! WATCHES!

MARSHALL & SONS,

WATCHMAKERS AND JEWELLERS,

CONSETT AND BLACKHILL,

BEG to announce that they have opened a BRANCH SHOP in the NEW TOWN HALL BUILDINGS, where they are now showing a fine assortment of CLOCKS, WATCHES, & JEWELLERY Splendid Silver Patent Lever Watches from 70s. and upwards. Ladies and Gentlemen's Silver Geneva Watches from 20s. and upwards. Timepieces from 5s. All kinds of Repairs will be executed at Moderate Charges, combined with Good Workmanship.

KINDLY NOTE ADDRESS:—

MARSHALL AND SONS,
WATCHMAKERS AND JEWELLERS,
NEW TOWN HALL, FRONT STREET, CONSETT, & HIGHGATE, BLACKHILL. 311x

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SPRING, 1888.

SHOTLEY BRIDGE.

GEORGE RICHARDSON,

WHOLESALE AND RETAIL DRAPER,

HAS PLEASURE IN ANNOUNCING THAT HIS STOCK IS NOW REPLETE WITH THE LATEST NOVELTIES IN ALL DEPARTMENTS.

An inspection of his large and varied Stock is respectfully solicited.

ALL GOODS SOLD AT LOWEST CASH PRICES.

207z TAILORS, MILLINERS, and DRESSMAKERS kept on the Establishment.

PAPER HANGINGS! PAPER HANGINGS!

Before Purchasing elsewhere, see the LARGE STOCK at

J. W. DAVISON AND SONS'

FURNISHING WAREHOUSE,

FRONT STREET, CONSETT.

365z PERAMBULATORS FOR THE SEASON—FASHIONABLE AND CHEAP.

MOUNT PLEASANT, CONSETT. **WARNING.—NOVELTIES** LEAZES, BURNOPFIELD.

AND NEW GOODS in Clocks, Watches, and Jewellery, at all prices, at the CONSETT JEWELLERY EMPORIUM in great Variety. The Quality and extreme Cheapness of the Goods is noteworthy. New Novelties are being constantly received, and intending Purchasers should see the large Variety before purchasing elsewhere. SILVER GOODS sold at little more than price usually charged for Gilt and Plated Goods. Half-Dozen Best Tea Spoons given to Purchasers of an extra thick 18-Carat GOLD WEDDING RING, from 10s. each.

J. M. wishes to caution the public against taking Watches to inexperienced men to repair, as they do as much harm to a Watch in ten minutes as the owner will do by wearing it ten years. Many people think that when they see "Watchmaker and Jeweller" over the door, they will find a practical man; but this is a mistake, as many shops in the district are kept by men who have no practical knowledge of a Watch whatever.

ALL REPAIRS ARE DONE BY EXPERIENCED MEN ON THE PREMISES; this being an exception to what many so-called Watchmakers do—who send repairs they are unable to do to another man, thus making the public pay a double price for repairs. J. M., not having to send repairs away, saves you the double charge, and GUARANTEES ALL REPAIRS. By the establishment of his two Shops, J. M. entirely obviated the necessity of the public sending their Watches to Coventry and other Watchmaking districts to be repaired.

LEAZES, BURNOPFIELD. **JOSEPH MARSHALL,** Watchmaker, Jeweller, & Silversmith, 7, MOUNT PLEASANT, CONSETT, and LEAZES, BURNOPFIELD. 7, MOUNT PLEASANT, CONSETT, 912y

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BOOKS suitable for PRIZES and SUNDAY SCHOLARS can be had at ROBERT JACKSON'S, "GUARDIAN" OFFICE, and 9, NEWMARKET STREET, CONSETT

IMPORTANT NOTICE.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS.

MRS. FRANCES CHRISTOPHER begs to return her sincere thanks to the Public for the liberal patronage she has received since the death of her husband; and respectfully intimates that she has removed from Delves Lane to the Old-Established Hacking Yard in Front Street, where business will be carried on as usual. HEARSES, MOURNING COACHES, CARRIAGES FOR WEDDINGS and POSTING in all its branches, on most reasonable terms.

Note the Address—
CONSETT LIVERY, HEARSE, AND MOURNING COACH ESTABLISHMENT,
FRONT STREET, CONSETT.
FRANCES CHRISTOPHER, PROPRIETRESS

MISS CAIRNS,

5, WEST VICTORIA STREET,
CONSETT,

HAVING finished her educational studies, is prepared to GIVE LESSONS on the PIANOFORTE, MUSIC, and in the ART OF SINGING at the above address.

Pupils attended at their own residence if required.

285z ☞ TERMS MODERATE.

FARMERS! FARMERS!! FARMERS!!!

CLOVER AND GRASS SEEDS.

DO not risk buying your Seeds from Agents who never see the stuff sent out, but go to HOBSON'S SEED WAREHOUSE and see SEEDS before you order them. A large and carefully-selected Stock to choose from, at the lowest possible price.

TURNIP SEEDS! TURNIP SEEDS!! TURNIP SEEDS!!!

As good as can be got for money. All from the best transplanted bulbs.

At KYO FLOWER SHOW, to be held at Catchgate in September, 1888, G. H. will give:—

5s.	for Three of the best	Purple Top Swedes (Hobson's Choice).
5s.	" "	Green Top Swedes (Hobson's Choice).
5s.	" "	Green Top Yellows (Hobson's Choice).
5s.	" "	White, Green, or Grey Stone.
5s.	for the best	White Loaf made from Hobson's Extra Supers.
5s.	"	Brown Loaf made from Hobson's Whole Meal.

269z

PRESENTATION BIBLES.

Some of them are really MANY VOLUMES IN ONE, and include such Aids to the Student as Summaries of the Books; Notes on the Natural History, General History, Mineralogy, Chronology, &c., of the Bible; also, an Atlas, Concordance, Dictionary, &c., *forming a portable Biblical Library*, so to speak. The contributors are authors of note. Each Bible in this stock contains the Psalms and Paraphrases, and prices range from 1s upwards.

ROBERT JACKSON'S,
GUARDIAN OFFICE, FRONT STREET,
AND
and 10, NEWMARKET STREET, CONSETT

SWEEP! SWEEP! SWEEP!

WITH PATENT APPARATUS no dust can escape; no forks to damage the jambs.
Address—WILLIAM BUTCHER,
8, Messenger Street, Shotley Bridge.
REASONABLE CHARGES.

WEDDING RINGS! WEDDING RINGS!

WE continue to present a Half-Dozen best Nickel Silver TEASPOONS to each PURCHASER of our Standard GOLD WEDDING RINGS.

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WATCHMAKERS AND JEWELLERS,
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WM. RAW, AUCTIONEER & VALUER, Land, House, Insurance, and Emigration Agent, Share Broker, &c. Intending Emigrants can be Booked in the finest Ships to America and all our Colonies. Valuations and Auction Sales of Agricultural Stock, Contractors' Plant, Household Furniture, &c., will be conducted with ability and care on Reasonable Terms and prompt payments by
WM. RAW, AUCTIONEER, BLACKHILL.

What oil is to machinery advertising is to trade.

NOTICE.

ALL ORDERS left at Mr T. LONGSTAFF'S, Leadgate; Mr E. HANLON'S, 7, Gibson Street, Consett; Mrs JAMESON, Durham Road, and Mr G. J. ROBINSON, Grocer (opposite Post Office), Derwent Street, Blackhill, will be attended to, with God's help, by

THE ALLEGRO SWEEP,
J. J. HARRISON.
Mayor's Chambers, Shotley Bridge. 48z

Public Notices.

WILLIAM WHEATLEY, Veterinary Surgeon, South Shields, will CASTRATE COLTS this Spring.—All communications to be sent to WILLIAM WHEATLEY, Shotley Bridge. 378z

I, MATTHEW STEPHENSON, will not be responsible for any debt or debts my Wife, MARIA STEPHENSON, contracts after this date, 19th of April.
437z (Signed) MATTHEW STEPHENSON.

NOTICE.

BURNHOPE COLLIERY READING-ROOM SPORTS, &c., will be held on Saturday, June 23rd, 1888.
325z GEO. LAWSON, Secretary.

NORTH-WEST DURHAM CONSERVATIVE ASSOCIATION.

THE ANNUAL MEETING of the above Association will be held in the Agricultural Hall, Blackhill, on Saturday Afternoon, the 21st inst., at Half-past Three o'clock.

All Conservatives are invited to attend.
353z JOHN G. MURRAY, Secretary.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that the Partnership existing between the undersigned, as carried on at Benfieldside Royal Auction Mart under the style of "NICHOLSON & MURRAY," is this day DISSOLVED by mutual consent.

The business will in future be carried on by JOHN SWINBURN MURRAY on his own account.
Signed, WILLIAM NICHOLSON.
JOHN S. MURRAY.
Benfieldside, April 5th, 1888. 351z

ST. ANDREW'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, BLACKHILL.

THE ANNIVERSARY SERMONS will be preached on Sunday, April 22nd, 1888, by the Rev. THOMAS KENNEDY, D.D., of Edinburgh, Morning at Half-past Ten, and Evening at Six o'clock.—A Collection will be taken at the close of each Service. 358

MRS. A. SHIPLEY, FRONT STREET, CONSETT, begs to inform her friends and the public generally, that she has obtained the services of a first-class Milliner, and begs to state that she is now prepared to DO ALL KINDS OF MILLINERY ON THE SHORTEST NOTICE at most reasonable terms.
Note the Address:—FRONT STREET, CONSETT.

Public Notices.

LOOK OUT for WEST STANLEY REED BAND TEA and SPORTS on June 9th. 333z

LOOK OUT for Tantobie Reading Room and Library ATHLETIC SPORTS, June 31st, 1888. £20 to be given in Prizes. 409z

TABLEAUX VIVANT,

In the Co-operative Hall, Annfield Plain, on Monday Evening, 30th April, 1888, at 7-30 p.m. Front Seats, 1s.; Second Seats, 6d. 411z

LOOK HERE! LOOK HERE!!

WE, the Members of the Hamsterley Colliery Rangers Football Club, intend holding our Second Annual GALA and SPORTS, on May 26th, 1888. Prize Band engaged. See Bills.
410z J. W. ANDERSON, Hon. Sec.

NORTH-EASTERN RAILWAY.

ON SATURDAY, April 28th, an EXCURSION TRAIN will leave CONSETT at 2-0 p.m. (with bookings from the intermediate Stations up to Swalwell inclusive), for NEWCASTLE, returning at 9 5 p.m. See Bills. 415z

DIPTON ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL CLUB

THE Members of the above Club intend holding their Second Annual GALA and SPORTS on July 28th, 1888, in a Field kindly lent for the occasion. TENDERS WANTED for BAND, TEA, and TENT.
412z WILLIAM BOWES, decretary.

ANNFIELD PLAIN WESLEYAN CHAPEL.

WEDNESDAY, April 25th, 1888, Rev. R. STEPNEY, Houghton-le-Spring, will Preach at Three o'clock. PUBLIC TEA at Half-past Four. Rev. R. ROBERTS, London, will Preach at Seven o'clock.

Tickets for Tea, 1s. each. Ticket holders will have preference to the Evening Service, and will be admitted by the Vestry Door from 6'30 to 6'45. 414z

J. J. SINTON (the Apiary), LANCHESTER, Durham, BEE FURNITURE MANUFACTURER. Feeders, 1s each; Smokers, 2s 6d each; Foundation; 2s 3d lb; Sections, 2s 6d per hundred; Skeps; Supers. Hives complete. Telescope, 6s 6d; Ritson, 8s 6d; Sinton, 8s 6d; Burgess, 10s; Dixon, 10s. IMPORTER OF FOREIGN BEES. Stocks always ready for Sale. Metal Ends, 8d per dozen; Crates, 1s 2d each; Frames, 1s per dozen. 371z

SAMUEL ELLIOT LEYBOURNE, DECEASED

ALL PERSONS having CLAIMS against SAMUEL ELLIOT LEYBOURNE (generally known as Samuel Leybourne), late of 123, Linthorpe Road, Middlesbrough, are hereby requested to send to me, the undersigned, the particulars and amounts thereof, on or before the 28th day of April instant, after which date the proceeds of the effects of the said deceased will be distributed amongst the persons entitled thereto.

Dated this 13th day of April, 1888.
JOHN LEYBOURNE,
General Gordon Terrace,
357z Sunderland.

CURE OF DEAFNESS!
WONDERFUL CURES!
MR. SILVERTON'S VISIT TO NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.

CURES OF DEAFNESS, Noises in the Ears, Discharge from the Ears, Pains in the Head and Face, Throat and Nervous Deafness, Giddiness, by Mr. SILVERTON'S treatment. No operation, no instruments, no pain, no interference with daily duties. The good done during twenty years should induce every sufferer to visit Mr Silverton while he is in town. A lady cured at the age of 90; another person after 40 years deafness; deaf and dumb children cured; hearing and speech both restored.—Free consultations daily at the COUNTY HOTEL, Grainger Street, Newcastle-on-Tyne, from THURSDAY, March 15th, to THURSDAY, April 26th; hours, 3 to 5 and 6 to 8. 332z

CONSETT & DISTRICT
741st STARR-BOWKETT BUILDING SOCIETY

THE ELEVENTH APPROPRIATION will take place in the Small Hall, New Town Hall, Consett, on Wednesday, May 16th, 1888.

Meeting to commence at 7'30 p.m.

Members should see that they are clear on the Books.

There are still a number of Shares to be taken up, and Members can be enrolled any day at the Office, 5, Mount Pleasant, Consett.

All joining on or before Monday, May 14th, and paying four weeks' subscriptions, will participate in the Ballot.

Subscriptions taken every Monday night from 7-30 to 9.
GEO. CAREY, Chairman.
WILL. ELLIOTT, Secretary.
Office: 5, Mount Pleasant, Consett. 430z

FOR THE SEASON 1888.

THAT NOTED CLYDESDALE STALLION, "SIR GARNET," will stand at Toft Gate Farm, Lintz Green. Terms of Service—£2 each mare, to be paid when the mare proves in foal; 2s. 6d. groom's fee at first service. "Sir Garnet" was bred by Cochrane Carr, Esq., Horsegate, and is a dark bay colour, stands 17h. 1in. high, 12½in. bone below knee. Sire—McRobbies' "Pride of Aberdeen," by [illegible]man" (Crowther's); Dam by George II. "Sir Garnet" has obtained prizes wherever shown, and has travelled the Castle Eden district five successive seasons, and given great satisfaction; and, as may be inferred from the terms, he is an extraordinary sure foal-getter. His stock has taken prizes almost wherever exhibited. N.B.—An extra charge of 10 guineas for all colts kept entire.—For further particulars, apply to

JAMES COXON,
400z Toft Gate, Lintz Green.

ADAM BRODIE TESTIMONIAL FUND.

Chairman	Mr JOHN CALVERT.
Vice-Chairman	Mr WM. AYNSLEY.
Treasurer	Mr R. G. BARCLAY.
Secretary	Mr C. STEPHENSON.
Bankers	Messrs HODGKIN, BARNETT, PEASE, SPENCE, and Co.

Subscriptions will also be received at the North-Eastern Bank.

A desire having arisen amongst a few of the many friends of Mr Adam Brodie, of Consett, to present him with a testimonial of some kind, as a token of appreciation and recognition of the numerous instances of good and indeed valuable services rendered to the town and neighbourhood, extending over very many years, it has been felt incumbent upon them to give effect to their feelings, and to take immediate measures for raising a fund for the same. Mr Brodie has been ever ready to identify himself with any good work that has arisen, such, for instance, as the Fountain Memorial, erected to the memory of the late Mr John Gledstone, and to which it necessarily followed that a very considerable amount of labour was attached, and also to works of charity and benevolence, for when at any time work grew scarce in our midst and hunger stared around, Mr Brodie was always to the front in opening-out soup kitchens, working assiduously to raise funds for the purpose, and all this gratuitously, be it remembered.

I feel that a very ready response will be accorded to this appeal, and that the result will be so substantial that Mr Brodie will feel encouraged to continue using his talents to the interests of his fellow-men.

The following gentlemen have been elected at a meeting called specially for the purpose, to carry the above scheme successfully forward.

I am, dear Sir,
Yours respectfully,
CHAS. STEPHENSON, Hon. Sec.

COMMITTEE.

Mr T. W. WELFORD.	Mr JAMES OLIVER.
" T. DUNNE.	" P. COYLE.
" G. WADE.	" J. THURLOW POTTS.
" T. L. GLEDSTONE.	" G. HAWDON.
" W. WHITTAKER.	" JNO. HUDSON.
" J. W. DAVISON.	" R. JACKSON.
" JAMES HARDY.	" S. ROWE.
" JAMES NOBLE.	Dr GEO. RENTON.
" CHRIS. LUMLEY.	Mr G. T. HYDEN.
" JOS. ELTRINGHAM.	" JNO. PARKER.
" RICHD. MURRAY.	" JAS. KELLY.

Mr JOHN DIXON. 444z

☞ JOSEPH OLEY,
THE AGRICULTURAL AUCTIONEER AND VALUER,
10, WOOD STREET, SHOTLEY BRIDGE.

SPECIAL EMIGRATION OFFICE.

ASSISTED PASSAGES TO CANADA, Cheap Rates to America by the WHITE STAR, AMERICAN, and other popular Lines. Also Lowest Possible Fares to the AUSTRALIAN COLONIES, SOUTH AFRICA, and other parts of the World. Auction Sales carried on efficiently and upon the very Best Terms.

All Emigrants and Luggage taken to the Railway Station Free of Charge; and for the most useful and reliable information and assistance, apply at once to A. PHILLIPSON, Auctioneer, and Emigration Agent, Dipton 435z

Sales by Auction.

[illegible]essrs. [illegible] & R. J. [illegible]

ADAM BRODIE and ROBERT J. BRODIE, Members of the Institute of Auctioneers and Surveyors, and of the Institute of Estate Agents, Town Hall, Consett, undertake the Management and Collection of Rents of every description of real Property, and are prepared also to conduct Sales of Farming Stock and Produce, Houses and Land, Household Furniture, Merchandise, and Effects of every description, in the best manner, and on the most Reasonable Terms. Their well-known Sale Rooms in Victoria Street, Consett, are always open for the reception of Goods for absolute Sale when removal is considered necessary by the owners; and, as a rule, Sales are held there Fortnightly. Instructions by letter or otherwise receive prompt attention.

☞ Sole Agents in Consett for the principal Lines of Steamers to the United States, Canada, and Australia; and also for the Queensland Government.

ADDRESS:—Victoria Sale Rooms. Office: Town Hall, Consett. 662y

Langley Park, Durham.—To Brewers, Capitalists, and others.—Sale of substantially-built and valuable Copyhold Property, including—Hotel, House and Shop, and Two Cottages.

MR. ADAM BRODIE, Member of the Institute of Estate Agents, is instructed by the Mortgagees to OFFER FOR SALE BY PUBLIC AUCTION, at the house of Mrs BROWN, Three Tuns Hotel, Durham, on Wednesday, May 9th, 1888, at Three o'clock in the Afternoon, subject to conditions to be then and there produced and read, all the valuable and substantially-built

BLOCK OF PROPERTY,

As follows:—

The PREMISES in Quebec Street, Langley Park, built for a Hotel, and containing Twelve Rooms, including—Long Bar, Commercial Room, Parlour, Smoke Room, and Bar Snug, and Six Rooms upstairs; together with good Cellarage, Stabling and Coach House, and the usual Out-offices, with the Off Beer License attached, as at present occupied by Mr Joseph James.

The HOUSE and SHOP immediately adjoining, containing—Roomy Shop, with Front and Back Kitchens, 2 Bed-rooms, and Pantry, Coal House, &c., in the occupation of Mr E. Lawton.

Two COTTAGES of 2 Rooms each, with Out-offices, in the occupation of Mr Joseph Thompson and another.

The whole of the Property is well and substantially built, with good Fell-blocker Fronts, and is in excellent repair, and let to rent-paying tenants, and will be sold in One or more Lots, as may be determined on at time of Sale.

Further particulars may be had from Mr THOMAS WM. WELFORD, Jun., Solicitor, Parliament Street, Consett; or from the AUCTIONEER, Town Hall, Consett. 423z

Monday, April 30th, 1888.—Victoria Sale Rooms, Consett.—Important Sale of superior Mahogany and other Household Furniture, including—Feather and Down Beds, Brass-mounted and other Bedsteads, Fenders and Fireirons, Carpets and Oilcloths, Cocoa Fibre Mats, Books and Pictures, and Miscellaneous Effects. Also, fine-toned Cottage Pianoforte, Domestic Sewing Machine, &c., &c.

MESSRS. A. & R. J. BRODIE are instructed to remove to the Victoria Sale Rooms, and there SELL BY PUBLIC AUCTION, the superior Mahogany and other Household FURNITURE and EFFECTS; particulars of which will be given next week.

Sale to commence at Half-past One o'clock. 439z

By Messrs. W. & T. T. Iveson.

W. AND T. T. IVESON, instructed by Mr. A. DIXON, will SELL BY AUCTION, on Friday, April 27th, 1888, his Valuable FARM STOCK, comprising—

130 SHEEP, viz.:

80 H.B. Ewes, mostly 3 and 4 years old, with Lambs by Leicester Tup,
70 Three-parts bred Hoggs (some fresh).

15 CATTLE, viz.:

2 Heifers and 1 Steer, 2 years old. 1 good S.H. Bull, 3 years old.
7 Heifer Stirks. 4 Finger Calves.

6 HORSES for the Draught.

Bay Mare, 7 years old, 16 h.h.
Brown Mare, 5 years old, 16·2 h.h.
Bay Horse, 4 years old, 16·2 h.h.
Bay Horse, 3 years old, 16 h.h.
Black Mare, 3 years old, 15·3 h.h.
Bay Filly, unbroken, 2 years old.

The Horses are young, and resolute, active, honest workers in all yokes.

Also, a number of Tillage Implements; see details in bills.

Also, Barrel Churn (Sinton's Patent) quite new.

