ADAM BRODIE, AUCTIONEER, VALUER, HOUSE AND ESTATE AGENT, TOWN HALL, CONSETT, CONDUCTS SALES BY AUCTION ON REASONABLE TERMS.

ONLY AUTHORISED AGENT for ASSISTED PASSAGES QUEENSLAND, every Month by Steamer from London and Glasgow; and to CANADA every week from Liverpool. Passages Booked by every Principal Line to America on Lowest Terms.

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The Consett Guardian

DERWENT VALLEY ADVERTISER

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ADAM BRODIE, TOWN HALL, CONSETT.

No. 1,307. | REGISTERED FOR TRANSMISSION ABROAD. | FRIDAY EVENING, August 28th, 1885. | PRICE ONE PENNY.

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£300 TO LEND on Mortgage of Good FREEHOLD PROPERTY.—Apply, ADAM BRODIE, Town Hall, Consett. 526

Contracts.

SANITARY PIPES.—TENDERS given for SANITARY PIPES, BRICKS, and FIRE CLAY GOODS of all kinds.—Apply to R. CURRY & Co., Delves Lane, Consett.

TO CONTRACTORS.

TO LET, the several WORKS required in the ERECTION OF A HOUSE AND SHOP, in Derwent Street, Blackhill, for Mr. JOHN ROBINSON. Plans, Specifications, and Conditions of Contract may be seen at GEORGE JAMES ROBINSON'S, Grocer, Blackhill.

Tenders, Sealed and Endorsed, to be addressed to GEORGE JAMES ROBINSON, on or before Monday, September 7th, 1885.

The lowest or any Tender not necessarily accepted.

Lost.

LOST, on Wednesday night last, a small Liver and White COCKER DOG. Had a New Leather Collar on.—Any one returning him to MARSHALL & SONS, Highgate, Blackhill, will be rewarded. Detention after this date will incur prosecution. 981u

Wanted.

WANTED, at once, a respectable girl as General SERVANT; must have satisfactory references.—Apply at the Post Office, Ebchester. 982u

WANTED, a Domestic SERVANT, with a good character.—Apply to Mrs. WILES, Sherburn Terrace, Consett. 984u

WANTED, AGENTS to push first-class Machinery Oils. Liberal Commission.—Box 22, Post Office, Liverpool. 771u

ON COMMISSION.—WANTED, for the Counties of Durham and Northumberland, a respectable person to represent one of the leading Lubricating and Machinery Oil Firms in the Trade.—Apply by letter to Box X., *Guardian* Office, Consett. 793u

WANTED, on the 11th of September next, a strong, steady, industrious GIRL, about 17 years of age, as a General Servant in a family of three persons.—Apply Box No. 8, Post Office, Shotley Bridge. August 18th, 1885. 944u

SERVANTS' REGISTRY OFFICE.

LADIES requiring Servants; also, Servants wanting Situations.—Apply to Miss COCKBURN, at the S. R. O., 13, Front Street, Consett. c28s

WANTED, LADIES and YOUNG MEN, to take pleasant Work at their own homes; 2s. to 5s. a day easily made; work sent by Parcels Post; no canvassing; no stamp for reply.—LORRAINE and FORRESTON, Hastings. 662u

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.

TENTS TO LET, on reasonable terms, 120ft. x 30ft., and 60ft. x 30ft.—Apply to THOMAS CALVERT, Grocer, Medomsley, Lintz Green. 377u

TO LET, HOUSE and SHOP, suitable for Butcher, Grocer, or any other Business; Rent, £14.—Apply to WM. WILKINSON, Ironmonger, Catchgate.

