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No. 1,286.

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FRIDAY EVENING, April 3rd, 1885.

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TO LET, the BUILDING OF A BRIDGE, over Pan Burn, at Low Mill.

Plans, Sections, Specifications, and Conditions, may be seen at the Surveyor's Office, to whom Tenders must be sent on or before April 8th, 1885.

The Board do not bind themselves to accept the lowest or any Tender.—By order.

WM. DIXON, District Surveyor.
Surveyor's Office, Lanchester,
March 28th, 1885. 294u

Lost.

LOST, on Saturday last, between Selby Lodge and Consett Old Station, a Lemon and White BEAGLE HOUND. Last seen with a lad carrying it in his arms towards Consett.—Information to Shotley Beagle Kennels, Shotley Lodge. 317u

Wanted.

TO GROCERS.—WANTED, a CARTMAN.—Apply to T. D. DRYDEN & Co., Front Street, Consett 319u

WANTED, a respectable Youth to serve his APPRENTICESHIP to the Tailoring Trade.—Apply to GEO. RICHARDSON, Shotley Bridge. 282u

WANTED, at once, a respectable HOUSEKEEPER, where there are two children, aged 4 and 6 years.—Apply to W. R. BELL, 15, Havelock Street, Consett. 304u

SERVANTS' REGISTRY OFFICE.

LADIES requiring Servants; also, Servants wanting Situations.—Apply to MISS COCKBURN, at the S. R. O., 13, Front Street, Consett. 828s

MRS. ARMSTRONG'S REGISTRY OFFICE, 15, Pilgrim Street, Newcastle.—Ladies requiring Servants can be suited daily with Cooks, Housemaids, Nurses, and good General Servants; and Servants of all classes with good situations, by applying at above address. 515t

To Let.

TO LET, Three COTTAGES, at Blackfine.—Apply to J. S. MURRAY, Auctioneer, Benfieldside. 40u

TO LET, a Four-roomed HOUSE, in Durham Road, Blackfine.—Apply to Mr. GEORGE ELTRINGHAM, grocer, 1, Walton Street, Blackhill. 302u

TO LET, Two COTTAGES, at Benfieldside Edge Road.—Apply to WILLIAM ELSOM, No. 40, Benfieldside Edge Road. 204u

TO LET, a HOUSE, with Seven Rooms and Scullery, at May Term, situate in Sherburn Terrace, Consett.—Apply to T. SWAINSTON, Grocer, Middle Street, Consett. 291u

TO LET, a HOUSE, in Iveston Village, consisting of 4 Rooms, 2 Gardens, and every convenience. Rent 3s. per week.—Apply to J. ARMSTRONG, East Castle. 314u

TO LET, with immediate possession, a comfortable Four-roomed HOUSE, with large Garden in front, situate in Ledger Terrace, Blackhill.—Apply to WILLIAM RAW, Auctioneer and Agent, Blackhill. 311u

TO LET, with immediate possession, a comfortable Five-roomed HOUSE, situate on Iveston Road, Leadgate.—Apply to WILLIAM RAW, Auctioneer and Agent, Blackhill. 310u

TO LET, WESLEY COTTAGE, Green Street Shotley Bridge, containing Five Rooms, Yard, and Out-buildings.—Apply to J. OLEY, Auctioneer, 10, Wood Street, Shotley Bridge. 46t

TO LET, a HOUSE and SHOP, STABLES, &c., for many years in the occupation of Mr. J. W. Davison, Furniture Broker, &c., Catchgate.—Apply to GEO. HOBSON, Harperley Mills. 293u

TO LET, at the Leazes, Burnopfield, Two Four-roomed HOUSES, with Gardens attached. Possession of one can be had at once, and the other on the 13th May.—For Rent, etc., apply to MATTHEW ADAMSON, Leazes, Lintz Green Station. 281u

For Sale.

WASTE PAPER FOR SALE, at 1d. per lb.—Apply at the *Guardian Office*, Consett.

FOR SALE, a useful COW; due to Calve on April 4th.—For Particulars, apply to R. J., 42, Sherburn Terrace, Consett. 279u

FOR SALE, Three nice Calving HEIFERS, at profit.—Apply to W. C. BOWMAN, Hole House, Lanchester. 259u

FOR SALE, a Three-roomed HOUSE, &c.—For particulars, apply to W. APPLEBY, Leazes, Lintz Green 305u

FOR SALE, a Brown MARE, 15½ hands, quiet in Double and Single Harness, and to ride. Good, honest worker, and very fast.—Apply, No. 9, Harvey Street, Consett. 303u

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.

DWELLING HOUSE FOR SALE, situate in East Parade, Consett, containing 12 Rooms, Bath Room, &c., with Stable and Loft at rear. Price £625. Large portion of which can remain on Mortgage if desired.—Apply to J. T. KAY, Solicitor, West Hartlepool. 132u

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They submit a few of their Specialties, which are well worthy of a trial, viz:—Alberts, rich Tea, Wine, Shaughran, Water, Ginger Nuts, extra Toast, Digestive (rich and royal); also, their famed Scotch Farls (rich) and Scotch Oat Cakes (plain). These can be had from all Grocers, and from their Wholesale Agents,
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CO. DURHAM.

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HOT DINNERS, TEAS, and other REFRESHMENTS on the Shortest Notice and most Reasonable Terms.

N.B.—As J. F. has a REGISTRY OFFICE in connection with his Business, Ladies wanting Servants would do well to give him a call. 384c

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They are adapted to the mouth on an improved system, guaranteed in every case to fit perfectly, and warranted for five years.
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THOUSANDS OF SUFFERERS
Have been effectually
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BY LAMONT'S SELF-CURATIVE
MAGNETIC BELTS,

For Lumbago, Rheumatism, Sciatica, Liver Complaints, &c.
INVIGORATORS for Bronchitis and Asthma.
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MR. LAMONT has much pleasure in publishing the following TESTIMONIALS, recently received. Further particulars will be found in DESCRIPTIVE PAMPHLET Gratis on application or sent Post Free.

SEVERE INJURY TO THE SPINE.
462 Leadgate, near Consett,
February 7th, 1885.

SIR,—Two years ago I happened a severe accident. Whilst at my work in the pit, a fall of stone came down on me and injured my spine, a little above the waist. I was knocked fairly useless, could not use my legs, and was unable to do any work. A year ago a friend of mine advised me to see you, and on your advice I procured a Magnetic Belt and Spine Band. I feel proud to say that the Appliances have done me a vast amount of good—so much good in fact that I am now better than I thought I ever would be. I have been able to work regularly for the past six months, and I am certain I could not have done this had I not got your Appliances. Nothing would tempt me to put them off, as I feel I could not follow my work without them.

I have come specially to Newcastle to inform you of the good I have derived from your Appliances, and beg to say further that you may use this as you please for the benefit of other sufferers.—I am, yours respectfully,

Mr. D. Lamont. JOHN SURTEES.

BRONCHITIS CURED IN A WEEK
Newcastle, January 22nd, 1883.

DEAR SIR,—Some months ago, when suffering from a severe attack of bronchitis, I procured one of your Lung Invigorators. I had not worn it many hours before I found considerable relief, and within a week, I was, I am pleased to say, quite well again. Since that time, although frequently exposed to draughts, I have had no return of the ailment—in fact, I have not even so much as had a cold. I am convinced, therefore, that your Appliances, besides being Curative, are also Preventative; and I recommend all persons who are liable to take cold to procure one of your Lung Invigorators.—I remain, faithfully yours,

Mr. D. Lamont THOMAS J. SCOTT.

PAIN AND WEAKNESS IN THE BACK.
Byers Green, near Spennymoor,
January 17th, 1885.

DEAR SIR,—I have worn one of your Magnetic Belts for pain and weakness in the back, from which I have suffered for about two years, and have pleasure in stating that I have derived most satisfactory benefit from it. It is a great support, and comfortable to wear, and I heartily advise all who are troubled with a bad back to try one of your valuable Magnetic Belts.—Yours, &c.,

Mr. D. Lamont. THOMAS NICHOL.

THE SPECIAL MAGNETIC BELT at 21s., and SPECIAL LUNG INVIGORATOR at 21s., (formerly sold at 30s.), continue to give unbounded satisfaction. In sending for Belt, please state WAIST MEASURE OVER FIRST GARMENT. Sent Post Free on receipt of 21s.

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NOTE.—The Appliances are forwarded Post Free.

Business Announcements.

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IT IS UNEQUALLED BY ANY OTHER MIXTURE.

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STARCHES, BLUES, PATENT MEDICINES, and all PACKETED GOODS 10 to 50 per cent. Cheaper than the usual Prices.

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ANNFIELD PLAIN 298t

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Mr. ROBERT JACKSON, proprietor of the *Consett Guardian*, has been appointed Sole Agent for the Sale of the above Work in the Consett District, and will send a copy to any address on receipt of a Postal Order for One Guinea 58

Business Announcements.

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ADAM BRODIE,
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Also, the THYMO CRESOL UNIVERSAL PURIFIER, most excellent as a Disinfectant and Wash for Cattle.

Price 6d. and 1s. per Bottle, or 2s. 6d. per Quart.

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Milner's Dandelion and Podophyllyn Pills. Excellent for the Stomach, and all diseases of the Liver.

Sarsaparilla Blood Purifying Mixture.

HOP BARK AND TONIC BITTERS.

FINEST COD LIVER OIL. TASTELESS ITALIAN CASTOR OIL.

ORANGE QUININE WINE. QUININE AND IRON TONIC, &c.

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The Consett Guardian.

FRIDAY, APRIL 3RD, 1885

Parliamentary Summary

THURSDAY.

In the House of Lords, the Earl of Derby, in reply to Lord Harris, said the Colonial Office had received no information of a proposal to stay proceedings in regard to the murder of Mr Bethell. The differences between Sir C. Warren and Sir H. Robinson had been referred to the Home Government. The Earl of Kimberley brought down a Message from the Queen in reference to the calling out of the Reserves and the Militia, and announced that it would be taken into consideration next day. A bill brought in by the Lord Chancellor to amend the Lunacy Laws was read a first time. Lord Greville put a question as to the fighting at Hasheen, which the Earl of Kimberley declined to answer. The Earl of Morley informed Lord Bury that there had been complaints of the jamming of the Boxer cartridge in recent actions in the Soudan. The matter was under consideration. The House rose at a quarter-past seven o'clock.

In the Commons, the Chancellor of the Exchequer brought up a Message from the Queen in reference to the calling out of the Reserves and the Militia. The Prime Minister informed Mr Onslow that the Government had grounds for believing that the Russians had attempted to seize Penjdeh. He had no intention to make on Monday a statement bearing upon the relations between England and Russia in reference to Afghanistan. The Chancellor of the Exchequer announced that he hoped to make his financial statement on Thursday, 16th April; and Sir C. Dilke informed Sir R. Cross that the further consideration of the Seats Bill would be deferred until to-morrow (Friday) fortnight. In Committee on the Egyptian Loan Mr Gladstone moved that a loan of £315,000 to Egypt be guaranteed under the Convention, to meet a payment due in April. The right hon. gentleman quoted precedents to show that the joint guarantee of the Powers gave them no right of interference in the affairs of Egypt. Mr T. C. Bruce moved an amendment condemnatory of the Convention.

FRIDAY.

In the House of Lords, in reply to the Marquis of Salisbury and the Duke of Argyll, Earl Granville denied that there was any flinching on the part of the Government in regard to their Afghan frontier policy. He could not give a date for the commencement of the proceedings connected with the demarcation of the Russian and Afghan boundary, the reply of the Russian Government not having yet been received. The movement of the Afghans to Penjdeh took place before Sir P. Lumsden had gone there. The Marquis of Salisbury commented upon the proposed Egyptian loan, and Earl Granville, in reply, made a brief statement on the subject. The Earl of Derby assured Lord Bury that precautions were being taken for the safety of our coaling stations. Other business was disposed of, and the House rose shortly after six o'clock.

In the House of Commons, Lord E. Fitzmaurice informed Sir H. Holland that Zebehr Pasha would be detained at Gibraltar. It was not proposed to put him on his trial. Mr Ashley, in reply to questions, said that President Kruger had promised Sir C. Warren to give all the aid in his power with regard to punishing the murderers of Mr Bethell. The Under Foreign Secretary denied that the differences between Sir C. Warren and Sir H. Robinson were serious. Mr Gladstone announced that the Civil Service Estimates would be taken on the day the House re-assembled. The Marquis of Hartington informed Sir Stafford Northcote that on Monday next a convenient day would be fixed for considering the Royal Message in reference to calling out the Reserves. Sir M. Hicks-Beach resumed the debate on the resolution moved by Mr Gladstone to sanction the loan to Egypt. The right hon. baronet said the agreement, viewed as a financial arrangement, could not be deemed satisfactory, but from a political point of view it was infinitely more objectionable. He held that the rejection of the Convention would restore liberty to England in dealing with the affairs of Egypt. Mr Chamberlain followed in reply; and the debate was continued by Baron H. De Worms, Mr Slagg, Mr Goschen—who urged the House to accept the Convention—Mr W. H. Smith, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and others. The Committee then divided—For the Amendment, 246; against, 294; majority for the Government, 48. Mr Gladstone's motion was then put and agreed to. The Lord Advocate introduced a bill for the better administration and endowment of the Universities of Scotland.

SATURDAY.

The House of Lords met at five o'clock, when the Royal assent was given by Commission to the Consolidated Fund (No. 2) Bill, and the Cape of Good Hope Advance Bill. The Army Annual Bill was also read a first time, and the House adjourned until the 13th April.

The House of Commons also met, and were summoned to the Upper House to hear the Royal Assent given to the measures mentioned above.

MONDAY.

In the House of Commons, Lord Hartington, in reply to Colonel Stanley, explained that, in view of the holidays and the departure of Her Majesty for the Continent, it had been deemed desirable to issue the Royal Proclamation in regard to the Reserves and the Militia, but the requirements of the military authorities at home and in India had not yet been fully ascertained. Lord F. Fitzmaurice informed Mr Cowen that no further intelligence had been received from Kassala since his last statement on the subject. Sir W. Harcourt, in reply to Mr Macfarlane, said it was not the intention of the Government to introduce a Bill for the suspension of evictions in Scotland. The Attorney-General, questioned by Mr Gorst, stated that Zebehr Pasha was detained at Gibraltar without trial under an Order in Council. In reply to questions, Lord Hartington said the latest intelligence from St. Petersburg strengthened the hope of the Government that a satisfactory issue would be arrived at. As to the military preparations in India, he would not say more than that our engagements with the Ameer of Afghanistan and the distances separating our forces from the regions to which these engagements referred, made it desirable to make some preparation to maintain those engagements should occasion arise. Lord E. Fitzmaurice added for the information of Mr Stanhope, that the answer of the Russian Government to the last communication of Earl Granville had been sent, and was believed to be of a conciliatory character.

TUESDAY.

In the House of Commons, in reply to Mr McCoan, Lord E. Fitzmaurice said Turkey's signature to the Egyptian Convention was delayed by a misconception, but the signature having now been given, there would be no public advantage in speaking of the confidential communications which had passed between the Government and the Porte. Lord Hartington could not confirm the statement that Osman Digna had sent in a flag of truce. General Graham had telegraphed that spies reported the abandonment by the enemy of Tamai and Hasheen. A reconnaissance would be made to test this report. His Lordship having moved the adjournment of the House at its rising until Thursday, April 9th, discussions and questions followed in reference to the Afghan frontier question, the military operations in the Soudan, the necessity for a Court of Criminal Appeal, and other matters. The Marquis of Hartington replied, but only to deprecate strongly any attempt to induce the Government to enter into any detailed statement as to the progress of the negotiations with Russia. At the evening sitting some Irish questions were submitted, and then the motion for adjournment was agreed to. The House rose until Thursday, April 9th.

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Original Poetry.

*THE SABBATH BELLS AT CONSETT.

When breezes sigh and the calm fields lie
Under the sky of light,
And the waters still and the lonely hill
Are seen in the moon's soft light;
Then a sound that gladness tells—
Now high, now low, with rythmic flow,
With music sweet the ear doth greet—
'Tis the sound of the Sabbath bells.

Then answer leaves and rustling sheaves,
Mingling with the chime;
Then the flowers move where the bee doth rove
In the days of summer time
When she seeks the flow'ry dells,
And in spring's young prime, human hearts beat time
To the tune of the notes which earthward float—
'Tis the sound of the Sabbath bells.

When weary men, thro' brain or pen,
Are tired with life's care;
With the hammer's blows as the furnace glows,
And fall into despair,
Then a word that God's love tells:
Speak in tones of peace, and grief shall cease,
And a voice of cheer their soul shall hear
Like the sound of the Sabbath bells.

Consett. E.P.R.

*The bells of St. Mary's and other Church bells heard from the Blue Mountains.

Correspondence.

We do not hold ourselves responsible for the opinions expressed by our correspondents, nor do we undertake to return their communications.—Ed. C.G.)

THE LATE INQUEST AT BLACKHILL

To the Editor of the Consett Guardian.

2nd Clown: "But is this law?"
1st Clown: "Ay marry is't, crowner's 'quest law."
—*Hamlet, Act 5.*

SIR,—Shakespeare had evidently not a great respect for Coroner's law. Nor is this to be wondered at, when we consider that in former times Coroners were chosen, not in respect of any personal qualities befitting them for their office, but solely by reason of a property qualification. In the time of Edward I. none but Knights were eligible, and we read of an instance in the 8th year of Edward III. where a Coroner's appointment was cancelled because he was merely a merchant. Hence we may understand the reason for Shakespeare's gibe. The position being an honorary one, and conferred only on those of sufficient rank and property, who had the leisure and inclination for undertaking it, the dignity often fell into the hands of those who, caring little for popular opinion, made their court a petty star chamber, where law of a very questionable kind was administered. In course of time, however, the property qualification was overlooked, and Blackstone was led to complain that though formerly no Coroner would condescend to be paid for serving his country, they, in his time, only desired to be chosen for the sake of the perquisites. Certain it is that the change which Blackstone complains of was for the better, and one reason why the ancient office of Coroner has so long survived is that it is now sought after and conferred on competent men who perform their duties in a dignified and praiseworthy manner. Among the Coroners of England there is no one ranks higher than Mr Graham, the learned Coroner for Chester Ward. He has always been foremost in upholding their prerogatives, and as far as the means at his command will allow him, has raised the Court of the Coroner in the estimation of those who have a care for the proper administration of the law in the country. Yet one does sometimes hear of legal dicta of Coroners which are questionable, and remind one of the passage from Hamlet which I have quoted above. In your report of the inquest held last week before Mr Coroner Graham and his twelve "good and lawful men," touching the death of poor Harris, I read that the Coroner put the following question to Mrs Harris with respect to a statement she made to Sergt. Cruickshank: "Was it because you had not a license and were afraid of getting into trouble that you said so?" thereby implying that the deceased man ought to have had a licence, and might have got into trouble for not having one. Now, with all deference, I deny this to be the law. Apart from the indiscreet use of firearms, which is always to be blamed, Harris was quite within his legal right in having and using within his house or yard a firearm without having a licence to do so. I would not have noticed the point were it not that I think that the insinuation, coming as it did from the Coroner, that this unfortunate man met his death in the doing of an unlawful act, ought not to go forth unchallenged.—Yours, &c., A.B.C.

Blackhill, March 30th, 1885.

[Although the deceased was, when he received his fatal injuries, engaged in a very unusual and dangerous method of cleaning the chimney (which we question was within his legal right), yet the Coronor did not, we imagine, give that as a reason why he ought to have had a license, but to another purpose for which there is good ground for supposing the gun had been put.—Ed *C.G.*]

NOMINATIONS OF GUARDIANS.

LANCHESTER UNION.

Owing to the operation of the triennial service of Guardians, elections have only taken place in two-thirds of the townships of the Lanchester Union, and in one of these will a contest ensue. The following is a list of the nominations, published on Saturday last:—

Collierley (2 required).—J. A. Curry, grocer, Dipton; *Wm. Rutherford, colliery manager, Catchgate.
Greencroft (1).—*R. Mitchinson, colliery manager, Catchgate.
Hedleyhope (1).—*Thos. Taylor Smith, gentleman, Greencroft Park.
Healeyfield (1).—*T. J. Muse, merchant, Castleside.
Lanchester (2).—*Jno. Buckham, timber merchant, Lanchester; *John Wilkinson, farmer, Morrowfield.
Muggleswick (2).—*John Bowey, farmer, The Middles, Rowley; W. J. Scott, gentleman, The Sycamores, Rowley (declines to serve).
Tanfield (4).—*W. M. Annandale, paper manufacturer, Lintzford; *N. Clark, land agent, Beamish; *R. Clark, land agent, Lintz Green House; Thomas Johnson, colliery manager, West Stanley; *T. Pringle, colliery manager, Tanfield Lea.
Esh (2).—*Wm. Cummings, farmer, Esh Laude; *Henry Hornsby, colliery manager, Clifford's House, Quebec; Wm. Logan, mining engineer, Stobillee House, Langley Park (declines to serve).
Langley Park (1).—*Wm. Logan, mining engineer, Stobillee House, Langley Park.
Satley (1).—*John Nicholson, Manor House, Lanchester.
Kyo (1).—*Geo. Hobson, Harperley Mills, Catchgate; Geo. Humble, mining engineer, Harperley House, Kyo.

The names thus distinguished (*) are the retiring members. It will be seen that in Collierley township, Mr Curry replaces Mr J. W. Hodgson, mining engineer, Bradley Lodge, Dipton; and at Kyo, Mr Humble is nominated in lieu of Mr Wm. Bell, Co-operative Store secretary, Annfield Plain. In the case of Tanfield, the voting papers will be delivered on the 8th April, collected on the 9th, and the votes counted up on the 10th inst., when the result of the poll will be declared. In Esh and Muggleswick townships, two candidates have withdrawn, thus avoiding a contest.

WEARDALE UNION.—There will be contests in all the wards of the Union except Edmondbyers and Hunstanworth.

DURHAM UNION.—The following are the nominations for those townships where contests will probably take place:—Bailey North and Castle (1)—*J. George and J. Hutchinson. Brancepeth (2)—P. McLaren, A. L. Steavenson, R. Harle, W Harle, T. Argument. Brandon and Byshottles (3)—R. L. Weeks, Rev J. Lawson, J. G. Lishman, M. F. Holliday, R. Gardner, T. Lamb. Hett (1)—J. Miller, Wm. Johnson. Pittington (2)—Rev James Barmley, T. Crawford, T. Crawford, jun., *M. Tindale. Sherburn (2)—T. Crawford, jun., J. Smith, T. Crawford. Shincliffe (2)—*T. Ford, J G. Russell, W. Rutter. Stockley (1)—W. Harle, *C. E. Bell. Sunderland Bridge (1)—W. Johnson, W. R. G. Dakers. Tudhoe (3)—W. Fleming, P. Simpson, W. Johnson, J. R. Crone, A. B. Cowan. Whitwell House and Sherburn Hospital (1)—Jas. Fowler, T. Crawford, and *T Crawford, jun. Willington (3)—T. D. Stephenson, J. G. Harrison, R. L. Weeks, R. Render.

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LANCHESTER ELECTORAL DIVISION.

THE CONSETT IRONWORKERS AND MR TROW.

A conference in connection with the National Iron and Steelworkers' Association was held at the Mechanics' Hall, Darlington, on Saturday, Mr W. Shaw, of Wigan, the president of the association, was in the chair, and Mr W. Stanley, of Sunderland, in the vice-chair. Delegates attended from the different ironworkers' lodges in the North of England, and also from South Yorkshire, Lancashire, Monmouthshire, &c. The principal business of the conference consisted of the consideration of the question of the representation of Labour in Parliament. It was reported that this question had been before the Executive of the Association, and by them had been remitted to the members in the different iron districts, who had duly considered the matter and sent delegates to the conference to represent their views.

The Consett delegates present were requested to state what were the prospects of success for a Labour candidate in the Lanchester Division of the county of Durham. The delegates reported that a full inquiry had been made in the Division, and the feeling of the working men, who constituted the great majority of the voters, had been duly tested. The result was that it was shown that both the ironworkers and the miners were strongly in favour of Mr Edward Trow, the secretary of the Ironworkers' Association, contesting the Division, and had given assurance of their support in case it were decided that Mr Trow should come forward. As to the financial question they believed that there would be no difficulty on that point if the conference were in favour of Mr Trow standing as a candidate for the Lanchester Division, and that gentleman could see his way to accept that position.

Several delegates supported the view enunciated by the Consett delegates, and expressed the pleasure and satisfaction they felt at the action of the Consett working men in desiring to confer the honour of a seat in Parliament upon Mr Trow.

In the full discussion which followed there was a general desire expressed that if Mr Trow could accept the invitation all present would use every effort to assist in his return, and that no financial difficulty would arise in connection with the matter.

The following resolution was ultimately unanimously carried:—"Resolved, that this conference requests Mr Trow to carefully consider the request of the Consett workmen, and if he can see his way clear to contest the Division of Lanchester, in the county of Durham, that this conference pledges itself to bear the expense of the contest and support him in Parliament in case he should be returned."

It was stated that the funds of the Association were in a satisfactory state, and that although £1,000 had within the last twelve months been distributed amongst the unemployed members, there was a large balance in hand, more than sufficient to assure the support of Mr Trow should he be returned to Parliament.

MEETING OF THE CONSERVATIVE PARTY.

On Monday afternoon, a private meeting of the Conservative party was held at the Queen's Head Hotel, Consett, when it was arranged to hold a public meeting in the Agricultural Hall, Benfieldside, on Monday, 20th inst., for the purpose of organising the formation of a Central Conservative Association for the Electoral Division of Lanchester, and adopting resolutions on the subject.

CONSETT POLLING DISTRICT.

On Tuesday evening, a fairly-attended and representative public meeting of Liberals (convened by Messrs W. Jenkins and T. Hull) was held in the New Town Hall, Consett, for the purpose of electing a chairman, vice-chairman, secretary, and eight representatives on the Central Council, and also to consider the question of selecting a suitable candidate for the Division. Mr W. Jenkins, J.P., of Consett Hall, presided, and amongst those present were Messrs A. Brodie (secretary Consett Liberal Association), T. W. Welford, Jas. Palliser, R. Jackson, T. Williams (ironworkers' representative), C. P. Douglass, J. Lumsden, W. Davies, J. T. Little, James Scott, S. Brodie, Edward Bell, J. Hart, Isaac Unsworth, jun., S. Stansfield, Frank Swainston, J. Featherstone, John Ward, T. B. Davies, Wm. Knox, H. Foggon, J. Davison, W. H. James, Jas. Hardy, Rev E. P. Riley, and other well-known Liberals.

The CHAIRMAN, in opening the proceedings, regretted that the attendance was not large, and thought the cause of Liberalism was one that ought to be a little more looked upon, especially at the present critical moment. Their steps were safe and sure, and they were progressing steadily; and certainly the cause they had at heart would bring their Liberal Associations into a little more prominence and greater perfection than hitherto. (Applause.) The object of these associations was to band together Liberals in friendly unison, to promote the interests of Liberalism and to do that which is thought best according to the motives they had at heart. (Cheers.) The Consett Polling District Association was established for these purposes, and he hoped that all true Liberals would identify themselves and support this praiseworthy movement. He (the Chairman) did not know of any place where unity, both in the formulation of an object and its ultimate attainment, was of more importance than amongst the mining population of their own county of Durham. (Cheers.) There were now 11,000 electors in the Lanchester Division—the greater percentage being ironworkers and miners—and there would be about 10 working men for every individual representing the trading and professional classes. He urged the electors, when the proper time arrived, to advocate the principles of Liberalism, and become thoroughly united, and thus render it exceedingly difficult for the feeble and puny efforts of the Conservatives to take their stand in the Division, and bring forward a candidate of their own. (Loud cheers.) It had therefore been decided to organise a general Representative Council to embrace the electors in the whole of the Division, and for every 1,000 or part of 1,000 inhabitants, each polling district was entitled to send a representative to the Central Committee, which would be composed of between 80 and 90 of the leading Liberals of the district. It had been stated in the public announcement of the meeting that the question of their candidature would be discussed, and a general belief naturally existed that the claims of one or more gentlemen upon them would be considered there that evening, but upon consultation with leaders of all types and shades of the local Liberal party, he had come to the decision that it would perhaps be more advisable to defer until a later period any reference whatever to the nominating or supporting of any particular candidate. (Hear, hear.) He suggested that it would be wise for to allow the members on the Central Council, when they assembled at Consett on April 20th, to discuss the matter amongst themselves, and report the general opinion of the Conference upon that point at another public meeting to be held in that Hall at a future period. Mind, he only recommended this course, and he did not desire to dictate to the meeting; but he counselled them to avoid the danger of running two or even three Liberal candidates, as it might prove disastrous to the interests they had in view. (Loud applause).

Mr CUSH (Thomas Street, Consett) enquired the extent of the Consett Polling District?

Mr A. BRODIE replied that it was almost identical with the Local Board area, with the addition of the townships of Healeyfield and Rowley, and Muggleswick.

Mr R. JACKSON proposed that Mr Jenkins should be chairman, Mr John Calvert vice-chairman, and Mr A. Brodie secretary of the local branch Liberal Association for the Consett Polling District, which was thereby formed.

Mr T. WILLIAMS seconded the motion, which was carried *nem. con.*

The next business was the appointment of eight members, who along with the foregoing gentlemen, will act on the Divisional Council.

Mr W. H. JAMES thereupon proposed the following names:—Messrs T. Williams, Thomas Hull, H. Maund, H. Lamb (ironworkers), C. P. Douglass, Geo. Hawdon, and James Palliser (tradesmen), and Benjamin Wright (miner).

Mr CUSH moved the addition of the names of Messrs. R. Errington, farmer, Rowley, and T. J. Muse, grocer, Castleside, to the Central Committee.

The CHAIRMAN pointed out that as Castleside district possessed a population of 600 odd, it was only entitled to one representative; and Mr CUSH eventually agreed to withdraw the name of Mr Muse, but pressed the selection of Mr Errington as representing the agricultural interests.

After a long and animated discussion, it was eventually resolved, on the proposal of Mr ROBERT JACKSON, seconded by Mr WELFORD, that the following gentlemen be elected to sit on the Central Council:—Ironworkers—Mr Thomas Williams, Mr Thos. Hull, and Mr Henry Lamb. Mercantile—Mr C. P. Douglas, Mr G. Hawdon, and Mr James Palliser. Miners—Mr B. Wright. Agriculturalists—Mr Geo. Errington.

Mr OLIVER (Healeyfield) supported the proposal in a neat speech.

It was decided to dissolve and wind-up the old Consett Liberal Registration Association.