Sale to commence at 12·30 prompt. Terms—Cash.
Hexham, April 10th, 1888. 401z

By Mr. John S. Murray.

ROYAL AUCTION MART, BENFIELDSIDE.

MONDAY, APRIL 23rd, 1888.

Present Entries.

14 Prime Fat Cattle.
40 Sheep.
3 Veal Calves; a number of Pork and Store Pigs; Dairy Cows.
Calves, and Store Cattle.
1 Pony; new Coup Cart; Dog Cart.
1 Handsome Light Waggonette to carry 6, for one or two horses, with Apron and Lamps complete (Angus' best make).
Oilcake Crusher, Turnip Cutter, Seed Oats, Tares, Potatoes, Poultry, &c.

Sale at One o'clock.
422z JOHN S. MURRAY, Auctioneer.

Red Lion Inn, Greenhead.

TO BE SOLD BY PUBLIC AUCTION, on Saturday, May 5th, 1888, the FARM STOCK, IMPLEMENTS, Household FURNITURE, and EFFECTS, belonging to Mr. ROBERT BRUCE, who is leaving the district.

JOHN S. MURRAY, Auctioneer.

INVENTORY—

1 S.H. Cow, 14 days' calved.
1 S.H. Cow, 5 months gone in calf.
1 S.H. Cow, geld.
2 Heifer and 1 Bull Stirk. 5 to 7 months old.
1 Heifer Calf.

EXTRA STOCK.

10 Heifer and Bullock Stirks, 6 to 18 months old.
1 Heifer, 3 years old.
8 Young Black-faced Ewes and Lambs, by Leicester Tup.

IMPLEMENTS, &c.—One-Horse Grass Cutter, by Wood, in good order; Hand Barrow; Pigeon Cote; Aberdeen Scythe; Iron Plough; Set of Cart Harness; Riding Saddle; Coup Cart and Shelvings; Oil Cake Crusher, nearly new; Horse Hay Rakes; Set of Gig Harness; Cart Ropes; Ladder; 2 Sets of Wood Gate Posts; a quantity of Wire Rope; Paraffin Oil Cask; a lot of Spirit Jars; 8 Trestles; 2 Long Forms; 2 Large Table Tops; Hay Rakes and Forks; Gripes; Shovels; Spades; Cow Bands; Bee House; 2 Wood Sheds; Ladies' Saddle; Pig Troughs; Barrels; Bee Skeps and Dandies; 60 Head of Poultry, all young.

FURNITURE.—4 Arm Chairs; 8 Kitchen Chairs; Longsettle; Large Table; Tap-room Table; 4 Kitchen Tables; 3 Wooden and 2 Iron Bedsteads; Flock Bed and Mattress; Mahogany Cupboard; Dressing Table and Washstand; Fenders; Kitchen Dresser; 3 Quilts; Druggeting; Cocoa Matting; Hearthrugs; Timepiece; Clock; Blinds and Rollers; Fishing Rod; Bird Cages; Single-Barrelled Gun; Quilting Frames; Pictures, &c., &c.

DAIRY UTENSILS, &c.—Barrel Churn; 2 Sets of Milk Barrels and Pads; Butter Tub; Scales and Weights; Milk Bowls; Cream Mugs; Butter Boards; Basket; Glasses; Jugs; 4 Spirit Kegs; Bottles; large Store Cask; together with various other lots too numerous to particularise.

Sale to commence at 12 o'clock with the Implements, Cattle and Furniture in order.

As the lots are numerous, an early attendance is respectfully solicited.

Royal Auction Mart Sale Office, Benfieldside. 421z

JOHN SWINBURN MURRAY,
AUCTIONEER,
AGRICULTURAL VALUER, AND GENERAL COMMISSION AGENT
ROYAL AUCTION MART, BENFIELDSIDE

By Mr. William Nicholson

MR. WILLIAM NICHOLSON'S PRESENT SALE APPOINTMENTS,

In April, Mr Armstrong's Farm Stock and Implements, at Newbiggen, Lanchester.

In May, Mr Heads' Farm Stock, at Steely, Satley.

In May, Mr Gray's Farm Stock, at Low Woodside, Iveston.

In May, Copyhold Cottage House, at Lanchester.

May 9th, Special Sale of Grazing Cattle, Cows, &c., at King's Head Inn, Lanchester. Also, 50 Young Pigs and 5 Brood Sows, the property of Mr Humble. 434z

[illegible] by Auction.

[illegible] J. Vickers.

[illegible] Farm, near Satley.

MR. JOSEPH VICKERS, duly appreciating the con[illegible] in him by GEORGE G. TAYLOR-SMITH, Esq., J.P., begs respectfully to intimate [illegible] received instructions to SELL BY PUBLIC AUCTION (without reservation), at the above farm, on Wednesday, April 25th, 1888, the whole [illegible] FARMING STOCK, HORSES, IMPLEMENTS, &c., comprising—

[illegible] HEAD OF CATTLE.

4 Dairy [illegible] and to calve; 6 S.H. Heifers, 3 years; [illegible] Heifer, 3 years; Blue Grey Heifer, [illegible]; 15 S.H. Steers, 2½ years; 8 S.H. Heifers, [illegible] Steers, 2 years, by Polled Angus Bull; [illegible] Heifer, 2 years; 6 Prime Fat Steers [illegible] an S.H. Bull, 2 years, nearly beef; [illegible]; Veal Calf; Blue Grey Heifer [illegible]

80 SHEEP.

40 Young [illegible] Twice-cross Ewes and Gimmers, and Followers by [illegible]ter Tup; 40 Mule and Twice-cross Hogs [illegible] condition.

[illegible] HORSES.

LOT 1—Powerful [illegible] Draught Horse, "Lion," [illegible] years.
" 2—Bay Draught Horse, "Prince," 16-0, 7 years.
" 3—Bay Draught Horse, "Punch," 16-0, 8 years.
" 4—[illegible] Powerful Brown Draught Mare, "Blossom," 17-0, 6 years.
" 5—Powerful Bay Draught Horse, "Farmer," 17-0, 8 years.
" 6—Grey Horse, "Charlie," 17-0, 10 years.
" 7—Grey Draught Colt, 2 years.
" 8—Handsome Brown Carriage Horse, 16-2, 5 years, goes in Single or Double Harness.
" 9—Chestnut Carriage Horse, 16-1, 5 years, goes in Single or Double Harness.
" 10 and 11—Two very Superior High-stepping Dark Brown Horse Ponies, 14-0, 8 years, been regularly driven as a pair.

IMPLEMENTS, &c.

Capital Four-Wheel Rolley; 2 Long Carts; 3 Coup Carts; Water Cart; 2 Swing Ploughs; 2 Pairs of Iron Harrows; Drag Harrow; Chain Harrow; 2 Large Metal Rollers; Cambridge Drill Roller; Scuffler; Double Mould-board Plough; Combined Reaper, by McGregor; Hay Rake, nearly new; Weighing Machine and Weights; Cake Mill; 2 Corn Mills, new; Large Chaff Cutter; Winnowing Machine; Wheelbarrow; Hay Buggy; Screw Jack; Small Horizontal Engine; Large Boiler, 8 h.p.; 3 h.p. Donkey Engine; Thrashing Machine, new Steaming Apparatus, with Boiler; Joiner's Bench; Large Screen; 2 Sheep Racks; Clod Crusher; 4 Corn Troughs; 40 Cattle Feeding Troughs; Turnip Slicer; Grindstone; 8 Stack and Cart Covers; Cart Ropes; Cart and Plough Harness for 5 Horses; Night Collars, &c.; Gripes, Forks, Shovels, Chains, Hand Tools, Cow Chains, with Sundries. Two-wheeled Fashionable Worcester Dog Cart, by McNaughton; Spring Cart; Set of Silver-Mounted Harness; and 2 Tons of Scotch Regent Potatoes.

The Auctioneer confidently invites the attention of the Nobility, Gentry, Farmers, Graziers, and Dealers to this Important Sale, which is brought about on account of Mr. Taylor Smith giving up Broadwood and Stobbilee Farms.

The Cattle are simply perfection, many of the Two and Three-years-olds might almost have been defined Beef, and require very little keep to finish them for Butcher.

The Sheep are all young, sound, and fresh.

The Horses, in their respective classes, are very handsome, elegant, and fashionable, and even exceed the loftiest ideal of the most formidable critic; the three Bay Horses (Lots 1, 2, and 3) are perfect models for farm work, and it is no exaggeration to say that Lots 4 and 5 will bear favourable comparison with the most stylish and powerful heavy horses in this or any other county.

The Carriage Horses are in their prime, and are honest and quiet in single and double harness; the Pair of Dark Brown Ponies (Lots 10 and 11) have been regularly driven together by a Lady; they are very handsome, possessing good manners, and high stepping action.

The Carts, Implements, &c., are mostly new, having been only a short time in use.

Stobbilee is 2½ Miles from Lanchester Station, on the Consett Branch of the N.E.R. Trains arrive at Lanchester from Newcastle at 10-55, and from Durham at 12-15 a.m.; and leave Lanchester for Newcastle at 5-50, and for Durham at 6-48. Brakes will meet above Trains to convey Passengers to and from the Sale.

Luncheon on the Premises at 12·30.

Sale to commence at One o'clock prompt, with Implements, Cattle, Sheep, and Horses to follow in the order named.

Auction Mart Office, Tow Law, 1888. 416z

Brandon Village Farm, near Durham.

JOSEPH VICKERS, favoured with instructions from the executors of the late Mr JOHN LOWES, will SELL BY PUBLIC AUCTION, at the above place (without reserve), on Wednesday, May 2nd, 1888, the whole of the Valuable FARMING STOCK, IMPLEMENTS, Household FURNITURE, and other EFFECTS.

Auction Mart Office, Tow Law. 417z

Broadwood Park, near Lanchester.

JOSEPH VICKERS, in compliance with the esteemed commands of GEO. G. TAYLOR-SMITH, Esq., J.P., who is leaving Broadwood Park, and consequently disposing of a large quantity of Household FURNITURE and EFFECTS, will OFFER the same for PUBLIC COMPETITION (without reserve), on Saturday, May 5th, 1888.

Mart Office, Tow Law. 418z

Belmont Farm, Blanchland.—Sale of Valuable Farming Stock and Moor Sheep.

JOSEPH VICKERS, acting upon instructions with which he is honoured from Mr SNOWBALL, who is leaving, will DISPERSE BY AUCTION, on Thursday, May 10th, 1888, the whole of the FARMING STOCK and 400 MOOR SHEEP; also, the whole of the Household FURNITURE, &c.

Particulars next week.

Mart Office, Tow Law. 419z

TOW LAW AUCTION MART.

A WEEKLY SALE every Monday for Fat and Store Cattle and Sheep, Dairy Cows, Horses, Conveyances, Farm Produce, &c., commencing at 12 o'clock with Cows. Fat and Store Stock to follow. Entries should be sent on Wednesday each week.

PRESENT ENTRIES.—MONDAY FIRST.

70 to 100 Store Cattle, various ages.

JOSEPH VICKERS Auctioneer.
Grove Villa, Tow Law. 454x

By Mr. John Crawford.

Declining the Hacking Business.
Catchgate, Annfield Plain, Lintz Green.

MR. JOHN CRAWFORD, instructed by Mr MICHAEL ARMSTRONG, who is declining business, will SELL BY PUBLIC AUCTION, on Thursday, April 26th, 1888, at the above place, his valuable HORSES, VEHICLES, HARNESS, &c., consisting of—Black Horse (Tommy), 8 yrs. old, about 15·1 h.h., quiet and a good worker in all yokes; Grey Mare (Lady Grey), the winner of several races; Brown Pony; 2 Cows, flush in milk, and in calf; an excellent Brake, to carry 14; a good Waggonette, with moveable glass cover; Double Horse Waggonette, to carry 11; Whitechapel, and Set of Lamps; 2 Coup Carts; 2 Spring Carts; Splendid Set of Silver-mounted Harness; 4 Sets of Harness; Double Set of Harness; 1 Side Saddle; Bridles; Hay Knife; a splendid Bicycle, and other odd lots, too numerous to mention. The above lots are little worse than new.

Sale to commence at One o'clock.

Sale Office, 25, Victoria Street, Consett. 432z

IMPORTANT NOTICE.

PEOPLE that are leaving the District can have their FURNITURE TURNED into CASH, at once, by applying to JOHN CRAWFORD, Auctioneer, 25, Victoria Street, Consett. 891u

JOHN CRAWFORD,
AGRICULTURAL VALUER & FURNITURE AUCTIONEER
25, VICTORIA STREET, CONSETT
Business done promptly, and on reasonable terms.

By Mr. Thomas Wetherell.

Preliminary Announcement.

THE FORD GRASS PARKS will be LET BY AUCTION on Wednesday, May 9th, 1888.
THOMAS WETHERELL, Auctioneer.
Sale Offices, 45, Sadler Street, Durham. 380z

By Mr Joseph Oley.

Preliminary Notice.

MR. JOSEPH OLEY has received instructions from the Executor of the late Mr. JOHN SMITH, to appoint Thursday and Friday, the 10th and 11th days of May, 1888, for the SALE BY AUCTION, at Medomsley, of his Valuable HORSES, CATTLE, FARM IMPLEMENTS, and Household FURNITURE.

Particulars in future Advertisements. 372z

Sales by Auction.

By Mr. Thomas Blandford.

Colepike Grass Parks, near Lanchester.

MR. T. BLANDFORD will hold the LETTING of the above PARKS on the ground, on Wednesday April 25th, 1888, at Eleven o'clock in the Forenoon.

LOT.	AUCTION ROLL.	Acres.
1.	Front Park	37·512.
2.	Clump Field	8·775.
3.	East Park	22·292.
4.	West Park	6·613.
		75·192.

Corbridge-on-Tyne,
April 10th, 1888. 442z

JOHN LOWES,
AUCTIONEER & VALUER, STANLEY, R.S.O.

Auction Sales of every description undertaken on the most reasonable terms. Prompt settlement.

VALUATIONS EFFECTED FOR PROBATE, ETC. 653y

Business Announcements

THE CONSETT AND DISTRICT PERMANENT
BENEFIT BUILDING SOCIETY
TOWN HALL, CONSETT.

☞ SHARES MAY BE TAKEN ANY DAY.

Advances made on Freehold or Copyhold Property repayable as arranged, or for fixed period.

ADAM BRODIE, F.S.A., Secretary.

"The weary find new strength generous wine."
Homer.

No wine is so generous, so full of nutriment, as good Port Wine. It seems, indeed, as if Nature, aided by man's skill, had done its best to produce a wine far above all other wines in richness of body, lovely colour, and elegant flavour.

GLENDENNING'S INVALID PORT
36s. per Dozen; 3s. per Bottle.

WILLIAM GLENDINNING draws attention to this Wine, which is specially imported and sold by him as the Wine most suited for those who are sick or recovering from sickness. Its characteristics are, freedom from acidity and heat, light fruity flavour, age in wood and richness of body without being heavy and sweet. Carriage paid upon half-a-dozen and upwards.

W. GLENDENNING,
WINE MERCHANT,
9, GRAINGER STREET (between Nun Street and Newgate Street) NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE

MOST MONEY LENT

ON Silver Plate, Watches, Jewellery, Diamonds, other Precious Stones, Plated Goods, Cutlery, &c., &c., at

J. & E. WILSON'S,

Oldest Established and Largest Pawnbroking Business in the North of England.
Established 1780

12, PILGRIM STREET

OUR DOORS BELOW BLACKETT STREET
PRIVATE ENTRANCE: FIRST SIX DOORS IN HIGH FRIAR LANE,
NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.

N.B.—A Large Stock of New and Second-hand WATCHES, Gold & Silver GUARDS ALBERTS &c., on Sale at the Lowest Prices.

☞ SEE THAT YOU GET TO THE RIGHT SHOP—No. 12.

OBSERVE PROJECTING ILLUMINATED CLOCK OVER WINDOW. 739y

OH MY CORNS!

HAVE YOU A TROUBLESOME CORN?
THE
CORN AND WART ANNIHILATOR
removes in a few days, Hard or Soft Corns, without pain.
PAINLESS! SAFE! EFFECTUAL!
GET A 1/- BOTTLE TO-DAY.
☞ Observe "ROBERTS" on every package.

J. ROBERTS CHEMIST (by Diploma), Sole Proprietor of the Celebrated Buchu Bitters, "The Great Kidney and Liver Cure."
1, NEW BRIDGE STREET, 97 & 99 CLAYTON STREET, and 29, SANDHILL, NEWCASTLE.
Please Note particularly the Precise Addresses, and don't be misled elsewhere. 359z

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The Consett Guardian.

FRIDAY, APRIL 20th, 1888.

JOTTINGS BY THE WAY.

[BY "INCEDO."]

THE RECENT ELECTIONS.

When the hurly-burly's done,
When the battle's lost and won.
MACBETH.

The hum and bustle of the recent elections have at length died away in the distance, and "piping peace" again holds the reins of power. At Consett, there can be no doubt but the best men have been returned at the head of the poll, but it is very questionable if the same observation could justly be applied to the result of other contests in North-Western Durham. The gentlemen whose popularity is such as to have won them posts of honour may rest on their oars for a short season. The turmoil of office will come anon. The most startling of all the surprises in connection with the Local Board election was without question the ousting of Mr Carss. To exult over the downfall of this once popular champion of the people's rights would savour of that spirit that incites the libertines to kick a man when he is down, and not being imbued with that demoniac spirit, I forbear from adding gall to discomfiture. Few men in the humbler walks of life ever attain to so enviable a position, hence with Mr Carss's faults, to his credit be it spoken that he has raised himself from the humblest of beginnings to a position of independence, if not absolute affluence. This much should always be remembered when speaking of the fire-brands which in the days of his power he threw among the corn of the Philistines.

THE CONSETT FIRE BRIGADE.

If any body of public servants deserve to be treated to a public dinner, the members of a fire-brigade most assuredly ought to occupy the foremost place in the consideration of the community of which they form a part. It may be said that they are but seldom called upon to act; but the fact that the men are ready, aye ready, to rescue both life and property has been demonstrated in the case of the Consett fire-brigade on not a few not-soon-to-be-forgotten occasions, is sufficient to establish their claim to usefulness of the highest possible order. The desire on the part of the men to be provided with clothing specially adapted to the precarious nature of their duties is a very pardonable desideratum indeed. Such a state of things is very desirable, the ways and means presenting the only tangible obstacle. How best to meet the difficulty is the question. Let but a beginning be made, the need be felt, and all other points of detail will converge towards our common centre—success. If my memory serves me truly, I fancy that the Consett Local Board has had to meet claims for clothing damaged by firemen in the execution of their duty. Were the men provided with suitable uniforms this, of course, would be very unlikely to occur. The ball has now been kicked off, and should the brigade and its friends keep it moving they will, without question, score a goal.

A RISE OF WAGES.

People who bring good tidings are at all times welcome, and next in importance to the messenger is the spot from which he hails. It is not a little singular that among all the industrial centres, which may almost be said to be sown broadcast over the northern counties of England, Consett should have been the first to sound the welcome note of the return of better days. It is pleasing to read now and then of the Consett Iron Company paying high dividends to the shareholders, but it is more gratifying still to learn that the Company has cheerfully granted an advance of five per cent to the honest fellows who toil in forge and rolling mill. The advance named was much needed, for few men work harder for their bread and cheese than the iron and steel worker.

IRON VERSUS STEEL.

"Every dog has his day," says the proverb, and taken all round, the saying is a pretty accurate one. The opinion was prevalent in shipbuilding circles a year or two ago, that iron was doomed, and that the sister product, steel, would drive it entirely from the field, if not from the face of the earth. I shared that opinion, and expressed it in these columns, simply because I followed in the wake of better men. A reaction has now, however, set in in favour of iron vessels in preference to steel. It is very doubtful indeed whether the latest development of ideas will ever gather sufficient strength to assume substantial and well-defined parts. In any case, the good people of Consett and district have nothing to fear. The Consett Iron Company have the best of plant for the manufaature of the allied products, and are prepared for any turn, however whimsical, of the wheel of ever-fluctuating change. A gentleman well versed in the business of shipbuilding and shipping assured me the other day, that iron bade fair to come again to the front, owing chiefly to the action taken by Lloyds, and the changes which they aim from time to time to introduce.

SCOTCH OATS ON ENGLISH SOIL.

A respectable leap from making steel and iron to growing Scotch oats, but more rapid than the electric current and its rival, the telephone, is the yet unexplored domain of thought. The case headed "Farmers and their crops," an exhaustive report of which appeared in the last issue of the *Guardian*, was of special interest to me. It boots not how I happen to be in a position to speak with some weight on this particular line of business. If the reader take for granted that I know more about that subject than I care to tell, he will not be led very far astray. Let me say then, that the soil of "merry England" is not suited to the growth of the far-famed Scotch corn. I have witnessed scores of acres sown with the very best of Scotch oats, sent direct from beyond Aberdeen, and the yield was such that no respectable Scotch farmer would have carted the grain to market. I speak of good land within a few miles of the city of Newcastle. In fact, I have never seen what could have been termed a good crop of oats in the North of England. Could the farmers in these parts grow good oats there would obviously be no necessity to buy Scotch oats to make English oatmeal. I have seen that done many times within an hour's walk of Consett, and if any of my numerous readers are anxious to know the difference between Scotch oatmeal and English oatmeal, I have no objection to supply the necessary information.

Local and District News.

CONSETT.

In connection with the Consett Primitive Methodist Sunday-school, a new library was opened on Friday night, when Rev J. Moffatt gave a stirring address to those present. The membership is over 40, being mostly young men.

THE BRODIE TESTIMONIAL FUND.—Last (Thursday) night, a large meeting of the committee for promoting a testimonial to Mr A. Brodie at Consett—Mr N. Elsdon presiding—when it was determined to make vigorous efforts to raise a handsome sum of money for the object in view.

The special revival services in connection with the Wesleyan body at Consett are still being carried on with glorious results by Miss Wilson, of Carlisle, and Mrs Fielden, of Crook. On Sunday the Town Hall was crowded to excess, and there have been large congregations each night during the week.