TO LET, FURNISHED BED-ROOM and SITTING-ROOM.—Apply to Mrs. DAVISON, Harvey Street, Consett. 978u

TO LET, a DWELLING-HOUSE, at Leadgate; moderate rent to a suitable tenant.—For particulars apply to E. LONGSTAFF, Front Street, Leadgate. 983u

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

SHOTLEY BRIDGE.—SWISS COTTAGE TO LET. Part of the above Cottage is in first rate order, and newly drained.—Apply to Mrs. BELL, on the Premises. 470u

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TO LET, the above HOUSE, containing Six Rooms, with every Convenience attached, also large GARDEN.—For particulars apply to Mr. JAMES, or WILLIAM NIXON, Elm Park, Snows Green. 915u

TO LET, at Catchgate, a HOUSE and SHOP, lately in the occupation of Mr. J. W. Davison, Furniture Broker. These Premises were originally built for a first-class Butcher's Shop having an excellent Slaughter House, fine dry Cellar (cemented, well-aired, and adapted to keep meat in warm weather). There is also a good Two stalled STABLE, and all necessary Conveniences. The Shop is well situated, and suitable for any business. A capital opening for a Pawnbroker or Auction Mart.—Apply to GEO. HOBSON, Harperley Mills, Lintz Green. 677u

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

FOR SALE, a HOUSE, containing Four Rooms, in Sherburn Terrace.—Apply to JOSEPH MURRAY, Consett. 974u

FOR SALE, a HOUSE, containing Four Rooms, with large Cellar, in Edith Street, Consett.—Apply to JOSEPH MURRAY. 975u

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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.

FOR SALE or TO LET, at November Term, a HOUSE of Five Rooms, with every Convenience, and GARDEN, situate at Iveston—Apply to JOHN HETHERINGTON, at Messrs. Jackson and Co., Clothiers, Market Place, Durham. 489u

DRESS GOODS DIRECT FROM THE FACTORY.—Any quantity from One Dress Length upwards SOLD at Manufacturers' Prices Samples sent Post Free. — HENRY PEASE & Co.' SUCCESSORS, Railway Mill, Darlington. 840u

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YOU ARE INVITED TO

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As they are unsurpassed for FITTING and DURABILITY

A Well-selected Stock always on hand.

All Goods marked in plain figures, at the LOWEST READY-MONEY PRICES.

BOOTS MADE TO MEASURE, AND REPAIRS OF ALL KINDS DONE AS USUAL. 539u

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NUTRITIOUS. DIGESTIVE. WARRANTED PURE.

Yielding an unusual quantity of Bread, and unequalled in quality by any other Flour known. Delivered to all parts of the United Kingdom, in 5 or 20 stone Bags.

For samples and quotations for single or more Bags, apply to

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THE TRADE ALSO SUPPLIED.

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HUGHES' Cough, Rheumatic, and Neuralgic Pills. The IXL Blood Purifying Mixture and Pills. Rheumatic and Gout Mixture. Hop, Dandelion, and Mandrake Bitters. Concentrated Sweet Essence of Senna. Compound Decoction of the finest Red Jamaica Sarsaparilla. Tonga, the new Specific for Neuralgia. Raspberry Beer Powder.

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THE ONLY NEWSPAPER PRINTED AND PUBLISHED IN THE DISTRICT.

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"CONSETT GUARDIAN"

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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.

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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 engthened periods are subject to considerable reduction

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(Over 50 Set-up to select from).

STOVES OF EVERY KIND.

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FIRE BRICKS, 2½in. and 3in., Quarls, various sizes, Ground Fire-Clay, Common RED BRICKS, RIDGE TILES, FIRE BACKS for Glendinning Ovens, FLUE BRICKS, CHIMNEY TOPS, KITCHEN SINKS, GULLIES, JUNCTIONS, BENDS, ELBOWS, TAPERS, GARDEN EDGING, CEMENT, PLASTER, LATHS, HAIR LIME, TACKS, SAND, COALS, COKE, &c., &c., can be Supplied in Large or Small Quantities by applying to

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CEMENT, PLASTER, &c., at WAREHOUSE, GIBSON STREET. 624t

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AT

THE PEOPLE'S SHOPS!