The CHAIRMAN, adverting to the question of considering the advisability of selecting a suitable candidate to represent the constituency, remarked that during the past week or ten days the ironworkers had finally invited a candidate to come forward in their interests. His opinon was that it was rather premature to specify any particular gentleman for the Division. Although styled after "Lanchester," he rather anticipated that Consett would be the headquarters of the electoral machinery, seeing that it was centrally situated, and easily accessible from such places as Dipton, Tanfield, Annfield Plain, Lanchester, &c.

Mr CUSH said he had seen from the newspapers that a meeting had been held at Darlington, at which a candidate had been selected for the Lanchester Division. He condemned such a practice, maintaining that the electors of the Division were quite competent to manage their own internal affairs.

Mr WILLIAMS explained that at the meeting at Darlington on Saturday, the ironworkers were prepared to submit the nomination of a gentleman well-known in the district—a name that is a household word amongst the labouring classes of the community. (Cheers.) If the constituency did not approve of the candidature of Mr Trow, then there was an end of the matter. If on the other hand, the electors declared that he is the man of their choice, then he will be the representative of the people. (Applause.)

Mr W. MAUND supplemented the remarks of Mr Williams, contending that Mr Trow had been selected by the working men of Consett, and it rested entirely with the electors whether that gentleman came forward or not. The ironworkers had not gone beyond their legitimate rights in acting as they had done at Darlington.

Mr JAMES HARDY (Templetown) desired to know by what means the representatives on the Central Council would ascertain the feelings of the electors in regard to the selection of a candidate?

The CHAIRMAN said the members of the Central Executive must learn all the information they possibly could between now and the 20th April, and the Council after discussing the matter amicably amongst themselves might arrive at some definite conclusion as to who would be the best candidate for the constituency, and will receive the greatest amount of support; of course, submitting their suggestions to the general body of the electors.

Mr WILLIAMS thought that every elector should have a voice in the selection of a candidate, and not allow the opinions of a single township to go forth as reflecting the feeling of the Division.

The CHAIRMAN, replying to a further question from Mr Hardy, said the first duty of the Central Council would be to formulate a code of rules—a committee having been appointed to prepare the same—and when these regulations were adopted, then they would have some guide as to their mode of procedure. It was expected that the Council would act upright and just.

Mr WILLIAMS hoped that no candidate would be selected until he had delivered an address to the electors, and then the constituency would have a chance of forming an opinion as to who were fit and proper persons to represent their interests.

The CHAIRMAN stated that it would be folly on the part of the Central Council to fix upon a man whose feelings were repugnant to the vast majority of electors. If they adopted this course, then the delegates must be replaced by more capable men; inasmuch as by the adoption of such a course they would be granting the Conservative party a splendid opportunity to return one of their candidates. He considered it utterly impossible for the Tories to intrude upon the County of Durham at all, if the Liberals only worked in harmony. If a Conservative was elected for Lanchester, and five or six more for the other Divisions of the County, the people would be retrograding instead of advancing, and he felt convinced that the people would bitterly rue the day that such a calamity happened.

After further conversation, the proceedings terminated with a vote of thanks to the Chairman, proposed by Mr WILLIAMS, and seconded by Mr HART.

MEETING AT BLACKHILL.

A meeting for the same object as the above was held in connection with the Benfieldside Polling District on Tuesday evening, in the Agricultural Hall, Blackhill. The chair was occupied by Mr Jon. Priestman, J.P., chairman of the Derwent Liberal Association. The attendance was not very large, although influential, amongst whom we noticed Messrs Jos. Eltringham, J. Heymer, F. Priestman, J. Pumphrey, J. W. Rounthwaite, H. Carss, J. Dixon, J. Dowson, B. Moody, Wm. Palliser, W. Wheatley, Geo. Eltringham, J. B. King, &c.

The CHAIRMAN, on ascending the platform, was received with cheers. He felt sorry that the numbers were not so large as he had anticipated. The new Seats Bill was passed mostly for the benefit of the people, and who, he asked, should take a greater interest in it than they? He certainly would liked to have seen the working-classes better represented than they were that night. (Hear, hear.) As they were all aware, a Provisional Committee had been appointed for the Lanchester Electoral Division, and last Monday week this committee met at Consett. It was then thought desirable to divide the polling district into nine divisions, viz.—Benfieldside, Consett, Leadgate, Catchgate, Lanchester, Tanfield, Edmondbyers, Witton Gilbert, and Cornsay and Hedleyhope. It was arranged that each of these polling districts—for they eventually would become such—should have a separate existence; each one appointing a chairman, vice-chairman, secretary, and one representative for every thousand (or part thereof when exceeding 500) inhabitants included in the respective districts, who would act as representatives on the Provisional Committee. Their district, which included the greater portion of Ebchester, was entitled to have seven representatives; and it was for the purpose of appointing these, together with the other officials, and likewise to ascertain what the views of the electorate were as to a suitable candidate, that they had met there that night. With regard to the candidate business, he thought it was still rather premature. (Hear, hear.) For his part, he thought they could not do better than defer the matter until the Council had met, and let them consider the question first. (Hear, hear.) However, the subject was entirely in their hands, and they could either take this course or name some suitable candidate for their representatives to recommend to the Council at its meeting on the 20th inst. He urged that, as their district extended from Ebchester to Blackhill, they would give each portion a fair share on the representation, so that all their interests would be represented. (Applause.) If any gentleman wished to speak upon any matter, he trusted each one would do so in order and friendliness, and that they would conclude their meeting in perfect unanimity. (Cheers.)

Mr H. CARSS (Cutlers Hall) observed that from the agenda, he thought it was the duty of that meeting at least to indicate to the Council who would be the most likely candidate. Besides, their representatives would have to have something to work upon.

The CHAIRMAN: The question is entirely left with yourselves.

Mr JOHN HEYMER (Benfieldside) said he thought the first business of the meeting was to elect a chairman for their district. They would not, he said, have to go far to find a suitable gentleman, as there was one present that night who, in the interests of the veteran Derwent Liberal Association, had ever proved a most energetic, assiduous, and ardent supporter in the Liberal cause—he referred to their honoured chairman, who was president of the Association named. (Cheers.) It gave him unbounded pleasure in proposing that Mr Priestman be appointed chairman of their new Association. (Applause.)

Mr G. ELTRINGHAM (Blackhill) briefly seconded the proposition, which was carried with much enthusiasm.

The CHAIRMAN briefly thanked them for the honour conferred upon him, and promised to do his utmost for the interests of their district and Liberalism generally.

Mr CARSS moved, and Mr J. W. ROUNTHWAITE seconded, that Mr M. Coupland, of Westwood House, Ebchester, occupy the position of vice-chairman, which on being put to the meeting was carried *nem. con.*

Mr WM PALLISER (Blackhill) said that in Mr Joseph Eltringham, the Liberals of the district had a well-tried friend, he having for many years executed the duties of secretary to the Derwent Liberal Association with no little credit to himself. He had also been Liberal Registration agent for some time; and, taking these things into consideration, he thought they could not get one more suitable for the position of secretary than Mr Eltringham, and it gave him much pleasure indeed in making a motion to that effect.

Mr R. WALTON (Blackhill) seconded the motion.

The CHAIRMAN, in putting the motion to the meeting, expressed pleasure at being able to support it. If, he said, there was any person in the district that deserved eulogy more than another for zeal and activity in connection with the Liberal cause, it was Mr Jos. Eltringham. (Applause.)

The motion was unanimously carried.

Mr JACOB DOWSON (Blackhill) proposed that Messrs W. Hoe, R. Walton, J. G. Cooke, and W. Palliser represent Blackhill portion of the district on the Council.

Mr JOHN DIXON (Benfieldside) seconded the proposition, which was agreed to.

On the motion of Mr DIXON, seconded by Mr CARSS, Mr Benjamin Moody, of Ebchester, was appointed to represent that place.

Mr F. PRIESTMAN (Shotley Bridge) moved that Mr J. W. Rounthwaite and Mr Wm. Wheatley represent Shotley Bridge.

On Mr R. WALTON seconding the motion, it was agreed to.

The CHAIRMAN rose and said if they did not care to go into the candidate question, the business of that meeting was at an end.

Mr CARSS remarked that there was a very strong feeling in the neighbourhood for a labour candidate, but he did not feel disposed to propose to that effect; he thought the working-classes should take the initiative in the matter.

Mr ROUNTHWAITE enquired if no indication as to a candidate were given at that meeting, would the representatives be allowed to use their own discretion in voting for a candidate?

The CHAIRMAN: Yes; but they will not have the power to speak for the constituency. Candidates will be selected, and then referred back for approval to the public meetings.

After a considerable period had elapsed, during which no one offered any remark, Mr HEYMER moved a vote of thanks to the Chairman for presiding.

Mr MOODY having seconded the motion, it was adopted with acclamation; and the company quietly dispersed.

MEETING AT MEDOMSLEY.

On Tuesday evening, a largely-attended public meeting of the Liberal electors of the Medomsley and Leadgate district of the Lanchester Electoral Division was held at Mr Mace's Long Room, Medomsley, for the purpose of electing a chairman, vice-chairman, and secretary, together with eight representatives, who shall be members of the General Council to be held at Consett, April 20th.

Dr CAMPBELL, Blackhall Mill, presided. He said that it gave him very great pleasure to preside at such a meeting under similar circumstances, and congratulated them on the near prospect of their possessing votes. Their business that night was to elect a chairman, vice-chairman, and secretary, with eight representatives for that part of the Lanchester Division.

The following are the gentlemen elected:—Chairman, Mr W. Walton; Vice-Chairman, Mr W. Milligan; Secretary, Dr Campbell; Committee, Messrs T. Hall, J. Hodgson, R. Fenwick, P. Gallagher, T. Urwin, S. Kennedy, T. Anderson, and J. Brown. The next question being the selection of a suitable candidate,

Mr P. GALLAGHER said that as the Chairman had previously remarked, they were what is called a Liberal Association, and yet he was sorry to say there were two parties of them. There were two candidates hinted at as being likely to come forward into the field—one was Mr David Dale (Darlington) and the other Mr Edward Trow, of the same place. He said that so far as Mr Dale was concerned he had not one word to say against the man, nor did he ever remember hearing a working man say anything. He had been arbitrator and umpire in cases of dispute between masters and men, and he had never heard anyone charge him with unfairness; but that was not the thing they had to consider that night. Their business was to ask themselves whether Mr Dale or Mr Trow would represent their interests best in the British House of Commons. Capitalists, manufacturers, lawyers, and various other departments were well represented, whilst they had but two; and in a question coming up between capital and labour it would not be difficult to say which side Mr Dale would take. Therefore if they wanted the labour interest represented, let them send a working man. He had therefore much pleasure in moving that Mr E. Trow be a fit and proper person to represent the Lanchester Division in Parliament. (Cheers.)

The motion was seconded by Mr J. HODGSON (Westwood). Previous to its being put, however, a question was raised as to whether Mr Trow was prepared to contest the Division in the event of his being chosen, and the secretary was therefore requested to write the Ironworkers' Secretary, Blackhill, and ascertain the fact. If he were unwilling, another meeting is to be called previous to the Council meeting, to be held on April 20th at Consett. If willing, the decision of the present meeting to be final.

The motion for Mr Trow was then put and carried unanimously, there not being a single dissientent.

THE CHESTER-LE-STREET DIVISION.

MR LLOYD JONES'S CANDIDATURE.

On Saturday night, Mr Lloyd Jones addressed a crowded meeting in the Wesleyan Hall, Ryton. Mr Jos. Cowen, jun., occupied the chair.—Mr Jones, in his address to the meeting, said he would go to the poll, no matter how many candidates were in the field.—Mr J. Dunn moved the resolution that Mr Jones be the accepted candidate for the Chester-le-Street Division which was seconded by Mr O'Neil, and supported by T. Charlton.—An amendment was moved by Mr T. Richardson, that Mr Joicey be the accepted candidate, seconded by Mr Westgarth, and supported by Mr Moody. The proceedings were of a very disorderly character; and owing to the noise and confusion, it was impossible to tell whether the motion or the amendment had been carried.

LIBERAL MEETING AT EDMONDSLEY.

On Monday evening, a public meeting was held at Edmondsley, when it was decided to form an association to be called the "Edmondsley Liberal Association," and that its officers be:—President, Mr J. Hodgson; vice-presidents, Messrs B. Chipchase, J. McCabe, and M. Charlton; secretary, Mr J. Smith; treasurer, Mr D. Scott; and twelve committee-men, with power to add to their number. A resolution was passed—

> That the secretary write to each of the candidates now before the division, and ask him if he could conveniently fix dates on which to address public meetings of the electors at Edmondsley.

A CONSERVATIVE CANDIDATE.

On Tuesday afternoon, a meeting of representatives from the various Conservative Associations in the Chester-le-Street division, was held at the office of Mr S. J. Humble, Gateshead, for the purpose of forming a Conservative Association for the division, and considering the question of the representation of the division in Parliament. There was a large number of representatives present from all the districts. Mr H. Wallace, Trench Hall, was chairman.—On the motion of Mr John Greene (Gateshead), seconded by Mr C. Perkins (Birtley), it was unanimously resolved—

> That a Conservative Association for the Parliamentary division of Chester-le-Street be now formed, which shall consist of all electors and others who support the constitutional and Conservative cause, and who pay an annual subscription of not less than one shilling to the funds of the association. The object of the association shall be to attend to the registration, and other matters connected with the representation of the division in Parliament, and the general interests of the party within the division.

It was resolved unanimously that Mr S. J. Humble, Gateshead, be secretary *pro tem.*; also that the chairman and secretary of each district association form a preliminary committee to draw up rules, &c., for submission to a general meeting of members.—It was decided to ask Mr Charles Perkins, of Birtley, to come forward in the Conservative interest.

BRANCEPETH ELECTORAL DIVISION.

A meeting of the Conservatives of the Brancepeth Electoral Division was held at Durham on Saturday. A resolution was passed that the Executive Committee be requested to ascertain if Sir Geo. Elliot was willing to contest the Brancepeth Division, and to assure him that, should he decide to do so, he would receive the cordial support of the association.

THE JARROW DIVISION.

Ald. Palmer, M.P., writing to Mr S. Thompson, secretary to the Liberal Association of Jarrow, says:—"It is very gratifying to me to receive your letter announcing that by a unanimous vote of the Liberal Association of the Parliamentary Division of Jarrow, they have done me the honour to invite me to become the candidate for the division in the Liberal cause at the next general election. I do not hesitate to announce my willingness to accept the invitation, and I do so under the feeling that I shall unite all sections of the Liberal party."

THE DURHAM DEAN AND CHAPTER LEASEHOLDERS.

The recent deputation of the Durham Dean and Chapter Leaseholders to the Estates Committee of the Ecclesiastical Commissioners in London asked for consideration of their case, and particularly that the same terms already granted to a large section of the leaseholders on Tyneside should be extended to the Wear and Tees districts. The case of the leaseholders is one of great hardship. From time immemorial they have held the lands and property of which they are now threatened to be deprived under twenty-one years' leases, renewable every seven years by payment of a fine amounting to from 1 to 1½ year's rent. They built their own farm onsteads, dwelling-houses, improved the lands, paying increased fines on their improvements, and feeling their customary tenure perfectly secure. Many of these properties have been held by the same families in unbroken succession for from 100 to 300 years. Under the Dean and Chapter, so long as the leaseholder paid his fines and performed the covenants of his lease, it was, we believe, invariably renewed. The Dean and Chapter estates were transferred to the Ecclesiastical Commissioners in 1872, who then gave the customary tenants notice of their intention to refuse any renewals. The leaseholders protested strongly, and after considerable agitation Mr., now Sir J. W. Pease, then bought the matter forward in the House of Commons in 1875, and asked for a Royal Commission of Inquiry. This motion was lost by the narrow majority of 14, in consequence of the Government opposing the motion. Alarmed by the action taken by the leaseholders and the attitude of the press, the Commissioners bestirred themselves, and devised a mode of settlement with which the leaseholders were perfectly satisfied. They commenced in South Shields and district, and in two or three years had settled with the whole of the very numerous holders in that district by giving them leases for 999 years, subject to annual payments equal to about one-seventh of the septennial fine. The remainder of the leaseholders naturally expected the same terms would be extended to them, but they reckoned without their host. Having satisfied the Tyneside leaseholders, the Commissioners suddenly ceased their operations. Having silenced the only district where the leaseholders were living all closely together and were sufficiently numerous to maintain a well-organised resistance, they refused to extend the same terms to any other section of the leaseholders in the county, who are scattered over a wide area, and from whom they could scarcely expect any serious trouble. A few of the largest holders have, however, succeeded in gaining the sympathy of influential gentlemen, who are assisting them to obtain the measure of justice and right they are most certainly entitled to. Their case is a strong one. They say to the Commissioners, if you cannot, or rather will not, renew the customary leases, give us the Tyneside terms and we shall be satisfied. All the Commissioners can urge against this reasonable claim is that the remaining section of the holdings are "in the county," while those in Tyneside are mostly in towns and villages—that the rural holdings, though many of them residential, consist for the most part of agricultural land instead of being house property only. Such an excuse will not hold water for one moment. A principle has been laid down of commuting Dean and Chapter holdings into long leaseholds at one-seventh of the annual rental. It has been largely carried out as being a just and equitable arrangement with a large section of the leaseholders, and in all the interests of justice and equity the whole of them should have the same terms. The Commissioners cannot be permitted to make "flesh" of Tyneside and "fowl" of Wear and Teesside in any such arbitrary fashion. We do not believe that the Commissioners individually will countenance such an act of injustice, and we hope they will vindicate their reputation by insisting on the Tyneside terms being carried out in their entirety over the whole of the Dean and Chapter estates.—*Newcastle Chronicle.*

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CONSETT PETTY SESSIONS.

Monday, March 30th.—Before Jonathan Priestman, Esq. (in the chair), and Lieut.-Col. A. B. [illegible]ebraham.

DRUNKENNESS.

William Rotlison was summoned by P.C. Symon for being drunk and staggering about the streets of Lead[illegible] 30 p.m. on the 17th inst.—Defendant, who was represented by his wife, was fined 5s and costs.

William Whitfield, of Castleside, pleaded guilty to a charge preferred against him by P.C. Laverick, of being drunk and incapable.—About twenty minutes past eleven on the [illegible] inst., the officer found the man lying on the roadside near [illegible] Consett Park, helplessly intoxicated. He aroused the defendant, and set him part of the way home.—A fine of 5s and costs was inflicted.

William Hindmarch, who was charged by P.C. Rudd[illegible] with being drunk and disorderly, and throwing stones at the people at Hamsterley Colliery on the night of the 21st inst., was fined 40s and costs for non-appearance.

James Graham, a youth, was found guilty upon the testimony of Sergt. Tate, of being drunk and disorderly in Middle Street, Consett, on the 23rd inst.—Defendant was fined 1[illegible] 10[illegible], including costs; or seven days' imprisonment.

Patrick Burns (21), puddler, of Furnace Row, was brought up to answer a charge of being drunk and disorderly. P.C. Nicol attested that at nine o'clock last Saturday night, he was sent for to visit No. 24, Edith Street, Consett. He was requested to eject the prisoner, because he was fighting with one of the lodgers. He got the man outside and as soon as the latter reached the bottom of the street, he began to shout and swear, and he became so noisy that the officer was obliged to lock him up.—In default of paying a fine and penalty amounting to 10s 10d, prisoner was committed for seven days' hard labour.

AN EXPENSIVE "SPREE."

George Charlton (26), butcher, of Burnopfield, pleaded guilty to a charge of drunkenness and disorderly conduct.—The statement of P.C. Bell was that at a quarter past eleven o'clock in the preceding Saturday night, he observed the defendant in Middle Street, exceedingly drunk and uproarious, and wishing to fight another person. The policeman took Charlton into custody.

Defendant was further accused of doing wilful damage to glass, to the extent of 8s 6d, the property of Mr Wm. Whittaker, of the Wheat Sheaf Inn, Consett.—Prosecutor said that the defendant was twice turned out of his house on Saturday evening for misconducting himself, and the last occasion Mr Whittaker was ejecting him, Charlton caught hold of a brass rod protecting the door, and broke a square of glass therein, the damage being assessed at 8s 6d.—This offence was likewise admitted by the defendant.—For drunkenness, the Bench fined him 5s and costs, and mulcted the defendant in a further penalty of 1s and expenses, together with the amount of damage, for the second charge; the total amounting to £1 6s 2d.

"A YOUNG WOMAN FROM THE COUNTRY."

A tramp, giving the name of *Annie O'Hagan* (25)—who figured in the dock with a twelve-month's infant in her arms—was brought up for and pleaded guilty to being drunk and disorderly.—Sergt. Norman said that at 11·15 on the previous Saturday evening, he saw the prisoner exceedingly drunk and causing a great deal of disturbance in Newmarket Street, Consett, having a large crowd of people surrounding her. As she could not furnish any account of herself, the sergeant felt bound to take her into custody. She is supposed to be a single woman, on tramp.—Prisoner admitted that she had imbibed a "drop too much," but as for shouting and swearing, she was not in the habit of behaving in a disorderly and unseemly manner in the streets. She was, moreover, unaccustomed to getting drunk. She belonged to Newcastle, and if the Bench would kindly overlook the present offence, she promised faithfully to return to that city.—Sergt. Norman informed the Court that when arrested, the prisoner declared that she had just "done" seven days in Durham Gaol. On being questioned, she said "I'm a young woman from the country, and you can't get over me!" (Loud laughter).—The Bench did not feel disposed to be the means of separating the mother from her child, and discharged her with a caution.

AN EFFECTIVE THREAT.

Bernard Malone was charged with being drunk and riotous in Victoria Street, Consett, on the afternoon of March [illegible]4th. As P.C. Hurworth saw the man whilst excited and labouring under the influence of liquor it was deemed advisable to lock him up. When searched, a large-sized pistol (produced) was found on the defendant.—Fined 5s and costs.

A second charge was preferred against Malone for using threatening language to Michael McNally, of the Bath Hotel, Consett, the same afternoon. Prisoner, it is alleged, threatened to shoot Mr McNally if he refused to grant him some relief through the Consett distress funds.—As the prosecutor did not appear, however, this charge was dismissed.

BREACHES OF THE HIGHWAY ACT: A PONY SOLD FOR ONE SHILLING!

Henry Raffle, of Templetown, was summoned for this offence.—Sergt. Tate deposed that at 2·30 on the afternoon of the 2[illegible]th March, he noticed a pony, which he subsequently ascertained belonged to the defendant straying on the highway near to Carribees Farm. About 10·30 the same forenoon, the animal was seen on the highroad in Delves Lane. The neighbouring farmers were complaining of the injury done to the fences and walls; and the district surveyor complained of the damage to the gutters and channels.—A fine of 2s 6d and 6s expenses, with the option one week in gaol, was imposed.

Matthew Allison, a sweep, was charged with a similar breach of the Highway Act.—On the same date, Sergt. Tate discovered a pony claimed by the defendant straying on the highway near to Castle Dene Farm. From what he had learnt, the animal had been wandering about these byelanes since the previous Saturday. The pony, which was blind, was in a sad, emaciated state, and could hardly stand.—Defendant denied that the animal had been straying in the lanes since Saturday, as on the Sunday he was wending his way, with his stock-in-trade, from Lanchester to Consett, and after travelling a considerable distance the pony became utterly exhausted and could not proceed any further. He loosed it out of the cart because it was ill, and since then the pony had died.—The sergeant stated that he was given to understand that the defendant had sold the animal for one shilling (laughter); but Allison explained that he had disposed of the dead carcase for a shilling.—The Magistrates, considering that the pony had finally succumbed to its fate, determined not to punish the defendant, but cautioned him against repeating the offence.

RESIGNATION OF THE FRENCH MINISTRY.

Paris, Monday.

M. Jules Ferry, at the opening of the sitting of the Chamber of Deputies, presented the Ministerial Bill authorising the credit of 200,000,000 francs, and moved that a committee be appointed to examine it.—The Premier, in introducing the bill, said it was necessary to avenge the check sustained at Langson in the interest of the honour of France. M. Clemenceau approved of the credits, but condemned the policy of the Government and demanded their overthrow.—M. Ferry asked for priority for the discussion of the appointment of the committee.—The proposal was rejected by 308 votes to 161, whereupon M. Ferry announced the resignation of the Cabinet.

M. Ferry and the members of his Cabinet have resigned in consequence of an adverse vote in the Chamber of Deputies.

In the Senate, M. Leroyer, the President, called attention to the painful news received from Tonquin. He expressed the admiration and sympathy of the Senate for the French soldiers engaged in the operations, adding that it was the duty of the House to vote the necessary warlike subsidies.—M. Léon Say declared it was necessary first to know the exact facts, and proposed an amendment to the Credits Bill.—The sitting was then suspended, and on the news being received of the resignation of the Ministry, it was finally adjourned.

A vast, excited crowd awaited the opening of the Chamber to-day. A strong force of military were on duty. The galleries were crowded and noisy. On M. Ferry rising to move a vote of credit for the Chinese operations, the House became like a bear garden, and cries were raised of "Wretch; get out;" and M. Clemenceau yelled, "You are no longer Minister."

In the House of Commons lobby many members on both sides expressed satisfaction at its probable consequence, viz., a reversal of the policy of war with China. There is some apprehension that the French Ministerial crisis may considerably delay the ratification of the Egyptian Financial Convention, which it was hoped would become law within a few days, and thereby enable the Egyptian Government to draw upon the nine millions loan. Regret is expressed that the French Government did not pass the Convention before demanding further credits for the Tonquin war.

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NORTHERN LIGHTS.

XXXII.—ISAAC HOLDEN, M.P.

Mr Isaac Holden, one of the Parliamentary representatives of the Northern Division of the West Riding of Yorkshire, was born on May 7th 1807. His father, who bore the same name, was a native of Alston, and for some years occupied a small farm at Nen head, near to his native place; and also combined the occupation of lead-miner with that of farmer. The exhaustion of the mines in which his family had long worked, led him to remove to Glasgow some six years before the birth of this sketch, where he obtained employment in a coal-mine. Hard and perilous as is yet considered the calling of the pitmen, it is vastly superior to the experience of those days, for probably the lines of Thomas Wilson in "The Pitman's Pay," are too true a picture of the past:—

"The slavery borne by Blackymores,
They've lang been ringin' i' wor ears;
But let them tyke a luik at wors,
And tell us which the worst appears.
If ony, then, o' Blacky's race
Ha'e harder cairds than wors to play,
Why, then, poor dogs, ower hard's the case,
And truth's in what wor preacher say.
Thou knaws for weeks aw've gyen away
At twelv' o'clock o' Monday mornin';
And niver seen the leet of day,
Until the Sabbath day's returnin'!"

Added to these miseries was that of a scant and precarious income. Labour was but scantily paid for, and poor families were compelled to send their children to work as soon as they were able to earn the most trifling sum. It is, therefore, not surprising that, after receiving a rudimentary schooling, the lad Isaac, when only about ten years of age, was engaged as "drawboy" to two weavers in the neighbourhood of Kilburchan, his father only consenting to let him go, however, on condition that his education did not suffer. Isaac continued to work as drawboy for the next two years, during the whole of which time he attended a night school. By this means, and from the system of self-study which, notwithstanding the long hours of labour, he diligently pursued, added largely to his stock of useful knowledge.

But the migratory movements of the family were not yet at an end. From Kilbarchan they removed to Johnstone. Their next place of abode and occupation was Paisley, where Isaac was apprenticed to an uncle, a shawl-weaver. For about twelve months he devoted his attention to this trade, which proved too much for his physical powers, and he was compelled to relinquish all further effort in this direction. He now determined to devote his attention to scholastic studies, and joined the school of Mr John Kennedy, a noted mathematician, and lecturer on chemistry and physics to various Paisley and Glasgow institutions. Before he attained his 17th year he became assistant to Mr Kennedy, and received private lessons in Greek, Latin, Mathematics, and other branches of higher education. He continued with Mr Kennedy until his 21st year, when he was appointed mathematical tutor at Queen's Square Academy, Leeds; from whence he went to Lingard's Grammar School, Slaithwaite, near Huddersfield. Subsequently he became classical tutor at Castle Street Academy, Reading, where his talents found wider scope, and where, in the course of some experiments conducted with a view to illustrate a series of lectures on chemistry, he made a remarkable discovery. He was in the habit of rising at four o'clock in the morning for the purpose of study, and like everybody else at that time, he was very much inconvenienced by having to use a flint and steel to obtain a light. Knowing that certain mixtures would explode, one day in the autumn of 1826 the thought struck him that some sulphur placed beneath the explosive material might cause ignition. Experiments proved this to be the case, and the discovery was announced and illustrated in his next chemical lecture. Amongst the students was the son of a London chemist, who wrote home on the subject, and before very long lucifer matches were on sale to the public. Had Mr Holden made the most of his discovery, he would doubtless have found it exceedingly profitable; but though urged to secure the benefit of it to himself, according to the patent laws, he refused to do so, for, as he told a House of Commons Committee some years ago, he thought it was so small a matter and it cost him so little labour.

Failing health once more changed Mr Holden's plans, and compelled him to relinquish an engagement which he had entered into to become a candidate for the Wesleyan ministry. He left Reading in June, 1830, and went back to Scotland. An old friend built him a school in Glasgow, and to all appearance he had at last found the one particular work in which he would spend the remainder of his life. But less than six months elapsed before he received a pressing invitation to become book-keeper to Messrs Townend Brothers, of Cullingworth, near Bingley, in Yorkshire. After a day's consideration, and with the consent of the friend who erected his school, he accepted the offer, and before the month of December arrived, he was at work among the Yorkshire hills. "This;" says one writer, "was the turning-point in Mr Holden's career. Henceforward he devoted his whole energy and ability to industrial pursuits, and found himself in an atmosphere congenial to his inclinations, where the full force of his intelligence, perseverance, and industry—qualities which constitute the leading elements of what we commonly term genius—could be successfully exerted." At the time when Mr Holden came to Cullingworth, woolcombing was done by hand, though inventors were busy in England, France, and America, endeavouring to arrange its accomplishment by the operation of machinery. Immediately he knew this, he determined to solve the problem. After serving as book-keeper for about twelve months, he entered the mill, where he soon became manager, and eventually partner. He commenced work every morning at six o'clock, and seldom finished before ten at night; and only on very few occasions during fifteen years did he take week or two's holiday. In 1846, Mr Holden determined to bring out a patent of his own for mechanical woolcombing, for which purpose he removed to Bradford, where he took premises, and commenced experiments. Two years afterwards, Mr Lister—who had been occupying himself and others for some years in endeavouring to improve the woolcombing machine—learned from Mr Holden that the Lister combing machine was capable of improvement, so as to make it most valuable for combing Merino wools. After frequent conversations upon the subject, Mr Lister proposed a partnership with Mr Holden, to commence woolcombing on French soil, where they thought it would have a better chance than in England. Operations were commenced at St. Denis, near Paris, where, early in 1849, a mill was taken. So successful was this establishment that branch concerns were within three years established at Croix, near Roubaix, and at Rheims. At this time Mr Holden gave business affairs almost incessant attention, and the strain upon his mental and physical powers was therefore very great. His nightly journeys between England and France were very frequent, while over the three French concerns he kept an active supervision, in addition to which litigation in connection with patents occupied a large portion of his time.