CHRISTIAN LAY CHURCH SUNDAY-SCHOOL.—The anniversary in connection with the above school at Consett was held on Sunday, the children reciting scriptural pieces, dialogues, recitations, &c. A suitable selection of hymns and solos were gone through by the choir and children. The opening address was given in excellent style by Mr B. Sheldon. The services were ably conducted by Mr Bartle, Leadgate. Mr J. Moss was harmoniumist, and Mr T. Sinclair conductor.

EMBEZZLEMENT BY A LOCAL SALESMAN IN NEWCASTLE.—At the Newcastle Police Court, on Saturday, before Ald. Wilson (in the chair) and Mr W. B. Wilkins, John Britton (27), salesman, belonging to Consett, was charged with having embezzled £7 13s received by him for and on account of his masters, Wm. Johnson and another.—Wm. Johnson, tailor and outfitter, 5, Northumberland Street, said that prisoner had been in his employment as salesman for over four years. Prisoner had never accounted for the sum of £7 13s, paid to him by a customer named Wm. Morrison on the 21st of November last.—Wm. Morrison having spoken to paying the account of £7 13s, the prisoner pleaded guilty.—Mr Johnson said he did not wish to press the charge, and asked the Bench to pass a lenient sentence.—Prisoner was sent to goal for two months.

BLACKHILL.

ST. AIDAN'S.—The annual vestry meeting was held at Blackhill. The vicar nominated Mr Thompson Siddell as his warden, and the vestry elected Mr John Moon people's warden for the ensuing year, each appointment being for the third time. Messrs James Lovett, Lindsay Wilson, George Christopher, J. Chorley, J. Kirkup, Ed. Richardson, D. Omerod, and John Christopher were appointed sidesmen. The churchwardens' account showed a balance in hand of £33.

LEADGATE.

CONVERTED CRICKETERS!!!—A correspondent writes:—"An evangelist has recently been conducting mission services at Leadgate, and some of the members of the home club consider that they cannot now play at cricket and be religious! The Leadgate Cricket Club was unable to keep its fixture at West Stanley on Saturday last, in consequence of the secession from the club."

RYTON-ON-TYNE.

CONVERSAZIONE.—A conversazione in connection with the Ryton Congregational Church was held on Wednesday evening, in the Congregational Hall. The proceedings were opened by the pastor, Rev R. M. McClumpha, and selections of music, vocal and instrumental, were rendered by several friends. During the evening an illuminated address was presented to Mr J. Scott, who has been secretary of the church for nearly twenty years, but who had been compelled to retire owing to the state of his health. Mrs Scott was at the same time presented with a Bible.

DIPTON.

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH.—In our issue of the 6th inst., appeared a paragraph announcing a most successful exhibition of *tableaux vivants* in the Co-operative Hall, on Easter Monday, in aid of the debt on the above church at Dipton. So unusually satisfactory was the performance, and as deserving is the object for which funds are sought, that it was quickly decided to give the neighbouring inhabitants an opportunity of witnessing the exhibition, and the first of these *encore* performances took place on Saturday evening last in the National Schools, Flint Hill, which had been freely granted by the managers. The room was crowded, amongst the company being the Rev T. H. Archdall, vicar of Tanfield, Mrs Archdall and children, the Rev Mr Denton, curate, Miss Fenwick, and Miss Newall, Burcus Close, Mr and Mrs Arkless and family, Tantobie; Mr Hinkley, Flint Hill; Miss Dixon, Caldwell; Miss Bell, Tow Law; Miss Grey, Lanchester; Mrs and Miss Johnson, Hill Top, and others. The performance was even more successful than on Easter Monday, the figures likely being less nervous and anxious, whilst a few improvements were made in the setting and grouping, the most noticeable being the addition of a ship travelling across the stage, adding greater reality to "Grace Darling's look out for wrecks." The lights were also much more successful, making at the close of each scene a picture of great beauty—the stage appearing like a spot of enchanted ground. Mr G. Thornton, as "Sambo," was in capital form; and Mr H. Prevell, as "Showman," gave interesting descriptions of the figures, each and all of which were faithful representations of the characters they represented, and performed their parts in good taste. As will be seen from our advertised columns, the performance is to be repeated in the large room of the Annfield Plain Co-operative Society on Friday next, April 27th, and we also understand it is in contemplation to visit Consett New Town Hall so soon as arrangements can be completed.

BURNHOPE.

Mr Walter Scott, publisher, of London and Newcastle, through his agent, Mr James Schofield, of Durham, has given a guinea to the Burnhope Primitive Methodist building fund.

John Holt, Burnhope Colliery, successfully passed the examination under the New Mines Act, held in Newcastle-on-Tyne, on February 28th and 29th, 1888, and has been awarded a certificate of competency as under manager.

SHOTLEY BRIDGE.

LECTURE.—On Wednesday evening, in the Wesleyan Chapel, Shotley Bridge, a highly instructive and interesting lecture was delivered by Rev J. W. Keyworth, resident minister, on "The Greatness of Little Things." The chair was taken by Mr John Lowes, Consett. The proceeds are for the Sunday-school funds.

LINTZ COLLIERY.

William Braidford, of South Garesfield Colliery, late apprentice under Mr Robert Reed, of Lintz Colliery, and a pupil of Mr W. Tate, of Sunderland, has successfully passed the examination held at Newcastle in February last, and has been awarded a first-class certificate of competency as a manager of mines.

BLAYDON.

TEMPERANCE SOCIETY.—On Tuesday evening, the weekly entertainment in connection with the Blaydon Temperance Society was held, when songs were ably rendered by Mrs Allen, Mr Taylor, Mr Simpson, Professor Goodwill, and Mr McHaddon. A musical entertainment was also given by Prof. Goodwill and Mr McHaddon. At the close, the following resolution was unanimously adopted:—"That this meeting most strongly objects to the clauses relating to compensation to publicans as proposed by the Local Government Bill now before Parliament, and that the insertion of other clauses be made giving the electors direct veto."

WEST STANLEY.

Robert Aynsley, of Victoria Collieries, Wakefield, formerly of West Stanley, and late assistant-viewer at Thornley Collieries, has successfully passed the examination held at Newcastle-on-Tyne in February last, and has been accorded a first-class certificate as a mines manager.

LECTURE.—On Monday evening, the Wesleyan Chapel at West Stanley was filled with an appreciative audience to hear a lecture by Mr Joseph Audi, of Palestine, the subject being the life of Isaac, and was illustrated by a number of the congregation being dressed in Eastern costume to represent Isaac, Esau, Jacob, Rachael, Leah, and others, and so bringing the subject more forcibly to the minds of the audience. Mr John Oliver (chairman) briefly introduced the lecturer and his assistants, remarking that he was unable to recognise one of the latter. The lecturer delivered an interesting address.

CASTLESIDE.

Two impressive sermons were preached in St. John's Church, Castleside, on Sunday, by the Rev Canon Chesters, rural dean. There was a fairly good attendance at each service, and good collections were taken.

WATERHOUSES.

LECTURE.—On Saturday evening, a lecture on "Gideon Ousley, or, wit and wisdom of an Irish Evangelist," was given in the New Connexion Chapel, Hamilton Row, by Rev W. Gillis, Durham. Mr Wharton occupied the chair.

CONCERT.—On Saturday night, a concert was given in the Primitive Methodist School, Waterhouses, by Tow Law Primitive Methodist Choir, the chair being occupied by Rev J. Wilkinson. There was a fair attendance. The conductor was unable to attend, and the programme had to be curtailed.

WEARDALE.

Primrose Day was not forgotten in Weardale yesterday (Thursday) but the great scarcity of the favourite flower, owing to the late spring, militated largely against any great display of button-holes.

On Wednesday, a fair was held at St. John's Chapel, when, owing to the scarcity of stock, prices ranged considerably higher. Young bullocks and back-end calving cows brought large prices.

WESTGATE PRIMITIVE METHODIST CHAPEL.—On Saturday evening Rev J. Taylor delivered a lecture in the Primitive Methodist Chapel, Westgate, on "Ejected ministers of the 17th century." The chair was occupied by Mr George Race.—On Sunday morning and evening, Mr Taylor preached to large congregations, and a service of song was given by the choir in the afternoon. Collections were taken after each service in aid of the Sunday-school fund.

TOW LAW.

CONCERT.—On Monday evening, the members of the Waterhouses Primitive Methodist Choir gave a concert at Sunniside. The programme was carried out in a very pleasing and enjoyable manner.

"IT WOULD BE VET."—A doctor entered a chemist's shop not many miles from Tow Law requiring a quantity of sweet spirit of nitre. Upon being supplied, he discovered the large labell on the stock bottle was inscribed "*Spirit nitre dulcis*." He then told the mixer of drugs, "This is deluted. I use better stuff myself." The answer was he did not get it and his patient succumbed.

GOOD TEMPLARY.—On Wednesday evening, in the Wesleyan infant school-room, Tow Law, a conference in connection with the "Beacon of Hope" Good Templar lodge was held, when Mr J. Dixon read a paper on the "Local Government Bill." The subject is stirring up local temperance men, who are taking steps to show their disapprobation of the Bill.

DEATH OF A TRADESMAN.—Mr George Robinson, grocer and draper, Dan's Castle, died on Monday after a few weeks' illness. He came here from Weardale a number of years ago, and was greatly esteemed. He was a prominent member of the Primitive Methodist body, and had held various offices in connection with the chapel. The interment took place in the new cemetery yesterday (Thursday) afternoon.

DEBATE.—At the fortnightly meeting of the Presbyterian Mutual Improvement Society, on Tuesday evening, a capital discussion on "Is alcohol beneficial?" took place. Mr J. Dawson supported the affirmative, and Mr Aikman the opposite. On the vote being taken, the negative position was found to have secured a considerable majority.

MICKLEY.

At Hexham Petty Session, five vagrants, were sentenced to 14 days' imprisonment for having been found sleeping in Mickley coke ovens that morning.

WOLSINGHAM.

Rev W. Batey of Crook gave a lecture in the Primitive Methodist Chapel, Wolsingham, on Monday night, on "Mind and Character," Rev S. Miles (Wesleyan) presided.

At the Spring Flower Show at Newcastle, on Wednesday, the local prize-winners included Mr J. L. Thompson, and Mr W. L. Thompson, Wolsingham.

MARRIAGE.—At Wolsingham, on Tuesday, the marriage of Rev J. Wilkinson, Primitive Methodist minister, of Waterhouses, with Miss M. A. Hobson, of Tow Law, was solemnised in the Wesleyan Chapel. The service was conducted by Rev Jas. Forster, Tow Law. After the ceremony the happy pair left, amid blinding showers of rice, leaving Wolsingham per the 5. train eastward.

AN HONOUR TO CHANCELLOR ESPIN.—In the Lower House of Convocation at York, on Wednesday, the Prolocutor (the Dean of York) tendered his resignation. On the motion of the Dean of Chester, seconded by the Archdeacon of Northumberland, Rev Chancellor Espin, D.D. (Auckland), rector of Wolsingham, was unanimously elected. He was afterwards presented to the president, who confirmed the appointment. Chancellor Espin, on taking the chair, thanked the House for the honour they had conferred upon him, and appointed as his assessors the Deans of York and Chester, Archdeacons Hamilton and Blunt, and Canon Trevor.

CHESTER-LE-STREET.

FUNERAL SERMON.—On Sunday night Mr Thos. Elliott, of Swalwell, preached an impressive sermon in the Wesleyan Chapel to a large audience in connection with the death of the late Mr George Rowell, in his 87th year. Mr Elliott took his text from Numbers, xiv. chapter, 24th verse, and at the close of his sermon read an interesting account of Mr Rowell's life, kindly written by Mr Henry Stoddart, of Low Fell. Mr Rowell had been a Wesleyan Methodist for upwards of sixty years, and a local preacher of years.

OUSTON COLLIERY MECHANICS' INSTITUTE AND WORKMENS' HALL.—A most unique entertainment was given on Saturday night, in the above Society's large Hall, by Professor Lenton, of London, who is making a tour in the north of England. The entertainment throughout was one of the most refined description, without the least shadow of vulgarity. The Professor never for one moment allows the interest of his audience to flag in the least. The really marvellous manner in which he performs his sensational feats of legerdemain and bewildering tranformations quite mystified, the large audience assembled, while his amusing performance with his funny little folks, together with his wonderful power of ventroloquism fairly convulsed the people with laughter, so that for some time the Professor was unable to proceed. However, he seemed to enjoy the fun and frolic, as much as any one. The committee have given him a hearty invitation to pay a second visit.

GATESHEAD.

EMIGRATION.—The Peninsular and Oriental Company's new steamer, "Victoria" arrived at Brindisi from Australia at 6 a.m. on Monday the 9th inst.—662 hours from Adelaide, deducting stoppage at ports *en route*, the nett steaming time was only 21 days 12 hours, from Australia and this for distance of 7721 miles, given a spead of 17¼ miles per hour. This fine steamer will leave London for the Colonies again on May the 4th, and particulars can be learnt from the company's agent—Mr Wm. J. Johnson, 96, High Street, Gateshead.

DEATH OF A PROMINENT FREE METHODIST LAYMAN.—In the death of Mr James Hunter, of Eighton Banks, which took place late on Sunday evening, the Gateshead Circuit of the United Methodist Free Churches has suffered a serious loss. Mr Hunter was widely known for his sterling character and his thorough devotion to every good work. Born in a small village in the North of Scotland, more than a quarter of a century ago he came to Tyneside, soon after which he took up his abode at Eighton Banks, and became connected with the Springwell Colliery. He had the respect of all those with whom he worked. If ever a dispute arose, he was invariably the one appointed to settle the questions between the master and men. He was a prominent figure at the miners' meetings of the district. From the first, he was connected with the Free Methodist cause, and became one of its strongest supporters. He held the position of superintendent of the Sunday school, class leader, also vice-president of the Circuit Sunday School Union. Getting a severe chill some months ago, he had been laid up till the the time of his death. The sudden death of Mr W. Smith, his co-worker in the church, which was noticed a fortnight ago, gave him a great shock, from which he never rallied. He was a strong Liberal in politics, and in Parliamentary elections in the district for many years past he has taken a prominent part. He was also an active dissenter, and a leader in temperance work.

WITTON GILBERT.

CONCERT.—On Thursday se'nnight, a concert was given in the school-room, Witton Gilbert, by the church choir, assisted by the following artistes:—Miss Weatherall, Mr Duncanson (bass, Durham Cathedral choir), Master J. Hunter, Mr M. Hopper (humorous vocalist), Mr Laws (violin), Mr Tatlow, Rev J. Bentley (curate), Mr Amos, and Messrs G. W. and J. F. Richardson. The proceeds were for the Church purposes.

ROWLAND'S GILL.

WINLATON AND DISTRICT PLOUGHING ASSOCIATION.—The above association held their ploughing day on the farm of Mr George Wm. Gray, Sherburn Tower, on Wednesday week, and the meeting proved an entire success, notwithstanding its postponement several times owing to the weather. The work done was excellent, proving that there are some very good ploughmen in the district, and also some promising youths. The committee were Messrs Wm. Atkinson, Geo. Bullerwell, Geo. Wm. Gray, Thomas Robinson, and George Lawson (hon. secretary); judges—Messrs Henry Willey, Bloomfield, and Thos. Browell, Blaydon Bank, who discharged their duties to the entire satisfaction of all concerned. Results:—Men's class—1st, Matthew Henry, with Mr David Jeffrey, Winlaton; 2nd, William Rutter, with Mr William Atkinson, Winlaton; 3rd, John Shippin, with Mr Thomas Robinson, Low Thornley; highly commended, Thomas Hunter, with Mr William Gray, Sherburn Tower. Lads' class—1st, Robert Shield, with Mrs Dinning, Winlaton; 2nd, George Anderson, with Mr George Bullerwell, Winlaton; 3rd, Robert Hunter, with Mr Geo. Wm. Gray, Sherburn Tower; highly commended, John Lawson. There were eight entries in each class.

ALLANSFORD.

ENTERTAINMENT AND SUPPER.—On Saturday night, a most interesting entertainment was held in the Primitive Methodist Chapel, Allansford. There was a large and attentive audience. Mr Alexander Seed, Shotley Bridge, presided, and kept the audience in continual laughter by his quaint and humorous remarks. Mr Seed is also known as a strong advocate of the temperance cause, and he made an eloquent appeal on behalf of total abstinence. Mr Richard Campbell, Shotley Grove, gave several recitations, which were warmly appreciated by the audience. The Blackhill Wesleyan Band of Hope Choir, under the able leadership of Mr S. Gradon, rendered several choice selections of music in a praiseworthy manner. Mr J. Moon presided at the harmonium.—At the conclusion of the entertainment, about 100 persons sat down to a substantial supper. The tables were under the presidency of Mesdames Dent and Moore. The proceedings throughout were extremely satisfactory, both financially and otherwise, and the promoters are to be congratulated upon their deserved success.

ANNFIELD PLAIN.

WESLEYAN CHAPEL.—We beg to remind our readers of the services to be held at the Wesleyan Chapel, on Wednesday next. The Rev R. Stepney (formerly superintendent of the circuit) will preach in the afternoon; a public tea immediately afterwards; and Rev R. Roberts, one of the most popular of ministers, in the evening.

YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION.—The usual Saturday night service at Annfield Plain was presided over by Mr C. Graham. The Board School was filled by a large and enthusiastic audience to hear the talented secretary of the Northern Temperance League (Mr G. Tomlinson), who gave a very humorous address on "Sketches from my note-book," which rivetted the attention of his audience for upwards of an hour. The singing of Messrs Tindall, Wardle, and Martin, and Misses Martin and Cook, contributed very much to the enjoyment of the evening.

BENFIELDSIDE LOCAL BOARD.

The annual meeting of this Board took place on Wednesday evening, at the Bank Buildings, Shotley Bridge, when there were present Messrs Jas. Annandale, J.P., Jos. Eltringham, T. Siddell, W. Wheatley, W. Wilson, J. Lax, R. Murray, A. E. Turner, J. Dowson, W. Robinson, W. Surtees, and the Surveyor (Mr J. Dixon).

NEW MEMBERS.

The result of the late election having been announced, the newly-appointed members—Messrs Siddell, Dowson, Surtees, and Robson signed the usual declaration.

THANKS TO THE RETIRING CHAIRMAN.

Mr LAX stated that at the last meeting the Board omitted to pass a vote of thanks to the Chairman for his services in that capacity during the past year. This oversight was probably due to the pressure of business and the protracted nature of the meeting. He was extremely sorry that the Board neglected this duty, as they one and all thoroughly appreciated the services of the Chairman. He trusted the explanation would be accepted, and moved an expression of thanks to Mr Annandale.

Mr WILSON briefly seconded, and Mr SIDDELL supported the proposition, which was carried *nem con*.

The CHAIRMAN, in acknowledging the compliment, said that he was much obliged to the members for the kindness shown to him. He had only done his duty as a ratepayer, and he could assure them that he was beholden to the cordial support of his colleagues for the thorough and efficient manner in which the business of the Board had been conducted. They should also remember that they had the valuable assistance of able officials in their Clerk and Inspector, who so successfully carried on the work of the Board. (Applause.) He hoped that the Board would continue to act in future as it had in the past. (Applause.)

RE-ELECTION OF THE CHAIRMAN.

Mr WHEATLEY had great pleasure in asking their noble Chairman to continue to fulfil that office for another year—providing the Board was permitted to live during that period. (Laughter.) Mr Annandale was worthy of all the eulogiums passed upon him, as he had discharged his functions in the past in an upright and honourable manner, and for a long period he had dealt impartially and justly with every member of the Board. (Applause.)

Mr SIDDELL, in seconding the proposal, agreed that Mr Annandale was the proper person to fill that capacity. (Hear.)

This motion was also carried.

The CHAIRMAN returned thanks for the confidence again reposed in him, but considered the preceding speakers had spoken in too flattering a manner of his services in the past. As a ratepayer interested in the well-being of the district, he had always striven to do his duty to the best of his ability. (Applause.) He welcomed the new members (Messrs Surtees and Robinson), and was glad to see two of the old members back again. He trusted the members would work amicably together in the future. (Applause.) Nothing would be wanting on his part to do his utmost for the benefit of the township generally. (Applause.)

FORMATION OF COMMITTEES.

The committees were constituted as under:—

Highway, Lighting, and Finance.—The Chairman, Messrs Wilson (convener), Siddell, Priestman, Dowson, and Lax.

Sanitary and Building Committee.—Messrs Eltringham (convener), Murray, Turner, Wheatley, Surtees, and Robinson.

Parks Committee.—The Chairman, Messrs Eltringham, Murray, and Dowson.

Joint Hospital Board.—The Chairman (*ex-officio*) and Mr Lax.

THE PARK ONCE MORE.

Mr ELTRINGHAM did not think it was any use appointing a Parks Committee.

Mr WHEATLEY: What does that mean?

The CHAIRMAN: We must have a Parks Committee, so long as we retain the Park.

Mr ELTRINGHAM: It's no use, when the gentlemen won't attend.

Mr MURRAY suggested that Mr Siddell should be elected on that Committee, but Mr WHEATLEY retorted: He won't help you much, because the Parks Committee are just a lot of old wives altogether. (Laughter.)

Mr TURNER stated that it had been suggested, now that a certain member of the Board had been disposed of, that they would get through the business much quicker, and that the Chairman's duties would be considerably lightened, but if Mr Wheatley occupied double the time that their old friend Mr Carss did, he would have to be called to order. (Laughter.) Mr Wheatley seemed rather obstreperous that evening, probably he was over jubilant. (Laughter.)

Mr WHEATLEY: Much obliged to you. [illegible] laughter.) If the Parks business is not better done than it has been in the past, it had better not be done at all. (Loud laughter.)

The CHAIRMAN trusted the joint Parks Committee would work more harmoniously together.

The report of the Parks Committee stated that the 19s owing as wages to the late Park-keeper should be paid. It was resolved that the Surveyor be instructed to employ men, if necessary, to take charge of the Park at the week ends during the month of April.