9, 9A, AND 22, MIDDLE STREET, CONSETT.

SALE TO COMMENCE ON FRIDAY EVENING, AUGUST 7th, AND CONTINUE FOR 21 DAYS,

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IT IS UNEQUALLED BY ANY OTHER MIXTURE.

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HALL'S for HORSE FEED.
HALL'S for CATTLE SPICE.
HALL'S for FINEST HUNGARIAN FLOUR.
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HALL'S for FINEST BUTTER.
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HALL'S is the RIGHT SHOP for all who want a good Article combined with Cheapness.

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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MILLER AND CORN MERCHANT, FIELD SEEDSMAN, &c.,

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OATS, WHOLE AND CRUSHED, and FEEDING STUFFS of every Description.

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Thoroughly Cleaned by New and Improved Machinery, Spiced, or otherwise, to order.

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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.

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First-class, full-powered Iron Steamships.

Accommodation for passengers equal to any European Line.

Passengers and Goods landed at Philadelphia on the Wharf of the PENNSYLVANIA RAILROAD.

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MAIL or other Steamers will be despatched from LONDON or PLYMOUTH fortnightly, by which ASSISTED PASSAGES will be granted to eligible Persons, such as Engineers, Farmers, Fitters, Engine Drivers, Railway Carriage Builders, Blacksmiths, Bricklayers, Stonemasons, Sawyers, Carpenters, Wheelwrights Shoemakers, Tailors, Shipwrights, Farm Labourers, Domestic Servants, Gardeners, Vine Dressers, Road Makers, Miners, Quarrymen, Navvies, at the following rates:—

SECOND CABIN..£21 10s. | THIRD CLASS...£7.

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AT

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NOTED CHEAP SHOP,

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ARRIVAL OF SPLENDID ASSORTMENT OF NEW GOODS FOR THE SEASON.

NEW DESIGNS IN MEN'S SUITS, FROM 14s. 6d., 30s., and 39s. 6d.

BLACK WORSTED SUITS, FROM 24s. 6d.

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GRAND LOT OF MEN'S FELT HATS and CAPS, IN ALL THE LEADING SHAPES, ALL AT LOW PRICES.

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BEG particularly to call the attention of the Public to the superior quality of their Biscuits, which are manufactured only from the finest machines.

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, CURRY & CO, CONSETT.

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ESTABLISHMENTS,

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TAR ELIXIR PRIZE MEDAL SHEEP DIP

Prepared by Messrs. NESS & Co., Darlington, for which he is sole Agent.

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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.

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

ALTERATIVE CONDITION POWDERS AND PURGING BALLS FOR HORSES.

FELLON AND CLEANSING DRINKS FOR CATTLE.

HORSE AND CATTLE MEDICINES OF EVERY DESCRIPTION.

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 IN 6d. PACKETS.

FINEST COD LIVER OIL. TASTELESS ITALIAN CASTOR OIL.

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

CHOLERA AND DIARRHŒA MIXTURE, 1s. per Bottle.

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HAIR RESTORERS' PERFUMES, POMADES.

TOILET REQUISITES IN GREAT VARIETY.

SPECTACLES TO SUIT ALL SIGHTS.

TRUSSES OF ALL SIZES.

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

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

MILNER, CHEMIST, OPPOSITE THE POST OFFICE, CONSETT. 984u

The Consett Guardian.

FRIDAY, August 28th, 1885.

SECTIONAL REPRESENTATION.