In 1858, Mr Lister wished to retire from the French concerns, and proposed to sell his interest in them to Mr Holden. An arrangement was come to; and in January, 1859, the present firm of Isaac Holden and Sons was established, Mr Holden's two sons, Angus and Edward, being taken in as partners. Two of his nephews, Mr J. Holden and Mr J. H. Crothers, were shortly afterwards appointed managing partners of the works at Rheims and Croix; and from that time forward the career of the firm has been one of uninterrupted prosperity.

Messrs Holden and Sons have always taken a great interest in the social and spiritual welfare of their workpeople. For the English workmen employed at the Rheims Works, a reading-room, school, Wesleyan Chapel, and other advantages are provided; while at Croix an Episcopalian Church, mechanics' institute, and school have been erected close to the works. At Rheims, a Wesleyan minister is appointed by the Wesleyan Conference, and at Croix a Church of England clergyman officiates. In 1860, Mr Holden gave up the St. Denis works, and commenced a series of mechanical experiments at Bradford, which entailed an expenditure of £20,000 in four years. These experiments resulted in the opening of his famous Alston Works in the Thornton Road, Bradford. These works cover an area of eight acres, and are fitted with machinery of Mr Holden's own invention. They afford employment for 700 people, while in supplying warmth and generating power 240 tons of coal are consumed every week. The water used on the premises is drawn from a well sunk in Messrs Holden and Sons own grounds at an outlay of £10,000.

After the commencement of the Alston Works in 1864, Mr Holden began to turn his attention to political matters more closely than he had hitherto done; and at the general election of July, 1865, accepted an invitation to contest Knaresborough in the Liberal interest. He defeated the second Conservative candidate, the late Mr T. Collins, by 127 votes to 123. At the general election of 1868, Mr Holden joined Mr H. S. Thompson in contesting the Eastern Division of the West Riding of Yorkshire, but was defeated.

In 1872 he offered himself as a candidate for the representation of the Northern Division of the West Riding, but was again unsuccessful, the poll being Fowell (Conservative) 6,961, and Holden (Liberal) 6,917. Two years later, in February, 1874, Mr Holden was once more requested to do battle for the Liberal party in the Easter Division. The Conservatives were again returned by votes of 8,240 and 8,077, as against 7,285 and 7,218 recorded for Sir John Ramsden and Mr Holden. From that time until May, 1883, Mr Holden preferred to remain in retirement, although frequently invited to become a Parliamentary candidate. The lamented murder of Lord Frederick Cavendish, having, however, caused a vacancy for the Northern Division of the West Riding, Mr Holden received and accepted an invitation to fight the seat, and he won it by a substantial majority of 2,027 votes. Immediately the poll was declared, Lady Frederick Cavendish telegraphed the new member:—"My warm congratulations. The great majority has cheered me and made me thankful;" to which Mr Holden replied, "Thanks, many thanks, with kindest regards and deepest sympathy. Nothing was wanting to complete our satisfaction with the result but your ladyship's very, very kind message."

The amenities of social and religious life have in Mr Holden a successful and pleasing observer. A member of the Wesleyans he has ever been ready to promote the interests of that denomination. He has, we believe, held all the offices which a layman can hold in that Church, including that of Representative to the Conference. He has taken an active interest in the establishment of a technical school for Bradford, and is one of largest contributors to the building fund. He is a magistrate and deputy-lieutenant for the West Riding of Yorkshire. Oakworth House, the residence of Mr Holden, is situated near Keighley, and possesses remarkable horticultural attractions, to perfect which its owner has spared neither pains nor expense. One writer says—"There are about forty glass houses all new. The winter garden has cost about £25,000, I believe, and covers nearly half an acre. The mosaic pavement took nine Italians about three months to lay, and Frenchmen were years erecting rockery. The roof of one house is covered with Tomatoes, and the admiration and envy of every gardener in the neighbourhood. The air is renewed every half-hour, and temperature kept at 60 degrees. Twelve large boilers are in use. The winter garden has sixty rows of 4-inch pipes, in addition to coils of pipes." Another writer says—"Oakworth House and its appurtenances is a wonderful place, made and owned by a wonderful man, who has graved his name deeply in the tablets of history, and by his mechanical skill, labour, and perseverance has at the same time benefitted the nation and enriched himself. It is such men who have made England great by extending her commerce, and it is of such men that the nation is justly proud."

Historicus.

LOCAL BOARD ELECTIONS.

LEADGATE.

Five gentlemen have been nominated to fill four vacant seats in the Leadgate Local Board, viz:—*Wm. Brown, Prospect House, agent; *William Keenleyside, Crookhall, coke agent; Edward Kinleyside, St. Ives Road, Leadgate, provision merchant; *Robt. Walton Shaw, Villa Real, Leadgate, draper; *Edward Todd, Leadgate, merchant. The retiring members are distinguished by an asterisk. The voting papers, now in the hands of the electors, will be collected next Monday. Mr Geo. Nicholson acts as Returning Officer.

CONSETT AND BENFIELDSIDE.

The voting papers for the contests in these two districts were collected to-day (Thursday), and the counting of votes has been arranged to take place on Saturday next.

TOW LAW.

The voting papers were collected on Monday, and the same evening the result of the poll was ascertained to be as under:—

ELECTED.	No. of Votes.
Henry White, mining engineer	424
*Joseph Ridley, builder	303
*L. P. Wherly, draper	220
NOT ELECTED.	
Wm. Campbell, land agent	207
*W. R. Teasdale, saddler	168
Robt. Rawes, joiner	160
John Graham, butcher	87
Francis E. Bell, chemist	65
James Trainor, innkeeper	63

The only change in the composition of the Board is that Mr White replaces Mr Teasdale, who has hitherto done good service to Tow Law, both as a member of the Local Board and in the capacity of Guardian of the Poor. The proceedings terminated with a vote of thanks to Mr W. Ridley, the returning officer.

WHICKHAM.

The following are the nominations for the Whickham Local Board:—Messrs *Cuthbert Berkley, Marley Hill; Arthur D. Carr, Whickham; *R Shields, Swalwell; James Harbottle, Swalwell; *James S. Featherstone, Dunston; *Wm. Stafford, Dunston. A star is placed opposite the names of the four retiring members. The voting papers were delivered last Saturday, and will be collected to-day (Thursday). Mr R. Glass is the Returning Officer.

TOWNSHIP MEETINGS.

Frosterley.—At the Vestry on Wednesday se'nnight, Mr Matthew Ridley in the chair, the retiring waywarden, Mr R. Chapman, was elected unanimously.

Crook and Billy Row.—At the Bishop Auckland Police Court, on Monday, the magistrates signed the appointment of Messrs T. Hemsley and J. Willan as overseers for this township.

Westgate-in-Weardale.—At the Vestry meeting, the Rev J. Schofield, vicar, presiding, Mr J. B. Coulthard and Mr Joseph Lowe were re-elected churchwardens, and Mr Wm. Martindale and Mr John Bostock sidesmen. Mr Wm. Vickers was re-elected waywarden for Stanhope Park.

Corbridge.—A meeting of the ratepayers of Corbridge township was held in the Vestry of the Parish Church on Monday evening, to elect surveyors of highways. The Rev G. C. Hodgson, vicar, presided, and there was a large attendance.—Mr J. E. Middlemiss read an abstract of the highway accounts for the past year, and Mr T. Reed, in moving their adoption, said that considering the great quantity of milage they had, he thought the small rate of 6d was very satisfactory.—Mr J. Walton seconded the motion, which was carried.—Messrs Forrester, Blandford, J. Green, J. Ellerington, J. Forster, A. Robson, and C. Cowing were nominated as surveyors.

The General Election.—The *East Anglian Daily Times* says:—The Attorney-General held a consultation on Saturday, at the Law Courts, with the revising barristers. The result was that thirty additional revising barristers will be appointed. The revision Courts are to commence at the beginning of September, concluding by the end of the month, the registers to be out by the end of October. The Attorney-General stated that it was the Government's intention to go to the country about the 15th November. A committee of Revising Barristers, with Mr Curtis Bennett as secretary, was appointed to gather evidence, to be placed before the Select Committee of the House of Commons on the registration question.

THE AFGHAN CRISIS.

THE RUSSIAN REPLY.

The somewhat reassuring reply given by Lord Hartington on Monday evening with reference to improved hopes of a pacific settlement of the Afghan frontier difficulty was not based upon the official reply from Russia, which has not yet reached the Government, but upon information received through the British Ambassador at St. Petersburg and otherwise as to the probable nature of the reply.

Although Sir Edward Thornton's telegraphic despatch was received from St. Petersburg on Saturday evening, preparations for the equipment of a strong military and naval force were still carried on. The Admiralty officials were engaged in the consideration of plans for the armament of the hired steamships *Etruria*, *Oregon*, *Alaska*, *America*, and *Arizona* in order to fit them for active service. It is computed that each ship can carry ten 6-inch guns, to man which and work the vessels a crew of 250 will be apportioned to each ship.

Sporting Items

Wrestling near Prudhoe.—Another of the series of competitions for a silver kettle, given by Mr Tulip, took place at Half-way House, Prudhoe, on Saturday night. In the final falls, J. Frazer, West Wylam, threw C. Robson, West Wylam, twice in succession, and won. A prize for wrestling by youths under sixteen, given by Mr Gregg, of Hexham, was won by J. Liddle, of Prudhoe, A. Cameron, Low Prudhoe, being second.

Remarkable Draught Playing at Consett.—On Saturday night, Mr W. Strickland, the champion blindfold draught-player, gave an exhibition of his skill in the National Schools, Consett. He undertook to play simultaneously, whilst blindfolded, six of the best draught players in Consett—viz., Messrs Robson Evans, Wheeler, Wm. Almond, Wm. Munroe, Pescod, and Geo. Emmerson. Mr Strickland succeeded in winning four of the games; but Messrs Wheeler and Pescod proved formidable opponents, and beat him.

Football.

LOCAL FIXTURES.

April 4.—Swalwell 2nd and Juniors v. Tanfield Lea 2nd and Juniors at Tanfield Lea.
" 4.—Beamish and District v. Chester-le-Street Excelsior, at Chester-le-Street.
" 6.—Consett v. Northern 2nd, at Shotley Spa.
" 6.—Hebburn 1st v. Tanfield Lea 1st, at Tanfield Lea.
" 7.—Consett v. Bishop Auckland, at Shotley Spa.

Tanfield v. Page Bank (A).—Played at Page Bank, and resulted in a win for the former club by one goal and one disputed goal to nil.

Tantobie v. Throckley 1st (A).—Played on the ground of the latter on Saturday last, and, after a pleasant game, resulted in a win for the visitors by nine goals to nil. The visitors played one short throughout. Mr J. Allan officiated as umpire for both sides.

Mickley Juniors v. Prudhoe Juniors (A).—This match in the final of the competition for prizes given by the Corbridge Juniors Football Club, was played at Corbridge on Saturday. Mickley obtained two goals in the first ten minutes, and then Prudhoe put the ball through the Mickley goal, but as "hands" had been called just before the ball was brought back for a free kick. Prudhoe refused to accept the referee's decision and left the field. The prizes were therefore given to Mickley.

Swalwell 1st v. Dunston 1st (A).—Played on the ground of the former at Swalwell, on Saturday. The home team having won the toss, elected to play against the wind. Hopper kicked off for the visitors, but Wilkinson returned the ball with a huge kick, and after some give-and-take play, the Swalwell men scored a goal, half time being called immediately after. Dawson kicked off, and after some good play on both sides, Houlston unfortunately put the ball through for the visitors. Hence a drawn game was the result.

Catchgate 1st v. Beamish and District 1st.—These clubs met on the Beamish ground on Saturday, and decided to play two thirties. Soon after the commencement, Catchgate threatened their opponents goal, but were kept at bay. However, a scrimmage took place in the Beamish territory, and No. 1 was scored for Catchgate. No further score was made until near the close of the game, when Beamish made a splendid pass run, and placed the ball beneath the bar. Catchgate contended that this was played offside, but their claim was disallowed, and at the next kick off time was called, thus the game ended in a draw per one goal each.—The second teams of the above clubs played two quarters, and during the first half Catchgate scored thrice, one of which was disputed, owing to "hands" being called. During the latter half, Beamish made some grand runs, but every effort was of no avail, and on time being called the game stood Catchgate two to Beamish nil.

General News.

The Manufactured Iron Trade.—Mr Waterhouse's figures of the nett selling price of manufactured iron for the past two months was issued on Friday by the joint secretaries of the Board of Conciliation and Arbitration. It shows a total sale of 62,460 tons for the two months, as against 60,031 during the previous two months—an increase of 2,429 tons, chiefly in bars and angles. The nett selling price was £4 18s 11·18d, a decline of 10·18d on the previous two months. Taken separately, however, rails show a decline of about 6s 8d per ton—from £5 0s 10d to £4 14s 2d.

The Durham Coal Trade.—On Saturday, a great demonstration of miners employed at Messrs Bolckow, Vaughan, and Co.'s collieries took place at Bishop Auckland. Resolutions were carried unanimously condemning as mean and un-English the tactics of the officials of the firm in taking advantage of the state of the labour market to exercise their power over the men in a tyrannical manner, and pledging the miners to take united action in self-defence; also strongly disapproving of the policy pursued by the company in throwing numbers of the men out of employment, while the remaining portion are overworked.

Holloway's Ointment and Pills.—Diseases of the bowels.—A remedy, which has been tested and proved in a thousand different ways, capable of eradicating poisonous taints from ulcers and healing them up, merits a trial of its capacity for extracting the internal corruptions from the bowels. On rubbing Holloway's Ointment repeatedly on the abdomen, a rash appears, and as it thickens the alvine irritability subsides. Acting as a *derivative*, this unguent draws to the surface, releases the tender intestines from all acrid matters, and prevents inflammation, dysentery, and piles, for which blistering was the old-fashioned, though successful treatment, now from its painfulness fallen into disuse, the discovery of this Ointment having proclaimed a remedy possessing equally *derivative*, yet perfectly painless, powers.

Yorkshire Miners' Wages.—A conference of owners and miners on the question of the proposed reduction of 10 per cent. in wages in the South and West Yorkshire collieries was held at Sheffield on Monday.—The Chairman (Mr Ellis) managing director of John Brown and Co., said many of the collieries were working not only without profit but at considerable loss, a great reduction in prices was coming, and a reduction of wages was necessary to keep the iron trade.—Against this it was contended that the trade was not so bad as represented, as was shown by the dividends paid by local firms.—The meeting terminated without any resolution being come to.

Inhuman Cruelty in a Pit: A Lenient Sentence.—On Monday, at Bishop Auckland Police Court, *Thomas Davies*, putter, was charged with cruelty to a pony in Windlestone Colliery on the 23rd March.—From the evidence of several officials and workpeople, it was proved that defendant "ribbed" the pony with an iron drag and a wood prop. To escape the torture the pony got in behind the pit props and fell, when defendant kicked it on the mouth and nose, and finally hung a chain on the pony's bit, and attached another pony to pull the chain. When found the pony's mouth and nose were copiously bleeding, its eye was cut, and the skin was off the jaw.—Defendant offered no real defence.—Rev G. P. Wilkinson (chairman) said the cruelty to pit ponies was perfectly appalling and shocking to think of.—Defendant was fined £1 and costs, or twenty-one days' hard labour.

HINTS FOR THE HOME.

Earnestness.—The longer I live, the more I am certain that the great difference between men—between the feeble and the powerful, the great and the insignificant—is earnestness, invincible determination; a purpose once fixed, and then death or victory! This quality will do anything that can be done in the world, and no talents, no circumstances, no opportunities, will make a two-legged creature a man without it.—*Buxton.*

The Mischiefs of Falsehood.—"It is not calumny nor treachery," says Ruskin, "that does the largest share of mischief in the world; they are continually crushed, and are only felt in being conquered. But it is the glistening and softly-spoken lie; the amiable fallacy; the patriotic lie of the historian; the provident lie of the politician; the zealous lie of the partisan; the merciful lie of the friend; and the careless lie of each man to himself, that casts the black mystery over humanity through which every man who pierces we thank, as we thank one who dug through a well in a desert."

Choosing Wisely.—A girl may feel certain on this point—that, as a man treats his mother and sisters, so he will treat his wife six months after marriage. This may seem cold-blooded, very far removed from the tender feelings which courtship induces. But a girl has a choice to make—a choice upon which the happiness of her whole life will depend; and there is always a time, whether she notices it or not, before she parts with the control of her heart, at which she ought to listen to her judgment. Without better evidence than her own feelings, she is very likely to make a mistake; but, if she can assure herself that her lover is a man who is respected and liked by his male friends, and is a favourite at home, she may be pretty sure that in listening to his love she is choosing wisely.

Exercise and Rest.—Rest, the twin sister of exercise, complete, absolute rest from all physical and mental labour, should be taken when tired. If women could only learn three things, how to systematize their work, exercise in the open air, and rest when tired, they would save much pain and suffering mentally and physically. To rest perfectly is to lie on a bed or lounge (and I would have them have a comfortable lounge in every room in the house, from kitchen to garret), and stretch out all the limbs, close the eyes, and let oblivion surround you. "Ye cannot serve two masters at one time," neither can you rest, nurse the baby, do fancy work and entertain company at the same time. When tired, weary and fatigued take ten minutes' complete rest, and you will be benefited more than a hundred fold. Lying down to rest equalizes the circulation and rests all the muscles.

Public Dinners.—It must not be too rashly concluded that because those persons are as a rule in the best state of physical and mental health who take a generous diet, who eat of many kinds of meat, of many kinds of vegetables, and several varieties of starches, the sumptuous banquets of public and private hospitality are beneficial. Quite the contrary. Here complexity reaches an absurd and dangerous excess. The eye, the nose, the ear, and the palate, dazzled with fair sights, stimulated by delicious odours, charmed with music, and vitiated with variety of flavour, are all submitted to such a mitrailleuse of temptation that only strong-minded persons can resist taking very much more both to eat and to drink than is either necessary or good. Here, as in most other things, the middle course is the safest—to eat, not to gorge; to drink, not to swill; to aim at satiety, not repletion.—*Leisure Hour.*

Spend Wisely.—Look most to your spending. No matter what comes in, if more goes out, you will always be poor. The art is not in making money, but in keeping it. Little expenses, like mice in a barn, when they are many, make great waste. Hair by hair, heads get bald; straw by straw, the thatch goes off the cottage; and, drop by drop, the rain comes into the chamber. A barrel is soon empty if the tap leaks but a drop a minute. In all things keep within compass. Never stretch your legs farther than the blankets will reach, or you will soon be cold. In clothes choose suitable and lasting stuff, and not tawdry fineries. To be warm is the main thing never mind the look. A fool may make money, but it needs a wise man to spend it. Remember, it is easier to build two chimneys than to keep one going. If you give all to back and board, nothing is left for the savings-bank. Fare hard and work hard while you are young, and you have a chance to rest when old.

Helpful Hints.—Do not be discouraged if, in the outset of life, things do not go on smoothly. It seldom happens that the hopes we cherish for the future are realised. The path of life appears smooth and level; but when we come to travel it we find it uphill, and generally rough enough. The journey is a laborious one; and, whether poor or wealthy, high or low, we shall find disappointment if we have built upon any other calculation. To endure our lot with as much cheerfulness as possible, and to elbow our way through the great crowd, "hoping for little, yet striving for much," is perhaps the best plan. Do not be discouraged if occasionally you slip down by the way and your neighbour treads on you a little; or, in other words, do not let a failure or two dishearten you. Accidents will happen; miscalculations will sometimes be made; things will turn out differently from our expectations, and we may be sufferers. It is worth while to remember that fortune is like the skies in April, sometimes clear and favourable; and as it would be folly to despair of again seeing the sun because to-day is stormy, so it is unwise to sink into despondency when fortune frowns, since the common course of things, she may surely be expected to smile and smile again.

A Baby's Tears.—[illegible]ink there is no sadder sight on earth than a baby'[illegible]. To see the little round face that looks as if it [illegible]e only made for laughing all twisted up in a snar[illegible] puckers, the bright eyes squinted out of sig[illegible] and great, real tears coursing down the pudg[illegible]eeks, is enough to make a stoic weep in symp[illegible]. It is as if the man in the moon were crying. I knew an English father who, whenever one of his babies—and there was a host of them—cried, would say in tones of comical distress, "he'd rather see a five-pun note than one of those tears any day," and it seemed to those little ones to be the height of devotion and self-denial on his part. Mrs. Paddock, a writer of Salt Lake City, tells a pathetic story of a broken-hearted wife whose first baby never cried aloud, but wept in silence all the time. Sleeping or waking the tears flowed from its eyes, and in a few weeks it died, its mother said, of a broken heart. In antithesis to these sad facts is a memory we nearly all can conjure up of some fat, rascally baby who would cry and cry and cry until every member of the family was enlisted in his cause, when he would suddenly unbutton his eyes and lo! not a tear would be there. It had been a crocodile bawl of the driest grief.—*Weekly Globe.*

Young Mothers.—A charming woman and promising housewife was not long ago made happy by the advent of a son. The cause of much joy, he was also the cause of great discomfort; the pretty home which had been a model of good taste put on a strange appearance. Favourite books no longer lay on the tables to be dipped into at odd moments; everything ornamental was religiously put aside. The sitting-rooms were as bare and uninviting as they had before been cosy and pleasing. The dainty neatness which had characterised the home was to some extent missing. The mother, if not exactly careless in her dress, was not as careful as she had been. The father, missing something, he did not well know what, sometimes tried to suppress a feeling of wonder as to what anybody would find in that little bundle of flannel and flesh to make up for all that he had lost. Somehow his wife was not his wife in the old sweet sense at all. Much as he admired a Madonna, it was not the only picture worth looking at, he thought. There was not in this house the excuse that some women have for devoting themselves entirely to the baby, for there was plenty of help, and it was or appeared to be a most selfish giving up of all other interest. The heathen might rage, and the people imagine a vain thing—it was all the same to this mother. From the hour when they first laid the baby beside her she had lived on a peaceful island and desired no communication with the shore. She is a type of a large class of women, and they are not those true mothers who never hear any child cry anywhere without its becoming their own immediate concern, independent of any will they have in the matter—the mothers to whom the needs of all children appeal; it is too often the case that they are simply the mothers of their own children. Any one who has observed women must have seen that the truest mothers are those whose interests are broadest, and they retain a hold upon the children which less thoughtful women never have. A mother whose interest centres in the merely physical life of the child, who thinks first and most of what it shall wear, and how it shall look, will not be very likely to be the chosen confidant of the child later in life. Young mothers should think of this, and spend the moments during which they rock the cradle in something better than idle thinking. A bright old lady told me that she read leading articles in the magazines, while she rocked her babies to sleep; and whatever may be said about the wisdom or folly of rocking the babies, it certainly was of benefit to the mother.—*New York Post.*

WISE AND OTHERWISE.

A SENSITIVE MAN.

"Look here!" called a man, pressing his face against the grates of the city prison and addressing a policeman who stood outside.

"Well?"

"What was I put in here for, anyway?"

"You'll know when the police-court meets."

"Podner, I am a very sensitive man, and the thought that I have committed a crime haunts me. I just tell you what's a fact, I can't stand it. What shall I do?"

"Well, if you must know, you got drunk and shot a man."

"Oh, is that all? I was afraid that I had insulted some one. Much obliged."—*Arkansaw Traveller.*

AFTER TWENTY YEARS.

Two old acquaintances met on the street. They had not seen each other for 20 years. Their greeting was most effusive.

"Well," said one, "I'm suprised to see you here. How have you been?"

"First rate. You're looking well."

"Yes, never felt better in my life. Fine weather we're having."

"Beautiful. But I suppose we can expect rain soon."

"Yes, I shouldn't be surprised. Well-er, I suppose I'll see you again before long?"

"Oh, yes."

"Ah-er good-day."

"Er-good-day."

They shook hands awkwardly and departed.—*New York Sun.*

A CONCEALED WEAPON.

"Why do you refuse to live with your wife?" inquired the judge of Dennis Mulcahy.

"Bekase I'm in dhread av me loife wid her."

"How is your life endangered?"

"She shteals on me, yer honour, wid a concayled weapon. She has it on her person now."

"It's a falsehood, judge! The truth's not in him!" shouted Mrs. Mulcahy.

"Silence, woman!" said the judge.

"Constable, has any concealed weapon been found on this woman?"

"No, yer honour."

"What do you mean by saying that your wife carries a concealed weapon?"

"What do I mean is it? If ye were married to her ye'd know what I mean."

"Can't the court find it out without getting married to her?"

"You can, your honour. Just say something to raise her timper, and she'll unscrew that ould concayled wooden leg of hers and clane out the coort!"

"You are now one," said the minister to the happy pair he had just tied together. "Which one?" asked the bride. "You will have to settle that for yourselves," said the clergyman.

A young lady, asking a young man in a music store, "Have you 'Happy Dreams?'" was astonished when he replied, "No, ma'am, I'm mostly troubled with the nightmare."

Young Farmer: "Are you fond of beasts, Miss Gusherton?" Miss Gusherton: "Oh, really, Mr. Pawker, if you mean this as a declaration you must speak to mamma."

Two travellers being robbed in a wood, and tied to trees, one of them, in despair, exclaimed, "Oh, I am undone!" "Are you?" said the other, joyfully; "then I wish you'd come and *undo me!*"

"Jeannette," he said timidly, "your collar is frayed." "My collar may be 'fraid," boldly replied Jeannette, "but I ain't." And the next minute his arm went round it twice, lapped and clinched.

An excellent old lady says the only way to prevent steamboat explosions is to make the engineers "bile their water" ashore. In her opinion, all the bustin' is caused by "cooking the steam" on board.

"I pride myself on my descent," said a spinster of uncertain age, recently. "One of my ancestors came over with the Conqueror." "Which one was it," cried a cruel wit, "your father or your mother?"

A new novel is called "A Lady's Four Wishes." An old bachelor says he hasn't read the book, but he knows what her wishes are: "First, a new bonnet; second, a new bonnet; third, a new bonnet; fourth, a new bonnet."

"Tommy," said a fond father to his little boy, who had received a linen-mounted book of pictures as a present, "what are you crying for?" "Because I can't tear my picture-book, papa," was the ingenuous reply.

"Tobaccy wanst saved life," said Paddy Blake, an inveterate smoker. "How was that?" inquired his companion. "Oh, yer see, I was once digging a well, and came up for a good smoke, and while I was up, the well caved in."

Her Shakesperian education has been neglected, but when she told him, "There are more things in heaven and earth than are dreamt of in your photography," she smiled proudly, as one who had said a good thing, and knew it.

When Jimmy was questioned as to why his engagement with Miss H. had been broken off, he rolled his eyes, looked very much pained, and groaned, "Oh! she turned out a deceiver." But he forgot to mention that he was the deceiver she had turned out.

Mrs Murphy: "Shall I sing 'Oft in the Stilly Night?'" "Sing 'Oft in the Stilly Night,'" replied Murphy, who hates music; "I don't think you can do it. As soon as you sing once in the stilly night, it busts up the stillness of the night, for the time being."

A gentleman advertised for a clerk who could bear confinement, and who had been some years in his last place. He was answered by a person who had been for a number of years a prisoner in Newgate, and who therefore possessed each of the required qualifications.

The following witty couplet was uttered by an old gentleman, whose daughter Arabella importuned him for money:

"Dear Bell, to gain money, sure silence is best,
For *dumb Bells* are fittest to open the chest."

"Young man," said the Professor, "you should not allow yourself to be guided altogether by your own opinions. You should defer to the opinions of others." Student: "But the poet says, 'tis madness to defer.'" Professor: "True, but the poet was Young who said that."

Mrs. Smith had just settled a question of domestic economy rather contrary to Mr. Smith's wishes, and he was making a feeble remonstrance, when his wife remarked, snappishly: "Did I hear anybody speak?" "No, madam," he replied with disgust; "you heard nobody." "That's what I thought."

Anxious Young Man: "Miss B., may I have the sixth dance with you?" Miss B: "As we have no pencil, I cannot mark it." Anxious Young Man: "Oh, well, leave a space there, and you'll understand." Miss B: "Very well, then; when I see a vacant spot I shall know it is you." (Exit Anxious Young Man.)

"What are you worth?" asked a rich old miser of a young man who was courting his only child. "Not much now, but I'm coming into a large fortune in a few years," was the reply. The marriage took place, and then the old miser learned that the large fortune which the young man was coming in for was his father-in-law's.

"My dear, I wish you would tell the servant to stop moving that furniture around in the parlour. I'm sure she has broken some of the vases and Sèvres ware." "I hear no noise, Christopher." "There! She has dropped the clock! I heard the shade smash." "Why, Christopher, how silly you are! That's not the servant moving the furniture; that's Birdie practising a Wagnerian sonata."

"They say that fish makes brains," remarked Mrs. Yeast to her friend, Mrs. Crimsonbeak, with whom she was dining the other day. "I don't believe it," replied the smart host, who generally liked to have her own way. "Well I do," said the visitor rather emphatically. "Well, I guess I ought to know," sharply exclaimed Mrs. Crimsonbeak, losing her temper; "I've been eating it for the last forty six years."

Beautiful Blonde: "Well, dear, it is your turn now. This paper says that brunettes will be the most popular this season." Beautiful Brunette: "That is nothing unusual. You blondes have things your own way during the summer, but every fall there is a revulsion in favour of brunettes." Beautiful Blonde: "Yes, I have noticed that, I wonder why it is?" Beautiful Brunette: "Cold weather does not redden a brunette's nose."

"Will you pull the bell?" she asked of a man across the aisle as the car reached the corner. "No, madam," he answered with a bow, "but I will be most happy to pull the strap which rings the bell." "Ah! but never mind! The strap is connected with two bells, and you might stop the wrong end of the car!" And the look she turned upon him was full of triumph veneered with cayenne pepper.

When George the Fourth visited Edinburgh the following dialogue took place between two rustic Caledonians:—"Weel, Jock, have you seen the king?" "Ou, ay. I have seen the king," replied the person addressed, "but I wadna gang the length o' the street to see him again." "Why not?" inquired the first speaker. "Why? Didna ye see that the king's jist made like ony ither man, and they tell't me that his arms were a lion and a unicorn!"

Business Announcements.

THIRTEENTH YEAR OF ATTENDING CONSETT.

MR. MARKHAM, SURGEON DENTIST, of Newcastle, Attends at Miss WILLIAMS', No. 4, MOUNT PLEASANT, CONSETT, EVERY MONDAY, from 11 a.m to 3 pm.