The Park balance-sheet from the commencement was also submitted, and Messrs ELTRINGHAM and MURRAY explained that they calculated at the last Committee meeting, that according to the rateable value of the two townships, the Benfieldside Board had paid over £25 more than they ought to have contributed towards the maintenance of the Park, as compared with the amount paid by the Consett Board. The Clerk had evidently made a mistake in his calculation of the figures, and promised to rectify the error.

Mr WHEATLEY: It appears we have been nicely robbed so far by these Consettonians. (Laughter.)

Mr SIDDELL: There is no intention to rob you. The Clerk will put it all right.

Mr WHEATLEY replied that the Consett people were always on the safe side. (Laughter.)

Mr SIDDELL hoped the Parks Committee would pay closer attention to their duties, and then these errors would not crop up.

The CHAIRMAN read the letter which Mr John Booth (clerk) had transmitted to the Consett Board, communicating the subjoined resolution passed by the Benfieldside Board, with reference to the division of the management of the Park, viz:—

"Resolved, that the Consett Local Board be asked to consent to the division of the Park, each Local Board taking charge and maintaining the portion within its own district, with a view to saving cost of maintenance as recommended by the Joint Parks Committee, it being understood that it will not effect the full enjoyment of the whole Park by the inhabitants of both districts."

The CHAIRMAN expressed surprise at the way in which the proposal was received by the Consett Board, according to the report in the *Guardian*, and hoped the reporter would give the resolution *in extenso*, to show the public that they were not advocating a separation of the Park, but merely a division of the management and maintenance thereof. The Consett Board appeared to labour under some misapprehension, but the publication of the Clerk's communication would remove any false impressions so far as the inhabitants were concerned. He read the reply from the Consett Board rejecting the recommendation of the Benfieldside Board.

Mr SIDDELL said the Consett Board had done exactly what was right. The members acted fairly towards the Benfieldside Board, but they had not treated the Consett Iron Company or the Consett Board justly. In fact, they had behaved really and truly in a shameful and disgraceful manner in regard to the Park scheme. He could not help making strong remarks touching this matter.

Mr LAX failed to see upon what grounds Mr Siddell based his contentions. It had just been shown that in reference to the expense, the Benfieldside Board had over-paid £25. He did not think they had acted scurvily in the matter, but considered that both Boards had rather shirked the responsibility as to spending the amount of money requisite to make the Park acceptable to the people. There were, however, a section of ratepayers who were not specially interested in the Park, and a great amount of expenditure would not be approved of by them. They asked for a division of the Park with a view of simplifying the existing machinery, and thus economising unnecessary working expenses, and not for the purpose of spending no more money upon it.

Mr ELTRINGHAM declared that Mr Siddell complained month after month that the Benfieldside Board were not doing their duty in respect to the Park. There had already been £234 spent upon the ground in two years, and the expenditure indicated a balance in favour of the Benfieldside Board. That Board had done nothing concerning the division of the management of the Park, except what was previously recommended by the joint Parks' Committee, the representatives of the two Boards being unanimous on the point, the Consett members promising to lay the recommendation before their Board, believing it would be better for both townships if the Park was divided. Somehow or other the Consett men turned round on the question whenever they attended the Consett Board, and perhaps Mr Siddell was not aware of their views upon the subject. The Consett representatives attended the meetings more regularly than the Benfieldside members, and could out-vote them upon any question.

Mr TURNER, as a late member of the Park Committee, corroborated the preceding speaker as to the manner in which the Benfieldside Board had treated both the Consett Iron Co. and the Consett Board.

Mr LAX stated that the Consett Board were at one time strongly divided on that point, inasmuch as the proposed division of the Park was first negatived by the casting vote of the Chairman only.

Mr SIDDELL stated that he would not argue the question further.

Mr MURRAY did not think it would be of any avail further discussing the subject. Some members of the Consett Board either would not or did not understand their recommendation, and were adverse to the proposal.

Mr WHEATLEY held that it would be ridiculous to have a lot of law books and officers for to carry on the Park.

The CHAIRMAN thought the question had been fully thrashed out, and the discussion closed.

PROBABLE SETTLEMENT OF THE BLUE BRIDGE DISPUTE.

It was announced that Mr Walton-Wilson, J.P. had promised to repair this structure, providing that the ratepayers of Shotley township (Northumberland) would take over the bridge, and maintain it hereafter, and Mr SURTEES mentioned that he was authorised to execute the work.

Mr WHEATLEY said that the ratepayers had agreed to this proposition, and there was a prospect of the dispute being amicably arranged without recourse to legal proceedings.

FINANCE.

The Highway, Lighting, and Finance Committee recommended the payment of the Surveyor's monthly pay-bill, amounting to £46, and other accounts representing a total of £108 1s 6d.

This was agreed to.

TEAM WORK.

Two tenders were received from Messrs R. Hall and J. Christopher for performing the Board's team work for the next twelve months, and the Board accepted Mr Christopher's contract, which was the lowest.

SURVEYOR'S REPORT.

Mr Dixon submitted the following monthly report:—

To the Chairman and Members of the Benfieldside Local Board.

GENTLEMEN,—During the past month, your workmen have been employed on your several highways and streets removing snow and ice; also cleaning up after the snow was gone. Part scraping has also been done during the month.

Your stonebreakers are preparing materials for the ensuing season.

As instructed, I have advertised for tenders for team work. The tenders that were sent in have been laid before your Highway and Finance Committee, who will report thereon.—I am, gentlemen, your obedient servant,

JOHN DIXON.

Benfieldside, April 18th, 1888.

INSPECTOR'S REPORT.

The Inspector submitted the following monthly report:—

To the Chairman and Members of the Benfieldside Local Board.

GENTLEMEN,—During the month I have inspected your district, and find several of the ashpits with more refuse in them than I generally find, owing, no doubt, to the late storm. The farmers have commenced to cart away the ashes, and I expect to have the place in a clean and orderly condition shortly. On account of the heavy snowstorm last month I have not been able to get the levels for the Back Derwent Street drain. I hope to have them ready by the next meeting.

I have inspected several milkshops, and as far as this inspection has gone, I have found the vessels used for containing the milk in a satisfactory condition.

Plans for alterations and additions to property at Highgate, for Mr Barrass, have been laid before your Building Committee. They will report on these plans.—I am, gentlmen, your obedient servant,

JOHN DIXON.

Benfieldside, April 18th, 1888.

PLAN.

The Building and Sanitary Committee recommended that the plan submitted by Mr A. Barrass for additions and alterations to a house at Highgate, be passed, subject to a slight modification.

The Board assented to this.

THE ROAD TO THE RAILWAY STATION.

A long communication was read from Mr Jenkins, manager of the Consett Iron Company, intimating that Mr Franks, the owner of the property, had consented to give the land necessary for to make a straight thoroughfare from Derwent Street to the Blackhill Railway Station, 30 feet in width, providing that the North-Eastern Railway Company properly macadamised the road, and cemented, kerbed, and channelled the footpaths, &c, and continued it right through to the station entrance; the owner making certain reservations in his own right, and asked that, when properly formed, the road should be dedicated to the public. In a further letter, in answer to a query from the Clerk (Mr Booth), Mr Jenkins explained that they had not communicated with the Railway Authories on the subject, but were the lessees of the property, and were acting as mediators between that Board and Mr Franks.

The CHAIRMAN thought the Railway Company would see their way to carry out the idea; and Mr WILSON considered that Mr Franks had made a magnanomous offer.

The Board directed their Clerk to communicate with the Railway Company on the subject, and forward the tracing showing the contemplated line of the street.

TAKING OVER NEW STREETS.

The Surveyor was authorised to post up the usual notices informing the ratepayers that the Board intended to take over Ritson's Road, and a portion of Queen Street, Blackhill, and dedicate them to the use of the public.

THE TRAIN SERVICE.

Mr MURRAY drew attention to the dilatory manner in which the passenger trains were run to and from Consett and Newcastle. The heaviest trains traversed the distance in 45 minutes, whilst the lighter trains (which certainly ought to run more expeditiously) occupied 50 minutes in going from Consett to Newcastle. The trains plying between Newcastle and Sunderland, which covered about a similar distance, and comprised the same number of stopping places, could complete the journey in 30 minutes. He urged upon the Board to petition the Railway Company to run the trains a little faster.

The subject, however, was left in abeyance.

THE REGISTRATION OFFICES.

Mr TURNER thought the Board might ask the Lanchester Guardians to insist the registrar for the Consett district residing at Blackhill, and pointed out the convenience such an arrangement would be to those parties travelling from Castleside and Ebchester districts per rail.

The CHAIRMAN and Messrs LAX and MURRAY promised to use their influence with the Lanchester Guardians in this matter.

THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BILL.

The CHAIRMAN, having examined the new measure, explained to the members the manner in which that district would be affected, assuming that the Local Government Bill was passed in its present shape and form, said: So far as I can see there will not be a material change in the duties or functions of Local Boards under the new Act, as at present drafted. The mode of election will be assimilated to that of Municipal Boroughs, and the members of district councils will consist of two classes—elected members and a certain proportion of members nominated by the elective councillors. The chairman of a district council may not arrogate to himself the title of Mayor, nor the selected councillors that of aldermen; but to all intents and purposes they will be in a similar position, but the chairman will not (like a Mayor) be a magistrate *ex-officio*. By section 48, there is a transfer of certain powers of justices to the district council—for example, the grant of pawnbrokers' certificates, hawkers' licenses, &c. An alteration is made in the date of the financial year. The sheriff of the county is the returning-officer, but may appoint a deputy, presuming the Act is carried as at present drafted this session. The first election of county councillors will be held in January, 1889, after the 14th of the month. In the following year at the same time, the first election of district councillors shall be held, and they will enter upon their duties on the 1st April following (April 1st, 1890), but meantime shall act as a provisional council—viz., between the day of election and April 1st. The officers and servants of the Board at the passing of the Act become officers and servants of the new district council.

Mr WHEATLEY stated that he had a copy of the Act at home, which he would gladly lend to any member who wished to read it.

Mr SIDDELL: I think Mr Wheatley had better read it himself first, and master its details. (Laughter.)

The Board then adjourned.

TO-MORROW'S FOOTBALL.

To-morrow (Saturday), Dipton Wanderers will play Annfield Plain True Blues.

Pelton Fell Harriers and Chester-le-Street Co-operative Swifts played a game at Pelton Fell on Wednesday, and, after a pleasant game, resulted in a win for the home team by four goals to none.

Esh Juniors and Langley Park Off Hands also played a match, on the ground of the latter, and, after a good game, ended in a win for Esh by one goal to nil.—The second teams also played, the result being a win for Langley by one goal to one disputed goal.

A FATEFUL NIGHT:

A TALE OF A BERRYEDGE METHODIST MAID AND HER PITMAN LOVER.

BY RALPH FAIRLEY.

THIS NEW AND INTERESTING LOCAL

LOCAL STORY

HAS

COMMENCED IN THIS WEEK'S ISSUE.

☞ SEE 6TH AND 7TH PAGES.

LECTURE AT CHESTER-LE-STREET.

On Tuesday night, Mr Wicksteed, president of the Kettering Liberal Association, lectured in the Mechanics' Institute, Chester-le-Street, on "The Nationalisation of the Land." Mr Robt. Cramond, of Pelton Fell occupied the chair.—The Chairman said that one great difficulty in dealing with the land question was to get people to understand the scope of it. Most of people could only view the land question from its agricultural standpoint, but it extended to every part of their lives. Their dwellings, their manufactories, and their mines were all vitally affected by the land question. To put a familiar example—If a house or place of business was burned down, and rebuilt on an improved plan, the landowner reaped all the benefit by the calamity, because a higher rent was charged.—Mr Wicksteed dealt at considerable length with what he called the iniquities and inequalities of the land laws. He had nothing to say against the landowners, but objected to the system which allowed a few idlers in the country to rob the remainder of their just rights. The only way out of the difficulty was to nationalise the land, and that could only be the people demanding it. The land laws had been made by the landowners, and would never be amended by them. His plan of land nationalisation would be to buy out the present landowners by offering them bonds bearing three per cent interest. According to his calculations, the whole sum, principal, and interest, would be paid off in 71 years.

Votes of thanks to the lecturer and chairman terminated the meeting.

THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOLDFIELDS.

SUCCESS OF A TYNESIDER.

OPENING FOR NORTH COUNTRY MINERS.

Mr Charlton, of Ebchester, who went out to South Africa a few years ago, has returned rich and prosperous, and is now procuring the most improved plant and quartz crushing machinery to work more profitable his now famous goldfields in Zululand. He is at present staying at Humshaugh, Chollerton, and will take out with him, it is expected, a number of the hardy North-country miners, who can find plenty of good, remunerative work, and a comfortable, as well as assured, livelihood. The climate is fine and temperate. Mr Charlton was in business as a builder at Ebchester, and went out with his wife to South Africa. At Pietermaritzburg he carried out many successful engagements as a contractor, and three years ago made a visit to this country and took out plant for further enterprise in the work. There then occurred a discovery of gold in various parts of the country, ond the rush was made from the diamond fields. Mr Charlton acquired a large tract of land at Johanesberg, about 500 miles from Durban, and opened up the Witwatersand goldfield, which has turned out a highly valuable property. Its worth may be judged of from the single fact that Mr Charlton has to pay a royalty of £10,000. The precious metal is rockbound, not alluvial, but even at the minimum yield of two ounces to the ton, is reckoned at present to be worth between £200,000 and £300,000. With the best possible appliances four ounces a ton are creditably considered as the probable output. There are a number of Cornish miners at the goldfields, but the majority, besides natives, are Swedes and Germans, well-behaved and reliable. The North-country miners, it is thought, would prove the best men for the work. The point to reach from this country is Durban, and the emigration agents of the Natal Government are the proper persons to communicate with for those desirous of going out. To get from Durban to Barberton, the centre of the goldfields, is 474 miles, 189 being travelled by rail and 285 by coach, and the cost £10 13s 9d third class. Witwatersand was a bare spot of earth when the gold was so recently discovered, and already there is a township, having such evidences of civilisation as a newspaper and a theatre. The blacks are reported to be friendly and peaceable.

"HOW TO DO BUSINESS," price sixpence.—To be had of Robert Jackson, bookseller, 9 and 10 Newmarket Street Consett.

HONOURS TO LOCAL EXHIBITORS.—At the Newcastle flower show on Wednesday, prizes were awarded to Mr A. Fish, gardener to Major Joicey, Urpeth Lodge; Mr Vickerson Thirlwell, Shotley Bridge; Mr and Mrs E. Adams, Swalwell; R. Atkinson, Winlaton; T. Battensby, Blaydon; J. Battensby, Swalwell; and Mr D. Thompson, gardener to Mr Lindsay Wood, The Hermitage, Chester-le-Street.

A FATEFUL NIGHT:

A TALE OF A BERRYEDGE METHODIST MAID AND HER LOVER.

By RALPH FAIRLEY.

CHAPTER I.

A METHODIST MAID.

Within easy distance of Tanfield, Stanley, The Lizzie, and other Durham colliery villages, stood the Manor House, a plain country dwelling, with its orchard and garden behind the flower plot and miniature lawn in front. The principal members of the Fenwick family who occupied the house were well and favourably known in the northern part of the county, and their hospitality was as generous as it was without ostentation. Mrs Fenwick was a woman of methodical and business habits; strict, but just; undemonstrative, but kind; of few words, but keenly observant and appreciative; her own manager and overseer, and acquainted with everything and everybody in her own domain.

If ever Mrs Fenwick had occasion to delegate any of her authority or oversight to any one, it was to Alice Hudson, one of the maids. In the autumn of 18—, when our story opens, this girl-woman had been seven years in the service of the Fenwicks. It was believed that she had been made an orphan by one of those awful calamities which come with such suddenness upon pit communities, carrying death and destruction, and lamentation and woe, in their train. However that may be, at an early age she was thrown upon her own resources; but, fortunately she succeeded in finding employment, and what subsequently proved to be a home, in the Manor House.

Mistress and maid very quickly understood each other. Both were quick in apprehension. In their domestic relations they fitted each other in an admirable way, and each felt like belonging to one another. In time the idea of mistress and servant became lost with them—they felt a higher bond, though very few, if any, words were ever spoken between them expressing that thought, and though the maid at all times and under all circumstances treated her mistress with marked deference, she never permitted herself to presume on the favour shown her, or to use any familiarity. She never felt induced at any time or in any way to act thus. It was never in her mind to do it. Mrs Fenwick was her mistress, her ruler in that kingdom, and respect and obedience were the proper feelings for a servant to cherish.

If Mrs Fenwick showed her maid special favour, she took it as being very kind of her, and she felt encouraged by it; but the maid never presumed upon that kindness. In this spirit she served, and stage by stage she advanced in the household. The maid was deft and handy, and her work was done trimly. She soon got to attempt things outside the region of mere menial drudgery in quiet afternoons, after the household was put in order—housewives know the kind of work. In this she became an expert, and while she was yet fragile and girlish in her appearance Mrs Fenwick informed her that she desired her to take the position of chief house-maid.

Life went smoothly with Alice Hudson in service, and she foolishly thought that it would be always thus, keeping the even tenor of her way. And no wonder, for she spent seven years in happy contentment in Manor House before anything occurred to disturb her quiet. The country lanes in the district were thickly lined with brambles, which bore a luxuriant crop of blackberries every autumn, and the colliery villagers industriously gathered the fruit. They frequently went in groups, the young people especially.

One calm and beautiful evening in the latter end of September, Alice was standing at the gate which led to the back part of the house, when she heard one of these groups of young men singing a simple but pretty melody. Pit lads of any vocal talent can sing in the open-air. They are trained to it; it becomes their habit. Their harmony may not be adjudged artistic as a rule by refined ears, but it is seldom wanting in spirit and expression. In this band their was one voice which the listening maid heard with distinctness from all the others. As the singers approached she withdrew behind the foliage of a bush within the gateway where unseen she could watch and hear them.

She had seen most of them before at meetings she had attended, but the tall handsome figure, with curly hair, and dark flashing eyes, was a stranger to her. It was his voice that led the rest. They stood opposite the front gate, and she stood until they had finished their song, then she sped up the pathway. One of the young men caught sight of her retreating figure, and called after her, but she increased her speed, and rushed into the kitchen in such an excited manner as to arouse the wonder of the maid who was busy preparing supper.

No sooner did the kitchen-maid learn the cause of Alice's perturbation then she went out to see the young men, and she was forthwith joined by another of the servants. It was a capital chance for them to have a gossip with the lads, and it was not likely that they would let it pass by them. It was not so often that girls in a country house had an opportunity of having a chat and a joke with agreeable young men. The appearance of the girls emboldened one of the group to go up the pathway, and ask for a drink of water for himself and companion—a fine excuse for an introduction. The request was promptly complied with, but before the water was brought out all the young men had gathered round the kitchen door.

When they had drank, the young men did not just say "thank you," and take their leave. There would have been no fun in that. Besides, it turned out that the girls were acquainted with the families of two of the lads. The conversation went merrily, and in the course of it, the curly-headed youth ventured to ask who the young lady was that they had frightened.

"Oh! that was our Alice, the housemaid," laughingly replied one of the girls. Then, with less gaiety but more fervour, she added: "A bonnie lass, and as clever and as canny as she's bonnie."

"You are saying a lot," rejoined the youth.

"It's true, though," quickly put in the other girl, with some decision.

"Then that settles it," said the young man with emphasis, whereupon the whole company broke into laughter.

"And what may they call you, if she should ask?" inquired the kitchen-maid of her questioner.

"She is not likely to ask, is she?"

"I should think she just is."

"My name is James Reay when it's written, but Jamie Reay when it's spoken. Ah get nowt else but Jamie, ye may be sure." The easy way in which he dropped into the broadest "pitmatic" pleased the girls immensely, and set them on laughing again. It is surprising how easily people of all growths and stations are entertained at times, and how very difficult they are to interest at others.

With natural curiosity Alice had gone to the stair-landing window which overlooked the kitchen yard, and watched the proceedings. After the flattering testimony had been borne to her by her fellow servants, Jamie happened to look in the direction of the window, and saw a winsome face suffused with a bonnie smile gazing at them. He gallantly raised his hat, but she had vanished.

The chat soon ended, and the young men hied homewards with increased elasticity in their step. It was only a commonplace circumstance that had taken place; but out of it sprang issues far-reaching and potential. It need not be said that the young men often found their rambles take the direction of the Manor House, or that they sung their best and highest notes in front of it. If that failed to attract the attention of the girls, which seldom occurred, some one discovered that he was thirsty. Their visits became more frequent as the autumn merged into winter, and Alice's shyness gradually disappeared.

All the girls attended the Methodist Chapel near by, and, of course, the Sunday evening congregation became augmented by visitors from other places. Alice always knew when Jamie Reay was there, though she might not have seen him. No voice was so melodious as his, and the singing never went so well when he was absent, nor was the service nearly so good as when he was there. When this knowledge of the state of her feelings became manifested to her she was startled, and for a time she had many searchings of heart. She was shocked at herself, for she was not allowing "the creature to come in before the Creator" in her worship! She, "a member in society," who had vowed to "serve the Lord with singleness of heart." She would renew her covenant, and be more watchful.

Alas! for Alice's vows. The next Sunday evening, when the mournful cadences of "Martyrdom" were sung, Jamie's voice was there. Alice's heart was listening, waiting, to hear it, and when the full notes broke upon her ear, her soul was thrilled; and on the rendering of the triumphant verse commenced—

"But soon he'll break death's envious chains,"

she was filled with an ecstasy. She soon fell, however, from her exalted state, and was humbled in the dust at her failure to keep her heart from following idols. Again she confessed her great fault, and again she paid her vows. On the following Sunday morning the cheerful strains of "Bristol," sung with wonted fervour and zest, failed to stir her emotions. All, all, was sound without a soul. Jamie was not there. He had got her heart, though he had not asked it. That night she confessed the truth to herself.