Now that, in a political sense, little may be expected to intervene before the General Election, except preparations for that important new departure in our constitutional history, it seems to be a fitting time to make a few remarks upon attempts that are being made to introduce a novel feature into our representative system. We will call this novelty "sectional representation." The principal movement in this direction, and perhaps the one to which least objection can be taken, is that in favour of the direct representation of labour in Parliament. It would probably be advantageous to have in the Legislature a number of men capable of giving information as to the actual circumstances and sentiments of the working-classes. Through sheer ignorance in this respect, the Parliaments of the past have often passed useless, impracticable, or distasteful laws, in spite of the most beneficent intentions on the part of legislators. But while we admit the propriety of providing seats in the House of Commons for representative working men personally fitted for the position, we would deprecate the idea that working men should seek to be represented exclusively by persons of their own order. We should have objected just as strongly if under the old county franchise the farmers, as the predominant class in the constituencies, had insisted upon choosing representatives out of their own class. Important as a man's occupation or means of livelihood may be to him, we protest against it being considered as the sole influencing motive even of his political life. We should work to live, not live to work; and in what we live for beyond the mere earning of our livelihood, there are often higher and better motives of political action than any which would arise simply from our industrial interests. We see this illustrated in sections of men, perhaps smaller than those who would subordinate political to professional considerations, but certainly not less worthy of esteem. There are the advocates of Total Abstinence, many of whom are indisposed to vote for any Parliamentary candidate unless he supports their special principles in theory, if not in his personal practice. Then we have the Peace party, the anti-Vaccinationists, and various other sections of would-be social reformers, who are inclined to make elections a shibboleths of their special crotchets. Of course, there are also different sections of religious Zealots, who would fain have Parliamentary representatives of their own creeds. But in all these cases, as well as in that of the direct representation of labour, there is the disadvantage that in trying to be too specifically represented an elector may simply throw his vote away, and not be represented at all.

OUR LONDON CORRESPONDENT.

London, Wednesday Evening.

Lord Salisbury's retirement to the Chalet Cécil, Dieppe, is regarded as a sign that we are virtually at the end of our Afghan complications. Russia has shown herself strangely amenable to reason of late; but the true explanation probably is that the new Ministry have been allowed to carry out the determination of their own mind, and have not been blown in contrary directions by every opposing whiff of public sentiment. Russia, too, is waiting the result of the elections, and till that is decided will probably rest on her oars.

Talking of Russia, the interview at Kremsier in Moravia between Czar and Kaiser has been so short, that it reminds one of the Yankee epitaph on an infant, which represents its subject as speculating querously,

"If so very soon I'm done for,
I wonder what I was begun for."

The customary three days' visit to great houses—rest, dressed, pressed—has been crowded in this case into one. In fact, anything more absurd and wasteful than bringing an army of cooks and retainers to fit up an old rat-eaten Residenz-Schloss, only to quit it next day, it is difficult to conceive.

An amusing example, not of high life below stairs, but of what is far more contemptible, low life above stairs, is exhibited in the discussion of Court journalists as to whether the Queen, as fountain of honour, can make Henry of Battenberg a Royal Highness or not. The said Henry of Battenberg is morganatically born or base born on his mother's side; so, it is said, that all the King's marshals and all the King's men cannot wipe out this taint—which, like the black blood of an octoroon, is a mark not to be effaced by any heraldry. That men should gravely discuss this in the nineteenth century, is indeed an instance of low life above stairs.

Poor old Paley has in a most unfair way been resurrected, not to say burked and body-snatched, by a discussion which grew out of the Bishop of Carlisle's censure upon the foolish remark of a hot-headed Radical parson who told his yokels that they might promise their employers to vote blue, and then break their promise and vote yellow. At best, casuistry, or the collision of duties, is a dangerous branch of moral philosophy. The Jesuits burned their fingers with it, and Herod's example in beheading John for his oath's sake is a warning rather than an example.

The oldest solicitor of the Supreme Court has just died at the decidedly ripe old age of ninety-four. Until three or four years ago Mr Gamlen actually continued in practice, or at least continued to come down to his office several times a week, and his figure was long familiar to all habitues of Gray's Inn, whose old and reverend precincts, in which his chambers were situated, seemed peculiarly in harmony with his ancient countenance. Lawyers of both branches of the profession seem to live long, and retain their faculties unclouded, even in these feverish times. Anxiety does not kill them, in spite of that "distress of mind" which according to an old jest was an item formerly charged for in the accounts of attorneys. There is less monotony in law than in any other profession. The practitioner must keep his mind in activity. He must be a learner to the end of the book. This is perhaps not the least likely explanation of legal longevity.