ESTABLISHED 1830. 962p

JUST ARRIVED, AT

J. W. DAVISON'S,

FRONT STREET,

5,000 PIECES WALL PAPER!

FROM 2D. A PIECE.

A SPLENDID STOCK OF

LADIES' AND GENTLEMEN'S BAGS,

FROM 3s. EACH. 292u

FIRST ARRIVAL OF NEW SPRING GOODS

AT THE

"BON MARCHE,"

THE MOST POPULAR DRAPERY SHOP IN THE DISTRICT,

4, MIDDLE STREET, CONSETT.

One of the FINEST SELECTIONS of LADIES' FANCY APRONS, CHILDREN'S COATS AND CAPES, VELVET TUNICS, HOLLAND AND DIAPER PINAFORES EVER BROUGHT INTO THE DISTRICT.

HOLLAND PINAFORES, from 3½d. up to 2s. 6d.
LADIES' FANCY APRONS, from 6½d. up to 7s. 6d.
DIAPER PINAFORES, from 4½d. up to 3s. 6d.
COATS AND CAPES, Beautifully Trimmed with Satin, from 5s. 11d. up to 22s. 6d.
MERINO DRESSES, from 1s. 3d. to 2s. 6d.
A JOB LOT OF CHILDREN'S SUN HATS, 11½d to 1s. 11d.

ALL-WOOL TWEED SUITS, Made to Measure by our own Tailors, from 35s. 6d.
TROUSERS, to Measure, from 9s. 11d.

DRESS GOODS, from 4½d. up to 3s. 6d. per yard.
DRESS PRINTS, from 2½d. up to 9½d. per yard.

30 BOYS' JERSEYS, 1s. 11d. to 4s. 6d. 50 BOYS' JERSEY SUITS, 3s. 11d. to 14s. 6d.

MARVELLOUS BARGAINS IN ALL KINDS OF DRESS AND DRAPERY GOODS.

MEN AND BOYS' HATS AND CAPS,

Bought from the best Makers, and offered to the Public on the best terms.

SHOPS AND DRESSMAKERS SUPPLIED,

AT

D. BAIN & COMPANY'S,

4, MIDDLE STREET, CONSETT.

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

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.

G. H.'s MIXTURE OF

PERMANENT CLOVER AND GRASS SEEDS has been tested and approved by the leading Agriculturalists of the district upwards of thirty-eight years

PRICE LISTS ON APPLICATION 427r

THE ONLY NEWSPAPER PRINTED AND PUBLISHED IN THE DISTRICT.

THE

"CONSETT GUARDIAN"

AFTER ATTAINING

A LARGE AND INCREASING CIRCULATION

HAS BEEN

CONSIDERABLY ENLARGED,

AND MAINTAINS ITS POSITION AS

THE LOCAL NEWSPAPER.

Full and Impartial Reports of all Meetings in the District (by its own Reporters). The General News is carefully condensed, and special attention is given to Local News, by Agents of known ability and character.

TO ADVERTISERS.

THE *CONSETT GUARDIAN*

Has now been established upwards of twenty-four years, and has gained a most extensive circulation in Consett, Shotley Bridge, Blackhill, Lanchester, Annfield Plain, Medomsley, Ebchester, Castleside, Burnopfield, Lintz Green, Rowland's Gill, Iveston, Dipton, Tow Law, Burnhope, South Moor, Stanley, Tanfield, Tanfield Lea, Tantobie, White-le-head, Hobson, Clough Dene, Swalwell, and the adjacent locality.

The large and increasing circulation of the *Consett Guardian* renders it invaluable as an advertising medium, and current Advertisements are inserted in its columns at moderate charges. Advertisements for lengthened periods are subject to considerable reduction

PUBLISHED EVERY FRIDAY AFTERNOON

AT

59, FRONT STREET, CONSETT

Where Advertisements are received up to NINE o'clock on that morning.

Public Notices.

CONSETT INDUSTRIAL AND PROVIDENT SOCIETY, LIMITED.

THE 87th QUARTERLY MEETING of the Consett Industrial and Provident Society will be held on April 4th, in the Society's Reading-room. For Programme of Business, see Balance Sheets.

75u J. HALL, Secretary.

Public Notices.

79 IS the Winning Number for the BRUSSELS CARPET, Raffled at WILLIAM RAINE'S, Burnopfield. 312u

CONSETT AND DISTRICT RELIEF FUND.

LIST OF SUBSCRIPTIONS.

	£	s.	d.
Consett Parliamentary Debating Society......	1	10	4
Messrs. R. Dickinson and Co.	2	0	0

NOTICE.—All Persons having Claims against this Fund are requested to send the same in to

ADAM BRODIE, Secretary,
300u Town Hall, Consett.

TO FARMERS.

FARMERS will do well to inspect G. HOBSON'S Large and Carefully-selected STOCK OF CLOVER, GRASS, TURNIP SEEDS, &c., before giving their Orders elsewhere.

My Seeds have all been carefully selected from Samples sent by the most respectable Growers and Importers, and will bear comparison with the best houses in England as to price and quality. 239u

In the Press, Crown 8vo., Price One Shilling.

SHORT SKETCHES OF EMINENT MEN! OF THE NORTH OF ENGLAND.

BY MARK NOBLE. 138u

Printed by ANDREW REID, Printing Court Buildings and Collingwood Street, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

FIRST SHOTLEY BRIDGE AND DISTRICT 370th STARR-BOWKETT BUILDING SOCIETY.

NEXT APPROPRIATION MEETING ON MONDAY, 13TH APRIL, 1885, IN THE SONS OF TEMPERANCE HALL, BLACKHILL, AT HALF-PAST SEVEN P.M.

Members holding less than Four Shares under any register number are reminded that they can increase their interest in the Society by obtaining Shares, so as not to exceed Four in any one group, without having to pay the Arrears of Subscriptions until their Shares are appropriated, if they like.

By Order,
271u M. NOBLE, Chairman.

SHOTLEY BRIDGE AND CONSETT DISTRICT GAS COMPANY.

ANY Person Removing, Altering, or Tampering with any Meter, Pipe, or other Property of the above Gas Company, or Consuming Gas upon any Premises without first having obtained permission from the Secretary to the said Company, will be prosecuted as the Law directs.—By order,

M. RICHLEY, Secretary
Gas Office, Shotley Bridge. 148q

Public Notices.

NOTICE.

SONS OF TEMPERANCE, BLACKHILL.

STAR OF HOPE DIVISION, No. 158.

FRIDAY FIRST being Good Friday, the above Division will NOT MEET TILL SATURDAY, the following day, at 7·30 p.m.

298u WILLIAM STUBBS, R.S.

GARDEN SEEDS.

GARDEN VEGETABLE SEEDS.
POTATO SEEDS, and
CABBAGE PLANTS,

TO BE HAD FROM
MR. JOHN LEE, SEEDSMAN, LEADGATE.

AGRICULTURAL HALL, BLACKHILL.

A CONCERT

Will be given in the above Hall,

ON EASTER MONDAY, APRIL 6th, 1885,

IN 225u

AID OF ST. AIDAN'S CHURCH CHOIR FUND.

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATING SOCIETY, CONSETT.

CLOSE OF SESSION 1884-5.

A CONVERSAZIONE will be held in the National Schools (entrance West Victoria Street), Consett, on Easter Tuesday, April 7th, 1885, commencing at Seven o'clock p.m.

Music, Singing, and Refreshments *Ad Libitum*. TICKETS—for Members and Friends—Gentlemen, 1s. 6d.; Ladies, 1s.; may be had from Messrs. R. Park, W. Shell, Jun., Thomas Dunne, James Kelly, T. B. Davies, Williams, Egglestone, and Marshall.

LANCHESTER ELECTORAL DIVISION.

A PUBLIC MEETING

OF CONSERVATIVES,

Will be held in the

AGRICULTURAL HALL, BLACKHILL, ON MONDAY, THE 13th APRIL,

At Half-past Six p.m., for the purpose of Organizing the Formation of a Central Conservative Association for the Electoral Division of Lanchester, and Passing Resolutions on the subject.

All Conservatives within this Division of the County are earnestly requested to attend. 318u

"GENERAL GORDON: THE HERO OF THE NILE."

MR. ALFRED PHILLIPSON,

OF DIPTON,

WILL LECTURE ON THE ABOVE SUBJECT,

IN THE

CO-OPERATIVE HALL, ANNFIELD PLAIN,

ON

EASTER MONDAY EVENING.

Chair to be taken by Mr. HENRY GREENER, of South Pontop, at Seven o'clock.

Proceeds for Chapel Trust Funds. 306u

SHOTLEY SPA GROUNDS.

SEASON, 1885.

These famous Grounds will be opened for the Season,

ON EASTER MONDAY AND TUESDAY.

A GRAND FOOTBALL MATCH,

FIREWORKS,

DANCING, GAMES, &c., EACH DAY.

The Celebrated BLACKHILL TEETOTAL BRASS BAND will be in attendance each day, and render the Musical part of the Programme.

ADMISSION REDUCED—Adults, 2d.; Children, 1d.
For full particulars see large Posters. 301u

ST. AIDAN'S CHURCH,

BLACKHILL.

THE

FOUNDATION STONE

OF THIS CHURCH WILL BE LAID BY

WM. JENKINS, ESQ., J.P.,

OF CONSETT HALL,

(Chairman of the Building Committee),

ON THURSDAY, APRIL 16th, 1885,

AT

HALF-PAST ONE O'CLOCK. 299u

ST. IVES CHURCH, LEADGATE.

GRAND BAZAAR AT EASTER.

ON EASTER MONDAY AND TUESDAY, APRIL 6th and 7th, 1885,

A BAZAAR

OF USEFUL AND ORNAMENTAL WORK,

WILL BE HELD IN THE

INFANT SCHOOL-ROOM, LEADGATE.

The Bazaar will be Opened at 2·30 o'clock, by W. JENKINS, Esq., J.P., Consett Hall.

The Magnificent SCREEN presented by Mrs. FORMAN, East House, Leadgate, will be disposed of on the Second Day.

ADMISSION—First Day, from 2 to 6 o'clock, 1s. each: after and Second Day, 6d.

TEA will be provided, either Knife and Fork or Plain, at Reasonable Charges.

The Proceeds will be devoted towards extinguishing the remaining Debt on the Church.

STALL HOLDERS:

Mrs. MITCHELL, The Vicarage, Leadgate.
" FORMAN, East House, Leadgate.
" NICHOLSON, Front Street, Leadgate.
" TODD, Front Street, Leadgate.
" SHAW, Villa Real, Leadgate.

Donations in Money, Material, or Made-up Goods will be thankfully received by the Stall Holders.

R. W. SHAW, EDWARD TODD, } Churchwardens.
257u

Sales by Auction.

By Mr. A. Phillipson.

5, South Medomsley Cottages, Dipton.—Saturday, April 4th, 1885.

MR. A. PHILLIPSON, instructed by Mr. R. FROST (who is Emigrating to Australia), will SELL, as above, the whole of his valuable Mahogany and other Household FURNITURE and EFFECTS, all of which is of good make, quality, and design. See Bills.

Sale to begin at Half-past One o'clock. 260u

CHEAP EMIGRATION.

GREAT REDUCTION IN FARES TO AMERICA, QUEENSLAND, &c.

Liverpool to America, £2 16s. and £3, by the best Lines.

To Australian Colonies at the Lowest Rates.

For reliable information, apply to

269u A. PHILLIPSON, Auctioneer, Dipton.

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

Peel's Great Northern Horse Repository, Haymarket
The Oldest Established in the City.

SALES BY AUCTION of HORSES, CARRIAGES and SADDDLERY, EVERY TUESDAY, Two o'clock.

Entries respectfully solicited.
A. T. CROW, Auctioneer.
JOHN PEEL, Proprietor

JOHN CRAWFORD,
AGRICULTURAL VALUER AND FURNITURE AUCTIONEER,
25, VICTORIA STREET, CONSETT.

Business done promptly and onreasonable terms.

Sales by Auction.

By Mr. A. Brodie.

Front Street, West Stanley.—Sale of Valuable and Well-situate Freehold Dwelling-House, Shop, and Building Ground.

ADAM BRODIE is instructed to offer for SALE BY PUBLIC AUCTION, at the House of Mr. JOHN CLARKSON, Commercial Inn, West Stanley, on Wednesday, April 15th, 1885, at Seven o'clock in the Evening prompt, subject to Conditions to be then read, all those Valuable and Well-situate

FREEHOLD BUSINESS PREMISES

in Front Street, West Stanley, comprising good Front Shop, with Six Dwelling Rooms, and all Out-offices attached thereto, and good Stabling behind, at present in the occupation of Mr. Benjamin Armstrong, Newsagent; Mr. Swinburn, Butcher; and another; the whole producing an annual Rental of £37 per annum. Also, will be included in the same Lot, a large Piece of Building Ground immediately contiguous to the said Property, containing 1,200 square yards or thereabouts.

The attention of Capitalists and others is directed to this Sale, as the Premises are in the best position in this thriving mining district. Further particulars may be had on application to Mr. JOHN CHATTOR, Grocer, West Stanley; of the AUCTIONEER, Town Hall, Consett; or from—

EDWARD WOOLER,
Solicitor,
245u 36, Priestgate, Darlington.

Saturday, April 4th, 1885.—23, South Medomsley Cottages, Dipton.—Sale of Superior Household Furniture, Excellent Domestic Sewing Machine, Feather and Flock Beds, and Miscellaneous Effects.

ADAM BRODIE is instructed by Mr. CHARLES BLYTH, who is about to emigrate to Queensland, to SELL BY PUBLIC AUCTION, at 23, South Medomsley Cottages, Dipton, on Saturday, April 4th, 1885, the whole of the Superior Household FURNITURE and EFFECTS, particulars of which are given in Bills.

Sale to commence at One o'clock prompt.

ADAM BRODIE, Auctioneer, Valuer, and Estate Agent, Consett, undertakes the Sale by Public Auction or otherwise, of Houses and Land, Farming Stocks, Household Furniture, Merchandise, or other Effects, on reasonable terms. Valuations for Probate, Dissolution of Partnership, and Settlement of Claims under Fire Insurances, or in Disputes. Fire, Life, and Accident Assurances arranged without delay. Shares of every description Bought and Sold on Commission. The Victoria Sale-Rooms are always open for the reception of Goods for absolute Sale.

Postal Address—ADAM BRODIE, Town Hall, Consett.

By Mr. J. Vickers.

Tow Law Auction Mart.

NEXT FORTNIGHTLY SALE, Monday, April 13th, 1885

Early Entries respectfully invited.

J. VICKERS, Auctioneer.
Partridge Close, Tow Law. 309u

Rare Dean Farms, near Old Cornsay.

JOSEPH VICKERS, again favoured with the patronage of Messrs. FERENS & LOVE, who are relinquishing the above farms, will SELL BY AUCTION, without reserve, on Thursday, April 30th, 1885, the whole of the Superior and Valuable FARMING STOCK, IMPLEMENTS, &c., &c. Particulars in due course.

Partridge Close, Tow Law. 308u

Loft House Farm, Lintz Green.

JOSEPH VICKERS, favoured with a commission from Mr. R. PARMELLA, who is leaving the above farm, will SELL BY AUCTION, without reserve, on Thursday, April 16th, 1885, the Valuable FARMING STOCK, IMPLEMENTS, &c., &c. Full particulars next week.

Partridge Close, Tow Law. 307u

By Mr. William Nicholson

MR. WM. NICHOLSON'S PRESENT SALE APPOINTMENTS:—

April 4—Earthenware at Lanchester.
" 6—Benfieldside Auction Mart.
" 8—Mr. P. Elliott's Farm Stock at Steeley, near Satley.
" 15—Mr. Dixon's Farming Stock at Dean House Satley.

In April—Mr. Revely's Farm Stock, at Fondley Set.
In May—Mr. Edward Jackson's Farming Stock at Wolsingham.

Date not fixed—Property at Lanchester, belonging Mr. James Hamilton.

Steeley Farm, quarter-of-a-mile from Satley.—Important Sale of very Valuable Farming Stock.

MR. W. NICHOLSON, instructed by Mr. PHILIP ELLIOTT, who is declining Farming, will SELL BY AUCTION, on Wednesday, April 8th, 1885, the whole of the Valuable FARMING STOCK, IMPLEMENTS, DAIRY UTENSILS, and EATAGE:—

HORSES.

Lot 1—Grey Draught Mare, 8 years, about 16 h.
" 2—Bay Colt, 4 years, by "Brown George," about 15½ h.
" 3—Bay Mare, 3 years, by "Bruce," about 15½ h.
" 4—Bay Colt, 2 years, by "Earl Granville."

CATTLE.

1 S.H. Cow, new Calving.
4 Young S.H. Cows, new calving or time up.
1 Young S.H. Cow, due to calve July 8th.
1 Young Ayrshire Cow, new calving.
1 Three-years-old S.H. Heifer, due July 28th.
1 Two-years-old S.H. Heifer, due Aug. 15th.
8 Two-years-old S.H. Bullocks.
1 Two-years-old S.H. Heifer.
2 One-and-a-half-years-old S.H. Heifers.
2 S.H. Steer Stirks.
2 Superior S.H. Bull Stirks.
1 Finger Calf.

SHEEP and POULTRY.

21 Two-years-old Mule Ewes and their Followers to a Leicester Tup.
1 Leicester Tup Hogg.
50 Young Hens and 10 Pigeons.

IMPLEMENTS.

2 Coup Carts; 2 Long Carts, all little worse than new; Whitechapel, nearly new: Horse Hay Rake, new; Grass Cutter, by Samuelson, new last year; Corn Cutter, by Brigham; Double Mouldboard Plough, new; 2 Iron Ploughs; 2 Pairs of Four-bull Harrows; Pair of Seed Harrows; Clod Crusher, new; Roller; Scuffler; Sheep Heck; Troughs; Weighing Machine and Weights, by Day and Milward; 2 Winnowing Machines; Sack Barrow; Corn Bin; Turnip Cutter; Cart and Plough Harness, for 4 Horses; 2 Long Ladders; Short Ladder; Grindstone; 2 Hay Spades; Dovecote; Scythes and Cradles; Joiners' Bench and Tools; Bellows; Anvil; Vice; Blacksmiths' Tools; Axes; Slashers; Cow Bands; Rakes, Forks, Spades, Shovels; a quantity of Old Iron; with the whole of the Dairy Utensils, and a portion of the Household Furniture.

The Cattle are nearly all pure Short-horns and mostly rich Roans, full of hair, and full of condition. The Sheep are of a very superior class. The Horses are of the right short-legged type, and honest good workers. Most of the Implements have only been a short time in use, and are little worse than new.

Sale to commence at Half-past Twelve o'clock p.m.
Sale and Commission Office, Stowe House,
Cornsay, 1885.

Mr. H. Brown.

Front Street, Leadgate.

MR. HENRY BROWN, instructed by Mr. WM. TODD, Front Street, Leadgate, who is about to Emigrate to Queensland, will SELL BY AUCTION, on Saturday, April 4th, 1885, all his Household FURNITURE, MACHINERY, STOCK-IN-TRADE, &c., &c., as follows:—

FURNITURE.—Tester Bedstead; 3 Iron Bedsteads; 2 Camp Bedsteads; Mattresses and Beds to suit; Chest of Drawers; Sofa; Easy Chair; Cane-bottomed Chairs; Kitchen Chairs; Secretaire; large Mirror; Looking Glasses: Night Commode; Washstand and Dressing Table; Set of Chamber Ware; Carpets; Hearthrugs; Oilcloths; Kitchen Chairs; Arm Chair; Child's Chair; Round Oak Table; 2 Kitchen Tables; Form; Eight-days' Clock; 2 Alarum Clocks; Half-chest Drawers; Oak Corner Cupboard; Pictures; Metal Pots and Pans; Steamers; Brass Pan; Fender; Tidy; Loose Bar; Fireirons; with all the Kitchen Requisites and Cooking Utensils. Also, excellent Sewing Machine; Wringing and Mangling Machine, Glass and Crockery Ware; Cornice Pole; Towel Rack; Clothes Horse, &c.

PHOTOGRAPHER'S CAMERA.—½-Plate Lens; ¼-Plate Lens; Baths; Dippers; Printing Frame; and all requisites, in good condition, and will be Sold in One Lot.

MACHINERY.—One Horse-power Engine and Boiler; Three-quarter Horse-power Engine, partly fit up; small Engine, in working order; Strong-power Lathe and Frame, 5in. Centres, Rests, Chocks, Tools, &c.; strong Cutlery Machine, with various Grindstones, Emery Wheels, and Frame; Steel Wheat Mill, for family use; small Circular Saws; strong Bench Vice; Drilling Press. Also, a quantity of Wood for Turning purposes, Posstaffs, Pick Shafts, &c.

Sale to commence at Two o'clock.

P.S.—The Barbering Business will be conducted as usual by Mr. McCOUDGAN. 267u

Sales by Auction.

By Messrs. Nicholson and Murray.

Royal Auction Mart, Agricultural Hall, Benfieldside.

MONDAY First (on account of the Easter holidays) the Sale will commence at Half-past 10 o'clock, on the arrival of the train from Newcastle, to commence with the SHEEP, CATTLE, and other things to follow.

Expected forward, about the usual quantity of STOCK, the Hoggs expected forward last Monday will be forward, together with consignments from W. B. Van Hannsbergen, Esq., and other local Feeders.

4 Tons Magnum Bonum Potatoes, and 20 Hams, and 1 excellent Dog Cart will be sold at the conclusion of the Cattle sale.

313u NICHOLSON & MURRAY, Auctioneers.

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

Business Announcements.

THE NEW

COAL AND STONE BORING MACHINE

From 20s. and 25s. each, complete with Drills; also BURY'S and HARDY'S PATENT STEEL PICKS and SHAFTS, DRILLS, JUMPERS, and STEMMING GEAR, Wholesale and Retail at

THOMAS BOSTON'S,

NUN STREET, NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.

SAFETY BICYCLES! SAFETY BICYCLES!

THE latest Novelty in Safety Bicycles is the—"NORTHERN,"

Manufactured by the NORTH OF ENGLAND BICYCLE Co., 44, High Bridge, Newcastle. Send for Price List FREE. Second-hand Bicycles from £2 0s. 0d. 228u

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 periods.

288u ADAM BRODIE, Secretary.

GLENDENNING'S INVALID PORT

Is now recommended by the leading Medical Men in the North, as being

THE MOST SUITABLE WINE

FOR

SICK PERSONS AND INVALIDS.

30s. per Dozen; 3s. per Bottle. Carriage paid on 6 bottles and upwards.

W. GLENDENNING,

WINE MERCHANT,

9, GRAINGER STREET, NEWCASTLE. 103:

MOST MONEY LENT

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

J. & E. WILSON'S,

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

12, PILGRIM STREET

FOUR 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 and Silver GUARDS, ALBERTS, &c., on Sale at the Lowest Prices.

PATENT MEDICINES.

PATENT MEDICINES AT REDUCED PRICES.
PATENT MEDICINES AT REDUCED PRICES.
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PATENT MEDICINES AT REDUCED PRICES.
PATENT MEDICINES AT REDUCED PRICES.

J. ROBERTS, 1, NEW BRIDGE STREET,
97, CLAYTON STREET,
NEWCASTLE.

SOLE PROPRIETOR OF
ROBERTS'S RENOWNED BUCHU BITTERS,
Roberts's Patent Blood Tonic, Quinine and Iron Elixir, and numerous other justly Celebrated Compounds. 92u

EASTERTIDE.

We shall be obliged if correspondents will favour us with reports of the Eastertide festivities and celebrations occurring in their respective localities as early next week as possible, in order to guarantee their insertion.

Several letters are held over until next week.

The Consett Guardian.

FRIDAY, APRIL 3RD, 1885.

JOTTINGS BY THE WAY.

[BY "INCEDO."]

The hearty way in which the members of the Consett Parliamentary Debating Society propose to crown the work of the Session speaks well for the spirit which the representatives of both political factions cherish one to another. It would seem indeed as if we were on the eve of a better day; and that the rancour characteristic of the two great parties in the State had given place to a nobler order of things. The members of this interesting institution are about to lay aside the ministerial robes for a season; but it is arranged to have a song or two before they part. Tuesday evening is the date fixed for leave-taking; and there is no doubt but many a battle will be fought over again, and many a hero re-slain. The ladies are to be called in and, graced by their presence, this political tournament will be quite a treat in its way. I wish the company a merry meeting; and trust that they will live to unite again in less troublous times.

I was asked to write on a given subject the other day, and quite astonished the petitioner by a flat refusal. I expressed myself as willing at all times to do anything in my way that was likely to help forward any good, deserving cause; but there were passing events about which the less was said the better. The fact is, had I written on the subject referred to, I would most certainly have been misunderstood. It is very plausible to speak of this and that, being what is termed an undeniable fact; but it must not be forgotten that facts like other things are subject to considerable variation. In short, facts are sometimes read backwards, and people draw deductions in keeping with preconceived fancies. Such in substance was the way in which I sought to excuse myself, for it is better to have a man's blessing than his curse. There is an old proverb to the effect that one must needs tell the truth and shame the devil; but the world is growing old now, and the inhabitants thereof prefer the mellow rays of sophistry to the noonday blaze of truth.

I observed in glancing over the evening papers that while the North-Eastern Railway Company have made elaborate arrangements for running cheap trains to almost every town of importance in the North during the holiday week. Consett and district seems to be outside the pale of the favoured circle. Of course, the year is still in its infancy; had the season been advanced the omission would have been conspicuous. If trade were again in a fair way of prosperity periodical excursions from the City to the Consett district would pay well. Ebchester and Shotley are rich in natural beauty and historical lore; and even the Blue Mountains have an interest peculiarly their own. There is no spot in the North of England from which a finer landscape view can be had, and the people of Consett may well be proud of their town and its surroundings. In justice to themselves, however, I would in all sincerity advise them to give more than a passing thought to one thing, and that is—compensation. The Railway Company have long shown their generosity by running trips *from* the district; and it is about time now that the movement was equalised by an experiment or two from the other quarter.

It would be interesting to know where the gentleman hailed from who startled the monstre meeting of policital delegates by raising objections against the presence of the representatives of the Press. It is pitiful to think of the number of benighted beings in the world. But it would not, perhaps, be charitable to judge harshly in this case. Most people have a longing for all the publicity they can command; and it may be that this aspirant to political distinction may have had good reason to wish the reporters elsewhere. It could not be that a delegate from a Liberal association feared the searching light of publicity. Surely such a nest of Rip Van Winkles is not within our borders. Let us hope that the objection was raised on purely personal grounds, but in any case it is worthy of note that no mercy was shown to the objector. "To restrain the liberty of the press can only be the interest of the individual, never that of the public," says Disraeli, in his "Curiosities of Literature," and the wish in this instance to circumscribe the influence of this great instrument of freedom was the more remarkable that it came from a source professedly liberal.

The demand for steel for shipbuilding seems to have quite outgrown the power of production. The builders complain that they cannot depend upon deliveries; and having arranged to put the vessel into the water at a given time, the non-fulfilment of the contract renders them liable to heavy demurrage. They are thus obliged to diffuse their orders over a wider area than they otherwise would; and even then the difficulty is seldom overcome. To give weight to this statement an illustration drawn from experience would not, perhaps, be out of place. A pushing shipbuilder known to the writer has no fewer that four steel steamers in course of construction, and a fifth one just completed. Fancy his position, if a firm having agreed to give deliveries of 100 tons a-week is barely able to supply more than 30 tons weekly. This is a serious matter to the builder, and may in the long-run be even more serious still for the maker. Few of the Tyneside shipbuilders are doing much, yet those of them who have orders on hand for steel ships cannot get along for lack of material. How, then, in the event of brisk times? The Scotch makers are largely drawn upon even now; and they sell quite as cheap as their contemporaries on the east and west coast. This will, doubtless, rectify itself in a year or two; but in the meantime the most enterprising of our local shipbuilders are chafing under enforced delay. Messrs Palmer and Sir W. G. Armstrong, Mitchell, and Co. are, of course, busily engaged in laying down plant for the production of steel, but it is questionable whether either of these firms will attempt anything beyond the radius of their own requirements. Consett steel has already won for itself an excellent name in the market, the only difficulty seems to be that like other good things in the world—the quantity is rather scanty.

ROUNDABOUT NOTES.

[BY "RAMBLER."]

The result of the Local Board contests at Consett and Benfieldside will not be declared until next Saturday afternoon. Touching the election at Tow Law, everyone, I feel sure, will regret to learn that an old and faithful servant like Mr Teasdale has been ousted in order to find a seat for a nominee of the Weardale Iron Company. Mr White will doubtless make a very efficient member; but the ratepayers could have dispensed with the services of other gentlemen on the Board much better than they can afford to lose the experience of Mr Teasdale.

⁂

There is one feature about the current contests for the Consett and Leadgate Local Boards which is not popular; the ratepayers do not appreciate the township being put to the expense of an election to suit the whims and fancies of single individuals. If we are to have contests, let us follow the example of the ratepayers at Benfieldside, and show a good muster of candidates. Moreover such a course is more satisfactory, and does not involve any additional trouble or expense. Many people anticipated that Mr J. H. Hudson, of Castle Dean, would have been nominated for the Consett Board on the present occasion.

⁂

A correspondent furnishes the following account, describing a novel incident which occurred at a funeral a few days ago, in the surburbs of a small village not fifty miles from Consett:—"As the relatives and friends of the deceased—an old and respected resident of the place—were assembled to pay their last tribute of respect to their late beloved friend, they were somewhat startled by the sudden appearance of an apparition, clothed in white, flitting about; and after playing several antics, finished up by mounting a stone-wall and displaying a large newspaper before it, and then vanishing out of sight."

⁂

The subject of increased train facilities on the Derwent Valley line again engaged the attention of the Consett Local Board on Wednesday night. If the members can induce the N.E.R. Company to run a late train, between Newcastle and Consett say, at least once a week, leaving the city at 10·30 ter 11 o'clock, they will confer a great boon upon the community at large. Such a concession would allow the denizens of this populous part an opportunity of occasionally hearing popular lectures, or of visiting some place of amusement; or attending some of the high-class concerts given in Newcastle.

⁂

The elections of Guardians in the Lanchester Union are entirely devoid of intererest this year, and to all appearances they will pass over in comparative quietude. On the last occasion we witnessed a vast amount of energy and activity, especially in the Northern portion of of the Union, and the greatest interest was manifested in the keen and exciting competitions. This year, a contest is only threatened in the extensive township of Tanfield, and from what I can learn the four retiring members are almost certain to be returned. With two exceptions, the constitution of that august body will remain as heretofore.