* * * * *

The penny readings were again commenced at the New Winning, and Jamie Reay was invited to the opening night. The Manor House girls were urgently invited to be present, but Alice had her misgivings about going. She was not clear that she would be "in the way of duty" if she went. The readings were conducive of levity, and songs—not hymns—were sung. It was not enough that "praying men" and local preachers were on the committee. She had attended last year, but she had had qualms of conscience about it, and before the season finished she had ceased attending.

At the beginning of this season she found herself divided between her desire to hear Jamie Reay sing, and her own conscientiousness as to duty. In the mental struggle which ensued the idea that the handsome pit lad was her idol entered her mind and immediately the controversy ended. In such a case it would be sinful for her to go to the entertainment. She must sacrifice self—that was her clear duty—and her idol must be cast out. On her knees, with beating heart, and streaming eyes, she repeated again and again—

"The dearest idol I have known,
Whate'er that idol be,
Help me to tear it from Thy throne,
And worship only Thee."

Jamie Reay had been specially diligent with his practices during the week preceding the penny readings. For one being only did he give himself this extra care; for one maid only of all the maids who might be present did he intend his "Maid of Athens." He was altogether uncertain as to her feelings towards him. Their acquaintance was only of a short duration, and he had little idea that she knew much about him. But that did not matter. He knew and had heard sufficient of her as to make him determined to win her if he could.

The eventful night arrived, and the school-room was filled with an enthusiastic audience, but Alice was nowhere to be seen. Jamie struggled against his disappointment—made a strong effort to master his depression—laid himself open to catch the contagion of the enthusiasm as the programme was proceeding—but all to no purpose. The Tanfield lads applauded with vigour when he arose to sing, but his song was a failure, and he slipped out of the room at the first opportunity.

Outside it was a night of repose. The moon shone lustrously and beautiful, and there was a hush all round. A footpath at the back of the school-room led through several fields to a pretty little dene, and Jamie bounded over the stile, and walked at a quick pace through the meadows. This proved an excellent antidote to his inward commotion, and by the time he had reached the dene he felt more in harmony with his peaceful surroundings. He slackened his pace on entering the dene, and when he reached the glade in the centre he sat down on a stone. He had not been long seated before he heard a female voice sweetly singing a hymn with which he was familiar—it was the same air that he and his companions sang in front of the Manor House that first night on which he saw Alice. Nearer came the singer, and the listener left his seat and stole away among the trees. She sauntered into the glade, and he saw that it was Alice. How his heart throbbed. He was in a quandary what to do. The singing stopped, and the impulse seized him to take up the strain. He had to control himself so as to steady his voice, and the moment he began Alice turned her face in the direction of the sound. The notes swelled in volume as line succeeded line, and Alice seemed completely transfixed.

"Jamie Reay!" she cried out, when the melody ceased, and the spell was broken. No sooner had she spoken the name than she felt in a state of confusion, and had she had the power she would have fled from the dene; but Jamie was by her side in an instant, and breaking through the shreds of reserve that existed between them, he took her in his arms, kissed her passionately, and poured all that had been lying in his heart for weeks. She had neither power nor will to resist. The sweet delirium of the moment overpowered her. Nay, more, she returned the caresses of her impassioned lover; and when he said, "Tell me, ma bonnie lass, do ye like me?" she whispered "Yes, Jamie, I do."

"But hoo did ye ken it was me that was singing up the brae?" Jamie asked, after they had come down a little from their high altitude of bliss.

"Ken!" she replied with something like an astonished tone; "it is only Jamie Reay that can sing like you."

"If anybody else had said that ah wad hev been cross, Alice. But ah see how it is; ah've won before are kenned. Ah is happy, lass; and ah hev sung to ye efter all," he cried jumping from one subject to another.

"What do you mean?"

Jamie told her how hard he had practised during the week for the penny readings, not for the sake of the entertainment itself, but for her. One song, in particular, a love song he explained, he wanted to sing specially well, because he wanted to sing his love to her. But she was not there, and it was a failure.

"But how do you happen to be in the dene?"

"Oh! ah cuddent bide up there ony langer. Hoo cud ha? Ye warn't there, an' ma sang waas a failor, an' everything was wrang. But what for ye warn't there?"

"Jamie, before I answer that question, let me ask you to drop the pit talk. You can do it."

"It looks se stuck up like. The cheps'll tyek notice, and say am proud."

"Aal reet, lass."

"Now, don't."

"Very well. Now tell me why you were not at the penny readings."

"I am not so sure that you would understand me, Jamie, if I told you. You have not explained yet how you happened to be in the dene."

"Well, when you where not at the meeting, and I had made such a mess of my singing, I slunk out of the school-room, ran through the fields until I was nearly out of breath, and then sat down on a stone in the dene. While sitting there I heard you singing, and when you came nearer, I hid among the trees, and then I sang to you. It is all so strange." The last sentence was spoken after a brief pause.

"It is strange," echoed Alice, with some solemnity. "It is the Lord's doings, and He has given me the desire of my heart in His own way."

"And mine," said Jamie, in the same tone and looking down into the face of his companion with love and admiration beaming in his countenance.

As Alice sat alone in her bedroom an hour later she reviewed the night's strange experience, so different from what she anticipated, and yet so real. Her bosom swelled with emotion, and the deep religiousness of her nature attributed it all to the "hand of the Lord." On her knees she gave vent to her happy and grateful feelings, ever and anon saying—"The Lord hath dealt bountifully with me. Jamie Reay is a good lad, and the Lord hath given him to me."

CHAPTER II.

JAMIE'S HETERODOXY.

It was not far from being love at first sight with Jamie Reay and Alice. The ripening of their affection for each other was very rapid; but it was, nevertheless, strong and enduring, and was destined to be tested by stress and storm.

The morning after the incident in the dene was in strong contrast with the fair and peaceful moonlit night. The day approached in a fretful mood. While it was yet dark, gusts of wind swished the rain against the window-panes of Alice's bedroom, and awoke the sleeper; and as the day wore on the leaden skies became heavier, and the raving wind carried incessant rain before it. But cheerless as was the morn and ill at ease as was the day, Alice felt not these influences. The remembrance of what had taken place in the dene filled her with a radiance that no fuming and gloom of the elements could becloud in the slightest degree. Oh! to be young and to love.

Jamie stood before her in another aspect to what he had done not a great many hours before. She had fought in her mind against an idol. He was no idol now. He was a gift, and that made all the difference. She had not sought for him at the penny readings. He was given to her in the dene.

Some folk will laugh at this distinction, but it was all-important to a sensitive mind like Alice Hudson's. She prized him all the more that he had come to her as a gift unsought—thrust into her arms. It was now not only her desire to love him, as she had always felt almost from the first night she had seen him, but it was her duty. She was his, and he was hers for ever. It was the decree and ordination of heaven.

The estimate she had formed of Jamie Reay was very high, as a matter of course; but it was not purely ideal. Notwithstanding the strength of her imagination she had keen, practical perceptions, which saved her from investing her lover with attributes which he did not possess. She had only known him two months at the most, but he was so transparent that she could read him like a book. She was poetic, so was he. He was warm and ardent, so was she. He was somewhat demonstrative, inclined to be impulsive; she was outwardly calm, because inwardly reflective. He was popular, and could not disguise from himself that he liked it, though none might guess his secret feelings. But Alice knew his weakness. He was, nevertheless, dominated by high notions of duty and self-sacrifice, and Alice knew his strength.

Short as their acquaintance had been, she had been a silent witness of the play of these opposing traits in his character; and what she had heard about him confirmed her opinion, for she was often a silent listener while his comrades sounded his praises to her fellow-servants at Manor House. He was the hero of Tanfield Colliery. Then, too, he was handsome and commanding in figure. A noble bearing, suggesting a lineage renowned in song and story. Many a maiden had looked upon him with wistful eyes and sighed.

There was one respect in which Jamie had the advantage of Alice. He had escaped the cramping effect of the narrow school of Methodist teachers; Alice's intellect had come under the full power of their warping opinions: she was a Methodist of the Methodists. The adherents of this school undoubtedly were and are of use to Methodism. They preserve and bring into prominence in Methodism much that is vital to it, and which would soon be lost but for them. Their influence, as also the influence of the broad school, has, however, not been all good. Bigotry and intolerance have been the fruit, in many instances; but pure and ingenuous natures of the type of Alice Hudson's have saved the school from deserving unqualified condemnation, and have supplied that deep devotional element in Methodism which has been one of the chief factors in its real progress. On the other hand, the teachings of the broad school have had a benumbing, and often bewildering and unsettling effect. The teachers got into the mists themselves, and their ministrations became misty. Those only who, while opening their soul's windows to the light and air, kept their warmth unchilled have led the people into a larger place.

Jamie Reay was a Methodist, but he was more than a Methodist. He believed in what is called "simple gospel preaching," and in men being "soundly saved"—in this respect the Salvationists of after days could not excel him—but his outlook was an extending one. Like Emerson he found himself very frequently correcting his views; but whether in transition or in rest, whatever the attitude of his mind, his ardour and zeal seldom abated. He had a big and generous soul, and religion never appeared to him to be an "influence" in life, restricted in its range, fragile and weakly in its character, easily frighted away, and requiring to be guarded and tended and nourished like hot-house plants.

It was not an influence in life—it was a life itself—strong, dominant, regal—leaving none of its inheritors in doubt as to its possession; and an abiding presence to inspire a fragile and weakly humanity with power to face the complexities and contrarieties of existence, and in the end subjugating all the antagonisms in its disciples to its own way. The operations of the kingdom of Christ were not restricted to those who pronounced His shibboleth, nor were they, indeed, confined [illegible] to lands where the "letter of the word" [illegible] known. Christ's purposes among men grew bigger, and His position in history more conspicuously powerful, as the young man's mind became better acquainted with the works and ways of men and nations.

As he and Alice met in the spring-time and early summer they did not spend their time in speaking "soft nothingnesses" to each other. They were not the stamp to enjoy that kind of amusement. They were lover-like, and on occasion used endearing terms, spoke tenderly to each other, and caressed, of course. That is all understood. But they were students as well as lovers, and both of them were struggling hard to "know."

Their minds were moving in different channels, and their conversation sometimes became discussion. In this they were learning where each stood; and while Jamie was intensely gratified at the sublime faith and deep religious devotion of Alice, he strove to get her beyond the views of the narrow school. On the other hand, though Alice was satisfied with Jamie's Christian fidelity, she was often startled and sometimes pained with the views he advanced. This was particularly the case when he told her that he read novels, and then defended his action.

"But you will not read any more," she had said, after he had informed her of his novel-reading.

"And why not?"

"Why not? Oh! Jamie, I am surprised that you should ask such a question. Novels are all lies, opposed to religion, and written by unconverted men."

"Alice, that is what you hear at times from our pulpits, and it is said by men who do not know what they are speaking about."

"I do not think that you should speak that way about the messengers of the Lord, Jamie," replied the young woman, lowering her voice.

"Forgive me, if what I have said in my haste should hurt you, my lass; but I will confess to you that I do feel wicked at times when I hear some men launching out their universal condemnations of men and things that I know they are ignorant of."

"You must not talk that way, my dear. It is wrong, and I did not expect that you would take the side of the worldlings against your own brethren. You make me feel uneasy about your standing in grace."

"My little shepherdess," replied Jamie, with a touch of pleasantry, when he saw his companion becoming concerned, and putting his arm around her, he said:—"My little shepherdess, come to me, and let me tell you of your privileges. This world is not a 'waste howling wilderness,' it is not a 'vale of tears' only. It is a grand place, and the work of your Father. All that is beautiful in it was made for His people, and for you to enjoy. The creations of art, music, literature, the drama—all that is inspiring and beautiful in the productions of the human genius—all are yours."

"Do you mean the play, Jamie?"

"Yes, I do."

"And all the great concerts?"

"Yes."

"And what are called operas?"

"Yes, certainly."

"And all that is worldliness and vanity, is it not?"

"To the pure all things are pure."

"That is a very convenient passage to quote. Tell me honestly, Jamie, would you go to the play?"

"No; not because I believe it is evil in itself to go to the theatre, and see expounded in a manner that cannot be excelled the workings of human passions. I believe the drama might be a great moral and intellectual educator, and I must speak what I believe. Why I say I would not go to the theatre is because of the prejudices of my brethren, and also because it is infinitely helpful to thousands of our weaker brethren and sisters [illegible] should never have any other feeling than that of aversion toward these things, as the surroundings of play-houses are bad. That is a misfortune, and it is a loss. Nevertheless, all the gems of poetry and music belong to the King's children. Sculpture, painting, invention, oratory, politics, are theirs to enjoy, and in which to employ themselves. And why not?"

"I cannot tell you why not; but I feel that there is a mixing up of worldliness with religion which cannot be right."

"That is a woman's logic, Alice," he replied, in the same pleasant manner, and holding her still more tightly to him, as if he were afraid that these revelations of his views would shock his sensitive sweetheart, and cause her to run away.

"But does one of the hymns not say—

'Is this vile world a friend to grace,
To help me on to God?'

and another—

'Let worldly minds the world pursue,
Its sinful charms I flee;
Once I admired its trifles, too,
But grace has set me free.

'Its empty pleasures cannot please,
Or true content afford,
My heart refuses joys like these
Since I have seen the Lord.'"

"Yes, the hymns do say that. But, Alice, I hope you do not class what I have been urging with 'vile world,' 'worldly minds,' 'sinful charms,' 'empty pleasures,' and all that sort of thing? I have been advocating the use of substantial intellectual and moral food, all of which should be, may be, and in some cases are, aids to great spiritual development. The gospel was never intended to be confined to four walls and a roof. Religion belongs to a larger and more practical sphere than church and chapel services. You know that that holy thing that we call the Christian life belongs to all that we belong to. We take it with us. You to your household duties. I down the pit, to the home, to the mens meetings, to all other gatherings, engagements, and pursuits. My work, therefore, my studies, my politics, and may I not say my lawful and innocent pleasures belong to my religion? Whatsoever is sinful we must not do or take part in. All the rest is ours."

"I will have to think over what you have said, Jamie. I am not clear about it. Your views have a dangerous sound. They are so different from what we are accustomed to hear, and seem to open the door to worldly indulgence."

"By indulgence of any kind, Alice, character is weakened and deteriorated; and that brings to my mind another fact that I would like you to think over. There are some men and women that we know who are found at special services for miles away from home. They go the whole round of them. It matters not whether they be held at the Wesleyan, Primitive, New Connexion, or Reformers' chapels; and these people have a repute for special piety. There is no piety in it——"

"Hush, Jamie, hush," exclaimed Alice.

"Alice, there would be far more piety if they would stop at home, and look after their families. That is their first and most solemn duty; but they shirk that, and run after religious dissipation. Is it any wonder that so many scandals have taken place in connection with the families of our officials and members? Happiness has been the chief concern of so many so-called religious people, and it has been the bait so persistently offered by preachers to induce people to become religious, that the character of the church has suffered most lamentably, and her power for service has been feebleness itself. The search for personal happiness is intensely selfish, and unworthy of Christian people. There is but one pathway open for disciples of Christ, and that is self-denying adherence to duty, and in that is to be found the deepest joy, not the spasmodic and fitful thrills of emotion which the poor creatures run to special services to experience. They consume so much spiritual confectionery that their stomachs are continually disordered, and they are unfit for work."

"We will change the subject, Jamie. I do not like to hear you speaking in such a manner of the members. It sounds like scoffing. But it is full time we were both going home."

"Kiss and be kind, then. Don't send your scoffer away with reproaches only."

Looking up in his face, and smiling, she said: "I thought I knew you so well; but I find I have only seen little more than the surface. Good-night."

At the parting the pained puzzled look melted away out of Alice's face; still, when she afterwards brooded over what had passed between them, she concluded that she would seriously remonstrate with him, and show him that it would be safe for him to exercise self-denial in the direction of novels, plays, concerts, secular poetry, such as songs, and politics. If these were not worldly things, she was firmly persuaded that those who enjoyed them were in a very low state of grace; and she could never think of Jamie Reay being anywhere else than in the fore-front of religious work in the district. They would meet at The Lizzie camp meeting; and she would place the matter before him in the light in which she saw it. She was sure that if she convinced him that such views and such action would injure his influence, he would give them up.

The Lizzy camp-meeting Sunday arrived, and it was a glorious day. There was a large company. The singing went well, and the speakers "had great liberty." Some prominent camp-meeting men were "on the ground"—men whose names a quarter of a century later became household words in two counties. Brodie was there, and Tommy Fenwick, and young Carrick. The proceedings were characteristic—interesting, or entertaining, or blasphemous, according to the view of the motley crowd around the cart. All of these varied opinions were held of the meeting. To most present, however, it was "a day of power," and "The Lord slew and made alive again in the camp of Israel that day."

"When Alice came up to the crowd she saw her lover close against the cart. He was radiant, the principal speakers seemed to appeal to him for confirmation of what they were saying; he was the soul of the singing band, and altogether had thrown himself into the day's proceedings with complete self-abandonment. No scene could have been more delightful to the Methodist maid.

The love-feast was "the crowning service of the day." Sometimes floods of feeling passed over the meeting, which were both elevating and depressing in their effects. Both Jamie and Alice testified, and both powerfully influenced in the recital of their experience young men and young women present. Both spoke in their own way. From Jamie's lips religion was majestic, resplendant, triumphant. Alice's representation was beautifully tender—an exquisite thing, full of gracefulness, and greatly to be desired. Eternity will acknowledge that memorable camp meeting and love-feast at Aunfield Plain.

Alice did not deliver her remonstrance to Jamie that night. It was never delivered.

CHAPTER III.

STANLEY SCHOOL ANNIVERSARY.

The young men from Tanfield were greatly exercised in their minds at the unusual conduct of Jamie Reay on the opening night of the New Winning penny readings. He was not like himself at all, and though they applauded with all their might when he got up to sing, they were disappointed with his performance. They had come with the full intention of scoring a triumph over the Lizzie section, and their chief had failed them in the first part of the programme. Never mind, he would surprise everybody in the second part, and out-distance all competitors; but he was nowhere to be seen after the interval, and his admirers were terribly crest-fallen. Those of them who visited the Manor House expected to find him thereabouts after the meeting broke up; but he had never been seen there that night, and Alice had gone to the mill with an order, so that it was not likely that they could be together. In the course of a few weeks, Jamie made up for his former deficiencies. The promoters of the readings had sent him another invitation to sing, which he accepted, and he "took the house by storm."

A still greater triumph awaited the Tanfield lads. The choir-master of Tanfield Chapel was always on the look-out for something new for the Sunday School anniversary, and he secured the services of Jamie Reay as a soloist. Stanley School anniversary was the great event of the district, and people travelled great distances to be present at the yearly festival. It was reckoned to be a great honour to be invited to take part in it, and when it was announced that Jamie Reay was to be one of the leading soloists, there was some excitement at Tanfield. In addition to the usual morning and evening services—called "baby shows" by the profane—there was to be a rendering of Handel's "Messiah" in the afternoon, with full orchestral accompaniment. This was a bold step to take, but the choir-master thought he was competent to carry out his programme, and he would not spend a penny on a professional.

To the surprise of all the Tanfield lads, they saw Alice Hudson walking to the afternoon service by the side of Jamie Reay. It was so unlike the quiet retiring Alice. They had not yet known how far love matters had progressed with their friends. They confessed to one another that they expected Jamie would win Alice. It seemed such a natural issue; but it was, indeed, new to them to see that all the restraint that Alice had formerly shown together while in Jamie's company was gone, and they were walking together, and talking to each other in a free and natural way, as if they had been brother and sister.

"Lads, he's won!" said one of the company, in a tone which indicated that he had been insensible to Alice's attraction.

"Ah elwis thowt it," said another, "And what's mair, ah've got Bessie."

"Ye hev?" asked the first speaker somewhat despairingly.

"And ah's a lang way inte the gud graces 'i Phœbe, else ah's mighty mistaken," confidently remarked a third.

"Then it's ne use me gaenen ta the Manor Hoose ony mair," hopelessly rejoined the first.

"Hoots, man," remonstrated Bessie's lover. "What are ye gettin' se glum aboot? Thor's plenty mair i' the world, and yen partiklar that ye knaw varry weel. And she's not far off."

"Hev ye ony guarantee fur what yer sayin'?" eagerly inquired the first.

"Else ah waddent say it," replied the other with confidence. "But let's change the subject, heor's the cheppil."

As has been stated, people from the different collieries round about met at Stanley that day, and the young "natives" of both sexes who were pursuing their own careers in different places and in different ways made a point of being at home on anniversary, if possible. Alice met with some she had not seen for years, some who knew what was generally known of her history. There was an overflowing attendance at chapel. The orchestra was a great attraction. Fiddlers, trumpets, flutes, and harmonium had been brought into requisition to swell the chorus. Jamie opened Handel's masterpiece with the consolatory announcement "Comfort ye," and then gave the air "Every Valley," which was followed by the fine chorus "And the glory of the Lord." The recitative and air were done with so much ease and spirit by the Tanfield pit lad that all the performers lost their nervousness, and the success of the piece was assured from the first.

Jamie had an aunt living at Stanley, and he told her after-dinner that his sweetheart was coming. Mrs Stenhope was a well-known woman in the place, and very highly esteemed in the chapel and "in the world." She was very greatly pleased that her dead sister's son had been selected for a place of honour at the school anniversary. She was childless herself, and Jamie was as the apple of her eye; and though she thought very, very few women fit for "the laddie Jamie," she took to Alice from the first. The small pit cottage was full of visitors, and Alice at once proffered her assistance to help to make the tea.

"But you shall be among the forst to hev tea," insisted Mrs Stenhope. "Look what a walk ye had. That wad be sic a story!"

"Your other visitors have walked as far as I have. Come, give me an apron, Mrs Stenhope. I cannot afford to soil my dress, you know. I am used to wait upon a lot of people. Look, I will eat a piece of cake now to keep myself from fainting," and suiting the action to the word, she took up a piece of cake and ate it.

The aunt yielded, and the guests were delighted at the attention they received. They praised everything, and showered their thanks upon Mrs Stenhope and Alice Hudson. Jamie sang to them, his uncle played his fiddle, and an old friend of the family from White-le Head played the harmonium. Many a villager lingered near that humble cottage to hear the melody.