A new underground railway, to save middle-aged men with daughters on their arms from the horrors of the Strand, with its gutter literature, the Minataur of the *Pall Mall Gazette* included, thrust under their nose and eye—this is one of the wants of the age. As it is, Bradlaugh is left behind, and Mrs Besant and the "Fruits of Philosophy" are cast into the shade. Will anyone slay the Minataur, and deliver us from this new peril?

Hellhoffite is the appropriately-sounding name of a new explosive fulminate which is said far to exceed nitro-glycerine in its destructive effects. The ingenious inventor, Herr Hellhoff, seems hopeful that wars will soon cease, and a reign of peace begin, from the simple cause that the days of gunpowder are over, and with it the old ideas of war will be exploded.

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.)

WHITE-LE-HEAD PRIMITIVE METHODISTS AND THE "WOULD-BE-SCHOLAR."

To the Editor of the Consett Gurdian.

Sir,—I see from your "Notices of Correspondents" in last week's *Guardian*, that a "Would-be-scholar" honours us with rather a dubious notice. It may be as well for your readers to know the actual facts of the case, which are simply these: A Mr R. H. Nicholson requested to have the use of the school-room three nights a week for the purpose of a night school. It was found that on two of the nights specified the school-room was required for the purposes of the society, while on the third night a preaching service or band of hope meeting would be held in the chapel adjoining, which is only separated from the school-room by a wooden partition; under these circumstances the trustees were very reluctantly compelled to refuse Mr Nicholson's application. The trustees were then asked if in case he (Mr Nicholson) could obtain the use of a room elsewhere, he could be favoured with the loan of one or two of the desks belonging to the trustees. This request was cordially acceded to; and how, in the face of facts like these, "A would-be-scholar" can make out that the White-le-Head Primitives are averse to education is more than I can say. Indeed, sir, as you kindly intimate, all the facts of our history point the other way. I may just remind "A would-be-scholar" that to jump at unwarrantable conclusions and to misrepresent other people is not the way to obtain an education likely to be of much service to him. Craving your indulgence for occupying your space in this way, I am, yours &c.,

John Gill, Minister.

CONSERVATIVES AND MR BRADLAUGH, M.P.

To the Editor of the Consett Guardian.

Dear Sir,—In reply to Mr Bradlaugh's modest note in your issue of the 21st inst., I may state that I have not read any of his publications, but have many extracts from them by the Revs Brewin Grant and Hy. Varley, of London; Dr Hillier, of Exeter; and Mr Thomas Barlow, of Northampton, and other writers. The characters of the above-mentioned are such that they would not vilify or publish scurrilous articles about any person, without having just grounds for so doing. Mr Bradlaugh has threatened Mr Varley with an action at law, and Mr Varley has replied that his lawyer is ready to defend any action taken. In Mr Varley's "Appeal to the men of England" (published in May, 1884), he trenchantly observes, "Mr Bradlaugh asks the sympathy of his fellow-countrymen concerning his rejection by the House of Commons. I remind him that he merits their sternest reprobation and opposition. He thinks to trade upon their lack of knowledge. He shall not do it. I challenged him three years since to refute in a Court of Law the statements made in 'the Appeal.' He dare not attempt it. His recent threat of an action against me was simply intended to throw dust in the eyes of those who heard it." Again, in his preface to the same edition, Mr Varley states, "With all the editorial material in hands, Mrs Besant has failed to answer the charges; her denial of the accuracy of quotation is entirely false, as the columns of the *National Reformer*, the pamphlets, and the British Museum Library conclusively prove. The statement that I had left out contexts which, if quoted, would have entirely altered the sense of Mr Bradlaugh's words, is adsurd and untrue. What context could alter the blasphemous directness and evident meaning of the sentences which I have quoted." The Rev Brewin Grant, in a letter of near two columns, in the *Northampton Herald*, for Feb. 24th, 1883, gives many examples of Mr Bradlaugh's equivocating manner in his public speeches. But I am persuaded that to many of Mr Bradlaugh's friends their insertion in your columns would only be a waste of space and time. With thanks, Mr Editor, for all favours given, I am, yours &c.,