⁂

The chief interest just now seems to be centred in the operations now in progress for organising the political forces in the Lanchester Electoral Division and the selection of a suitable Parliamentary representative. The ironworkers have already chosen Mr Trow; another portion of the electors favour the candidature of Mr David Dale; whilst Mr Thomas Taylor Smith is announced as the third gentleman seeking Parliamentary honours. The Conservative party in the Division, it is rumoured, are desirous of bringing out Lieut.-Col. Wilbraham, of Shotley Bridge, on their behalf.

⁂

The necessity of establishing a Local Board for Annfield Plain and district is being eagerly discussed in that neighbourhood; and I understand that it has been decided to submit the *pros* and *cons* of the question at a meeting of the ratepayers shortly to be held. There seems every reason to believe that the predictions broached in these columns a fortnight ago may be accomplished, and we may hope to see a Local Board in working order ere many months have passed.

Local and District News.

CONSETT.

Professional.—We are glad to see that our much-esteemed townsman, Mr Adam Brodie, of Town Hall, Consett, has been admitted a Fellow, and his son, Mr R. J. Brodie, an Associate of the Society of Accountants in England and Wales.

Frightful Accident at the Steelworks.—Shortly after two o'clock on Tuesday afternoon, a labourer named Goodhead, married, residing in Consett, whilst engaged in pulling down one of the brick kilns at Consett Steelworks was frightfully crushed by a batch of several hundred hot bricks falling upon him from the roof, a distance of seven or eight feet. When extricated, it was found that his leg was broken, and that he was otherwise severely injured about the body. He was at once conveyed to the Consett Infirmary, where his injuries were attended to.

A Dangerous Freak.—A married woman, named Mary Collins, made a daring and hazardous leap from the upper storey of her dwelling house in Trafalgar Street, Consett, about midnight on Sunday. The woman, it appears, had been drinking, and after arriving at home, she and her husband quarrelled. The policemen on patrol (P.C.'s Newton and Nicol) heard cries of "Help!" "Murder!" and "Police!" and on repairing to the scene, they noticed Mrs Collins with her head popped out of the bedroom window, shouting and jesticulating wildly. The officers requested the woman to get inside, and keep quiet, but she refused; and after indulging in some abusive language and muttering some oaths at the police, she declared (as soon as footsteps were heard going up the stair-case) that she would jump head long into the street. Suiting the action to the word, the woman caught hold of the window sash, and deliberately bounded upon the flagged pavement below, leaping a distance of about 15 feet, alighted heavily on her left side. For some moments Mrs Collins was stunned, and gave vent to her agony in deep moans. When the police carried her into the house, her form seemed to be lifeless. Dr Allen (assistant to Dr Geo. Renton) was sent for, and after applying remedies, the woman partially recovered; although she has been severely bruised and shaken, sustaining serious injuries.

The Recent Liberal Conference.—"Elfin" writes the following note in to-day's (Thursday's) *Newcastle Daily Chronicle*:—"A working man correspondent, writing in reference to the Liberal conference held at Consett the other day, says that the chairman dwelt upon the necessity for proper machinery and organisaation for the dissemination of Liberal *principles*.' He wants to know what the Liberal principles of the present day are? Many other people are asking the question every day, for the peace principles so loudly proclaimed from every platform in 1880 were speedily abandoned, and now we seem to be at war in every quarter in which conflict is possible. My notion is that the Liberal principles of the present day are based mainly on self-interest: hence the efforts to secure one set of men in the enjoyment of the loaves and fishes of office and to exclude another set from having any share of the spoil. To this end the conventional Liberals all hang one by another. The high dignitaries of the party enjoy the sweets of office, and the smaller fry sent up by the caucus to support them, right or wrong, through thick and thin, do so largely in the hope of obtaining crumbs from the official table, or some compensating social advantages. Thus we have a sort of Mutual Admiration and Support Co-operative Political Society, unlimited — save in the matter of "principles." And I fear that just as many members of Parliament yield to the well-known blandishments of official circles, so do many working men's leaders and officials yield to those of provincial caucus circles. When platformed among capitalists, employers of labour, and middle-class men, they are apt to drift away from the rock whence they were hewn and sailed through another channel. Bodies of workmen will need to watch closely this tendency on the part of their leading men. Middle-class men talk a great deal of democracy and the representation of labour interests; but few of them intend to do more than help themselves to working men's votes on behalf of the capitalist class. It seems to me that if workmen want their interests represented in Parliament, they will have to act by and for themselves, and keep out of middle-class caucuses. The latter are most likely to swallow the oyster and leave humbler folk the shells, in accordance with the old, old story."

The Salvation Army.—The "Blind Brigade" at Consett.—On Friday evening last, the above brigade, consisting of blind Jimmy and his concertina; blind Mark and his harmonium; blind Johnnie and his banjo; and blind Willie and his Bible; together with Staff-Capt. Bennett and a secretary, visited Consett, and held a holiness meeting in the afternoon, and in the evening a very successful meeting in the Salvation Barracks. We had the pleasure of being present in the evening, and were very much struck by the proceedings, which opened with the hymn, "Pass me not, Oh! loving Saviour," by the band, augmented for the occasion, and followed by a duet on the concertina and harmonium by Jimmy and Mark, after which the audience joined in singing hymn No. 9, "I am a soldier of the Cross," and two brethren and Capt. Bland having engaged in prayer, Blind Johnnie (who is a late recruit) spoke his experience in a simple, manly, and straightforward manner, attributing his conversion to the prayers of a Christian mother; he also sang the hymn No. 2, "Oh! I have been to Jesus," accompanying himself on the banjo. Then came Blind Jimmy or "The next edition," who sang a hymn, which he had picked up on the road, and who is a much older soldier than the preceding speaker, but of a very excitable temperament. Blind Willie and his Bible or, as he terms it, "The blind man's lantern," which he reads by the aid of his "five eyes" on each hand next followed. The portion of scripture he selected was the 3rd chapter of John, and his comments by the way were both original and to the point. He seems to be the oldest of the Blind Brigade, and his recitation of "The starless crown" at the close of his address, was given with much feeling and effect. Blind Mark next took his turn, singing a hymn, "People wonder what we're about," which is both originally worded and was rendered in a quaint manner. The whole of the brigade joined in the choruses to the various hymns, and the way in which some of the soft refrains were given was very effective. Staff-Capt. Bennett then explained the objects and methods of the Army, and stated that £150 a week was required to keep up the work of the training homes—where officers are being trained for home and foreign work—and he was glad to state they were satisfied that the good now being brought about by the "Prison-gate Brigade" and other agencies wherein the cadets at the homes are made useful, renders this work well worth of the support of the philanthropic public. The hall was well filled, and a considerable sum resulted from the services.

BLACKHILL.

Concert.—A concert will take place in the Agricultural Hall, Benfieldside, on Easter Monday, in aid of the fund of St. Aidan's new Church, now in course of erection. The following soloists will appear, viz., Miss Lumsden, Consett; Miss Johnson (2), Blackhill; Messrs C. Davison and Peter Surtees, Consett; Mr B. Holliday, Blackhill, who will be supplemented by St. Aidan's choir. Mr Hobday will play the solo euphonium; Dr George Renton will give the readings; and Mr J. J. Caygill will officiate as accompanist. The orchestra band will be conducted by Mr J. Stephenson, organist of the Church.

Bible Students' Society.—The essay of Saturday evening, was that of Mr Aitken, on that much treated yet seemingly inexhaustible topic "The Millennium; or the thousand years reign of Christ." We observed that Mr Aitken confined himself strictly to the New Testament upon the point at issue, and did not inflict upon us the balloonings of modern prophets. After a vote of thanks to the essayist for his paper, the topic was discussed in a most energetic manner by the audience present, all seeming to have views upon the matter, some varying very widely from others. One gentleman stated that he was now more enlightened upon, and more interested in the personal reign of the Messiah than ever; while another said that he was more bewildered than heretofore by the varied aspects in which the Millenial reign had been presented. These varying sentiments so lively, yet so pleasantly discussed, augur well for the good work that the B.S.S. is doing, not only in promoting bible reading (and research), but in toning down those religious asperities which in the past generations have so often been the result of the free expression of varied theological opinion. Not only so, but we have found that the persistent prayerful and honest study of the Bible, has ever led to a wider study of other branches of literature and science, whereby the claims and acceptance of the grand old Book have been enlarged and strengthened. In fact not many weeks ago a gentleman of our acquaintance, whom formerly we knew as a thoughtful sceptic, told us that since he had taken to read and study the book, he had gradually so learnt to like and peruse it, that the reading of it was becoming a passion with him.

SHOTLEY BRIDGE.

The sum of £104 15s has been subscribed towards the purchase of a new peal of bells for St. Cuthbert's Church, Benfieldside, leaving about £90 yet to be raised.

Young Men's Friendly Society.—The debate on March 22nd was on the "Abolition of Capital Punishment," affirmative, Mr Booth; negative, Mr Richley. On the 16th, Mr J. Annandale gave an interesting account of his visit to Benares, illustrated by native idols and drawings.

St. Cuthbert's, Benfieldside. — The April number of *St. Cuthbert's Parish Magazine*, just issued, contains in its local pages, a report of the Confirmation Service held by the Lord Bishop on the 11th ult., together with a list of the candidates presented from the various churches. In addition to other interesting parochial information, Mr Booth gives a continuation of his admirable "Parish Records." The Magazine is well printed on first-class paper, and is embellished with numerous engravings in the best style of art. Descriptions and illustrations are given of Western Zoyland Church, Sussex, and Fawley Church, Hants; the continuation of the serial storey "Round with a chain;" in addition to other instructive and entertaining articles.

The Spa Grounds.—Messrs Wilson Bros., the former lesees of the Shotley Spa (whose efforts in making these beautiful grounds so popular with the general public) have undertaken the task of restoring this place of resort to their previous celebrity, have arranged for a series of sports on Easter Monday and Tuesday. The chief events will be football matches between well-known "crack" teams; in addition to other out-door games and pastimes being provided. The Consett Iron Company's Workmen's Band are engaged, and dancing on the green will be indulged in provided the weather is favourable. If the meterological elements are adverse, dancing will take place in the large pavillion just erected. Each night will conclude with a brilliant display of fireworks.

LEADGATE.

Church Bazaar.—A bazaar will be held on Easter Monday and Tuesday—opened on the first-named day by Mr Wm. Jenkins, J.P., of Consett Hall—in the Infants School, Church Square, in aid of the building fund of St. Ives Church, Leadgate. The stall-holders will be Mrs Mitchell, Mrs Nicholson, Mrs Foreman, Mrs Shaw, and Mrs Todd. Refreshments and music will be provided.

Church of England Temperance Society.—The usual meeting was held on Friday evening in the Infant School, when there was a large attendance. After the opening proceedings by the secretary (the Rev J. Kirk), a lecture was delivered by Mr Wm. Allen, M.D., on "The Eye," which proved very interesting to the large assembly gathered together. The demonstration was illustrated by means of diagrams and models of the human eye, which served to render a difficult subject visibly plain to the eye as well as to the understanding. — During the evening recitations were given by Mr E. Robson (Stanley) and Mr S. Nicholson (Leadgate). The temperance band played "Hearts of oak," and the choir sang a suitable selection. After a vote of thanks proposed by the Rev J. W. Mitchell, a most interesting evening was brought to a conclusion by singing the National Anthem.

Iveston Township Meeting. — The annual meeting of the ratepayers of the township of Iveston was held in the Local Board-room, Leadgate, on Wednesday night, when Mr R. W. Shaw was called to the chair.—Mr Nicholson proposed, and Mr Brown seconded, that the three old Overseers be nominated for next year—viz., Messrs T. Longstaff, J. J. Hedley, and James Shearer; also that Mr Longstaff be waywarden for the outlying part of Iveston.—Then the consideration of the Assistant-Overseer's salary was discussed at great length, owing to the extra duties in consequence of the operation of the People's Representation Act, 1884.—It was ultimately proposed by Mr Bland, and seconded by Mr White, that the salary stand as it is, viz., £50 a year.—Mr Longstaff made an amendment, that as the Assistant-Overseer had £6 a year for collecting the Queen's taxes, and that he has given up that position, his salary be advanced £8, that is to say £52 a-year.—Mr Bland withdrew his motion.

WOLSINGHAM.

New Organ for the Wesleyan Chapel.—Messrs Harrison and Harrison, of Durham, have signed a contract to erect a new organ in the Wesleyan Chapel, Wolsingham, at a cost of 230 guineas. The organ is to be the gift of Messrs Bainbridge and Fenwick to the Connexion.

St. Matthew's Church.—On Sunday night, the Rev Jacob Thompson, curate, preached his farewell sermon to a large congregation, and on Monday night the Rev A. M. Currie, head-master of the Grammar School, preached for the last time prior to his departure for Newfoundland. Both are held in high esteem in the town.

Wesleyan Circuit Meeting.—At the quarterly meeting of the Wolsingham Circuit—the Rev W. Henderson in the chair—the total number of fully-accredited members in the circuit was shown to be 464, being an increase of 13 on the quarter and 76 on the year.—The Revs W. Henderson and E. Blair Allen were unanimously invited to stay another year.

TANFIELD.

C.E.T.S.—Formation of the Local Branch.—A meeting was held in the School-room, on Tuesday, for the purpose of forming in the parish a branch of the Church of England Temperance Society. The Rev T. H. Archdall (vicar) was in the chair, and a fairly numerous audience was present.—The Chairman, in his opening address, regretted that he had to begin with an apology. Mr Reed, the Church Temperance Society's secretary, had failed to keep his engagement, and would not be there to speak that night; and as they had been relying entirely upon Mr Reed, not only to speak, but to bring cards of membership, &c., they would be labouring under a great disadvantage in starting their society. However, two gentlemen, who had come to hear Mr Reed, had kindly consented to say a few words upon the subject of temperance.—The Rev C. H. Newman (curate) having read the rules of the C.E.T.S., explained its aims and objects.—The Chairman then called upon the Rev J. Creunell (vicar of Beamish), who addressed the meeting in his usual eloquent and effective style.—He was followed by Mr James Gilchrist, Marley Hill, who impressively exhorted his hearers, as Christians, to take up this temperance cause, and to work for its success with heart and soul.—The Chairman then asked if it was the wish of those present that a society should be formed, whereupon Mr Agar (Tanfield) proposed, and Mr Arkless (Tantobie) seconded, that a branch of the C.E.T.S. should be formed in the parish.—The proposition was put to the meeting and carried unanimously.—The meeting was concluded with prayer.—We are pleased to state that 42 persons remained behind and gave in their names as members.

EDMONDSLEY.

Students' Excursion.—The students attending the mechanical engineering and geology classes at Esh Miners' Institute, which are taught by Mr Philip Kirkup, had an opportunity of examining the machinery of the above colliery on Saturday last. The weather being favourable about 20 students arrived at the colliery at 10·30 a.m., and were received by Mr J. Hodgson, manager, Mr Curry, engineer, and other officials who did their utmost in explaining the various objects of interest including the compound lathe, screwing machine, punching and shearing machine, drilling machine, saw mill, etc., all of which were seen in operation. They also examined with considerable interest a specially fit-up frame and working model of Oldham Hodgson and Curry's improved detaching hook, which was severely tested with very satisfactory results. At twelve o'clock the students descended the shaft to the Busty seam at a depth of 100 fathoms and saw the underground hauling arrangements on the endless rope principle. The electric bells and telephone, communicating with the in-bye landing a distance of 1,600 yards, was a source of considerable interest and amusement. At one o'clock they ascended the shaft when Mr Kirkup took the indicator diagrams off the fan engine, and explained to the engineering students the diagrams, pointing out the various curves made by the pencil of the indicator, and the effect of *lap, lead, cushing*, etc. Having examined the 35ft. waddle fan, 6 cylinderical boilers, heated by the coke ovens, and 2 hand-fired Lancashire and 1 Galloway boiler, the Cameron pumps, hay chopping, and other machinery. The students left at four p.m. thoroughly satisfied with the very enjoyable and profitable excursion.

DURHAM.

The Durham Bench have refused to grant any license for the sale of beer or spirits at the forthcoming Sands Races.

Till Robbery.—On Saturday, two boys, named Frederick Claughan and Robert Wilson, were fined £1 each, or a month, for stealing 4s 7½d from the till of William Simpson, Royal Oak Inn. Claughan paid his fine, but Wilson went to gaol.

Amateur Rowing Club.—The annual meeting was held at the County Hotel, Durham, on Saturday night, Mr J. A. Ornsby presiding. The report showed the financial position of the club to be a most healthy one. Mr Ornsby was elected captain Mr W. Crozier, jun., hon. secretary, and Mr M. Heaviside, hon. treasurer, with a committee of five.

The University.—The following have satisfied the examiners in the preliminary examination for the degree of M.B.:—H. B. Angus, A. Baca, H. A. Burleigh, R. Craggs, W. Richardson, R. A. Welsh. The certificate of proficiency in general education has been awarded to the following:—E. E. Cass, C. V. Dingle, A. R. Douglas, J. C. Quin.

A Violent Prisoner.—The Durham Bench on Monday were engaged for some time in hearing three charges of drunkenness against three women —Mary Kidd, Mary Ann Davis, and Mary Ann Morton—all of whom were convicted, the last-named giving vent to some very violent expressions and actions on hearing her sentence, and having to be forcibly removed to the cells. Great difficulty was encountered in getting her to the prison, and it took three constables to persuade her to walk down Elvet Bridge to the gaol, to which place she was attended by a crowd of several hundred persons.

Death of Mr John Hill.—Mr John Hill, proprietor of the North Road Flour Mills, Durham, died on Friday. The deceased was one of the best known business men in the north, and regularly attended the Newcastle markets. For a long time he has suffered from bronchitis, but has only been confined to the house about a week. He did not take a prominent part in the public life of the city, but in the interests of his party he for some time sat as a member of the Town Council. He was the proprietor of the North Road Flour Mills, where quite recently he put down the roller machinery, on the Hungarian principle, at a considerable expense. He also worked the Market Place Mill. The deceased was 51 years of age, was twice married, and leaves a widow and a young family.

Bankruptcy Court.—A sitting was held on Tuesday before Mr W. Marshall, registrar, when the following cases were brought forward:—*Re* John Thompson, solicitor, farmer, &c., Stanhope. In this case, the Official Receiver (Mr Longden) stated he had received from the debtor a telegram stating that he was too unwell to appear, and asking for an adjournment. Whilst expressing himself satisfied, the Official Receiver intimated that in future it would be necessary to produce a medical certificate when debtors were not able from illness to appear. The examination was adjourned.—*Re* William Pearce, butcher, Bishop Auckland. This debtor was examined as to the mortgages he had effected on some property, and the examination was further adjourned that a proper deficiency account might be furnished.

Fun in the Police Court.—At the Durham City Police Court on Monday, Mary Ann Morton made her 27th bow to the Bench charged with being drunk and disorderly and assaulting P.C. Browne in Framwellgate on the 28th inst. The officer said he took the prisoner into custody on Sunday night for being drunk and disorderly, and while taking her to the Police Station she commenced to bite, scratch, and kick him, and behave in a wild fashion, and it was not until he obtained the assistance of three men that she was got to the police station.—Prisoner, who pleaded guilty, asked in a touching style to be let off this time and she would go home to her "Ma" and "Da" and be a good girl and never set foot in Durham again.—The Bench, however, were not sensible to her pleadings, and ordered her to be imprisoned for one month with hard labour for being drunk and disorderly, and fined her 40s and costs or one month's imprisonment for the assault upon the police.—Prisoner on hearing this behaved in a frantic manner and said she would not go to gaol for them, and that she would be the death of P.C. Browne, and it was only by the efforts of three stalwart policemen that she was removed to the cells below, where she was afterwards heard singing in a plaintive voice "The days of Auld Lang Syne."

LANCHESTER.

Sermons were preached in Lanchester Parish Church, on Sunday, by the Rev J. W. Mitchell (Vicar of Leadgate), in the morning; and the Rev Canon Tristram in the evening. The offertories were for Church expenses.

CHESTER-LE-STREET.

In the House of Commons on Monday, a petition was presented in favour of Sunday closing by Mr C. M. Palmer, from the Board of Guardians, Chester-le-Street.

TOW LAW.

Auction Mart.—There were forward at this mart on Monday, 81 head of cattle, 115 fat sheep, and 30 grazing hoggs. 29 dairy cows made from £13 to £20 15s; 36 store cattle, £5 10s to £8; yearlings, two and a half years old, up to £15 15s; 10 fat cattle, £13 to £17 15s; 6 calves 15s to 36s; fat Leicester sheep, 45s to 60s, top Mr J. Atkinson, Greenwell; mule shearlings, 42s to 46s 6d, top Mr W. B. Van Haansbergen, Woodlands Hall; mule hoggs, 35s to 39 6d, top Mr Herbert, Bradley Hall; black faced wethers, 29s to 43s 6d, top Messrs Wearmouth, Broadwood; grazing hoggs, 20s to 21s 6d. A number of cattle entered from a distance did not arrive, owing to the stormy weather which prevailed during the early part of the day. Fat sheep made from 9d to 9½d per lb., but other kinds of stock had a slow sale.

A Novel Gathering.—A grand dress party was held in the Mechanics' Hall, Tow Law, on Monday evening, in connection with the Bachelors' Club. Only teetotalers between the ages of 17 and 70 are admitted as members, who pay a subscription the same as other friendly societies. The object of the society is to find wives for those who cannot procure such for themselves, and after they have found them, to furnish them with a little capital to help them in the first stages of married life. The following were elected officers for the next year:—President, Mr F. Taylor; vice-president, Mr F. Basey; secretary, Mr T. Johnstone; treasurer, Mr W. Richardson. A very pleasant evening was spent at the party, Mr F. Taylor acting as M.C. for games, and Mr H. Hodgson for dancing. Mr Pearson supplied the music. Songs, recitations, and addresses were given, after which the company broke up.

WEARDALE.

In the House of Commons on Tuesday, a petition was presented in favour of Sunday Closing by Sir J. Pease from the Weardale Board of Guardians.

At the Weardale Wesleyan Circuit meeting the Revs S. G. Scott and C. Whitfield were unanimously invited to remain another year.

An oration on "The Growth of Civil Institutions in Europe" was delivered in the Church Room, Frosterley, on Saturday evening, by the Rev Thos. Dowzer, curate-in-charge. Mr Chapman was in the chair.

Board of Guardians.—Friday's fortnightly meeting of the Weardale Guardians was presided over by Mr C. Bainbridge.—The proposal to sign a petition in behalf of Sunday closing was carried, the only dissentients being Messrs Curry, Wooler who put forward a hostile amendment), and Snowball.—The milk contractor demurs to finding a bond, and Mr Reed supported him, though Mr Rippon saw no hardship, as the contract was for twelve months—double the period for other contracts.—It was resolved to give notice to those concerned that unless the new approach to the Workhouse is put into the required condition within a month, the work will be done by the Board, and the cost debited to those chargeable.—The Workhouse drainage has been completed. When opened, the Surveyor said, the drains presented a perfect wreck.

A Local Miner in Queensland.—An Australian paper of January 29th says:—"The find of gold on the Crocadile, eleven miles from Rockhampton, promises to be one of the richest of recent years. This field, which is as yet in its infancy, will be fully developed as soon as the whole of the claims not taken up have been leased to the Union Gold Mining Company, with a partially subscribed capital of one million sterling. The foundries in Rockhampton are all busy with the necessary machinery, &c., for the working of the mines, and crushing the quartz. The whole of these, and the entire management of the concern, have been placed in the hands of Mr Jacob Dent, who recently came here from Weardale, England." Mr Dent only left East Blackdean, Upper Weardale, in June last, where he was well know as a successful horticulturist and farmer. Although only a leadminer, he was known to be possessed of versatile talents, which have been speedily recognised in the above flourishing colony.

WHICKHAM.

The School Board Rate.—A correspondent writes to the *Newcastle Journal*:—I wish to draw the attention of the ratepayers of Whickham to the alarming extent to which the School Board rate continues to increase. I am informed by a member of the Board that the rate for the coming half-year has to be 8d in the pound, an amount equal to the whole of the parochial rates of the Westgate Ward, Newcastle, put together. I attribute this to the apathy of the ratepayers, who do not take the trouble to record their votes, and as the man who drives fat oxen ought himself to be fat, so ought the people who pay rates have the spending of the amount collected. I would draw the attention of the ratepayers to the coming election of the Local Board, and ask them to exercise caution for which candidate they vote, and should the candidates be strangers to them, then judge them by their nominators and vote accordingly."

CROOK.

Penny Dinners.—The funds are now nearly exhausted, and the committee contemplate having to close in two more weeks unless some means for continuing the charity comes in.

Wesleyan Methodism.—At the quarterly meeting, held in the Schoolroom, the Rev S. Adcock reported a membership of 1,000, with 248 on trial, the Circuit Steward also reported a small balance to the good in his accounts. The circuit altogether is in a very satisfactory state notwithstanding the continued depression in the coal trade. Both the Rev S. Adcock, and the Rev T. J. Moecrop, will stay in the circuit.

BLAYDON.

Failure of a Farmer.—Thomas March, lately residing and carrying on business as a builder and farmer at Blaydon-Bank filed a petition at the Newcastle Bankruptcy Court on Monday. The usual order was made, and the examination fixed for the 9th April.

St Cuthbert's Mutual Improvement Society.—This successful class brought its fourth session to a close on Monday. A substantial tea was provided, which was succeeded by an entertainment, consisting of recitations, songs, &c.—The secretary (Mr W. Scott) presented the annual report, showing the class to be in a satisfactory condition, it being constituted of 62 members.—Mr J. Graham presided at the entertainment, which was one of the most successful ever instituted by the class.

WITTON GILBERT.

At the Durham County Police Court on Monday, Jas. Heaton and Wm. Jackson, of Edmondsley, were remanded on a charge of poaching on land in the occupation of the Ecclesiastical Commissioners, at Witton Gilbert.—On Wednesday the prisoners were again brought up and were fined 20s each and costs.

ANNFIELD PLAIN.

Lecture.—Mr A. Phillipson, of Dipton, is announced to deliver his popular and entertaining lecture, on "General Gordon, the Hero of the Nile," in the Co-operative Hall, Annfield Plain, on the evening of Easter Monday. The proceeds will be devoted to the Wesleyan Chapel trust funds.

The Birth of Triplets.—In reference to the triplets (boys) safely delivered on February 25th by the wife of Mr Henry Armstrong, miner, South Pontop Colliery (as already announced in these columns), we may state that the infants lived only three days. Eleven months previously Mrs Armstrong gave birth to twins, also boys, who lived five months. They have now a family of six children living. In this case, we understand, the Queen's bounty was not applied for.

HEDLEY HILL.

Football Brutality: Hedley Hill v. Esh Stags.—On Saturday, the Esh Stags went to Hedley Hill to play the return match, and after playing pleasantly for about twenty minutes, the home captain claimed "hands" off one of the Esh players, and the Esh man said it did not hand him The Hedley Hill captain thereupon, whithout any provocation, struck the Esh man in the face, and the Esh Stags put on their coats and walked away home. The Hedley Hill umpire said the ball did not hand the Esh man, and he would have given his decision for Esh had he been appealed to. So the Hedley Hill captain showed his men how to play friendly by the above action.

Late Advertisements.

Monday, April 13th, 1885.—Sportsman's Arms, Dipton.—Sale of Excellent Household Furniture. Good Domestic Sewing Machine, Feather and Down Beds and Miscellaneous Effects.

ADAM BRODIE is instructed by Mr David Reid, who is about to emigrate to Queensland, to SELL BY PUBLIC AUCTION, at the Sportsman's Arms, Dipton, on Monday, April 13th, 1885, the whole of the Superior Household FURNITURE AND EFFECTS removed from his private residence for convenience of sale.

Particulars in posters and future advertisements.

We have still much to learn in the old country—This is how they criticise a *prima donna* in the New World—"From her bird-like upper notes she canters down to the base racket, and then cushions back to a sort of spiritual treble that makes every one of the audience imagine that every hair on his head is the golden string of a celestial harp over which angelic fingers are straying."

First heavy lead—Taillade was acting in some forgotten piece with an abnormally ponderous actress, Mlle. Suzanne Lagris, whom he was supposed to carry off half fainting on his back. But his arms were too short to embrace the well-developed figure of Mlle. Lagris. One of the "gods," taking pity on the superhuman efforts of his favourite actor, shouted out, "Make two journeys of it!"

News for the bench of bishops—The clerk of a School-Board, recently examining a school in history, put this question, "What do you understand by the Lords Spiritual in the House of Lords?" Four children replied. The first one said, "Those in the House of Lords who turn against the Prime Minister;" the second, "Those that can speak best;" the third, "The lords who believe in spirits." The fourth answer, given with the utmost confidence, was best of all—"The lords who have children."

Shot from a canon—In 1838 Sydney Smith admitted to George Ticknor that the influence of the aristocracy was, as a rule, "oppressive." "I never failed however to speak my mind before any of them. I hardened myself early." A story told by the Princess Marie Lichtenstein, if correct, shows that he declined to be meek even before a queen of society. "Sydney, ring the bell!" Lady Holland is reported to have said to him in an imperious tone, to which he answered, "Oh, yes! And shall I sweep the room?"

"**Smoking**," said Ananias, "is so general in Guernsey that it is quite impossible to distinguish one person from another in a room full of smokers." "But supposing you want to speak to some one present, how are you to find him out?" "Ah, in that case," said the undefeated one, "a waiter is sent round with a pair of bellows, with which he blows away the smoke from the face of every person until the right man is found!" Then they made him a life member of the Lyre Club without subscription.

Brown's nine-carat lever—Brown, since he has speculated in a new nine-carat lever, has succeeded in becoming a common nuisance. He wants every one he meets to guess its value, observe the fineness of the gold, &c. He caught a military acquaintance the other night with his eternal "How many carat do you call that?" "Eighteen-carat," responded the gallant major. "Right!" exclaimed Brown "How did you guess it, though?" "Well, you see," said the major, "I'm used to that kind of stuff; I've half a dozen candlesticks just like it."

Balzac being asked to explain an abstruce passage in one of his books, frankly owned that he had no meaning at all. "You see," said he, "for the average reader all that is clear seems easy, and if I did not sometimes give him a complicated and meaningless sentence, he would think he knew as much as myself. But when he comes upon something he cannot comprehend, he re-reads it, puzzles over it, takes his head between his hands, and glares at it, and finding it impossible to make head or tail of it, says: 'Great man, Balzac; he knows more than I do!'"

Dead men tell no tales—Sir John Jervis, who, it appears, had a not uncommon habit of repeating gossip, chancing to hear of the late Lord Chelmsford that he was over head and ears in debt, and had the bailiffs in the house, repeated the scandal, and was horrified to receive a letter from his lordship demanding his authority. "How the deuce, Jack, am I to answer this?" said he, addressing his son. "I have not the slightest notion from whom I heard the story." His son could not assist him. Just at that moment a member of the Bar sent him up the following message—"Poor Godson died this morning." "I have it!" said the chief, his face showing how relieved he felt. "It was from him I heard it!"