"Now, Mrs Stenhope and John (her husband) will expect ye ta the Hobson at Christmas; and be sure ye fotch yer nevvie and his lass, bless her canny face." This was an invitation from one of the matron visitors after tea. Then followed others given with equal heartiness, to other celebrations at the neighbouring collieries.

Alice assisted Mrs Stenhope after tea to get ready for the evening service, and the youthful fingers deftly put one or two touches upon the older woman's simple adornments which greatly pleased the aunt.

"Now, I am going to sit beside you to-night," said Alice. "The men can go to the choir at once."

This additional thoughtfulness completed Alice's conquest of Mrs Stenhope's heart, and showed it in her own peculiar way. Just before they reached the chapel, she slipped a shilling into Alice's hand for the collection. The young woman's colour rose, but the aunt at once explained that she could put her own contributions into the box as well. Alice in a moment saw that Mrs Stenhope was anxious that the collection should be a good one because Jamie had a post of honour at the anniversary, so she humoured the old woman's whim by accepting the shilling.

The chapel was crowded almost to suffocation, long before the time announced for the commencement of the service. The aisles and every available inch of standing room was occupied. The service was lively, and the responses were frequent and loud. When Jamie got up to sing, however, there was a hush. The solo announced—

"Shall we know each other there?"

was a new one. The hush became more profound as the singer proceeded. There was a pathos and tenderness in the voice and expression unusual to a young man, especially to one of the genial type of Jamie Reay, and the purity and distinctness of his pronounciation were most striking for a pit lad. His whole soul was in the piece, and he communicated his own emotion to his auditors. He was not merely exercising his vocal powers upon a set piece of music and lines of words that chimed in their terminals. His yearning spirit was in every note, in every syllable. Before his mental vision stood the face and form of his sainted mother, and from the depths of his being he was crying out—

"Shall we see the same eyes shining
On us as in days of yore?
Shall we feel their dear arms twining
Fondly round us as before?"

The flood of feeling which swept over the audience as he sang these lines bent every one before it. The breasts of strong men heaved with swelling emotion, while many an eye was moistened with tears.

The singer was all unconscious of the effect he was producing. His eyes saw only his mother, and his bursting heart knew only the passionate questionings of the song. As he gave voice to the last stanza,

"Yes, ye weary, sad, and tossed one,
Weep not, faint not by the way;"

and finishing with

"We shall know each other there?"

there was a ring of triumphant assurance in his tones, and a beaming smile upon his face. The change was electrical. Hope, strong hope—nay, more, certitude—entered the minds of his entranced listeners, and the exclamations of joy from men who had been released from the pain of doubt, and the smiles that struggled to the tear-stained faces of the women, testified to the success of the singer.

The collection was all right; but what was of more importance, resolutions were formed in many thoughtless mind so seek the highest and purest in life.

CHAPTER IV.

A FATEFUL NIGHT.

"Ah say, lads," exclaimed one of the Tanfield band on the way home, "did ivvor ye hear the like o' yon?"

"It's not ta be spoken aboot," was the answer he got. "Ah cannot, but ah feel it. Ivvory now and then," he continued, "Jamie Reay comes oot [illegible] that body [illegible] me, 'at just looks to me as if he belanged tiv us, an' as if he didn't."

This paradoxical judgement met with general acceptance, for every one of them appreciated as well as apprehended the speaker's meaning. That night they were prouder than ever of their hero. They all acknowledged his great superiority to themselves, and they did it ungrudingly and without jealousy. His influence upon them was all the greater because he indentified himself so thoroughly with them, and never affected any superiority.

But that Sunday night so memorable to Jamie was fated to have far wider issues for more than himself, brought about in a manner that could not possibly be dreamt of. One swift thrilling event was destined to change the whole aspect of Alice's career, and touch other lives in a remarkable degree.

During the early part of his journey to the Manor House with Alice, Jamie was very silent. His spirit was subdued. There was no exultation at his triumph. Alice did not disturb his quiet for some time in fact, she was greatly pleased at his state of mind.

"Jamie," she said, with just a touch of playfulness in her manner, "you didn't practise that hymn for me."

"No," said he, with a smile, as he saw the allusion to his song at the penny readings. "But how did you find that out? I see it's no use me trying to hide anything from you."

"You didn't try to hide it."

"That is true. My heart was full, I acknowledge, as it always is when I sing the bonnie piece."

"I could have told you that, and there is some reason for it."

"Yes, there is," he admitted, and again he relapsed into thought, a very unusual thing for him to do in company.

"Have you rued, Jamie?" asked Alice after they had gone some little distance without speaking.

"Rued of what?" he questioned with surprise.

"Of your choice."

"What do you mean?"

"Have you rued of choosing me for you sweetheart?" and while she asked the question, she cast a side glance at her companion. Her ruse had the desired effect. They both laughed, and he therefore gave some attention to his sweetheart.

"I'll tell you how it is," said he, clearing the huskiness that had gathered in his throat, and speaking in purer English than ever she had heard him, and reminding her of the pronunciation of the song. "You know that I lost my mother when I was only ten years of age. She was all the world to me, and I was all in all to her. When I grew up I began to see that my father never understood her, and that he has never understood me is indisputable. In less than a year after my mother's death my father married his present wife, a woman with whom I had nothing whatever in common. I tried—perhaps I was not a pattern of patience—but I tried to interest myself in some of their ways and to seek their interest in some of mine; but it was useless and so we drifted apart. I lived alone so to speak in my own family, and with a heart yearning for affectionate communion I have lived for years upon the memory of my mother—a memory which has always been made the dearer every time that I have seen my Aunt Stenhope. The resemblance is so strong. At nights in my bed I have seen my mother, sometimes audibly; I felt her so near to me. As I wandered the roads alone, as I went about my work down the pit, I have sang to her. No doubt some folks think me a queer chap. What I have told you has been my paactice for years. At times my feelings have been very strongly wrought upon; but I never have been sad. Who knows but she has been permitted to come down to me to be my attendant angel?"

"That is quite possible," Alice said.

"I was watching you and my aunt this afternoon at tea-time, and my aunt made me almost believe that it was my mother who was in the house. Oh! how pleased my mother would have been to know you, Alice. These were my thoughts and feelings when I went to chapel. Everything else was excluded. There was no room for an idea that did not come within this range, and that was why I sung my song as it seems I had done. I sung it to my mother. I saw no other being. You will not be vexed, Alice, when I say that I did not even see or even thinks of you just then."

"Vexed! not I; my word, no. You cannot tell how pleased I am, and——" She paused, and turned away her head.

"And what, ma comely lass?"

She did not reply. He then took her hand in his, and pressing it, said—

"Tell me all that is in your heart, for I have found the companion of my life."

"Alice overcame her hesitation, looked into his face, and with truth shining in her eyes said—"I know you better to night than ever I have done before, much as I thought I knew you. You are stronger than I thought you were. You like praise, and I thought that to-night's great success would almost have turned your head. But I am glad I am wrong, and I am prouder of my gift, and more grateful to the Giver than ever I was."

Alice had even put her arms round Jamie's neck while she speaking, and the look of admiration thrilled the young man to the core of his heart. He pressed her to his breast.

"My precious one! I you have found your gift worth having, what shall I say of mine?" His emotion choked his utterance. "May you never be ashamed of him," he at length managed to say with difficulty.

"And now that we have found each other, I think we should be married as early as possible," suggested Jamie, after he had found his voice again.

"Not in such a hurry, dear."

"Why not? There is no reason that we should delay. I haven't much to offer you, but the owners will provide us with a house, and we can manage as much furniture as we'll need in a pitman's cottage. I am well aware of the sacrifices I am asking you to make in leaving all the advantages of living in a well-appointed and well-provided mansion, so to speak, and launch upon the poverty and inconveniences of a pitman's cottage and a pitman's chances. It may be selfish but I cannot help it."

"Jamie, whither thou goest I will go; whither thou lodgest I will lodge; thy people shall be my people; and thy God my God."

"Bless the Lord O my soul!" devoutly exclaimed Jamie, and there was silence for a short time between the enraptured pair.

"Talking of the marriage," said Alice afterwards, "I think next spring will be as soon as I can be as much prepared as I should desire. You know I have no dowry, as I am only an orphan."

"And I have been orphaned for many years, so that so far as that goes we are equal, and the fact of being orphaned is an argument in favour of our early union. We are one in heart, and our humble home will not take much filling. Let us settle to be married at Christmas at the latest."

"That is quick, but have your way."

"Good lass; I am glad that we have settled it to night."

What presumtuous creatures we are! We think we can order events. "We have settled it," said Jamie, and the picture rose before his mind to a home of his own in the colliery row, at Tanfield, tidy and smart and bright, with Alice there and Peace, happiness, contentment in their hearts. It was a phantasm. The picture never was realised.

By this time they had reached the gate of the Manor House, and were deep in their plans for the future, when they were startled by a piercing cry, which seemed to come from the hill-top in front of them. Through it was distant, there could be no mistake that it was a cry of distress.

"What can it be," said Jamie with bated breath.

Alice clung closely to her lover, who was listening with intense eagerness, for a conveyance was now heard to be coming down the hill at a much too rapid pace. The bank on the westward side of the house up which was cut the Newcastle turnpike was a long one, and terminated a few paces beyond the garden wall of the House. The night was moonless, but clear, and there was no difficulty in seeing for a short distance. Though the conveyance was not yet in sight, Jamie could hear that it was increasing in speed, and another scream told him that there was a woman at any rate in terror. In a minute or two he saw the lights flashing and then he realised that the animal had bolted.

A short distance from the house the road took an abrupt and sharp turn. The close proximity of Jollywell Quarries rendered this necessary. They were situated on the south side of the road, making also a north and easterly incursion. This rendered the road somewhat dangerous at this point, and a short, stunted hedge being the only protection afforded, Jamie Reay knew that if the infuriated beast could not be checked or stopped, nothing could save the occupants of the conveyance. While these thoughts passed through his mind his breathing quickened.

"Oh! Jamie. It is master and the young mistress. Save them if you can." Alice tightened her grasp of the young man's arm as she spoke, and was awe-struck at the perilous position of her honoured master, who had been as a father to her and her young mistress, who was the only sister she had ever known.

"God help them!" breathed the young man, as he clenched his fists and put himself into an attitude for a spring at the horse's head. "God help them. And God help me. Stand back, Alice!" he demanded, as he crept nearer the road. She had retained her hold of his arm. Obediently she released her hold, and went and clutched hold of the gate.

On came the fiery steed, foaming and streaming madly careering to death. It was a supreme moment. Would he catch the bridle? He had been in scenes of dangers and peril before, and never had his head and his eyes failed him in any emergency. He would have hold of the bridle, or horse and gig would go over his body.

It was a sublime spectacle. Lives were endangered by the fury of a maddened horse and the nearness of the awful quarries; and there stood on the road a brave young pitman, ready to sacrifice his life, if need be, and save others.

The animal came upon him with the velocity of a whirlwind. Quick as lightening Jamie made a bound and caught hold of its head. This sudden action caused the highly-strung beast to give a jump into the air, but Jamie held on. The leap of the horse, broke the shafts of the conveyance, and the occupants were thrown upon the road. The straps were good, and the accident to the trap having goaded on the mad horse, it made another spring forward and disappeared with all attached to it—the wrecked conveyance and Jamie Reay—through the hedge into the quarry.

A strange, wild piercing cry—was it a human cry?—rent the air on that calm and lovely Sunday evening. A great splash followed and then all was quiet again.

(To be continued.)

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CRŒSUS' WIDOW.

BY DORA RUSSELL,

Author of "Footprints in the Snow;" "The Vicar's Governess;" &c., &c., &c.

CHAPTER XLIII.—"Baby."

It was generally a very happy home—made bright and happy by its sweet young mistress—where week after week Nellie lay utterly prostrate. The long strain and anxiety on her mind, and then the terrible shock she had received, had brought on a sort of low fever, and the memory of her misery even at times grew dull and dim.

She was in truth, very, very ill; so ill that even good-natured Tom Bertrim began to look and speak very gravely about her condition.

"I really think, do you know Dossie," he said, "we should try to find out who she is! Just fancy if the poor soul were to die, dear what an awkward position we would be in! I suggest we apply to the police."

But Dossie would not hear of this.

"I'll speak to her when she gets a little better," she said; "I'll ask her to make a friend of me, Tom, and who knows dear she may become a happy woman yet. Don't be hard and horrid, Tom—in fact I won't let you!"

Tom shrugged his broad shoulders.

"Well little woman, have your own way," he said, "but what if some despairing husband is seeking for this poor lady all this while?"

"Then why did he drive her out to try to drown herself in her misery?" replied Dossie. "Tom, dear, he's a bad man I'm sure, and I who have got such a good kind husband—when we are so happy Tom—shouldn't we try to do a little good?"

This very illogical argument was quite sufficient for the good-natured Tom. He kissed his Dossie's rosy lips; he felt himself strong enough to resist all persuasions which were against his Dossie's wishes.

For as in all earthly Edens there is some small creeping, lurking evil hidden among the flowers, so even in this happy home at Castlewood Lodge, a small evil in the shape of jealousy between the respective mothers of the two young people, occasionally disturbed Mr. Tom Bertrim's usual serenity.

Dossie was an only child, and Tom an only son. No one therefore naturally was good enough for Dossie in Mrs. Barrett's eyes, and no one good enough for Tom in Mrs. Bertrim's. This was the first element of jealousy between the two mothers, but this first element was constantly augmented by small social jealousies. If Mrs. Barrett gave a dinner party and invited the "best" people she knew, it immediately behoved Mrs. Bertrim to give a dinner party also, and invite her "best" friends. And the social standing of these friends was a sore and jealous point between the ladies. The line was so fine between them that probably no one else saw it (especially after the young people were married), but both Mrs. Barrett and Mrs. Bertrim saw it, and were bitter about it in their secret hearts. Mrs. Barrett was the daughter of a banker, and Mrs. Bertrim the daughter of a wine merchant. There was the line! Mrs. Barrett held herself to be above Mrs. Bertrim in position, though they were both married to commercial men in the city of about equal standing. Mrs. Bertrim resented this holding up of Mrs. Barrett's head, and so jealousy was between them; jealousy, however, always properly and decorously veiled.

And we may be sure both the mothers kept their eyes on Castlewood Lodge; and to give Mrs. Bertrim her due she was fond (on the whole) of her daughter-in-law Dossie.

"Tom makes a fool of himself about her," she was very apt to say; but still she admitted that "Mrs. Tom" was a very sweet young woman, "very different from her mother, though she very often did absurd things; and as for taking in this poor woman whom nobody knows, and nursing her like a sister—Tom is a fool to allow it!"

Mrs. Bertrim not only said this to a married daughter, but she also told her son Tom her true opinion, and Tom began to think that perhaps he might be a fool. So he spoke to Dossie; but as Dossie objected, and objected as we have seen in so judicious a manner, Tom felt strong enough to resist either mother or mother-in-law.

"Your mother told you to say this, didn't she, Tom?" continued Mrs. Tom, putting her pretty hand in her husband's and smiling in his face.

Tom nodded his head, and gave a little laugh.

"Never mind," said Dossie; "we won't let either mother or mother-in-law make us fight, will we?"

"I should think not," answered Tom stoutly.

"I should think not too," said Dossie. "Of course, darling," she added, "I would and always will try to do what *you* wish. If you wished me to turn a poor broken-hearted young creature out on the cruel mercies of the world I would do it, only I know you *wouldn't* wish me—that you wouldn't be my own dear old Tom if you did wish me—and so I'm quite safe, because you are my own dear old darling Tom!"

Thus this pretty, kind-hearted young woman got her own way. When her own mother objected to her nursing the unfortunate stranger she had taken in, Dossie told Mrs. Barrett that Tom wished it, and that she had consulted Tom about it, and therefore what could Mrs. Barrett say.

"Keep the dear baby out of her way, that's all I can say," sighed Mrs. Barrett, and upon this point (for once in their lives) Mrs. Barrett and Mrs. Bertrim agreed.

They both indeed adored the baby. They had no other grandchild, and baby's robust legs, pink curled-up toes, and one tooth, were unending sources of gratification and conversation to the two grandmothers. And now they both took up arms for "baby's" sake against the hapless stranger lying deadly sick under Dossie's hospitable roof.

"The fever may be catching, and think of the darling baby, Dossie," urged her own mother.

"As Tom's mother it is my duty to point out to you Dossie, the danger to which you are exposing his son," severely remarked the mother-in-law.

"Please don't scold me," Dossie replied, almost in same words to each mother, "for I am only doing what I think right. And baby is quite safe—do you not think I love my own darling little boy well enough to take care of him? Babies don't take low, nervous fevers, though broken-hearted women do, and as I have [illegible] hates it."

"Your husband would give you leave to do anything you wish, Dossie, it seems to me," remarked Mrs. Bertrim, with a mother's jealousy of the young wife's influence.

"Yes, isn't he a dear old fellow," answered Dossie in her own bright good-tempered way, for she never appeared to notice any of what her mother-in-law called "hints," and thus escaped many a useless and unpleasant argument.

And all this while (when the two mothers were making their comments) Dossie nursed and attended upon her unfortunate guest as if she were her sister. And she used, as Nellie grew a little better, to take in baby to see her. At first the dim, sunken eyes never noticed baby, and Dossie considered this a very bad sign. But one day Dossie noticed the poor invalid was watching the child with a strange, wistful look.

Without a word the young mother carried her rosy lovely boy to the bed and placed him in Nellie's arms. For a moment or two Nellie made no sign. But baby, who was quite at home with strangers, put his little chubby face against hers and pursed up his rosy mouth to be kissed. As he did so Nellie drew him to her breast, and the quick, sharp sobs came to her relief. They were the first tears that Dossie had seen her shed since she had been at Castlewood, and as she wept and wailed over the child it seemed to Dossie that some hope dawned in her face.

"Kiss him dear again," said Dossie to her gently, in a few minutes; "see, the little fellow thinks you are angry with him if you don't, and then I'll carry him to nurse and come back to you."

Nellie kissed the child, and murmured a few inarticulate words of tenderness over the fair curly head.

"Say good-bye to the lady, baby," said the young mother, lifting the little one in her arms; and, after she had given him to his nurse, she returned to Nellie's bedside and knelt down and took one of the poor wasted hands.

"Tell me your trouble dear," said Dossie in her sweet kind voice. "Don't mind telling me anything—I'm a woman too, and women are often silly you know when they care very much for anyone—and I hope you are better now, that you are getting better——"

"It would be better if I were dead," sobbed Nellie, "I wish to die—thank you very much for all your kindness to me—but I wish to die."

"But, dear, we can't die when we wish, but when God chooses," said Dossie, "and we must try to do the best we can for everyone while we live."

"You—you are very good," went Nellie. "I once saw a good man die—he seemed very happy—but, but—God has forsaken me!"

"He forsakes no one, dear," answered Dossie, with her simple, practical faith; "do not be afraid—you are not forsaken."

"I have been cruelly, cruelly deceived—I cannot tell you the story—but I thought, was sure, quiet sure, I was married—and then—then, he told me I was not—that—that—."

But sobs here literally choked the unhappy Nellie, and Dossie bent over her, and kissed the tear-stained burning face.

"It is not your sin or wrong," she said, "but his. Hush, dear, all may come right yet—hush—I will always be your friend."

After this, little by little, Nellie told her story, but she did not tell Lord Seaforth's name.

"I promised not to tell. I cannot break my word, though he has broken his," she told Dossie; and Dossie, who had listened to her pitiful tale with an indignant flush on her sweet, sympathetic face, nodded her head.

"I would never speak to him more; never see him more, if I were you," exclaimed Dossie. She could not understand any man treating a woman thus, when he had once loved or seemed to love her. In all her own sheltered life she had been made almost an idol of, for her father and mother loved her so dearly, and her Tom was devoted to her, and no trouble had ever been permitted to approach her. And to hear this miserable story, to see this poor broken-hearted young creature, crushed down as it were by sorrow, was very terrible to Dossie.

"I don't know what to advise," she said, jumping up from the chair on which she was sitting by Nellie's bedside, to hide her own tears, "except you stay on here, dear, and try to get well, and I'll come and talk to you again presently." And Dossie stooped down and kissed Nellie, and then ran quickly out of the room.

After a while she came back.

"I've been thinking it all over," she said, in her kind impulsive way. "Of course I couldn't tell Tom. I have no secrets of my own from Tom. Indeed, how could I have any secrets, when he helps me so about everything—but this is not my secret, but yours, and so I've been obliged to think for myself, and I've thought that perhaps it would be best for you to write to this gentleman, and tell him where you are."

Nellie's pale face flushed deeply at this proposal.

"I think it would be right," continued Dossie. "He mayn't have meant what he said—quite! He may have repented for having been so cruel, and I think you should write."

Nellie lay silent. It was all so bitter to her—more bitter than death—but what was she to do? She knew she could not go on living under the roof of these kind strangers; and to go back to her father seemed more terrible to her than it had ever been.

"It would kill him," she thought, with a moan, turning on her pillow; and Dossie hearing that cry of anguish came and lay her sweet cheek against Nellie's.

"Hush, don't distress yourself," said Dossie. "I know how you must feel it, but I thought and thought what would be best—for I feel so stupid when I can't consult Tom—and I really think you ought to write. If—if this gentleman has any heart, after all you have suffered, he will be only too glad to hear from you."

And after a while—after thinking her miserable position over and over—Nellie at last did determine to write to Seaforth to make one more appeal to his honour and his heart.

Oh! they were sad, sad words to write, these! He had crushed the love out of her heart, and bowed her head with shame, and for her own sake she never would have sought to see him more. She sat up in bed, and tried to write, but could find no words to express her misery. These words—the wretched cry for help—which at last she penned, need not be repeated here. They were never fated to meet the eyes for whom they were intended. Nellie enclosed her letter under cover (as in his old days) to Clayton, but Clayton had gone to join his master at Rye Court, and had left no address, and the unhappy girl's letter never even reached Clayton.