Squaring the circle—Lord Brabourne tells a good story of a country girl who, being engaged by the housekeeper of a certain family, inquired if she might sleep all round. "Sleep round?" was the reply. "Yes, of course, you may sleep round or square, whichever you please, for what I care." However, after the lapse of a few days, the girl, having been kept up till ten o'clock, did not appear in the morning. The housekeeper, fancying she must be ill, went up to her room about nine o'clock, and, finding her fast asleep and snoring soundly, promptly woke her up, and began to scold her for an idle baggage. On this the girl began with an injured air to remonstrate. "Why, ma'am, you yourself told me I might sleep round! And, as I was not in bed till ten o'clock last night, I aan't a-coming down till ten this morning!"

The Duke of Nemours once sent his steward to call upon an artist on whom he wished to confer a snuff-box as a mark of his approbation, to ascertain if such a present would be acceptable. The offer was received with enthusiasm. "Where shall I send it?" enquired the envoy. "Oh, if you would be kind enough," replied the grateful artist, "to pawn it on the way, you can let me have the money!"

A great billiard-match was being played between two famous "professors," and, the contest exciting the liveliest interest among the spectators, one of them, the better to watch the execution of an extremely difficult stroke, imprudently leaned forward from his seat a little too far, receiving from the butt of the player's cue a blow upon the nose which made him cry out. "It is of no consequence," said the "professor" graciously, "I have scored all the same!"

With pardonable pride, a lady displayed a very ancient piece of house-linen to her servant, saying as she held it up for inspection, "Look, Bridget, at this table-cloth; it has been in our family for over two hundred years." Bridget eyed the article in question carefully, and then, stepping close up to her mistress, remarked, in a most confidential tone, "Shure, never mind, Mrs. Arthur dear. If you just kape quiet about it, and don't let on to anybody, who would know but what it was bought bran'-new out of the shop?"

An old minister in the Cheviots used, when excited in the pulpit, to raise his voice to a loud half whimper, half whine. One day a shepherd had brought with him a young collie, who became so thrilled by the high note of the preacher that he also broke out into a quaver so like the other that the minister stopped short. "Put out that collie!"" he said angrily. The shepherd, equally angry, seized the animal by the neck, and, as he dragged him down the aisle, sent back the growling retort at the pulpit, "It was yersel' begoud it!"

Examination blunders—The *Journal of Education* prints the following samples of examination blunders—"What are the mineral products of Australia?" "Tinned meats." "What is the feminine of cock-robin? Give similar instances of gender in English." "Jenny Wren; mare, maress, church, chapel." A boy of eleven, on entering a middle-class school, was told to write out the Lord's Prayer. He began, "Our Father witch art in even, Harold be thy name," and, turning to the master, who was looking over his shoulder, remarked, with a self-satisfied air, "That's my name too!" "Francis Bacon was a Black Friar who invented gunpowder and the new orgon: He was imprisoned in Jame's reign for the gunpowder plot, where he wrote his celebrated essays. He was a very learned man, and wrote a book about Greek augments."

Nearly every evil has its compensation. If a man has but one foot, he never treads on his own toes.

The local optionists say that corkscrews have sunk more people than cork jackets have ever saved.

Notwithstanding all the excitement concerning it, the North Pole constantly remains as cool as ice.

THIS DAY'S NEWS.

"Guardian" Office, Thursday, 4p.m.

WAR PREPARTIONS BY RUSSIA.

[Central News Telegrams.]

St. Petersburg.

There is great activity in the Russian Arsenals and Government Works at Nicolaeff. Cruisers are being fitted out. A large number of engineer officers have received orders to hold themselves ready for active service. The war vessels *Ajax* and *Conqueror* are being got ready for Commission. The Emir of Bokharra has concluded an arrangement by virtue of which Russian troops would pass through his territory in the event of war.

SUDDEN DEATH OF EARL CAIRNS.

Our Bournemouth correspondent telegraphs:—Earl Cairns died quite unexpectedly at Bournemouth this (Thursday) morning. His death has cast great gloom over the place.

THE CENTRAL AMERICAN WAR.

New York, Thursday.

General Barrios lost heavily in his recent attack upon San Salvador forces. His rout was complete.

PRINCE BISMARCK'S BIRTHDAY.

The German residents celebrated Prince Bismarck's birthday throughout the United States yesterday (Wednesday) with much enthusiasm.

THE UNITED STATES AND PANAMA.

Washington, Thursday.

The Cabinet has decided that, according to existing treaties, the United States is bound to guarantee free and safe transit across Panama, and troops have been accordingly ordered to Panama to ensure this.

FATAL ACCIDENT AT GLASGOW.

A lorry was passing through Glasgow this (Thursday) morning, bearing an immense boiler, when the supports gave away, and the boiler fell, killing two men.

A LIBERAL CANDIDATE CHOSEN.

Mr Caleb Wright, cotton spinner, Tyldesley, was last (Wednesday) night elected Liberal candidate for Leigh Division of South Lancashire.

Consols one-eighth better. The Bank rate is unaltered.

THE SOUDAN WAR.

THE EXPECTED BATTLE AT TAMAI.

From Suakim the *Morning Post's* correspondent telegraphs on Wednesday night regarding the return of Osman Digna to Tamai:—It now seems probable that Osman Digna, with his followers, fearing defeat from the British forces, have removed their wives and baggage into the hill district. Osman and his fighting men have since returned to Tamai, where they are prepared to offer a stubborn resistance. The tents in the various camps here were struck this afternoon, and a general advance of the force will take place at daybreak to-day. The troops will first march to the new zareba constructed near Tamai, and it is not unlikely that an engagement with the Arabs will take place late in the day.

The *Daily Telegraph's* correspondent telegraphs from Suakim yesterday:—At Tamai, the enemy having cleared decks by removing their households and portable property, are reported to be prepared for a fight.

GENERAL GRAHAM'S ADVANCE.

A Suakim telegram to-day says that General Graham has reached General McNeil's zereba on his way to Tamai, without any signs of the enemy being observed.

THE AMEER AT RAWUL PINDI

The *Daily News* correspondent telegraphs from Rawul Pindi on Wednesday:—The rain is still falling, and it is upsetting all the arrangements respecting the durbar. It being impossible to hold the durbar, private visits have been exchanged to-day between the Ameer and the Viceroy. The Duke of Connaught accompanied the latter. The Ameer impresses every one with his vigour of mind and astuteness. He constantly refers to the Uzbegs, north of the Hindu Kush, and has evidently a good hold on Badakhshan, Balkh and Afghan Turkestan. Russia would find some difficulty in occupying that country. The Ameer's satisfaction with everything continues unabated. Not the least difficulty is expected in bringing the negotiations with him to a satisfactory issue. Cabul is quite quiet. There is not the least sign of dissatisfaction among the Afghans at the Ameer's absence. He is plainly the strongest ruler since Dost Mahomed. Major Nicholson and Capt. Day, of the Engineers, are now here getting instructions regarding the fortification of Herat.

A YOUTHFUL POACHER.

At the Lanchester Petty Sessions, to-day (Thursday) *Francis Foster*, of Cornsay Colliery, a youth of 14 years, was fined 2s 6d and costs, and severely reprimanded by the Bench, for trespassing in search of conies on land belonging to Mrs Jane Bond, on the 23rd inst.

APPOINTMENT OF OVERSEERS.

At the Lanchester Petty Sessions to-day (Thursday)—before M. Kearney, Esq. (chairman), Rev J. P. De Pledge, Geo. G. Taylor Smith, Esq., Major E. L. Smith, and Geo. Hedley, Esq.—the Bench signed the appointments of the following gentlemen as Overseers of the Poor for the ensuing year:—

Benfieldside.—Messrs Rd. Murray, Wm Raw, and Wm. Wilson.

Billingside.—Messrs William Brown and Samuel Mann.

Butsfield.—Messrs Jon. Wall and Wm. Leybourne.

Conside and Knitsley.—Messrs C. P. Douglass, T. R Dolphin, W. Aynsley, and T. Dunne.

Collierley and Pontop. — Messrs Emmerson Wilkinson and Emmanuel Maddison.

Cornsay.—Messrs George Ridley and William Gascoigne.

Greencroft.—Messrs Thos. Smith and Launcelot Hunter.

Ebchester.—Messrs Wm. Charlton, Wm. Edward Dixon, and Wm. Shell.

Esh.—Messrs Henry Hornsby and Michael Stephenson, jun.

Holmside.—Messrs J. Wall and W. Leybourne.

Hedleyhope.—Messrs Joseph Holdroyd and Jon. Hall.

Iveston.—Messrs T. Longstaff and J. Shearer.

Lanchester.—Messrs Jon. Wall and W. Leybourne.

Healeyfield.—Messrs Robert Robson and Elliott Leybourne.

Medomsley.—Messrs John Hugill and J. Smith.

Kyo.—Messrs W. Bell and A. Barras.

Tanfield.—Messrs Jos. Watson and Geo. Ridley.

Langley Park.—Messrs John [illegible] and Wm. Logan.

Muggleswick.—Messrs Geo [illegible] and John Sherlock.

Satley.—Messrs Welford [illegible] and Robson Temperley.

A LETTER FOR LADIES.

In spite of the ancient adage concerning the inexpediency of altering any portion of one's attire until the departure of May, the last few days have produced a decided change in the appearance of our costumes. People who were yesterday wrapped up in furs and velvets from head to foot, to-day are promenading the streets in the shortest of short jackets braided with silver, and the brightest of striped skirts. Spring bonnets are also putting in an appearance, and the streets begin to look delightfully gay. The Parisian capote without strings is still being worn, and the high peaked front is sometimes filled up with coq's feathers, but oftener still with frills of gold gauze. Another pretty bonnet has recently made its *debût*, and is likely to be largely adopted. It is plain and tight fitting at the back, and has what is called a *rivière* of velvet in the front. This *rivière* is made of irregular folds of velvet or gold gauze, and takes exactly that position on the head which a diamond coronet would take were one going to indulge in such a luxury. Little close-fitting bonnets of fine black straw are very well worn; they are beaded at intervals with little round patterns in black jet; this constitutes their only trimming, with the exception of a bunch of daffodils placed in front. Black broché pelerines are going to be very fashionable, made quite short at the back and with two long ends in front. They will be trimmed (and in some instances completely covered) with black yak lace, and finished off with frills of the same. It requires rather an elegant figure, however, to carry off a pèlerine, and the hussar jackets will be the refuge of those who cannot take to this novel fashion. There remains also a funny little cape of velvet, matching the colour of the dress, and made with a very high Medici collar of the same.

The costumes worn at the second Drawing-room have almost surpassed in brilliancy those of the former one. The Duchess of Buckingham looked almost regal in her gold-embroidered dress, with its train of white brocaded silk, lined with white satin. Her mother, Lady Graham Montgomery, also looked very stately in a dress of heliotrope satin, trimmed with rose point, and a train of dahlia-coloured velvet, trimmed with the same. The Hon. Mrs. Balfour looked extremely well in a mixture of dark and light blue. The dress was of pale blue satin, with a drapery of dark blue velvet crossing the front, underneath which came a drapery of pale blue forget-me-nots embroidered on white net. The train was of navy blue satin lined with pale blue. A particularly *recherché* dress was worn by Mrs. Charles Waring. The skirt was of black tulle embroidered with flowers in silver. At the bottom of the drapery came a number of little flounces, edged with two rows of narrow silver braid. The train was made of black plush, lined with silver grey merveilleux, and trimmed with a quantity of beautiful point de gaze, looped up here and there with bunches of grey ostrich feathers. The bodice was also of black plush, and the tulle drapery was looped in front with bunches of feathers like those on the train. A dress which attracted a good deal of attention was a harmony in white and silver. The bodice and petticoat were of white bengaline striped with silver, the skirt being covered with draperies of white tulle looped up with silver gimp and silver pompons. The train was of white broché velvet lined with white satin.

The rage for Louis Quinze furniture has lately been superseded by a fancy for the semi-classical style affected at a slightly later date. The prevailing mode at present is an imitation of the Adams style. Friezes and overmantels carved in white wood, with floral swags and prim little beadings and classical jars—semi-classic furniture, ancient tripods with brass pots of flowers on them—this is what has supplanted the luxurious Louis Quinze fashions which were so popular a short time ago. Sheraton furniture is just now more popular than Chippendale, and there is certainly a good deal to admire in the form of the shield-backed chairs. Most of the Louis Quinze and Empire furniture is made in mahogany, and then enamelled white, and upholstered with very delicate-coloured brocades. White furniture is lovely in itself, but when it is covered with bright stamped velvets it looks every bit as vulgar as if it had been covered with gilt.

The present exhibition at the Society of Lady Artists can scarcely be considered as fairly representative of the standard to which lady artists have attained. In the first place, all the best painters do not exhibit here, and those who have have not sent their best work. With the Royal Academy and Grosvenor Gallery exhibitions in view, we can scarcely expect to find the *chef d'œuvres* of such women as Miss Hilda Montalba, Mrs. Louise Jopling, and Miss Elizabeth Armstrong, hanging on the walls of the gallery in Great Marlborough-street. Were it not for this consoling remembrance, one would find the exhibition at the Lady Artists decidedly depressing. As far as technical skill is concerned, there is a decided advance on last year's exhibition, the flower-painting is excellent, and there are many pretty little boudoir pictures to be picked up for a few pounds. But it is no use disguising the fact that there is a lamentable absence of ideas in the work, and sadly little individuality; there are scarcely any original subjects, and for all the subjects that the figure-painters have chosen, you might think that they were painted by people who knew nothing of history, who had never opened a book, and who had no firm grasp of life. The fault must be in the colourless lives of women. Not till they have more freedom of action and more intellectual culture, shall we find them capable of producing a higher type of work. What is done very perfectly by lady artists at present is flower painting. There are some examples in the present exhibition, which are really quite perfect in their way. Miss Marian Chase has a study of apples, with a background of tiny ivy leaves and moss (471), which could hardly be surpassed for fidelity to nature. Her sister, Miss Jessie Chase, has a pretty and fanciful picture called "For the Bride" (788). A handful of gardenia, spires, and eucharis is thrown down carelessly in the foreground, whilst an ivory casket and an incense-holder are skilfully put in behind them. Miss Maud Naftel exhibits a charming study of Japanese chrysanthemums, pink and yellow and white, the colouring tender, and the grouping excellent. Another charming flower painter is Miss Helen Knapping. She has two very pretty pictures in this gallery, "Christmas Roses" (174) and "Lilies" (180). The group of tiger-lilies in a bowl of yellow Vaulerie ware stand on an oak chest clamped with brass. A string of amber beads hangs over the edge of the chest, and helps to carry out the idea of colour.

There is much tenderness of treatment and colouring in Mrs. Louise Jopling's "List of the Killed and Wounded"—a young wife starting from her seat with the newspaper containing the fatal news held in her hand, whilst her little girl looks wonderingly at her over the grand piano which she is so diligently practising. One of the best figure subjects in the gallery is Miss Katharine D. M. Bywater's "All my fancy dwelt on Nancy" (292). Nothing could be prettier than the cottage girl in her pink dress and dark red tippet, and the little glimpse of crimson stocking coming above the rough boots. Mrs. Emily Barnard has several interesting studies of heads, all of which contain (what most of the pictures in this gallery want) a strain of individuality. With regard to the landscapes there are two or three clever ones by Miss Kate Macauley, a good picture of a quiet harbour by Miss Millicent S. Grose, (193), a pretty study of foliage called "Leading into the Shade" (12), by Miss Z. A. Howarth, and a fine bit of colour by Miss M. Freeman Kempson. Rather a pretty picture is Miss Millicent S. Grose's "Souvenir du Quartier Latin" (23). A girl artist has fallen asleep in her chair beside an easel with an unfinished picture on it. The room is full of various artistic properties, all the details of which are painted with a good deal of fidelity and charm.

According to a recent account which has appeared in a contemporary magazine, the life of the Buddhist nuns cannot be called a happy one. Except by their diminutive size it is almost impossible to distinguish them from the monks. Their dress is precisely the same—a long grey or yellow robe, made perfectly plain, with no approach to ornamentation. At the age of sixteen these nuns take vows of perpetual virginity, of vegetarian diet, and of strict obedience to the precepts of Buddha. The aimlessness of the life is what makes it seem so sad to an outsider.

SOMETHING FOR YOUNG PEOPLE.

MISUNDERSTOOD.

Acts of love and devotion are not always recognised as such. The most generous deed, if it happens to interfere with any of our fancies or pleasures, may be mistaken for a most unkind one. In illustration of this, here are two interesting little stories, both of which are said to be quite true. The first is told in prose, and relates

AN INCIDENT OF THE INDIAN MUTINY.

Several years ago a great mutiny occurred in India. Many of the natives of the country, armed with swords and guns, rose against the authority of the Queen. They imprisoned and slaughtered her officers wherever they could, and even their wives and children; and the only thing that anybody who happened to be an Englishman could do to make sure of his life was to fly to some place of safety beyond their reach. On the day of the rising of these cruel, savage men in one place, there was a little child, three years old, who had been left in the charge of her Indian nurse, father and mother being away from home; and unless she could be got away she would be put to death, for she had a white skin, and was the child of an officer of the Queen. In this place, too, were other officers, and these, when danger had come and all must fly, at once thought of their absent comrade's child in its loneliness, and without a second's delay one of them galloped to her home, dismounted, rushed into the room where she was at play with her Indian nurse, seized her, hurried back to his horse, and mounting, put her before him, holding her on the horse's neck.

By this time the street was filled with men, who rushed at the flying officer and endeavoured to seize his horse's bridle and stop it, so that they might kill both him and that English child. But the brave man, with a strong arm and a trusty sword, cut them down, fighting every inch of his way, and holding the child fast on the horse's neck. But oh! the trouble that child gave her rescuer. From the first she kicked and struggled and shrieked; and again and again she had almost twisted herself out of his arms. Every moment it seemed as if she must wriggle herself free and fall. But in spite of her struggles and screams and tears, with one arm clinging firmly to her, with the other cutting his way bravely through the opposing enemies, after a long, hard ride, her gallant protector delivered her safe into her thankful mother's arms. Yet there, even, no entreaties could make her kiss him. He had hurt her, he had! She shrank from him in unmistakeable dislike. She almost hated him. "Friend! How could *he* be a friend?" thought the simple child. He had stolen her from her nurse, broken up her pleasant game, and given her such a crush with his hard arm, such a shaking on the bare neck of his horse, as no *friend*, she was sure, could ever think of doing. Kiss and thank him! No such thing. She would not forgive nor even look at him, and timidly shrank from him.

Such was a child's view of her delivering friend, but we may be sure that some day, when she was old enough to understand, she would no longer call him unkind, but would even thank him for all the foolish tears he caused her, and all the needful pain he had given her in that dreadful ride. One thing only would she regret, not that she was jogged about so dreadfully in that long, dangerous ride, but that she had ever thought ill of her friend, and refused to thank him for his love—refused to kiss the hand that saved her.

The second story is related in rhyme, and may be called

BABY'S ADVENTURE.

"Where is the baby, grandmamma?"
  The sweet young mother calls
From her work in the cosy kitchen,
  With its dainty whitewashed walls.
And grandma leaves her knitting,
  And looks for her all around;
But not a trace of baby dear
  Can anywhere be found.
No sound of its merry prattle,
  No gleam of its sunny hair,
No patter of tiny footsteps,
  No signs of it anywhere.
All through house and garden,
  Far out into the field,
They search each nook and corner,
  But nothing is revealed.
And the mother's face grew pallid;
  Grandmamma's eyes grew dim;
The father's gone to the village;
  No use to look for him.
And the baby lost! "Where's Rover?"
  The mother chanced to think
Of the old well in the orchard
  Where the cattle used to drink.
"Where's Rover? I know he'd find her!
  Rover!" In vain they call,
Then hurry away to the orchard!
  And there by the moss-grown wall,
Close to the well, lies Rover,
  Holding to baby's dress;
She was leaning over the well's edge
  In perfect fearlessness!
She stretched her little arms down,
  But Rover held her fast
And never seemed to mind the kicks
  The tiny bare feet cast
So spitefully upon him,
  But wagged his tail instead,
To greet the frightened searchers,
  While naughtily baby said:
"Dere's a 'ittle dirl in the water;
  She's dust as big as me,
Mamma; I want to help her out,
  And take her home to tea.
But Rover, he won't let me,
  And I don't love him. Go
Away, you naughty Rover!
  Oh! why oo crying so?"
The mother kissed her, saying:
  "My darling, understand,
Good Rover saved your precious life,
  And see, he licks your hand!
Kiss Rover." Baby struck him,
  But grandma understood:
She said: "It's hard to thank the friend
  Who thwarts us for our good."

While reading these stories, it may perhaps have occurred to some that 'tis not only little children who can act thus foolishly, but that people of all ages are inclined to do much the same kind of thing. We do not see the why and the wherefore of many of the troubles and vexations which meet us on our way through life, and so it often happens that even that great love which takes the lives of all creatures under its care, is liable to be murmured at and misunderstood.

NUTS TO CRACK.

1.—My *first* is a common name for a boat; my *second* is where the boat goes to; and my *whole* is also sought after by some of my *first*.

2.—My *first* in two syllables is to break; my *second* is what we live on; and my *whole* is a borough.

3.—'Tis true I am but very small,
  Yet I may work great harm;
My presence can completely wreck
  The mansion, cot or farm.
But take away my dangerous head,
  You'll have no cause for fright,
For round my walks I've seen you oft.
  By morning, noon, and night.
Yet once again I say behead,
  And you will know I'm right,
When I say a little house
  Will surely come in sight.

HIDDEN FISHES.—David wrote a psalm on escaping from his enemies. The asp, rat, spider, and such like are detested. Come to supper, Charles, I heard Mary say. Just then the tramcar passed us.

5.—"Er-rat-at-tat-tat, ter-rum-tum, tum!"
  What noise is that to town just come?
  Our quiet old town, with its *total* ways,
  Will assuredly frown, in stern despair,
  On any who dare a *last* to beat
  And startle the air of our quiet street,
  Till it fairly does *first*, with the noise and din
  That is surely the worst ever heard within
  The mind of the oldest inhabitant's wife,
  Though she has been deaf the most of her life.

WORD-SQUARES.

6.—The end; a measure; a metal; a season.

7.—To float; to paddle on the sea-shore; a thought; a meadow.

8.—Part of the head; union; tidings; part of the face.

LAST WEEK'S KERNELS.

1.—One takes the dish with the egg. 2. Peri-od. 3. There is many a true word spoken in a jest. 4. Tea-chest. 5. Letter-box. 6. Drome-dary. 7. Pitch-fork. 8. Crow-berry. 9. Casabianca.

TOWLE'S PENNYRO[illegible] PILLS F[illegible] FEMALES quickly [illegible] ularities, a[illegible] relieve the distressing sy[illegible] will [illegible]
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THE BLACK SHAFT;

OR,

THE MINER'S DAUGHTER—A MYSTERY.

BY

HENRY FRITH,

Author of "The Mystery of Moor Farm," "On the Wings of the Wind," "The Lock-keeper's Secret," &c. &c.

CHAPTER XV.

A REVELATION.—IN THE SHRUBBERY.—AN INVITATION.

The curious apparition which Jessie Duncomb had seen on the terrace at the "Wolds," and of which she gave a distinct account, impressed Simon and Mr. Duncomb, but in different ways. Simon, like all such persons as he, possessed a considerable share of mysticism, with some superstition. Though quite convinced of Mervyn's death in the mine, he had some fearful ideas that the murdered man might some day appear to his murderer; and he was obliged to confess to himself that he had instigated violence, and set light to the train which had exploded against his cousin.

Jessie soon recovered her health, but the remembrance of the "ghost," as she considered it, remained, and affected her spirits. She was deeply attached to Mervyn and he—although he had been led away a little by the more brilliant and passionate Kate Askenhurst—had remained really true in heart and feeling to his cousin. Could he have again lived his life we cannot doubt that Jessie would have regained and kept his affection. He had for a time been led away, blindly, by a girl who played with him, who stirred his worse feelings, while Jessie had been forgotten or lost sight of in the brilliancy of Kate's or it.

Jessie had herself perceived this, and, as we have seen, reproached her friend for her conduct. We do not defend Mervyn's weakness of character; we do not make any excuse for him; we can only relate how he acted, as hundreds of impressionable men have acted, and will act so long as the world lasts—forsaking the substance for the shadow and the outward show; the duller gold for the polished brass or gilt metal.

The girl had always been taught to deride ghostly appearances; but the form she had seen on the terrace that sad evening, its resemblance to her absent love, the terror which possessed her, the hurried return to the door, and the disappearance of the phantom, were incidents which she remembered perfectly. She fainted in the hall, but the ghost was plain enough, as plain almost as the doctor's carriage had been in the "drive" beneath.

Jessie could not reconcile these facts with her theories. Mervyn was dead, so her father had said. Simon also believed it; people in the neighbourhood had already spoken about the ghost, and now it had appeared at the "Wolds." What did this portend? Was any catastrophe about to happen? Jessie became ill and out of sorts. Mrs. Mordaunt was recommended as a pleasant and excellent nurse, quiet and reserved; she nevertheless was a good companion, and her deafness had much improved. So Mrs. Mordaunt consented to come to the "Wolds," whenever Miss Duncomb required her attendance as a "companion.

The squire had seen her, and had given her the best advice in his power concerning her erring son. He would communicate with the proper authorities and have the young man traced. Had she a photograph? Yes. Then, if it were sent, too, some clue might be obtained. Simon threw in a few remarks in the hope of dissuading her, but without success.

Mr. Duncomb encountered the doctor afterwards, and the conversation turned upon the missing man and his delinquencies.

"They must have been married. I hope so," said the squire. "They may have arranged to go away and meet after a while, eh?"

"It may prove so. But your nephew seemed to me such a different kind of man. A——"

"A hypocrite—a humbug, sir!" exclaimed the squire, angrily interrupting. "To think that my brother's son should ever have fallen so low!"

"You are assuming a great deal. I am by no means certain ——"

"No one is certain," interrupted the old man. "But here's the case—Mervyn runs away suddenly without apparent motive. The girl also disappears. We know they are married."

"Do you?" said the doctor, drily.

"Certainly," replied the squire. "The girl told her friends so. You can't mean that Mervyn is a scoundrel, who has deserted the poor girl?"

"No, no; but are you sure he is the man?" asked the doctor.

"What do you mean?"

"Are you that satisfied your nephew has married Bessie? Are you sure that another man is not to blame?"

"Certain—absolutely certain; nothing will alter my conviction. Mrs. Bunett said so herself. Calton will tell you the same. The whole thing is *too* plain, unfortunately," replied the squire.

"What do you intend to do then in the matter?" asked Mr. Ashton.

"Nothing. It is useless hunting underground for a man who has gone to America. Mervyn said he intended to go. His baggage was all forwarded to Liverpool, and has probably reached New York by this time—if he is alive," muttered Mr. Duncomb. chap 15

Then the angry squire turned away and got to the "Wolds" in a very bad temper, when he sent for his daughter.

"Jessie, my dear," he said. "You will oblige me by putting your cousin Mervyn entirely out of your head, and conversation. Never let his name escape you before me. He is a—Well, he has behaved badly—deceived me, and you——"

"Not me, papa," said Jessie, calmly.

"I tell you he *has*. Didn't he make love to you before my eyes?"

"Never, papa," replied Jessie with an April smile. "I am sure he did not."

"Well, whether he did or not, forget him; he is no longer one of us. He has done——"

"What?" inquired Jessie, as the squire paused.

"He has disgraced himself. Yes," he added, seeing Jessie start, and grow red—"yes, *disgraced* himself. He has married——"

"Oh, papa!" exclaimed the girl. "Married! Mervyn married to Katie?"

"No; I wish to Heaven he were; at least, I mean that would be respectable. He has married Bessie—Bessie Calton; and she has run away to join him!"

"Then Mervyn is not dead?" said the brave girl, holding her hand to her chest, and turning deadly pale. "He is not dead. Thank Heaven!"

"Dead? No. Wish—I mean I think not. No; but he has disgraced himself and us by this secret marriage. He may come back, but I will never acknowledge him as my nephew—never."

Jessie had sunk down upon the sofa, completely overwhelmed for the moment, but she quickly recovered herself, and said—

"After all, it might have been worse. He is alive, you say; and—married—to Bessie! Well, papa, we can do nothing. I suppose Simon knows this?" chap 15

"Certainly. He told me first, and Mrs. Bunett confirmed the horrible news. When Hosea recovers I daresay he will claim relationship, and want to dine here. I'll shut up the house first!"

The poor squire was so comic in his distress at this prospect that an uninterested observer would have smiled. Jessie, however, was too heavy-hearted to laugh. Her hopes, which she had at one time cherished, were all dashed to the ground. Her cousin could never have cared for her. Why, he was actually married all the time he was making love to her, and flirting with Kate! This was indeed double-faced duplicity. He was not worthy of her regard. But, oh! she had loved him dearly! It was a terrible awakening. Her idol had been rudely shattered, indeed! Better, far better, he had been killed in the Black Shaft than lived to be spoken of as so unprincipled a character as this!

But where was the proof? When had he married? Six months ago he was at her feet building his "castles in the air," and winning her regard day by day by his gentleness, his generosity, and by a hundred and one little attentions by which a gentleman can signify his unavowed preference for a young lady. True he had never actually said he loved her; but Jessie was sure he had liked her best of all—until Kate Askenhurst came, and eclipsed her "dearest friend." To think that Mervyn had been "acting" with Kate was extremely difficult. Kate played with him, and cruelly, Jessie thought; but she was certain Mervyn was in earnest. This sudden information concerning his marriage, therefore, seemed incredible. . . . chap 15

She had quitted the room, and was, by the time she had arrived at this conclusion, in the shrubbery-walk at the side of the house. The afternoon had closed in. It was dusk. The autumnal light was dying out in the west, and darkness was approaching. Jessie had no fear, however, but after a while seated herself on a rustic bench, and gave way to her sorrow and bitter heartache in tears. Only those who have suffered from the terrible, gnawing weary pain caused by the hopelessness, or the withdrawal, of affection by a beloved object, can appreciate the suffering of that half hour. All seemed mentally dark and dreary, even as the dying autumn days.

"Oh, Mervyn, Mervyn, my love—my only love! Could you have known—if you had only known my heart, what misery and suffering you would have spared us all! But I forgive you, dear. God bless you and help me! Ah!"

This exclamation was caused by the sudden appearance of the figure which Jessie had seen on the previous occasion. Her heart ceased to beat. The figure passed rapidly by, beyond the trees, as she sank half fainting, and wholly terrified, on the bench.