But in the meantime, at the earnest entreaty of her kind sweet hostess, Nellie was trying to rouse herself; to shake off the deadly stupor, almost bewilderment, from her mind. At length she was persuaded to leave her bedroom, and in a pretty little room at the end of the large drawing-room at Castlewood, Dossie installed the shattered trembling creature, who but a few months ago had been fair Nellie Blythe.

But Christmas had come and gone, and the New Year begun, before even this change could be made And this change was not made we may be quite certain without the observation and remarks of both the mother and mother-in-law of the young people at Castlewood. The room downstairs where Nellie was removed, was in truth, the small drawing-room, but it was separated from the other drawing-room by folding doors which Dossie locked after the giving servants' orders that no one was to be allowed to disturb the invalid lady.

But Mrs. Bertrim was a woman who liked (as she expressed it) to know the end of everything. This unknown and nameless guest of her daughter-in-law's was therefore, a perpetual worry to her, and she was determined to see her. She watched her opportunity. Dossie had driven into London to make some purchases, and Mrs. Bertrim, having learnt that Dossie was going into town on such a day, chose that day for an unexpected visit to Castlewood Lodge.

She arrived, was told "Mrs. Tom" was not at home, but, nevertheless, ordered her coachman to stable his horses. Then, with a determined step, she entered the house, and laid a determined hand on the handle of the small drawing-room door. But Dossie's maid here tried to stop her.

"The poor, sick lady is there, ma'am," she said, "and Mrs. Bertrim left particular orders she was not to be disturbed."

Mrs. Bertrim, senior, made no reply to the maid's remark. She opened the small drawing-room door, and walked straight in. She was a stout woman, with the signs of good cheer and prosperity on every line of her face. On a couch drawn close to the fire, as she entered the room, another woman with a white wasted face was lying, who started up with a nervous, frightened look, on the appearance of Mrs. Bertrim's burly form and rosy visage.

Mrs. Bertrim, senior, bowed stiffly, and Nellie nervously.

"I hope you are feeling better," said Mrs. Bertrim, eyeing Nellie with hard, curious eyes.

"Yes, I am a little better, I think," answered Nellie in a low, feeble voice.

"You have had a long illness," said Mrs. Bertrim.

"Yes," replied Nellie, in a yet lower and more feeble voice.

"This is my son's house," continued Mrs. Bertrim, "so you must excuse my making an observation or two—but I think it is quite time you communicated with your friends."

Nellie made no reply to this. She looked up, her white, drawn, wasted face flushed for a moment, and then grew pale again; but she was too ill and too weak to speak.

"My daughter-in-law," began Mrs. Bertrim, senior; but as she said the words she suddenly paused, for—voluminous as herself, and with indignation imprinted on her rosy features—Mrs. Barrett at this moment walked into the room.

"My daughter left particular orders, Mrs. Bertrim," said Mrs. Barrett with emphasis, "that no one was to enter this room; so perhaps you will excuse me asking you to withdraw, as the lady is too ill to be disturbed, and my daughter gave positive orders before she went to town to that effect."

"Oh! indeed," answered Mrs. Bertrim, tossing her head with a very unpleasant little laugh. "I was not aware that there were state secrets and locked doors in my son's house. I was not aware I was intruding when I entered any room in my son's house. But it seems that I am—it seems that my son's house is not open at least to *his* family."

"I am only repeating my daughter's wishes, Mrs. Bertrim," said Mrs. Barrett. "I am no more mistress here, as you are aware, than you are. But as my daughter was going to town to-day, she asked me to come and spend the day with baby. Baby is not quite well——"

"Not quite well!" interrupted the other grandmother with real anxiety. "I told Dossie something would happen to the child if she did not take care—I may go up and see baby I suppose, at any rate Mrs. Barrett!"

"Of course, Mrs. Bertrim—your own grandchild."

Upon this the two grandmothers left the room to look after the precious child, and the poor weary invalid was alone. But Nellie had learned during their brief visit that perhaps she might bring trouble and worry on her sweet hostess if she stayed much longer at Castlewood Lodge.

(To be continued.)

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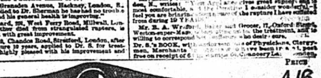

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LEADGATE LOCAL BOARD.

The yearly meeting of the above Board was held on Wednesday afternoon. The following gentlemen were present:—Messrs G. Nicholson, W. H. Hedley, W. Brown, J. H. Hudson, E. Todd, L. Nicholson, J. J. Hedley, T. Lammonby, M. Robson, J. Parker, the Clerk (Mr M. Coupland), and the Surveyor (Mr T. Longstaff.)

Mr G. NICHOLSON, as Returning Officer, opened the proceedings by stating that he had had the honour of conducting the present election, with the able assistance of the Clerk (Mr Coupland). They had the papers well delivered and collected, generally speaking. There were no spoiled papers. Every paper was carefully examined, and the informality or illegality endorsed thereon. The papers as a whole were very intelligently filled up. In connection with the election, a scrutiny took place. One of the candidates and a ratepayer—he supposed merely to satisfy their curiosity—overhauled the papers, and expressed themselves satisfied that the business had been carried out in a very exacting and precise manner. However, they thought that the proxy appointments ought to have been on the table. He undertook to lay them on the table before the successful candidates were initiated into office. The proxies were on the table for their inspection, and they would find them in perfect order. There was another objection. They held that there had been inequality of voting. It was very slight, and if it had been carried out to their desires it would not have altered the result of the election. In the one case they said the Shotley Bridge Gas Company, having regard to their rateable value, gave two more votes than they were entitled to; and in the other case, Mr A. Smith was entitled to one more vote than he exercised. However, if he erred in that respect, his intentions were clear as regarded the candidates, having no knowledge of who those parties would vote for. He hoped the time was close at hand when they would be established a district Council instead of a Local Board, and the elections would be carried out on the ballot system—one man, one vote. (Hear, hear.) He then read out the result of the election, particulars of which have already appeared. He also furnished the members with the full amount of cost incurred by them in carrying out the election, viz:—£12 10s.

Mr W. H. HEDLEY moved that the election bill be paid.

Mr L. NICHOLSON seconded the motion, which was carried.

Mr G. NICHOLSON: The next business, gentlemen, is to appoint a Chairman for the ensuing year.

Mr BROWN: I move that Mr W. H. Hedley be appointed Chairman for the year; also that a vote of thanks be passed to Mr Nicholson for his services during the election. The contest had been a success, at least Mr Nicholson said so, and they had to thank him for it.

Mr L. NICHOLSON: You might as well propose a vote of thanks to Mr Hedley for his services in the past, Mr Brown.

Mr BROWN: Certainly. That can be included.

The motions having been seconded, they were carried unanimously.

Mr HEDLEY, in taking the chair, said he wished to heartily acknowledge the honour they had done him in electing him as Chairman for the ensuing year. He had also to thank them for the very flattering remarks they had made with regard to his services in the past. It had afforded him no small degree of satisfaction to think that his efforts in fulfilling the duties of Chairman had met with their approval. He would in the future try to fulfil the duties of the post with which they had honoured him in a conscientious and upright manner. He was glad to think that, as a Board, they had, with little exception, carried on their business in an amicable and straightforward manner. It was true that the set calm of their meetings had sometimes been disturbed by one or more of their members, but there never had been, as far as he knew, any trace of rancour or ill-feeling left in consequence thereof. He hoped that they would be able to carry on the business in the future as smoothly and equably as in the past. (Applause.)

TRENCHING IN THE PARK.

Three tenders were received in respect to the above work, and considerable discussion ensued thereon.

Mr PARKER proposed that the tender of Mr Peacock be accepted.

Mr HUDSON seconded, and the motion was carried.

Mr ROBSON: Before we decide upon the trenching, I should like the Board to think a little more about the matter. If they did so, they would find that the plan set forth that the trenching should be done 12ft. from the wall. I object to this on various grounds. In short, it would be a nuisance.

Mr G. NICHOLSON: These are just my sentiments. I always thought that the trees ought to be set against the wall. It will be a protection for them.

Mr HUDSON: It will dispense with fencing round the trees.

The CHAIRMAN: Will it be necessary to raise the whole question again?

Mr ROBSON: If the trees are planted in the position set forth in the plan, they will simply be a nuisance.

Mr HUDSON: A good row of whicks would be of more service than trees. When they rise above the height of the wall, they will be almost as good a protection for the Park as a brick wall.

The CHAIRMAN: If we change the position of the trees, the Consett Iron Company will have to be consulted.

Mr HUDSON: I move that the Consett Iron Company be wrote to, asking them to grant leave to plant the trees close against the wall.

Mr ROBSON: I second that.

Mr J. J. HEDLEY: I think there should be a space left between the trees and the wall.

Mr PARKER: If cattle are allowed to go between the trees and the wall, they will do considerable damage to the trees before they get half-way up.

Mr HUDSON: It would lay the trees open to damage from two places instead of one.

Mr J. J. HEDLEY moved, as an amendment to the motion, that the former plan as approved of be carried out.

Mr TODD seconded.

The CHAIRMAN put the amendment, only two—the mover and seconder—supporting it.

The motion was then put, and carried by a majority.

LIGHTING COMMITTEE'S REPORT.

The Lighting Committee's report was carried forward.

THE COMMITTEES FOR THE ENSUING YEAR.

The arranging of the various committees was then gone into, the following being the result:—

Finance.—Messrs W. H. Hedley (convener) J. H. Hudson, J. J. Hedley, L. Nicholson, E. Todd, and J. Parker.

Sanitary.—Messrs Wm. Brown (convener), M. Robson, T. Lammonby, L. Nicholson, and Edwd. Todd.

Building and Sewerage.—Messrs Geo. Nicholson (convener), M. Robson, J. Davison, J. J. Hedley, and W. Keenleyside.

Highways.—Messrs W. H. Hedley (convener), W. Brown, G. Nicholson, and E. Todd.

Lighting.—Messrs T. Lammonby (convener), J. Davison, J. H. Hudson, and W. Keenleyside.

Park or Recreation Ground.—Messrs G. Nicholson (convener), J. J. Hedley, T. Lammonby, Luke Nicholson, and J. Parker.

Joint Hospital Board.—The Chairman (*ex-officio*) and Mr W. Brown.

School Attendance.—Mr W. Brown.

SURVEYOR'S REPORT.

The Surveyor (Mr T. Longstaff) submitted the following report:—

To the Chairman and Members of the Leadgate Local Board.

GENTLEMEN,—The total cost of your highway for the year ending March 24th, 1888, is as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
Durham Main Road—			
Manual labour	50	10	11
Team labour	20	11	10
Materials	28	12	10
Tradesmen's bills and materials	0	5	4
Total	100	0	11
Other Roads—			
Manual labour	79	16	4
Team labour	37	6	11
Materials	10	17	8
Tradesmen's bills and materials	10	12	2
Total	£138	13	1

The book of accounts will be before you to-day if required. The cost of your repairs, &c., are rather more than last year, but the snowstorms having cost over £20 for snow-cutting and snow-ploughing will account for the extra outlay.

I have prepared an estimate of the proposed cost of your highways for the next year ending March 25th, 1889, which will also be before you to-day.—I am, gentlemen, your obedient servant,

T. LONGSTAFF.

Leadgate, April 18th, 1888.

INSPECTOR'S REPORT.

The Inspector submitted the following report:—

To the Chairman and Members of the Leadgate Local Board.

GENTLEMEN,—The total cost of sanitary works, &c., for the last year, which includes the scavenger's salary, horse hire for watering streets, water used for street purposes and urinals, fire brigade practice &c., £94 4s 6d.

PARK.

	£	s.	d.
Manual labour	£16	10	2
Team labour	5	1	3
Total	21	11	5

T. LONGSTAFF

Leadgate, April 18th, 1888.

COLLECTOR'S REPORT.

GENTLEMEN,—For the year ending March 24th, 1888, rate made 29th April, 1887, at 8d in the pound,

	£	s.	d.
brought in	£287	0	2½
Rate made 9th Nov., 1887, at 8d brought	275	2	11
Total	562	3	1½
Private improvements	0	11	0
Market tolls	0	3	0
Total collected	562	17	1½

I consider that notice of another rate ought to be given this day.—Yours, &c., T. LONGSTAFF.

The reports were adopted.

THE PRICE OF LIMESTONE.

Mr HUDSON: Is there no prospect of the price of limestone being reduced?

The Surveyor: I dont think so.

Mr HUDSON: The price ought to come down when labour can be had at such a cheap rate.

The Clerk: They contend that they cannot reduce the price owing to the heavy railway dues.

Mr HUDSON: The Clerk had better write to two or three of the limestone firms and ascertain what their lowest prices are.

This was agreed to.

THE ROADMEN AND THEIR HOURS.

Mr LAMMONBY said, seeing that it was the annual meeting, he wished them to consider the question of shortening the hours of the roadmen. The fine weather was coming on, and he thought they should have as much liberty as the rest of the working-men. He proposed that they be allowed to cease work an hour or two sooner every alternate Saturday.

Mr ROBSON said it was his opinion that the men should be allowed to work shorter hours. They were working when other men were done and going about dressed.

The CHAIRMAN: Is there any special motive for bringing this subject forward at this time? Have the men been complaining?

Mr LAMMONBY thought the time was appropriate for bringing the subject forward. The men had not complained to him.

The CHAIRMAN: It is rather too hasty to make a motion on the subject at this meeting. You had better give notice of motion.

Mr ROBSON: It would be better for us to consider the matter.

Mr LAMMONBY accordingly gave notice that he would make a motion on the subject at the next meeting.

Mr BROWN moved that the Clerk be instructed to get information with respect to the hours worked by other roadmen in the locality; also the wages received by them.

Mr ROBSON seconded, and the motion was carried.

NEW RATE.

Mr G. NICHOLSON moved that the Clerk prepare a rate of 8d in the pound for sealing at the next Board meeting.

Mr BROWN seconded the motion, which was carried.

PLAN.

A plan submitted by Mr BELLERBY, Iveston, of a wooden erection abutting the village green, was then discussed.

The Surveyor said he told the man that he would have to submit a plan for the erection. He had promised to do so.

Mr HUDSON: Was he busy building when you told him?

The Surveyor: He was pulling down an old wall prepratory to building. The building was now up.

Mr HUDSON: It was your duty to stop building operations when he had not submitted a plan. Besides, he had no right to build on the Green. We stopped Mr Mordue for doing so, and I dont see why we should allow any one else to do so now.

The Surveyor: The erection was put up in a few hours. He was only pulling the wall down when I was there first, and when I went back the work was finished.

Mr BROWN moved that the Building Committee inspect the erection.

Mr HUDSON seconded, and the motion was carried.

WATERING OF THE STREETS.

Mr ROBSON suggested, now that the time for watering the streets was near, several improvements in the present system.

The suggestions of Mr Robson were approved of by the Board, and the Surveyor promised to have them attended to.

Cheques were signed, and the Board adjourned.

MASONIC FESTIVAL AT CONSETT.

On Wednesday afternoon and evening, the third anniversary of the "Constance" Lodge of Freemasons, No. 2,135, at Consett, was commemorated in the Masonic Hall, Front Street, when Bro. Geo. Renton, M.D., S.W., W.M.-Elect, was duly installed Master for the ensuing year by Bro. C. E. Barnes, P.M., No. 1,334, P.P.G.R., Durham, assisted by Bro. Wm. Logan, P.M., P.P.G.R., Langley Park, Bro. W. Coxon, P.M., P.P.G.R., Durham, Bro. W. Gray, P.M., P.P.G., St. B., Burnhope, and Bro. S. Compton, P.M., P.P.G.D., of C., Devon. A large number of the brethren attended the ceremony, which was most impressively performed by Bro. Barnes. Amongst the visitors were Bro. J. Graham, W.M., 1,121, Bro. H. Brown, 124, and many others. The W.M. then invested the following brethren officers of the lodge for the ensuing year:—Bros. J. Noble, I.P.M., T. Dunne, S.W., W. Brotherhood, J.W., Geo. J. Christopher, treasurer, Wm. S. Shell, secretary, N. Elsdon, S.D., H. Prevell, J.D., T. D. Dryden, organist, Ed. Richardson, I.G., W. I. McKay, D.A.C., J. Calvert, S.S., J. A. Curry, J.S., and J. W. Berry, tyler.

The company, numbering about 50, afterwards adjourned to the New Town Hall, where a most excellent banquet was supplied and served up under the superintendence of Mrs E. Brown, proprietoress of the Railway Hotel. Appended is

THE MENU:

Soups.—Spring. Ox tail.

Fish.—Mazonnaise of salmon. Collared salmon. Anchovy sauce.

Entree.—Veal cutlets. Tomato sauce. Chicken Patties de Vollaile. Compote de Pigeon.

Remove.—Boiled capons. Tongue. Leg of mutton. Sirloin of beef.

Salad.

Rots.—Roast chicken. Roast turkey and ham.

Entrements.—Sir Watkin pudding. Maraschino jelly. Compote fruit. Creams. Pastry. Ice pudding.

Dessert.

After ample justice had been done to the repast, Bro. Renton took the chair, while Bros. Dunne and Brotherhood occupied the vice-chairs. "The Festival of St. John the Evangelist" was duly celebrated.—The W.M. (Dr Renton) proposed the toasts of "The Queen and the Craft," "The W.M., G.M. of England—H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, and the rest of the Royal Family," "The R.W.—Sir Hedworth Williamson, Bart., G.M. of the Province of Durham," and "The V.W.—Canon Tristram, D.P.G.M., and Officers of the Provincial Grand Lodge of the Province of Durham," all of which were enthusiastically pledged. P.M. Logan next submitted the toast of the evening, "The Worshipful Master," and described the origin of the "Constance" Lodge. He dwelt upon the necessity of a more commodious lodge-room being secured at Consett.—The toast having been drank with musical honours, the Chairman suitably responded, referring in favourable terms of the extraordinary progress of the lodge since its establishment two years ago, and spoke hopefully of its future career.—The next toast, "The Immediate P.M.'s," was submitted by the W.M., who deplored the indisposition of Bro. Noble, ex-W.M. of the lodge, and read a telegram which had been received from the gentleman that evening, wishing every success to the lodge. (Applause.)—P.M. Logan responded, and stated that although Bro. Noble was not present he was certainly with them in spirit.—The W.M. afterwards proposed "The Installing Master," and followed with "The Officers of the Lodge," to which Bro. Dunne, S.W., responded on behalf of his colleagues and himself.—The W.M. likewise proposed "The Visiting Brethren," and mentioned that a very successful lodge had been established at Crook just before the lodge was founded at Consett.—Bro. Graham, P.M. (Crook) fittingly acknowledged the compliment.—"The Tyler's Toast" brought the proceedings to a close shortly before eleven o'clock.

The evening was spent in love and harmony, songs being sung by Bros. Logan, Stephenson, Dryden, Dunn, Hyden, Arkless, Christopher, and Berry, and Dr Renton contributed an amusing recitation in the Tyneside dialect.

FEARFUL ACCIDENT TO A BOY IN WEARDALE.

On Monday morning, a fearful accident occurred to a boy named William Thompson, aged 15, residing with his stepfather, Mr Ed. Rowell, High House Farm, Weardale, who was engaged in doing something about the large crushing mill at Daddry Mine, Weardale, and was caught in the machinery and dragged in. Fortunately his cries brought assistance and he was rescued from certain death. The poor little fellow was found to have had his arm torn off above the elbow and his toes off the right foot. He was taken home, and Dr Hewitson and his nephew were called in, and they amputated the mangled limb at the socket. The injured lad lies in a precarious condition.

CONSERVATIVE DINNER AT CHESTER-LE-STREET.

On Tuesday night, the annual dinner of the Chester-le-Street Conservative Club was held in the assembly room of the King's Head Hotel. Mr Lindsay Wood, president of the club, occupied the chair, the vice-chair being filled by Mr C. E. Hunter. Amongst the very numerous company present were Rev John Dodd, Dr W. J. Brown, Dr Simpson, Mr Clephan, Mr Isaac Lyons (hon. sec. of the Northern Union of Conservative Associations), Messrs R. H. Holmes, John and James Turnbull, Lieut. Pickering, James Brewis, Clarkson, W. Mitchell, W. Temple, J. Mitchell, Nesbit, Wilkinson, Francis, M. T. Thompson, and Clark. A varied and excellent repast was served by Mr H. Lamb, landlord, and after ample justice had been done to all the good things provided, the more serious business of the evening was proceeded with.

The CHAIRMAN proposed the usual loyal and patriotic toasts, which were duly honoured.

The CHAIRMAN gave "The Bishop and Clergy of the Diocese, and Ministers of other Denominations," with which he coupled the name of Rev J. DODD, who briefly responded.

Mr R. H. HOLMES proposed "The Army, Navy, and Auxiliary Forces."

The VICE-CHAIRMAN responded, and proposed "The houses of Parliament." He did not think the House of Lords had done amiss in the past; he rather thought the House had done well, and was worthy of the position it occupied. With regard to the house of Commons as at present constituted, there was not much fault to find. He was sure it had worked harder than any other assembly in the whole world, and in recent times had passed some very beneficent and useful measures.

The CHAIRMAN responded, and re-echoed the words of the Vice-Chairman in saying that he believed the Members of the House of Commons had worked excessively hard during the past session. (Applause.) They had not had so much hard work to do during the present session, but last year they had had to face the enormous opposition and fearful obstruction made by the Irish members and those who were determined not to be guided by the will of the majority of the people of England, which necessitated their sitting in the House of Commons for almost two days at a time—certainly over 24 hours. He thought as Conservatives they ought to return their most sincere thanks to all the members and especially the Conservative members for their support they gave the Conservative Government in that Session. (Applause.) The Government were now introducing three or four of the most important measures that had ever been introduced into the House of Commons relating to the government of the country. The Chancellor of the Exchequer began by introducing the Conversion Bill, and then brought forward the Budget. Probably there would be some difference of opinion where the proposals of the Budget touched individual interests, but looking to the good of the community generally he thought the Budget would act satisfactorily for the welfare of the country. (Applause.) Next they came to the Local Government Bill, which proposed to bring down to them almost direct representation for the management of county affairs. He thought that Bill would be passed with very few alterations, and certainly without any large alteration as to its principles. (Loud applause.)