When half a minute afterwards she summoned her resolution, the figure had disappeared. No trace of footsteps were visible; in the gathering gloom it would certainly have been difficult to distinguish them, but Jessie saw none. No disturbance of the fallen leaves had been audible; and in the long vista close by the lingering twilight in the west was no appearance nor the shape of man.

Jessie returned thoughtfully and nervously towards the house. Her appearance aroused the curiosity of her maid Sarah, who possessed in a very considerable degree the natural curiosity of her sex, and the taste for intrigue which distinguished the lady's maid of a past generation. The young lady's embarrassment, her refusal to go down to dinner, and her own observation gave Miss Sarah cause for thought. She had overheard Mr. Simon's remarks concerning Hosea Calton. Here was another mystery. To unravel this was her aim. It was delightful to clear up a real ghost adventure. So Sarah asked leave to absent herself after dinner, or when her young mistress could spare her.

The required leave was readily granted, and Sarah, full of news and burning to tell her story, hurried away to meet Harry Collins, her betrothed. Collins was the man who had encountered Simon in the mine, and with whom the little discussion concerning the hammer had arisen, when search was being made for the missing heir.

"Harry," said Sarah, after the first salutations had been accomplished, "where's Hosea Calton now?"

"At doctor's," replied Harry; "I wish he wasn't."

"Do you know why he's keepin' so close?" inquired the maiden, tentatively.

"'Cause he isn't fit to be seen, and he can't see," replied Harry; "why else?"

"Ah," responded Sarah, "suppose I could tell you the real reason for the ghost which Miss Duncomb saw this very afternoon?"

"Go on!" replied Harry, in a tone more indicative of incredulity than of command; "go on with you!"

"It's true, Harry. The other evening I overheard the squire and Mr. Simon ——"

"Hang Mr. Simon!" interrupted her swain; "I'd like to wring his neck."

"Wait a minute," continued Sarah. "He said, or insinuated strongly, that Mr. Mervyn was dead, and that Hosea Calton had murdered him—for foolin' his daughter Bessie."

"Sarah, what are you saying? Mind what you're about. Murdered the young squire?"

"Yes," whispered Sarah, "and his ghost is walking about. It can't rest till Hosea is hanged."

"Well, you do puzzle me," said Collins, raising his hat and wiping his forehead. "You do put it so hard to make out, I can't see my way. Sarah, my girl, your tongue will be the ruin of you. What can you or I do against the squire?"

"It isn't the squire, it's Hosea; and it's poor Mr. Mervyn I am thinkin' of—a nice, civil spoken young gentleman; not like that insultin' Simon, whose ears I'd box—yes, in a minute."

"Sally, my lass, too much tongue—hold it! Now what can I do?"

"Get the reward—a hundred pound it is—for the information that will lead—you know."

"Yes; but how can I prove Hosea killed the young squire? Hosea's sick; the doctor——"

"The doctor knows all about it, I'll be bound," interrupted Sarah. "Do you think he'd keep him so close else? Doctor Ashton is in it, Harry; mark my words."

"You've a long head, Sally, and brave cheek; but I misdoubt—well—I'll see. I'll keep my eyes and ears open. I'll find that hammer first, and then Mr. Doone, the inspector, may get a hint. But mind, Sally, no more tongue."

She returned accordingly, and when she again saw her young mistress, Sarah received orders to pack up, as the family were going to the Rookery for a few days, and then going to stay with Sir Edward Askenhurst, near Puddleton.

CHAPTER XVI.

ACROSS THE ATLANTIC—A MEMORY—IS HE INSANE?

The German-American "liner" continued her voyage, carrying amongst her other passengers the man they called "Mervyn," who had been rescued in a dying condition from the fishing boat, as already related.

The circumstances of the rescue were discussed, and the rescued man himself was interviewed frequently as he got better; but he could give no connected account of the circumstances under which he had been wounded, and found in the vessel.

"Believe I was found at sea, you say so;" he would answer. But anything more definite he could not recall.

Many a time the surgeon pressed him to endeavour to recollect what had occurred. His mind seemed a blank. He was given the contents of his pockets, including the letter addressed to him, which still remained unopened. But the convalescent seemed in no humour to read it, nor had he apparently any curiosity as to the contents. He would sit for hours and stare at the letter, at the knife, at the other articles he possessed, some specimens of rock and earth, some ore, a glove (a woman's tiny glove), a flower, dead and falling to pieces, which had lain in a small volume of poems found in his overcoat.

These and some other articles of more practical uses, such as a wages book, a flint and steel, some tar rope, a loosely-folded letter, written by some one in authority, and signed with the initial "S" only, appointing a meeting for a certain evening, were the objects upon which the man called "Mervyn" concentrated his mind as soon as he partially regained possession of it.

The surgeon found him more taciturn. He began to fear that the tremendous effort of memory would finally overthrow the brain, and that his patient would die or become melancholy, and hopelessly insane. But the steerage passenger was perfectly calm and collected. He talked rationally concerning the present, and not unhopefully of what he could do in America, but of the past he had no idea. It was all a blank.

At last he gave up staring at the various articles which had been found on him, and turned his attention to the unopened letter solely, which gave him little consolation, and threw no further light upon his life. He did not apparently know his name until he read it and heard it pronounced. Then a light would come into his face, and he nodded, but with a stern joy which belied the action of recognition.

"What do you think, doctor?" the captain one day said. "Is he worth troubling about? I do not care to stir up the case in Bremen."

"The man is quite well in body, and his mind is clear. His memory has evaded him for the present. He seems to recognise himself as Mervyn Duncomb. It's an English—a Yorkshire—name. Let him be, is my advice; he is harmless, at any rate. We'll get up a subscription for him."

So the passenger was, with the others, landed in New York; and after the formalities had been gone through, all were permitted to do as they liked. The man, Mervyn Duncomb, remained alone, helpless, and undecided.

"Why, stranger, ye seem kinder dazed—nonplussed, say?"

"I *am* a stranger," replied Mervyn, "an utter stranger, from Europe, and have no place to go to."

"Many of your feather come around. *Europe* had better hang a lot of, ye before she lets you come along here."

"You're kind, I must say," replied the emigrant, who was considerably annoyed by this reception.

"And your pleasant manners are just what Europe would appreciate. Let me pass."

"Why, certainly. Only as you've no place to go to, perhaps I could assist ye. Good evenin'."

"Stay a minute. Perhaps you can tell me of a place where I can obtain lodging and food till to-morrow. The hotels are expensive." chap 15

"Yes, some. I'll fix ye up, stranger. Where are you bound?" chap 16

"I have been advised to go out west. There is money to be made in the mines."

"Out by the Rockies—down Denver way you mean. Yes; I'm bound there, too, some day. Got any dust?"

"Dust? Gold dust?"

"Well, yes, dollars: circulatin' medium. Are ye broke?"

"No; they got up a subscription for me on board. I was picked up at sea."

"Picked up, was ye? Well, then, look ye here. You've picked me up. I'll get you lodgin' and food, and we're partners. Is it fixed? I'm bound west, and will help you. I've no money, but I have a head and hands. I know the ropes—you don't. You'll be robbed and lost without me. I may be lost without you. Paul and his partner Joe. You shall be Joe, eh?"

"Very well," replied the other, listlessly. "Joe will do as well as any other name. I've clean forgot all about it since my fever."

"Forgot? Have ye lost your memory, eh? Well, it will return some day. I once knew a man who got a rap on the head and quite forgot all his past life until he got a bad fall and brain fever. Then he remembered all right, and when he got well again his memory returned by degrees."

"Ah—But let us get under shelter," said the emigrant. "You can lead me safely, I daresay. There's something up there—a name—I remember—Hosea—that's it."

The Yankee tramp shook his head and proceeded towards The "Bowery," in which thoroughfare the man had decided to procure lodgings.

The Bowery is a street on the eastern side of New York city, containing a number of small shops and numerous cellars, which do duty for lodging-houses; and in the basements of Cherry and Worth-streets and in other narrow thoroughfares of the great city.

The "Bowery" derives its name from the Farm-house or Bouwerie of the old Peter Stuyvesant, and crossing Chatham-street and the space known as the "Square" outside, opens into a number of streets running into as many different directions. Street cars now traverse the thoroughfare, and the neighbourhood is much improved since the time when the emigrant Mervyn and his American guide threaded the streets of that locality.

It was a Saturday evening, and they wanted a shake down. A crowd of people were in the streets bargaining for food from the German butchers and salesmen. There was plenty of light, but the Englishman was struck by the general "gloominess" of the place, and he was conscious that he was doing a foolish thing in permitting himself to remain under the guidance and escort of the tramp. On the other hand, he had not much to lose. Some money had been subscribed for him by the passengers on board the steamer. He had so much at any rate, but if he was decoyed into one of the river-front lodging-houses, into one of the cellars before alluded to, his purse if not his person might be assailed.

Nevertheless, he passed on. Dingy beershops, drinking-shops, German-looking-inns, Teutonic type of hotels; small narrow-fronted shops, here and there widening out into a beer saloon, while the pavement was hardly yet clear of the various and extremely miscellaneous articles which had during "business" hours encumbered the footpath in a manner suggestive of the New Cut and Tottenham Court-road. "Notions" of all kinds, with furniture and many other requirements, crockery, boot, shoes, &c., &c., are watched over by a guardian who begs the passer-by not to pass, but to buy.

Then the crowd by degrees thins away. The wide street is left for the various vehicles. The numerous tenements packed as full as they can hold are occupied. Up the long steep stairs, down in dimly-lighted basements in dreary back slums are thousands of Germans, Irish, English, Jews, and others, including some Americans; but Bowery boasts its "exiles" from society as well as from foreign lands, and the last mentioned keep out of sight.

Picture a wide street with its many side-path barrows lighted up with flaming kerosene, and we have the open air and costermongers' market as in London; nor are the street boys wanting in the picture to remind us of the *gamins* who will turn "wheels" for a halfpenny in our metropolis.

Diving suddenly into a cellar, the new emigrant's guide introduced his charge to a one-armed soldier who had just been invalided. The great struggle had nearly concluded between North and South, and this man had served and returned. The beds were of straw, and very dirty. The bedsteads (double) were placed in a row along the walls; a cooking-stove was in the centre of the cellar. In this particular place, instead of encumbering the floor with more straw and vermin, the thoughtful soldier had erected another row above the first beds, into which the needy could climb.

The new-comer had already had some experience of this kind on board ship, so he made no objection to the somewhat elevated and rather precarious nature of his sleeping-place. But he was taken aback when he found that several beds were already occupied by women and girls, some by children; and, in fact, there was no distinction of sex observed.

"Must we remain here?" he inquired of the tramp, who was striking a bargain with the wounded warrior.

"No; guess you can sleep outside, if they'll let you. What's the trouble?"

"The place is so unclean—so stuffy—so mixed," protested the "Britisher." "It is impossible to stay here."

"Is it?" inquired the cellar-keeper. "Is it? Then how do *I* stop? How do all these people stop, eh?"

"Heaven knows," said the sturdy Englishman; "I ain't going to. Clear the way there, I'm off."

"Not till you pay for your lodging," replied the tramp. "I've paid the 'Kurnul' and you must pay me. So come——."

"I'll not pay," retorted the other. "Not a cent, there. I've had nothing, and made no agreement."

"Ye won't, won't ye?" replied the one-armed man. "You and me reckons up this different. Pay up."

"You had better cave in quiet," whispered the tramp who had introduced the new-comer. "Look a here, Kurnul, the stranger will settle with me arter. He's plenty of dust. Dont disturb him; and all the others," he added. "Wait."

This remark was accompanied with a wink, which had the Britisher seen would have, perhaps, put him on his guard; but he remained in the same listless state.

"Here, have a drink," continued his new friend "Paul," as he had called himself, offering him a tumbler with some horrible whisky in it. "Drink it up!" chap 16

The stranger drank a little, and without speaking laid down on a wretched pallet on the floor, tired out, and utterly careless at that moment what became of him.

The cellar by degrees grew quiet. The tramp and the one-armed "Kurnul" conversed in whispers.

"I tell ye, boss, he has plenty. He had a subscription aboard given him. It's halves, mind."

"Halves? Not much," retorted the "Kurnul." "Ain't I responsible here for any disturbance? No, I'll give ye one-third if ye like. He's not much to tackle."

"I dunno," replied the man called Paul, doubtfully. "He's no chicken. But there'll be no violence. Leave him to me!"

"Ay, but suppose he shows fight—what then?"

The man drew a knife from his pocket—a long, cruel dagger-knife with a heavy handle, and suggestively felt the point with the forefinger of his left hand.

"He won't struggle long," he whispered. "Is he armed?"

"Guess not. But we'll find the stuff without rough work. The whiskey will keep him quiet enough. Wait a little longer, and then take his bills easy."

So the men withdrew into a dark corner, and nothing was heard for some time but the heavy breathing of the poor sleepers. Huddled up they lay in not unpicturesque confusion in the dim light. The watchman came and looked in. All was quiet; all apparently sound and honest in that wretched underground lodging—"the river" close at hand on one side, the broad avenues of New York on the other—so busy even then—and lively with the coming and going of blue-coated soldiery. Yet a dark deed was being planned, and the victim, unconscious of his impending fate, slept and dreamed of a scene which he never could have recalled waking.

He turned, uneasily. Had anyone called him "Father?" He heard the voice distinctly. Then he lay quite still, his eyes half closed. A girl's voice had struck upon his ear "Father!" His brain was clearing. Hush!

What was that? He opened his eyes. A man with a drawn knife was creeping in the gloom cautiously towards him.

There was mischief brewing, and the man braced himself to meet his coming foe. The silence was oppressive. He comes—closer—now!

(To be continued.)

THE UNMARRIED.

The charms of marital love, and [illegible] h it fashions, are not the lot of all. That [illegible] both sexes should remain celibate all [illegible] some-thing more than an accident. It is [illegible] nt of Providence for great and benevolent [illegible] ch it is not difficult to estimate. M[illegible] one of youthful years can it be affirm[illegible] shall enjoy the life which comes of mar[illegible] here-fore it is wisdom to encoura[illegible] oves which, though they may not cast up[illegible] nage an equal radiance, are solid, sub[illegible] ing, independent of time and place. The [illegible], the love of the performance of good uses [illegible] are-room, the Sunday-school, the dome[illegible] her-ever, in a word, there may be opp[illegible] ring with others what Providence has [illegible] with, each one according to his aptitude [illegible] lity; secondly, the love of Nature. [illegible] these loves, the intellect itself expands a[illegible] bier. If the love of these things can be [illegible] along with the love that hath its root in s[illegible] it is a joy untold. "Life," says Schi[illegible] to his friend, Körner, "life at the side of [illegible] wife, is a different thing from what it is [illegible] o is alone—even in summer. Now, for [illegible] me, I can thoroughly enjoy Nature, and [illegible] yself too!" A wife should be chosen for [illegible] sweet sake alone," but if the choice be true [illegible] re, at the same moment, an enlarged aptitude [illegible] minor loves.—*Leo Grindon.*

THE WILD GIRL.—The girl of sixteen who will neither sew nor do housework has no business to be decked out in finery and rambling about in search of fun and frolic, unless her parents are rich; and in any event she needs the watchful direction of a good mother none the less. There is no objection to fun; but it should be well chosen and well timed. No girl or woman who will not work has a right to share the wages of a poor man's toil. If she does work, if she makes the clothes she wears and assists in the household duties, the chances are she will have enough self-respect to behave properly when play-time comes; but, if she should still be a little "wild," the honest toil she has done will confer upon her some degree of right to have her own way, ill-judged though it may be. The wild girl usually aspires to prominence in some social circle or other, and her manners and conduct are in greater or less degree designed to attract the following of men. She should remember that followers are not always admirers, and that the most sincere admiration a man ever feels for a woman in a drawing-room is when he looks upon her and says in his own consciousness, "She is a perfect lady." That is a reflection that never occurs to him as his eyes fall upon the wild girl.

CONJUGAL TIFFS.

The wonderful trials of temper imposed by matrimony can scarce ever be known to an outsider. The provocative power of a woman, which is naturally considerable, becomes many degrees intensified by marriage. First of all, the intimacy of that mode of life renders her thoroughly acquainted with all the weak points of her lord. She knows exactly where to hurt him most severely, and where to touch a raw place hidden to the rest of the world. There is no doubt that if a Xantippe pitched crockery at the sconce of her husband she accompanied the missiles with jeers at the poor man's doctrines. Milton, it is said, suffered horribly from the tongue of his helpmate, and we can imagine her not only hiding his pen and ink, but making fun of his verses. But these are historical cases, where the battles were of chronic occurrence. In real life people, when married, do not altogether bark and bite. There are intervals of repose, when the atmosphere is clear and the sun shines, or, as it may happen, the storms are exceptional and the squalls comparatively rare. Off-hand encounters frequently tend to postpone most serious conclusions, and then the little domestic skirmishes common to the matrimonial state act as safety valves of energy which might, under strict confinement, burst into a disastrous explosion. There are, doubtless, numbers of women who would be exceedingly uncomfortable if they had not small quarrels with their husbands. The smooth and even tenor of every-day existence is broken up into a picturesque variety by these passages. Husbands (especially when new to their happiness) are often puzzled to know what makes the angel cross and, to use an expressive term, cantankerous. They ask the cause, but they are fenced off until a chance occurs for treading on their corns, and then the shindy commences in real earnest. A lady of this delightful complexion is completely happy if she can wind up with a good cry. The dear creature dissolves into tears, and the man feels himself at once a brute. This is her revenge. There is nothing now for the husband but absolute submission and a full acknowledgment of his being in the wrong. A woman has lost her ground for ever who fails in her object when she has recourse to her pockethandkerchief, and to a display of swollen eyes and a red nose. Few, however, are stupid enough to play this card until their adversary becomes disgusted with the trick; it is generally kept back until the right time, and then used with a vengeance.

THE FIRST SNOWDROP.

"I want to get up," the snowdrop said,
As she loosened the wraps about her head,
"It may be the world is white with snow,
Yet I'd rather be there than here below,
'Tis horrid to be curled up so tight—
I want to look out to see the light.
"My dear little sisters are fast asleep,
And I am the first to take a peep
Out of my bed, where, snugly rolled,
I slept in warm blankets fold on fold.
But now I am ever so wide awake,
But it's surely time for the morn to break.
"My dress is the prettiest e'er was seen;
'Tis white, with an overskirt of green,
With six pretty silken cords that hold
As many tiny tassels of gold.
Oh, I have been working, never fear,
To look my best, when I do appear.
"And I must welcome the song-birds home,
There seems such a stirring all around,
And I hear new voices above the ground.
The buds on the willows are calling 'Come,'
For this is the message they bring, I guess,
'Get up, little maid, it is time to dress.'"

CONSULT WITH YOUR WIFE.—There are many men who seem to consider their wives as capable of understanding nothing but what relates to dress or cooking, and they would smile at the folly of talking with them on any matter which relates to business. We are aware that there are women of whom it would be folly to make confidants in such things; women who are reckless and thoughtless enough to urge their husbands into all sorts of extravagance, that their pride and vanity may be gratified, regardless wholly of results, and would pettishly refuse to listen to any explanation of business affairs; yet we think even such would be far fewer if, from the first, husbands were accustomed to confide to them their plans and to seek their advice. If a wife be always treated as not fit to know anything of her husband's affairs, if her questions receive only cold and half-scornful replies, it is not to be wondered at if she soon ceases to feel any interest or have any thoughts about them; and if, by and bye, it should be found in a practical way that she does not seem to "know much of the value of money," or "how much it costs to get it," or even "where it comes from," the reticent husband need not wonder. The intuitions of a woman are better and readier than those of a man; her quick decisions without reasons are frequently far superior to a man's most careful deductions. He is a wise husband who makes use of his wife's shrewdness and womanly sagacity, the fruits of this faculty. Many and many a man would have been saved from ruin had he consulted his wife and acted upon her advice before he embarked in his enterprises. And how often would a husband find almost all the bitterness taken out of his reverses did he bring his wife's powerful aid to help him through them

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IT IS A COMMON ERROR to think that any kind of Honey will make a good cough mixture, and we regret to say most chemists employ Honey as a basis for such medicines, without the least discrimination as to its source. It would be just as rational to expect any kind of bark to make good quinine. Francois Huber, Baron Liebig, and Sir John Lubbock agree with all other investigating naturalists in the assertion—that the characteristics of various Honeys are attributable to the plants from which they are gathered. Xenophon tells us that all his soldiers who ate of the Honey found in the villages on the mountains of the Colchians lost their senses; that those who ate but little were like men very drunk, and those who ate much like madmen. Pliny accounts for this by saying the honey was gathered from the flowers called *Rhododenros*, while of the Horehound plant Keats beautifully says—

> "The bee, with sense so subtly true,
> From *Horehound* herbs extracts the healing dew."

HONEY IS NOT MADE BY THE BEES, they are simply the vehicles provided by an all-wise Providence for *conveying* the Honey from the petals of the blooms and depositing it into the cells of the honeycomb. Notice a bee as it alights and insinuates itself into the very heart of the flowers, and you will have no difficulty in observing by a telescope motion of its body that it is sucking or rather pumping the drop of nectar into its honey sack, which is lined with a muscular tissue. When filled the little almoner of nature flies away to its hive, and, by compressing the muscles of its honey sack, deposits the Honey into the cells. The Honey undergoes no digestion, and is chemically the same in the hive as in the petal of the flower.

The LORD MAYOR of LONDON ORDERS IT.

MANSION HOUSE, LONDON, E.C.,
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The LORD MAYOR would thank Messrs. W. M. Hoge and Co. to send him half a dozen of their Hoge's Horehound Honey, which has been *well recommended* to him.

W. L. BRIGHT, Esq., son of the Right Hon. John Bright, M.P., says Hoge's Horehound Honey CURED his father of a bad cough.

WHAT THE CLERGY SAY OF IT:—

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The Rev. C. D. KINGDON has great pleasure in bearing testimony to the excellent properties of Hoge's Horehound Honey for preaching. It makes the voice clear and pleasant, and takes away all that huskiness in the throat which is so uncomfortable to preacher and congregation.

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LECTURE ON "CHINESE GORDON."

On Friday night, in the Highgate Baptist Chapel, Blackhill, an influential and appreciative company assembled to listen to a highly interesting and edifying lecture on "General Gordon; the Hero of the Soudan," by the Rev Henry Winsor, of Stockton-on-Tees. The chair was occupied by Mr J. Lax, of Shotley Bridge; and he was supported by the Rev E. P. Riley (Baptist Minister, Consett) and the Rev E. W. Jenkins, the pastor of the church. A short prayer having been offered up by Mr Riley,

The CHAIRMAN, in introducing the lecturer, after speaking in eulogistic terms of Mr Winsor, observed that the influence exercised by General Gordon for good, and there was no telling the great amount of work he had accomplished. The history of Gordon, to their eyes, was most superb and grand. He was a noble, upright, and self-denying patriot, of a modest and gentle disposition; and the praiseworthy and ennobling qualities of his character rendered him one of the greatest Christian heroes that ever existed. Although Gordon was a man who sacrificed his reputation to the interests and welfare of the country, unfortunately he was ill-requited for his valuable services; however, he sought not his reward in this world, but in the sphere above. (Loud applause.)

THE REV H. WINSOR, who met with an enthusiastic reception, prefaced his lecture by expressing the pleasure it afforded him to make the personal acquaintance of an audience in this locality, and from what he had already learnt from several of his Stockton friends, who were intimately associated with the people of this part, he knew that he was addressing a critical audience, who would doubtless appreciate his remarks. Just at this moment, when the Nation is on the tip-toe of expectation, not knowing what a day may bring forth, the soldierly qualities which General Gordon possessed in a pre-eminent degree may be called forth at any moment from our countrymen to lead the various armies on the battle field, either to stop the rebellion in the Soudan or to thwart the designs of Russia in Afghanistan. General Gordon was a sample of many others while he lived; and now that he has passed away, there were others in the British Army—such as Major-Generals Havelock Allan, Edward Vickers, &c.—who not only served their Queen and country, but also the King of Kings. (Applause.) The intelligence received in January last: "Khartoum has fallen; Gordon is dead"—such was the message that thrilled the National heart; and the people, trembling under the blow for a while, at first refused to believe that their hero had been slain in the City he was to save—a city now glorified by the crown of his name. (Applause.) What manner of man is this, whose death is felt by mortals as a personal bereavement and a National calamity? It is not his death so sudden and soldier-like that the nation mourns; but his life had won the admiration of all who were familiar with it, and the lessons it teaches will do this poor world good, if followed only in the least degree. During the past twelve months, the eyes of England, the eyes of Africa, aye the eyes of the whole world have been fixed upon General Gordon. Men's notions were somewhat hazy regarding the man as he really was—a life fashioned by God to be an example to those around him. A little over twelve months ago, the British Government took a step which was approved of by all parties—Radicals and Tories—and even the Peace Society, whose object was to prevent war, was gratified when Mr Gladstone chose Gordon as the man to perform the task of checking the rebellion in the Soudan. It is doubtful whether all classes ever yielded such power and authority to a single individual with unwavering and unfaltering avidity as when Gordon was deputed to perform the most arduous and difficult task in the Soudan. (Applause.) Gordon was a hero—a man hero. (Renewed applause.) To do was the one object of his life—the object for which it was his own desire, and for which it was spent. His loss is great indeed; but such a life will be fruitful in the future, in causing other men to emulate and follow such a Christian example. Gordon was meek and modest; rather quick of temper; and he could be firm and determined where justice was concerned. (Applause.) The lecturer then graphically sketched the career of Gordon from his birth, introducing the principal events of his busy life, and embodying his three missions to the Soudan, in Abysinnia, in China, &c. He also adverted to the noble and praiseworthy work he accomplished whilst in his secluded retreat at home in reclaiming and rescueing poor orphan boys, ever keeping in view the propagation of the Gospel of Christ. The rev. gentleman's remarks were racy and occasionally humorous, evoking frequent outbursts of applause; but at the close he portrayed the incidents leading up to the death of Gordon, in a highly pathetic and affecting strain, which must have produced a deep and lasting impression upon the minds of his hearers; and concluded his lecture by quoting newspaper extracts relating to the present campaign in Egypt, indicating chiefly the bravery of our officers and soldiers. The speaker said he was not disposed to deal with the political aspect of the Eastern difficulty, and was unprepared to give an opinion or pass judgment upon the actions of the Government; but he trusted that when the next General Election came—probably in the ensuing autumn—the electors would record their votes according to the best of their convictions. If the Dual Control was the root of all the mischief in the East—as he ventured to say many of them thought it was—the burden of the responsibility was laid upon the shoulders of the Gladstone Government, and what a terrible legacy is theirs. At the close, the rev. gentleman was greeted with an enthusiastic round of applause.

The CHAIRMAN, in proposing that the meeting tender its heartiest thanks to Mr Winson for his highly instructive and comprehensive lecture, said the predictions he ventured to make at the outset had been amply fulfilled.

Mr J. HEYMER briefly seconded the proposal, which was adopted by acclamation and cheers.

The LECTURER, in briefly acknowledging the compliment paid him, pointed out that it had been somewhat of an ordeal to him to deliver that lecture amongst strangers, but he must say they had treated him with the utmost kindness and cordiality. He trusted the boys and young men present would emulate the character of General Gordon and grow up like Christ. (Applause.) He also begged to move that a similar expression of thanks be conveyed to their worthy Chairman for his services.

This was seconded by Mr A. E. TURNER, and adopted *nem. con.*

After singing the hymn, "Safe in the arms of Jesus," the proceedings terminated.

On Sunday, morning and evening, the Rev Mr Winsor preached two eloquent sermons in the same place of worship before large congregations.

CONSETT BAPTIST CHURCH.

ANNIVERSARY SERVICES.

The fourteenth anniversary of this place of worship was celebrated on Palm Sunday and Monday. In the morning and afternoon of the former day, the Rev Thomas Durant, of Hamsterley, Bishop Auckland, preached from 2 Timothy, iii, 6, 7, 8:—"For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing;" and in the evening, the rev. gentleman based his remarks upon 1 Peter, i. 19—"The precious blood of Christ." There was a good attendance at each service, and Mr Durant's pleadings, which were earnest, grandly pathetic, and telling, visibly impressed his hearers.

On Monday afternoon, a public tea was provided, given by a few members of the church, and which was presided over by Mesdames Edwards, Mathieson, Teasdale, S. Farnsworth, and Misses Dick, Appleton, and Oswald. The attendance was only moderate. There was a stall heavily ladened with fancy and useful goods, attended to by Mrs Lowes, at which a good sum was realised.

In the evening, a social meeting was held, when there was a large company present. The chair was occupied by the vicar of Consett (Rev F. Steggall), and he was accompanied upon the rostrum by the Revs F. Stubbs, Newcastle; A. Baillie (Presbyterian), Blackhill; T. Durant; E. W. Jenkins, Highgate; and E. P. Riley. The Revs W. Hare (Wesleyan) and H. Yool (Primitive Methodist) were also expected at the meeting, but both were unavoidably absent.

The CHAIRMAN, in the course of his remarks, said it gave him great pleasure to meet the different bodies of Christ's Church represented there that night. Although they did not agree in what he might term comparatively unimportant points, yet they all had the same object in view—that of extending Christ's Kingdom in the world. (Applause.) In those days of Christian darkness—for it was so in many instances both at home and abroad—it was greatly needful that all denominations should be united in that one common object, and not to let small matters of doctrine hold them aloof one from another; and if the different bodies had more unions like the one that night it would prove one very important point in their efforts to convert the world. (Applause.) The rev. Chairman also dwelt upon the necessity of unwavering unity in the church, showing the many things that might be accomplished thereby.

Rev F. STUBBS followed in a remarkable speech, holding out the indispensibility of the members banding together as one man, and working with the zeal and energy characteristic of a true and loyal Christian.

Rev T. DURANT remarked that it was not very often he had found on a public platform all denominations of a town represented; but he was certain he had never before seen so many nationalities represented. Their esteemed Vicar and Mr Stubbs were English; Mr Baillie, Scotch; Mr Riley, Irish; Mr Jenkins, Welch; and he himself was a Frenchman, so that it was quite a unique platform. Although there were so many nationalities and religious bodies represented, yet in the one common cause that they were working for, they could all clasp hands and fervently exclaim—"Brethren in Christ." The rev. gentleman then spoke in encouraging terms, founding his remarks upon the last words of a dying hero—"Drive on!"

The Rev E. W. JENKINS also addressed the meeting in his usual acceptable style.

At intervals, the Consett Wesleyan Band of Hope Glee Party (under the direction of Mr Charles Allison) rendered selections from Sankey, and their efforts were much appreciated.

Rev E. P. RILEY (who has about accomplished a six month's mission at this church), in felicitous terms proposed a vote of thanks to the Chairman, speakers, glee party, the members who gave the tea, waiters, &c., which, on being seconded by Deacon MAXWELL, was carried with much enthusiasm. The Chairman having pronounced the benediction, the enjoyable proceedings terminated.