Mr CLEPHAN (Birtley) proposed "The Conservative Cause." He was exceedingly obliged to the members of that club for giving him the opportunity of making the acquaintance of such a very useful centre of political work and progress. It was, he thought, the most important and successful organisation of the kind in the Chester-le-Street Division. (Applause.) Conservatism had progressed very, very rapidly of late years, and that it was still progressing was very evident. They were gaining in numbers, and the chances were that if they could get a good candidate—if they could induce their worthy chairman to stand—with the number of Liberal Unionists he thought they could return him triumphant at the head of the poll. (Applause.)

Mr LYONS, in responding, referred to the work of the club, and hoped that its success would cause a spirit of emulation to spring up in other parts of the division. He hoped the Birtley people would take a leaf out of the Chester-le-Street book, and form a powerful Conservative Association, with its most useful adjunct a working men's club. (Applause.) The present Government, whether viewed from an administrative standpoint or from a legislative side, or on account of its financial ability, stood in his opinion unequalled and incomparable. (Applause.) The Government entered office pledged to uphold the integrity of the union between Great Britain and Ireland. This had been done by the aid of the wise, resolute, and energetic statesmanship of Mr Balfour; and the Government had been enabled to stem the time of sedition and disaffection in Ireland. Mr Balfour, instead of being described as the coercer of the unfortunate Irish people, should be described as the emancipator of the unfortunate peasantry, who had been rescued from that which was worse than living death—social ostracism.

Other toasts were given, and a very enjoyable evening was spent.

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CHESTER-LE-STREET PETTY SESSIONS.

WEDNESDAY, April 18th.—Before L. WOOD, Esq. (chairman), and H. W. KERRICH-WALKER, Esq.

DRUNKENNESS.

Terence Scollings, for being drunk on the 30th ult., was fined 5s and costs.

James Kelly, for being drunk on the 31st ult., was fined 2s 6d and costs.

James Scalon, for a similar offence, was fined 5s and costs.

Robert Hughes was mulcted in a fine of 7s 6d and costs on a charge of drunkenness.

William Elliott, for being drunk and disorderly, had to pay a fine of 7s 6d and costs.

Thomas Burnsides was likewise fined 7s 6d and costs for a similar offence.

Thomas Carpenter, charged with drunkenness, was mulcted in a penalty of 5s and costs.

Charles Bell was fined 5s and costs for being drunk and disorderly.

Benjamin Thompson was also fined 5s and costs for a like offence.

Joseph Elliott was charged with drunkenness, and was fined 7s 6d and costs.

Thomas Stephenson was fined 5s and costs for having been incapably drunk.

Robert and *William Lowdon* were each fined 5s and expenses for a similar offence.

Thomas Armstrong and *William Metcalf* were fined 5s and costs each for having been found in a drunken and disorderly state.

Thomas Nolan was mulcted in a penalty of 7s 6d and costs for the same offence.

A ROW AT PIT HILL.

Peter Dennison pleaded guilty to being drunk at Pit Hill, 1st inst., and was fined 5s and costs. He was further charged with breaking a window, the property of Charles Adamson, at the same place, on the 2nd inst.—Mr Adamson said the damage amounted to 10s.—Defendant paid the damage and costs.

BREACH OF THE PEACE.

Peter and *Matthew Dennison* and *John Walls* were then charged with a breach of the peace by fighting at Pit Hill, on the 2nd inst.—Mr Adamson said the defendants came to his house and had a quart of ale; they then quarrelled and fought outside, and it was in that affray that the window was broken. They were not drunk.—Defendants were bound over to keep the peace for three months, and to pay the costs.

George and *William Laws* pleaded guilty to a breach of the peace at Chester-le-Street, on the 2nd inst.—Bound over to keep the peace for three months, and to pay costs.

Thomas Armstrong and *James Atley* were charged with a breach of the peace at Lamesley, on the 8th April.—Bound over to keep the peace for three months, and to pay costs.

Joseph Pickles pleaded guilty to a breach of the peace at Pelton, on the 28th ult.—Bound over for a similar period, and pay costs.

STRUCK OUT.

John Ruddy was charged with threatening to kill and murder his wife Jane at Lamesley, on the 12th inst.—Complainant did not appear, and on payment of costs by the defendant the case was struck out.

PITCH AND TOSS.

George Alderson, *John Jefferson*, *William Smith*, and *Humphrey McConliffe*, all boys, pleaded guilty to playing at pitch and toss at Plawsworth, on the 31st ult.—Fined 1s each and costs.

WILD BIRDS ACT.

John Punshon was charged with having a grey-bird in his possession, on the 16th of March, at Chester-le-Street.—Defendant said that he picked the bird up on the road, not knowing that he was doing wrong.—Dismissed with a caution.

HIGHWAY ACT.

James Crane was charged with allowing his horse and cart to stray on the highway at Birtley, on the 27th ult.—Sergt. Hutchinson said he found the horse and cart straying about the road in the neighbourhood of Birtley Station. Defendant was not near it. Witness took possession of the horse and cart, as there was a danger of it getting on the railway. Defendant was so drunk that witness kept the horse all night.—Fined 5s and costs.

HORSE-STEALING AT BIRTLEY.

James William Constantine was charged with stealing a horse, value £20, the property of George Muncaster, at Birtley, on the 9th of August 1887. George Muncaster said that he saw the horse in the field, three or four hundred yards from his house, on the night of the 8th August. There were other two horses in the field. When witness went next morning to see his horses, he missed the brown one. He traced the footmarks in the direction of Chester-le-Street. Prisoner had been at witness's house, and knew the horse well. The horse was worth £20, and witness did not see him again until the 11th, when Sergt. Hutchinson brought him back. Witness had never authorised anyone to take the horse out of the field, nor to sell it.—James Goodfellow said that on the morning of the 9th August he was going in the direction of Muncaster's farm, when he met a man riding on a horse, which he recognised as Muncaster's. Witness could not see the man's face, but a little further on he met prisoner following the horse. When they met, prisoner turned his face away, apparently in order to prevent witness seeing him.—Peter Mitchell, retired farmer, Sacriston, said prisoner came to his house on the 1st or 2nd of August last, and asked how the mare which witness had bought was doing. Witness said she was doing well. Prisoner asked if witness would do a "bit trade," as he had a good horse that would suit him. Prisoner called again, in company with another man, on the 8th August, and again asked if witness was still in the mind to do a "bit trade." The other man went and looked at the mare, and arrangements were made for "trade" to be done the next morning at 7 o'clock. Witness asked the other man where he lived, and he said Coxhoe. Both men then left, and returned next morning about seven o'clock. Prisoner came about five minutes before the other man, who brought a brown horse with him. Prisoner asked how the horse would suit. Witness asked the price, and they asked £18 for the horse. Witness said his mare was worth £15, and asked what they wanted to boot? They asked 25s. Witness offered 20s, which they accepted, taking the mare and leaving the brown horse. They went in the direction of Nettlesworth, where witness met them at a public-house in order to get a £5 note changed. At the public-house, witness paid £1 to the other man, but witness had done the bargain-making. They then went away in the direction of Chester-le-Street. Witness subsequently gave the brown horse to Sergt. Hutchinson.—Cross-examined by prisoner: Witness did not promise to pay prisoner for getting him an exchange. He did not give prisoner 5s in the public-house for what he had done in getting the bargain made.—John Walton, a boy in the service of Mr Mitchell, gave corroborative evidence.—Prisoner pleaded not guilty, and in reply to the Bench, said "I have nothing to say, just that I did not steal the horse."—He was then committed for trial at the next Quarter Sessions.

A SERIOUS CHARGE OF CUTTING AND WOUNDING: DEATH OF THE INJURED MAN.

Thomas and *James McClusky* were charged with cutting and wounding Thomas Armstrong Carr, at Chester-le-Street, on the 24th ult.—Mr Parsons, Newcastle, defended.—John Balford said that he was in Mrs Carr's house on the night of the 24th of March at half-past ten. He was there about an hour altogether. The prisoners were there at the time. Thomas Carr, the deceased, came in with a knife in his left hand, and said, "I want to fight all the b——s in the house." Mrs Carr said he should be quiet, as no one wanted to fight him. Thomas McClusky then picked up the coal-rake (produced) and hit Carr on the left arm. James then took the coal-rake from Thomas and hit Carr twice on the head with it. The blows were not to be called big blows. The door was open, and the blows were struck close to it. Carr went out, and the door was then fastened. He tried to force the door but went away.—Cross-examined: They were sitting quietly in the house when Carr came in. He was "kind o' drunk," and looked vexed. The mother was in bed, and shouted that Carr had a knife in his hand. Carr was left-handed, and had the knife in his left hand. Carr asked where the men were who wanted to fight him, and went towards Thomas with the knife in his hand. Thomas jumped up, picked up the coal-rake and tried to knock the knife out of Carr's hand. Carr was trying to stab them. He once had the knife lifted at the youngest one, and it was then that he received the two blows on his head. [illegible] was threatening what he would do during the whole time he was in the room. He would be in about ten minutes or a quarter of an hour. After he was put out he burst the lock, and tried to break the window.—George Hope, pitman, Chester-le-Street, said he was in Leitch's public-house on the 24th ult. when the deceased came in. Carr had four [illegible] of beer with the company. They all left at closing time, and Carr asked them to go to his house and "have their pipes." When Carr got to the door he said "Open the door." He then opened the door, and as he opened it, one of the prisoners came towards him. When he got about two yards inside the house one of the prisoners struck him. Witness could not say what the blow was struck with. Carr was not knocked down, but [illegible] by the side of witness. The door was then closed from the inside. Witness could not say whether Carr had a knife or not.—Cross-examined: Deceased did not tell witness he had a quarrel that morning before he left the house. He would be in the house about five minutes. Witness could not say that Carr had a knife. He heard Mrs Carr shout, "Police." [illegible] Deceased only said when he came out of the house that he had been struck. He did not fall [illegible].—By the Bench: Witness did not hear anything said in the house.—P.C. Smallwood said he was on duty near Crofton's Buildings, Chester-le-Street, on the night of the 24th ult. From what he heard he proceeded to Crofton's Buildings, where he found deceased standing at Mrs Carr's door wanting to be in. Witness told those inside to open the door, which they did. Witness went into the house, and seeing that the prisoners were excited, and wanting to get out to the deceased, and he wanted to be in at them, witness stopped any further disturbance by taking Carr to the station. Carr was bleeding from a wound on the forehead. Witness had heard some one shouting "knife," and on searching deceased he found a small pocket knife in his vest-pocket.—Cross-examined: Witness knew that deceased had been convicted, and had been in prison for stabbing. Mrs Carr did not complain to witness that Carr had a knife; but screamed out that he had.—Inspector Maxwell said that he saw deceased, Thomas Carr, at the Police Station, about midnight, on the 24th ult. He had a wound over the left eye, and his hair was matted with blood. He appeared to have been drinking, and smelled of drink. Witness assisted him down to Dr Renton's surgery, and from what he said, witness went to Crofton's Buildings and apprehended the two prisoners. Witness charged them with unlawfully, maliciously, and feloniously wounding Thomas Carr, with intent to do him grievious bodily harm. They each replied "I did it in self-defence." When charged before a magistrate Thomas replied: "Thomas Carr came into our house about 11·30, and said he would kill us two b——s; he had a knife in his left hand. I took up the coal-rake and struck him on the head; he was still advancing when my brother got the coal-rake from me, and struck him." James replied "Thomas Carr came into our house and said he would kill us two b——s; he had a knife in his left hand. My brother took up a coal-rake and hit him, and as he was still advancing I took the coal-rake from my brother and struck him twice, and got him out of the house." On the 5th of April, witness charged prisoners with causing the death of Thomas Armstrong Carr by striking him on the head and arm with a coal-rake. They each replied "I did it in self-defence."—Cross-examined: Prisoners did not, when first charged, say that they tried to knock the knife out of Carr's hand. They did say deceased was advancing to them with the open knife, and it was then they struck him. Prisoners were both sober that night.—Dr W. M. Renton said deceased was brought to his surgery for surgical attendance. Witness found two chain cut wounds on the forehead; both penetrated to the bone, and the skull was fractured in one of the wounds. The left arm was also fractured, and severely contused. Witness could not find any other injuries. The injuries were dressed in the usual way. Carr was under the influence of alcohol, but was quite conscious. Witness visited him on the following day, and at his earnest request allowed him to be removed to the Newcastle Infirmary. Witness did not consider him in immediate danger, and did not see him again.—By the Bench: Witness expressed his opinion to Inspector Maxwell that there was a remote possibility of the wounds causing death.—Dr Baigeat, house surgeon at the Newcastle Infirmary, said that when admitted to the Infirmary Carr was suffering from two scalp wounds, one above the left eye, the other among the hair above the right eye. The bone was exposed at the bottom of each wound, and a fracture was found at the bottom of the wound on the left side. The left arm was broken and bruised at the elbow. No other injuries were found. He was not suffering from anything else at that time. He was only treated for the injuries. He remained in the Infirmary until he died on the morning of the 4th April. During the night of the 25th ult., symptoms of inflammation of the lungs set in, and deceased suffered from that disease until his death. Witness did not consider those symptoms were in any way connected with the injuries. Witness made a *post-mortem* examination, and found a portion of the skull broken at the left round, a small portion of bone was splintered at the right round, but the skull was not fractured there. The brain was healthy and uninjured; the right lung large and consolidated.—Cross-examined: Deceased had no head symptoms during the time he was in the infirmary. All the doctors present at the *post-mortem* examination came to the conclusion that deceased died from inflammation of the lungs, and that the inflammation had no connection with the injuries. Witness did not think that the injuries caused or accelerated his death. The injuries to his head were serious.—Mary Carr said she was mother of the prisoners and wife of the deceased. She had been married to him about eight years. She had for some time lived apart from him under a separation order made through an assault upon her. They afterwards got reconciled, and had lived together again for about ten weeks prior to the 24th ult. When Carr left the house that morning, he had had a quarrel with witness's daughter; he struck the child, and took his clothes away with him, saying he was going for good. Witness saw no more of him until he came in at eleven o'clock. When he came in, witness was in bed, but she saw an open knife in his hand (the knife produced was the same one), and the big blade was open. Deceased said he would finish the two b——s. Thomas took up the coal-rake and tried to knock the knife out of his hand. Carr then went towards James, and said he would stab them both to the heart. James took the coal-rake from Thomas, and tried to knock the knife out of Carr's hand. Carr backed towards the door, then made a rush at the boys, holding the knife above his head. It was then that Carr received a blow on his head. During that time, Carr had been threatening to kill all of them. Witness saw deceased after he was admitted to the infirmary; he told her he had been an "out-of-the-way man with drink," and the boys were not to blame for what they had done.—Mary Ellen McCluskey said she had heard her mother's evidence, which was strictly true.—A plea of not guilty was put in, and prisoners were committed for trial at the next Assizes.—Mr Parsons made an application on behalf of prisoners for bail, as they had already been locked up a month.—After a consultation, it was arranged that Mr Kerrich-Walker would attend at the court on Thursday morning, and if substantial bail was offered prisoners would be liberated.

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CHURCH TEMPERANCE SOCIETY.

TANFIELD BRANCH.

The monthly meeting of the above branch was held on Tuesday evening, in the Infants' Schoolroom, Tanfield, the attendance being exceptionally good. The chair was occupied by Mr James Gilchrist, Marley Hill. Rev S. Denton and Mr W. Walker ably acquitted themselves in their respective pieces, the former gentleman receiving an *encore*. Miss Pringle sang in a very pleasing manner, the sweetness of her voice being greatly admired. The choir also gave some very pleasing pieces, which were highly appreciated, and Dr Johnson with his banjo accompaniment delighted the audience with his amusing songs, *encores* being demanded and re-demanded. Recitations were ably given by the Misses Charlton and Mr J. Hunter.

THE CONSETT AND LANCHESTER REGISTRATION OFFICES.

At the meeting of the Lanchester Guardians yesterday (Thursday) the Board considered the several applications for the posts of registrars of births and deaths for the Consett and Lanchester sub-districts, the voting resulting as follows:—

CONSETT DISTRICT.	1st round.	2nd.
W. Ramsey, Benfieldside	12	17
W. Ward, Iveston	0	—
R. J. Brodie, Consett	1	—
G. Arkless, Catchgate	2	—
J. Thompson, Castleside	0	—
J. Moon, Blackhill	9	9
J. Golightly, Castleside	0	—
J. G. Mann, West Stanley	5	3
LANCHESTER DISTRICT.		
F. Thompson, Annfield Plain	5	—
W. Towns, Esh	8	7
W. Caselow, Ushaw College	0	—
G. Buckham, Lanchester	11	21
J. Golightly, Castleside	5	—

Messrs Ramsey and Buckham were selected for the respective districts.—A full report of the meeting will appear next week.

HEALEYFIELD AND ROWLEY SCHOOL BOARD ELECTION.

The nominations of candidates to serve upon this Board closed last (Thursday) evening, the following being the names handed to the returning-officer (Mr W. H. Ritson, Lanchester):—*Robert Walton, of Stanhope House, leadmine owner; *Matthew Lee, Castleside, butcher; Samuel Ellison, Fern Cottage, Castleside, steel-worker; Rev Charles John Walker, Castleside Vicarage, Clerk in Holy Orders; *Wm. J. Scott, The Sycamores, Rowley, landowner; Wm. Pattinson, Castleside, steel-worker; Wm. Bowey, Middle Heads, farmer; *Thomas J. Muse, Castleside House, merchant; and *Elliott Leybourne, Castleside, gentleman. There are nine candidates for the five seats, those denoted thus * being the members of the expiring Board. The polling will take place at the Board School, at Castleside, on Tuesday, May 1st, between the hours of noon and eight o'clock p.m. Withdrawals can be received up to Tuesday next. The contest is likely to be keen and exciting, as the majority of the ratepayers are decidedly adverse to the high-handed action of the late Board, soon after the members felt their seats were snug for the best part of three years, passing a resolution declining to admit a reporter to their meetings. A meeting has been called to consider—"Is voting by ballot secret?" "Should the Press be admitted?" and "Ought there to be a contest?"

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Births, Marriages, and Deaths.

BIRTHS.

CONSETT JUNCTION.—On the 15th inst., the wife of Mr Thomas Vasey, engine-driver, of a son.

WHICKHAM HOUSE.—On the 18th inst, the wife of J. W. Brown, of a son.

WHICKHAM.—18th inst., the wife of R. T. Swinburn, of a daughter.

MARRIAGES.

TANFIELD.—16th inst., by the Vicar (Rev T. H. Archdall, M.A.), assisted by the curate (Rev T. Denton, B.A.), John, seventh son of the late Mr W. Fawcett, of Tanfield Lea, to Thomasine, second daughter of Mr R. Smith, farmer, Tanfield.

DUNSTON.—17th inst., by the Rev J. New, vicar of Dunston, John, eldest son of W. Potts, Shotley Field, to Annie, eldest daughter of A. Chapman, Railway Station, Petworth, Sussex.

DEATHS.

CONSETT.—10, Forster Street, on the 19th inst., aged 67 years, Charles Lumsden. Interment at Benfieldside Cemetery, on Sunday, 22nd April, at 2·30 o'clock. Friends please accept this, the only intimation.

Consett Park, on the 14th inst., aged 84 years, Mary Rennoldson, late of Wheatley Green.

SUMMERFIELD, near Blackhill.—On the 18th inst., in his 93rd year, William Taylor, farmer. Interment at St. John's Church, Snods Edge, Shotley, on Saturday, 21st inst., at Four o'clock. Friends please accept this, the only intimation.

BLACKHILL.—11, Rogers Street, 14th inst., aged 71, Ann, wife of John Siddle, late of Shotley Bridge.

SHOTLEY BRIDGE.—Temperance Hall, on Sunday, April 15th, aged 21 months, Arthur Oswald, the dearly beloved son of John and Sarah Seed.

EBCHESTER.—14th inst., aged 62 years, Joseph Thompson.

DIPTON.—15th inst., aged 18 years, William, son of H. Beathem.

HOWENS GILL.—16th inst., aged 59, Thomasin, wife of W. Robson.

TOW LAW.—16th inst., aged 50 years George Robinson, grocer.

MARLEY HILL.—16th inst., in her 83rd year, Eleanor, widow of the late J. Thompson, sen.

CRAGHEAD.—14th inst., aged 61, Jane, wife of Geo. Marshall.

DUNSTON.—14th inst., aged 79 Michael Hall.

EIGHTON BANKS.—15th inst., aged 55, Jas., husband of Mary Hunter.

PELTON FELL.—Dove Cote, 18th inst., in her 66th year, Jane, wife of R. Ferguson, V.S., late of Coanswood.

WATERHOUSES.—14th inst., aged 68, Sarah, widow of Wm. Moralee.

HAMILTON ROW.—14th inst., aged 21, Jane, wife of E. Spence.

STANHOPE.—10th inst., aged 37, Sarah Thompson.

WOLSINGHAM.—18th inst., aged 74, Mary, wife of J. Pickering.

BIRTLEY.—15th inst., aged 64, Mark Hull.

Factory Row, 16th inst., aged 5 years, Thos., son of John Jopling.

DURHAM.—10, Tenter Terrace, 17th inst., aged 39, Ann, fourth daughter of the late R. Lindsley, horse dealer.

TRIMDON COLLIERY.—13th inst., aged 55, Isabel, wife of Chas. Wilkinson.

MOURNING GOODS.—HUGH MORTON and CO., 55, Grainger Street, Newcastle, directs attention to their Immense Stock for Men, Youths and Boys, ready for immediate wear, in all the Newest Materials and Latest Styles. Men's Black Worsted Suits, from 21s. to 49s. 6d.; Youths' Suits from 16s. 11d.; Boys' Suits, from 6s. 11d. Single Garments at proportionate prices. Suits made to order in a few hours. 94w

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