FASHIONS FOR APRIL.

It is in millinery that the first change from winter to spring is most particularly noticed, and though we have not had favourable opportunities for the general adoption of spring hats and bonnets, there has been a great display at all the leading houses, and the general opinion is that green is to be the popular colour of the season. There are a variety of new shades, both light and dark, but perhaps the prettiest are the new apple-green chartreuse, and a dark moss green. These shades, in soft silks, satins, and plushes, are the principal trimmings on the spring bonnets. Short feathers of the same shade are used, or else shaded tips, also crême and gold aigrettes; the latter give just the effective touch of colouring that is wanted with the green. The bonnets are decidedly small, cut up at the back, but otherwise fitting close to the head. A newer shape has the brim cut in the centre of the front and turned up, to admit of trimming underneath; this shape is very similar to the "Olivia" of a few seasons back.

When we come to the subject of dress and dress materials it is almost impossible to say what will or will not be fashionable. During the season of Lent it is customary for many ladies to wear black, and a great many stylish costumes of velvet and plush, combined with camel's-hair or cashmere, are being worn; also dresses composed entirely of cashmere, but profusely trimmed with jet. A great many plain skirts have been worn, and have been found most comfortable under the heavy mantles. For the spring materials, the full skirt seems likely to give place to more compact trimmings, and we notice a deep-pleated skirt with wide embroidered panel at the side reaching to the waist, the over-skirt draped to show the entire length of the panel; bodice with very short basque buttoned over embroidered vest.

A novelty in spring costumes is cashmere in dark colours or art shades, made up into fashionable plain skirts, and trimmed with broad bands of Indian pattern cashmere, outlined with beads, the colours in decided contrast to that of the plain material. Embroidered goods seem likely to be largely employed for all the dressy spring toilettes; they form either the plain full under-skirt, or else petticoat and Zouave jacket, the bodice and over-skirt of some soft woollen material of neutral tint.

Having had many letters of inquiry on the subject of confirmation costumes, we propose to make a few suggestions here for the benefit of numerous correspondents on this subject. White or crême is universally worn, and now that materials suitable for the purpose are manufactured so cheaply, a white dress comes within reach of all, and is much more suitable than coloured dresses. Fine white or crême serge is used, also cashmere or a double nun's-cloth, or thinner dresses are composed of fine Indian muslin, mousseline de laine, or tambour-worked muslin; white washing materials, such as sateens, or brilliants are also admissible. The dresses are made with pleated skirts to the waist this season, no drapery whatever; a bodice with folds of the material arranged from the shoulder to the waist, and wide belt of ottoman ribbon. Another style, equally simple, in muslin or thin goods, is a full round skirt with a series of deep tucks, a full round-waisted bodice, and wide sash tied at the back of moire ribbon. The sleeves reach below the elbow, and long white or crême silk gloves are worn. The question of head dress is simply a matter of taste. Small full caps are still preferred by many ladies for their daughters, as being more simple, but the veil is also very generally worn. A simple square of tulle is all that is required; a wide hem at the edge worked with floss silk.

In our illustrations of mantles will be noticed some charming little shapes, but no very great change from those of last season. All the new patterns suggest a taste for short mantles, and particularly so at the back; here they sometimes reach only to the waist, but in almost every case the fronts have long square or pointed ends.

As a trimming for the mantles during the season jet will take the lead, some of the new patterns being literally loaded with jet embroideries.—*Mrs Leach's Practical Family Dressmaker for April.*

"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.

A SCOTCH ADVOCATE OUTLAWED.—At the Circuit Court of Justiciary held at Aberdeen on Monday, a sentence of outlawry was pronounced on John Legertwood, who occupied a leading position in the city as an advocate and sheriff clerk. He disappeared some months ago, and an investigation of his affairs revealed the fact that he had defrauded clients to the extent of several thousands of pounds, though the charge dealt with a sum of only three hundred pounds. He failed to appear, and is said to be now in Spain.

WARNING TO MINERS.—The following warning has been issued:—An atmospheric disturbance which is passing away to the North is being followed by a brisk rise of the mercury all over the country, and a large area of high pressure seems to be forming, affecting the whole of Western Europe with a cold dry atmosphere. Under these conditions, miners will for some days do well to pay close attention to the presence of gas and coal dust. At home and abroad the loss of life in explosions this year already exceeds 400.

PROPOSED LOCAL BOARD FOR ANNFIELD PLAIN.

On Monday night, at the house of Mr Lumley, innkeeper, of Annfield Plain, a large and influential ratepayers' meeting was held, and after the usual business was gone through, the subject of a Local Board being established for the Kyo township was brought up for consideration. The interesting subject was very lengthily discussed, and it was eventually arranged to hold another meeting in the course of the present month (April), and to make the meeting fully known throughout the township, so that all ratepayers will have an ample opportunity of expressing their opinions on the subject of establishing the Local Board, inasmuch as a gentleman will be invited who is well versed in conducting the business transactions of the Local Board, to explain all matters pertaining to such public bodies. It is expected that each person will interest himself in the business of the meeting, and ask any questions bearing on the point. It is generally agreed by all hands that the Local Board will be a great boon to all persons residing in the township. In the period of time intervening between now and the date of the next meeting, it is expected that each person intending to be present will gather all information possible on the subject, so that the matter in hand will be thoroughly ventilated, and the business satisfactorily accomplished.

CONSETT PARLIAMENTARY DEBATING SOCIETY.

On Tuesday evening, the closing debate of the Session was held, when the question before the House was "The Reform and Re-constitution of the House of Lords." There was a good muster of hon. members—especially on the Conservative benches—and excellent speeches were made by several of the leading luminaries. After the subject had been thoroughly debated, the question was put to the house, and in default of the Liberal party responding to the challange of the Speaker on a division, the Government sustained what we believed to be their first decisive defeat—which is rather to be regretted on the occasion of the last debate.

The Premier (Mr W. A. HOE) then, in a felicitous speech, proposed that the best thanks of the House be given to the Speaker (Mr P. Teare) for the efficient manner in which he has fulfilled the duties of the position of President of the august assembly.

This was seconded by the Member for Cork (Mr T. DUNNE), and responded to in a feeling manner.

The House cheered lustily.

The Member for the City of London and Leader of the Opposition (Rev F. STEGGALL) proposed that the thanks of the House be also accorded to the Clerk of the House (Mr S. J. Brodie) for the painstaking manner in which he has carried out the work assigned to him.

This was seconded by the Member for Glasgow (Mr R. PARK), and the hon. gentleman briefly acknowledged the compliment amid applause.

It was then announced that the conversazione or social gathering of the members and their friends would be held on Easter Tuesday, when the House will be dissolved and the Session ended.

CONSETT LOCAL BOARD.

On Wednesday evening, the last monthly meeting of this Board was held, under the presidency (in the absence of Mr W. Jenkins, J.P.) of the Rev F. Steggall. Present: Messrs Wm. Shell, J. W. Davison, Wm. Aynsley, W. R. Taylor, J. Palliser, H. Carss, T. Dunne, the clerk (Mr T. W. Welford), and the surveyor (Mr W. Rippon).

VICTORIA STREET CROSSING.

The Surveyor reported that this crossing had been put in as requested; but it had been decided to defer the question of erecting a Bray's lamp at the junction of the five streets.

ALLEGED NUISANCES.

The Surveyor said he had served a notice on Mr Telford, butcher, Middle Street, to abate the nuisance in his yard (as complained of at last meeting), and the same would expire on the 2nd May.

Regarding the nuisance to which attention was drawn to by Mr Scott, Mr SHELL said the Nuisance Committee (to whom the matter was relegated), had been convened, and only one member—himself—put in an appearance. On inspecting the place, he certainly did find that the back door referred to was used as a public convenience. It was highly necessary that the urinal should be removed, three courses having been suggested, viz., to take the urinal below the gates; or to erect it on the opposite side of the road (but this would greatly interfere with freedom of the street); and lastly, to abolish the urinal altogether. It was suggested that a new urinal be obtained, with eight partions, and fixed in some suitable place in the locality.

The latter recommendation appeared to receive the greatest favour, and after a brief discussion, the Board decided to inspect the locality. Having done so, it was resolved that a new urinal with eight partitions and "blind," be purchased, the design, site, and other preliminaries to be left in the hands of the Sanitary Committee.

THE FOOTPATHS: A REMARKABLE LETTER.

With reference to the footpath along Pasture Drift Road, Mr COLLINSON, as the Chairman of the Roads Committee, said that having considered the question, they had arrived at the conclusion that the road and footpath was in a very good condition at present; and thought that the subject had better be deferred until such times as the path needed to be repaired, and then the Committee would recommend the Board to consider the necessity as to whether it should be cemented, flagged, asphalted, or otherwise.

Mr DUNNE (another member of the Roads Committee) differed from Mr Collinson, averring that the determination was to recommend the Board, as soon as it required attention, to ashphalt or cement the footpaths.

A sharp discussion ensued, Mr PALLISER agreeing that it was resolved to postpone the subject for the present; but as there appeared to be some misunderstanding on the point, Mr AYNSLEY averred that the Committee ought to have drawn up a written report, instead of making a verbal announcement, and then this misconception would have been avoided.

Mr TAYLOR enquired if the Committee took into consideration the necessity for ashphalting or cementing the Brickflats Lane footpath, which he submitted was quite as urgent as the one in Pasture Drift Road?

Mr COLLINSON proposed that the subject be referred back to the Committee to furnish a written report thereon next month.

Mr DUNNE seconded the motion, with the addition that the footpath in Brickflats Lane should be considered as well.

Mr SHELL submitted that if they kept on multiplying instances in this way, they might as well take into consideration the desirability of repairing the whole of the footpaths in the district. For his own part, he had not the slightest hesitation in declaring that the footpath in Pasture Drift Road (over which he travelled as frequent as anyone) was the best in the township; and to talk about cementing, ashphalting, or flagging it at the present moment was an unnecessary expense.

At this juncture, the Chairman read the subjoined characteristic epistle:—

Medomsley Road Consett.
April 1st, 1885.

To the Members of the Consett Local Board.—I am wanting to know why they are not proceeding with that footpath on Medomsley Road, as there has been so much improvment so Mr Thos. Dunne says—(laughter)—as a member of that body. If it was if it was done that would be good ground for him to stand on, and to say there was an improvment; and further calling your attention to the delibrated state of the back ground leading from Bath Lane to Rose Mount. It is impossible for carts to get up or down which is a well know fact that the Surveyor and a good deal of the members knows it to be so. If Mr Aynsley would consent to do his part of the road—(laughter)—other proprieters would do the same, and to make the road better for both parties, for it is a disgrace to the public at large. I will thank you as a body of members of the Local Board to see into both of these matters as soon as possible.—Yours eternally,

GEO. MIDDLETON.

(Loud laughter.)

Mr PALLISER pointed out that the Roads Committee met expressely to consider the state of the footpath in Pasture Drift Road. None of the others were mentioned.

Mr SHELL (warmly): To talk about pleasing anybody's whims and fancy, I consider it is ridiculous to cement or asphalt a footpath adjoining land that is to be sold for building sites. It is an unnecessary burden to the taxes. I will go further, and say that it is a direct imposition upon the ratepayers. There is much more necessity for completing the footpath along Medomsley Road, which is fronting the houses.

Mr DUNNE: That is merely your opinion.

Mr SHELL: Yes, it is.

Mr DUNNE maintained that he had as much right to express his opinion as Mr Shell, and he combatted that gentlemam's assertions that his idea was a whimsical fancy or an imposition upon the ratepayers. It was for their benefit that such a footpath should be improved.

Mr DAVISON moved as an amendment that the whole question stand over for the present, seeing that the footpath is in good order.

Mr SHELL seconded the amendment.

Mr DUNNE remarked that the footpath was disagreeable both in summer time and winter, and it was to the interests of the people travelling up and down the bank that he advocated the asphalting of it.

Mr COLLINSON regarded it as absurd for the Committee to recommend to the Board either flagging, cementing, or asphalting, when they did not know the cost.

Mr PALLISER denied that he exhibited any whim or selfishness on the point; and explained that the Committee did not feel justified in spending the money on this footpath at the present moment. However, he urged that when the proper time arrived, it would be for the welfare of the inhabitants of Consett to keep that footpath in good order.

The amendment of Mr Davison was then put and carried; Messrs COLLINSON and DUNNE remarking that it would have been more satisfactory to themselves if the subject had been referred to the Road's Committee, so that a definite understanding might have been come to.

SUGGESTED LATE TRAIN FROM NEWCASTLE.

The annexed correspondence was read:—

Consett Ironworks, Blackhill,
20th March, 1885.

Derwent Valley Train Service.

DEAR SIR,—Some Newcastle people are memorializing the N.E.R. Company to put on a late train daily at about ten o'clock or half-past ten at night to run from Newcastle to Consett, and the advocates of this are under the belief that the Local Boards here will sign the memorial, and arrange for a deputation on this subject.

I am inclined to think that if the Local Boards assist in this matter, in the way indicated, some good result will be effected.

If you think it worth the attention of your Board, will you kindly take the matter up, and see to the signing of the memorial?—Yours truly,

W. JENKINS.

T. W. Welford, Esq., Consett.

31st March, 1885.

DEAR SIR,—The Whickham Local Board have been in communication with Mr Henry Tennant, general manager of the North-Eastern Railway Company, respecting the running of additional trains at night on the Consett line.

The Board asked that two late trains per week should run to meet the requirements of the district.

I am sorry to say that Mr Tennant writes that he cannot recommend the granting of our request. The Board, however, feel that the matter should not be allowed to drop, and that every effort should be made to secure additional trains, as the necessities of the district demand it, and with that view they have instructed me to write to the Directors, asking them to receive a deputation on the matter.

At the last meeting of the Board, I was directed to bring the matter under the notice of your Board, and ask for their support and co-operation.

I shall be glad to hear that your Board decide to make a similar application to the Railway Company.—Yours truly,

THOS. LAMBERT.

The Clerk to the Local Board, Consett.

Mr DUNNE though there was a greater possibility of their getting a train one night per week, leaving Newcastle, say, at eleven o'clock.

Mr CARSS said there was a better chance of obtaining a train to run every night at 10 or 10 30.

The CHAIRMAN suggested that the Board should express an opinion for a train to leave Newcastle each evening at 10·30, and if that concession were refused, then they could ask for it to depart at ten o'clock.

Mr AYNSLEY favoured the proposal to petition the Company to run a train twice per week, to leave Newcastle at eleven o'clock p.m.

Mr CARSS said it was better for the Board to make a demand for a train at 10 or 10 30 to run pure and simple each evening, and thus avoid any confusion.

Ultimately, Mr COLLINSON proposed that the Clerk write to the Whickham Local Board expressing the willingness of the Consett Board to co-operate with them in memorialising the North-Eastern Railway Directors to run a train, leaving Newcastle either at 10 or 10·30 every evening, and are agreeable to appoint a deputation to await upon the Directors at York for that purpose; and the Board would be glad to hear if the proposal meets with the views of the Whickham Board.

On being seconded by Mr DAVISON, the proposition was carried *nem. con.*

ESTIMATE FOR THE NEXT HALF-YEAR.

The following is the estimate for the general district rate by the Surveyor:—

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Sewerage				25	0	0
Highways:						
400 tons of limestone at 5s 6d	110	0	0			
Wages	90	0	0			
Team work	60	0	0			
				260	0	0
Public Street Improvements:						
Scavenging	25	0	0			
Footpaths	150	0	0			
				175	0	0
Public lighting				260	0	0
Salaries				95	0	0
Incidentals				30	0	0
				£845	0	0

A rate of 9d in the £ will meet the above.

Mr SHELL thought it very desirable for them to reduce the rate for the next half-year to 8d instead of 9d in the pound, as he did not think that the Board had in contemplation any undertakings that would involve any serious outlay. He enquired what was the amount of balance in the bank?

The Clerk: About £100; but the next pay sheet will probably reduce that sum to something like £40.

Mr CARSS considered it wise to levy the heaviest rate in the summer time; and if found expedient to reduce it in winter.

Mr DUNNE: It is wise to keep the rates as low as possible, especially during the bad times. (Hear, hear).

Mr AYNSLEY: What will a penny in the pound produce?

The Clerk: About £90.

Mr AYNSLEY was rather of Mr Carss's opinion, that the roads and footpaths ought to be thoroughly well repaired during the summer months. He did not think the times were so bad in Consett as in other districts.

Mr SHELL: There has certainly been a great deal of work accomplished this last half-year, and yet we have found a 9d rate sufficient to meet the demands.

The Clerk: You must remember, gentlemen, that the Consett Iron Company intend to damp out two of the blast furnaces before our next rate is gathered in.

The CHAIRMAN: But they lit one furnace up only a fortnight ago.

Mr COLLINSON observed that the Company were liable to be rated for the furnaces, whether they are kept in or put out.

The CLERK: But they are not.

On the motion of Mr SHELL, seconded by Mr DUNNE, it was proposed that a rate of 8d in the pound be levied to meet the forthcoming half-year's expenditure.

Mr CARSS asked if the Finance Committee had examined the estimate?

Mr PALLISER: No; I was just wondering whether we had anything to do with its compilation or not.

Mr AYNSLEY said if the Board were satisfied that an 8d rate would suffice, he would certainly support the proposal.

The Surveyor reminded the Board that the channell between Trafalgar Street and Front Street, along Medomsley Road, required to be completed.

Mr SHELL: We did twice the distance this last half-year, and we did not calculate it in the estimates.

Mr COLLINSON: The gas account will be lighter this next six months.

Mr SHELL: Many of the inhabitants find it exceedingly difficult too pay their rates, therefore we should keep them as low as possible.

The CHAIRMAN: Can we manage with a little less limestone?

Mr CARSS: No, no. We must maintain the state of our roads.

The Surveyor: Yes; and I have estimated for 400 tons, which is not a heavy item, amounting to about £40. I like to get the material prepared during the autumn for laying on the highways.

The Clerk: The only question is, will the Board spend £150 on footpath improvements?

The Surveyor: We have done the whole of the work on the Medomsley Road, at a cost of £113, without a rate being estimated for. Of course, I understand that the property owners in Medomsley Road will bear the cost of cementing the footpath amongst themselves.

Mr COLLINSON also considered an eightpenny rate quite sufficient.

Mr CARSS pointed out that they were not providing for any contingencies.

Mr SHELL: I can understand why Mr Carss is not desirous of keeping down the rates, as he is not a tax-payer, and has not any interest in the town. I think he should not speak upon such a subject.

Mr CARSS (emphatically): I have as much right to sit here and express my views as any other elected member, and I always endeavour to watch the interests of the ratepayers.

Mr SHELL: I deny that.

The motion for an 8d rate was thereupon agreed to.

SURVEYOR'S REPORT.

The Surveyor (Mr Rippon) submitted the subjoined report:—

To the Chairman and Members of the Consett Local Board.

GENTLEMEN,—During the past month I have given strict attention to the streets and roads in your district.

I have received from Mr Thomas Westgarth 57 superfical yards of paving setts, which have been used in laying down the different crossings ordered by you.

There are several other places in your district where crossings are much needed, noteably one at the top of Front Street leading into Delves Lane, one at the bottom of Front Street leading towards the Baptist Chapel, one from the corner of your Board Room across the end of Edith Street, and two in Spencer Street similar to the two you ordered for Betha Street a short time ago.

I observe that the kerbs, channels, and flags in several of the public streets are much worn. I ask your permission to have them repaired during the spring months. The ventilation of your main sewers is a question which requires your consideration before the warm weather sets in. I shall be glad if you will allow me to approach some of the property owners in your district for permission to ventilate some of the main sewers through their rain-water down pipes. This is a method usually adopted in other districts, and answers the purpose very well.

A subsidence has taken place on Leadgate Road, near the bottom of Sherburn Terrace, which has affected the kerb and channel for some distance. The cement footpath is also broken up in places, and will require to be relaid. I will require instructions from you with regard to it.

I would suggest that the new kerb and channel be continued from the top of Trafalgar Street to the top of Front Street, the cost of which is included in the estimate which will come before you to-day.

I have inspected your district and find the ashpits, as a whole, remarkably free from accumulations of house refuse. Several privies, water-closets, and small yards require whitewashing with quick-lime in order to keep them sweet and clean. I will see that the parties attend to this at once.

I have received and paid to treasurer the following amounts:—

	£	S	D
General District Rate	8	10	0
Mr Dolphin's sewerage manure	5	5	0
Market tolls	2	16	5

I am, gentlemen, your obedient servant,
WILLIAM RIPPON.

Consett, April 1st, 1885.

STREET IMPROVEMENTS.

The Surveyor was instructed to insert the crossing near to Dr Renton's surgery; and was further authorised to procure a truck load of flags for repairing the defective places in the footpaths.

THE VENTILATION OF MAIN SEWERS.

Mr COLLINSON proposed that the Surveyor be allowed to ask the property owners for permission to open ventilating holes in their down-pipes where expedient.

Mr DUNNE enquired if the Medical Officer of Health had been consulted on this point?

The Surveyor said the doctor recommended this step some time ago.

Several members condemned the theory, owing to the nauseous effluvia penetrating the upstairs rooms of the dwelling houses; and Mr AYNSLEY said he would certainly not grant the Surveyor such permission if requested.

The Surveyor remarked that such a course would obviate the foul stench arising from the sewer grates in the public streets in summer.

After discussion, the subject was relegated to the Sanitary Committee.

THE SUBSIDENCE IN SHERBURN TERRACE.

The Surveyor stated that some portions of the cemented footpath in Sherburn Terrace had been completely broken up by reason of the subsidence, and it was now in a dangerous condition.

Mr DUNNE: Have you ascertained the cause of the subsidence?

The Surveyor: I have not.

Mr AYNSLEY (humorously): There must have been an earthquake. (Laughter).

The Surveyor: I know this much. There has been a serious subsidence.

Mr SHELL (jocosely): Has there been some dynamite used? (Loud laughter).

Mr DAVISON said that as it was likely the ground would further subside, he proposed that the matter be left over until next month.

The Surveyor pointed out that there were two or three large holes in the footpath, which it was necessary should be attended to forthwith, and he suggested that the Roads Committee be empowered to act meanwhile.

Mr DAVISON: Cannot you fill them up with some rubbish in the meantime?

Mr AYNSLEY: The cement has been raised up in some places, and you will first have to knock this down before you can think of filling up the holes.

The Surveyor enquired who was to bear the expense incurred?

Mr COLLINSON said if the Board were satisfied that the damage was caused by the underground workings, they had better serve notice upon the Consett Iron Company to repair the damage to the footpath.

Mr CARSS coincided, and moved a resolution to that effect, stipulating that the notice should be forwarded to the Company by the Clerk.

This was seconded by Mr COLLINSON, and adopted.

Mr DAVISON incidentally mentioned that the main sewer at the back of the houses was damaged by a similar subsidence at the bottom of the Terrace some time ago, and occasioned the Board a vast amount of trouble; and he asked the Inspector if the pipes had been damaged?

The Inspector replied that the sewer was working all right at the present time. He had not inspected minutely, but he did not think the sewer had been damaged, as it was situated at the back of the houses.

The Board ordered Mr Rippon to pay the closest attention to the sewer.

FINANCIAL.

On the motion of Mr PALLISER, seconded by Mr DUNNE, cheques were drawn in payment of sums amounting to £54 7s 8d.

PLAN.

It was resolved, on the proposal of Mr SHELL, that the plan showing proposed additions to yard connected with Mr John Allison's new house in Medomsley Road be stamped.

SPOUTING TO HOUSES.

Upon the suggestion of Mr SHELL, the Surveyor was also directed to serve notice on all parties who neglected to provide proper spouting for their properties abutting on the main thorougfares.

VOTES OF THANKS.

The CHAIRMAN briefly proposed a vote of thanks to Mr Jenkins for his conduct in the chair during the past twelve months.

Mr COLLINSON seconded, and the motion was carried with unanimity.

There was no other business.

SKINNY MEN.—"Wells' Health Renewer."—Greatest remedy on earth for dyspepsia, nervous weakness, indigestion impotence of mind, limb, or vital unctions, mental physical decline. At Chemists.

THE SOUDAN WAR.

TAMAI OCCUPIED BY ARABS.

SUAKIM, WEDNESDAY.

The cavalry reconnoitred Tamai this morning and found the place occupied by a large body of the enemy. The general advance on Tamai will commence at daybreak to-morrow. The troops will stop the same night at the zareba on the road and will march on Tamai on Friday morning.

The construction of the railway was proceeded with this morning, but the work stopped on receipt of news from Tamai.

The report published in London that Osman Digna had sent a white flag and asked for terms of peace is officially declared to be utterly unfounded.

The troops of the Mudir of Dongola have defeated the Hassaneyeh tribe near Merawi. The Mudir is about to visit Cairo to consult with the Egyptian and English authorities respecting the Soudan.

A CORNSAY LAW CASE.

BELSIDE V. THE WEARDALE IRON AND COAL COMPANY.—On Wednesday, Mr W. Pearson, Q.C., moved before Mr Justice Kay, sitting in the Chancery Division of the High Court of Justice, in this action for an injunction to restrain the defendant company from working their mines adjoining the plaintiff's property, in the parish of Cornsay, so as to interfere with the coal deposits underlying the plaintiff's property, and from leaving insufficient supports under the plaintiff's freehold and leasehold lands, so as to cause cracks in the surface, and from spreading ashes and refuse on the surface, so as to hide the cracks from time to time occasioned. The learned counsel stated that the Rev Dr Belside and Mr Waterton, the two first plaintiffs, were owners in fee simple of certain lands, and also held long leases in other lands adjoining and in the same parish. The other plaintiffs on the record, the two Gascoines and Robert Thomas were yearly tenants. The defendants, the Weardale Iron and Coal Company, owned the minerals under the leasehold lands belonging to the plaintiffs, but had no mining rights under the freehold land; the plaintiffs asked that the defendants substantially admitted that in respect of the freehold land they had already trespassed by working so near the boundary as it was possible, to have worked to a small extent under the plaintiffs' property. The two seams of coal under the leasehold property were known as the fine-quarter seam, and the main seam about 34 yards below the fine-quarter seam. From time to time subsidence under the leasehold property had been observed, but until February last the cracks in the ground were not so alarming as to call for the interference of this Court. The first subsidence was in June 1879, in in 1880 there was further and more alarming subsidence, but in February last the subsidence became very serious, hence this action.

The Solicitor-General (intervening) said there was no doubt a question for the trial. Instead of hearing the whole of the evidence on an interlocutory motion, and so practically hearing the case twice over, he was willing, on behalf of the defendant, to give an undertaking not to continue any workings under the plaintiff's lands, and not to strew ashes, &c., on the surface.

The motion was order to stand over accordingly, liberty being given to either party to move to advance the trial of the action.

NEWCASTLE HINDS HIRINGS.—The usual hiring for hinds took place on Wednesday at the Corn Exchange, Newcastle. There was a large attendance, and a considerable number of hirings were effected. Wages, however, appeared to be somewhat lower than on previous occasions, the rate being from 15s to 18s per week.

LOCAL FARMING PROSPECTS.—The North Durham correspondent of the *Marklane Express* writes:—The recent frosts have told most heavily on the appearance of the wheat crop, but it is too soon to be able to tell whether permanent injury has been done. The sowing of spring corn is well advanced, and it has got a capital seed bed. The ground has worked beautifully. On some farms a good breadth of potatoes has been planted. Good crop of healthy lambs is reported.

REDUCTION OF MINERS' WAGES.—The certificate under the sliding-scale arrangement in the Northumberland coal trade states that the nett average selling price of coal for the months of December, January, and February was 4s 10·56d per ton there being an increase of 2·56d upon the standard average selling price of 4s 8d per ton fixed in the agreement of 9th March, 1883. The present rate of wages for underground workmen and banksmen will therefore be reduced by 1½ per cent. calculated upon the present standard wage.

CURIOUS NORTH-COUNTRY FISHING CASE.—In the Queen's Bench Division of the High Court of Justice on Monday—before Justices Matthew and Smith—the case of Caygill *v.* Thwaite was heard.—This was a case stated for the opinion of the Court by three justices of the North Riding of Yorkshire at a petty sessions held at Leyburn last autumn. The defendant, John Thwaite, was summoned at the instance of Thomas Caygill, gamekeeper, of Askrigg, with attempting to take, otherwise than by angling, certain fish—to wit, crayfish—in private water belonging to Lady Mary Vyner. The mode of fishing, to which in this case recourse was had, was a piece of flesh meat fastened to a string, which was attached to a stick, and dropped into the water. The defendant did not appear.—The Magistrates came to the conclusion that crayfish, being invertebrate animals, and a species of crustacea, defendant was not fishing within the meaning of the Act.—Mr Willis Bund now appeared on behalf of Caygill in support of his appeal against the magisterial decision.—Mr Justice Matthew held that crayfish were fish within the meaning of the Act, and said the only reason he could give for coming to that conclusion was that crayfish were fish.—Mr Justice Smith concurred.—The appeal was therefore allowed, and the case remitted back to the magistrates.

VALUABLE DISCOVERY FOR THE HAIR.—If your hair is turning grey or white, or falling off, use "The Mexican Hair Renewer," for it *will positively restore in every case Grey or White hair* to its original colour, without leaving the disagreeable smell of most "Restorers." It makes the hair charmingly beautiful, as well as promoting the growth of the hair on bald spots, where the glands are not decayed. Ask your Chemist for "THE MEXICAN HAIR RENEWER," sold by Chemists and Perfumers everywhere at 3s. 6d. per Bottle. Wholesale depot removed to 33 Farringdon Road, London.

Births, Marriages, and Deaths.

MARRIAGES.

LANCHESTER.—At the Parish Church, 29th ult., by the Rev J. W. Mitchell, John Gibson, of Newbiggen, to Mary Leybourne, of Lanchester.

DEATHS.

BENFIELDSIDE.—At St. Cuthbert's Terrace, John, the beloved son of Richard W. and Martha A. Smith. Departed this life March 30th, aged 11 months.

ANNFIELD PLAIN.—29th ult., aged 32, Isabell, wife of Robert Simpson.

PELTON.—Ship Inn, 27th ult., aged 4 years and 9 months, Mary Ellen, daughter of Peter Graham.

VICTORIA GARESFIELD.—31st ult., aged 20, Joseph, son of John Lawson.

DERWENTHAUGH.—27th inst., aged 65, James Kelly, husband of Barbara Kelly.

SWALWELL.—30th ult., aged 67, suddenly, Robert Shield, joiner and millwright.

DURHAM.—Neville House, 27th inst., aged 51, John Hill, miller.

AUSTRALIA.—Cairns, Queensland, 12th February, Robert, son of John Liddle, of Cockfield.

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