J. F. Smith.

Annfield Plain, August 25th, 1885.

To the Editur ov the Consitt Gardian.

Dear Sor,—Yee'l hev been vary busy lately wiv political mettars, and will like'ys be for sum time te come; but aw cannot help thinking that ye hev been far ower kind to the letter writers of wor district, for awm sure they'l hev hampored ye for time, and space in your valuable papor, with thir lengthy epistles on the Bradlaugh question. Noo, sor, aw may not be a vary good judge, but aw think, that while there hes been twe or three vary good things said, thor's been a lot of "blathar" (excuse the word, sor, aw just used, becas aw hennat a bettor) and a lot that's far away fra the point. Aw see ye had te point this oot to them in last week's papor (bi the way sor, ye knaa whin thor neor the mark). Noo, sor, to be as plain as aw can, and to syev a lot o' yor readors fra hevin to luik at the byek wi the hard words in, and fra any misunderstanding—for thor's lots of us dissent knaa what they mean. They put me a' mind of the chep that was speakin' to sum bairns at the Sunday-scheul, and he was a grat scholar, sir; he began by axing them whe myed the majestic, magnificent, and sublimary hemisphere. Noo thor was a laddie that hed been stealing apples afore ho'd come to scheul that morning, and the chep's eyes rested on this little lad, and as he paused a bit, the lad tyek guilt and thowt he was meaning who stole the apples, an he cried oot, "Me sor, and if yee'l let's off this time aw'l nivvor di't ageyn." Noo, sor, to bee plain, for aw think this is a question thi most ov your readors would like to be clear on. It's maw opinion that the Tories, for that's a bettor nyem for them than Consarvativs, an we all knaa what it means, object to Bradlaugh for the following reasons:—

Forst,—Because he's a Radical. An they are things that Tories hev nee particklor liking for.

Seckond,—Because they object to civil and religous liberty bein' gyen tiv the masses.

Thord,—Becase they divvent like Radikal change, but want to stick to prissent laws an customs. They knaa that a lot of the prissent laws and customs are in favor of thorsells.

Fifth,—Because Bradlaugh in a few particklors wants a Radikal change myed.

Sixth,—Becase these changes are te help the wurking classes, bi tyeking fra' the rich what they hev nee reet tee.

Nee doot, sor, a few canny honest religious men may feel strangly on thi point. But let them remember that beyth God and the Bible are indistructible. Hoping ye'l ensart this and forgive me for its length and that yor former contributors will not think me presumptias as aw beleve thor men, broad men, men wiv big hearts that kna how to look ower the bluders of

An Uneddicated Methodist.

Dipton, Argust 25th, 1885.

To the Editor of the Consett Guardian.

Sir,—I was astonished in the extreme at the bigotry and narrow-mindedness displayed in Mr Smith's last contribution on the above subject. I regret that this question, instead of being discussed in its political aspect, has drifted into a religious controversy, but I would remind your correspondent, Mr Smith, that religion has to do with mystery, not politics; and if Mr Bradlaugh is prevented on religious grounds from exercising a right acknowledged by law; and Mr Smith says these laws acknowledge a God. What God do these laws recognise? The God of religion? Surely not. I have no doubt Mr Smith will agree with me that although there are a great many theological problems over which we might debate pretty freely together (for I hold opinions directly opposed to Christianity). It will be best for us to come to close quarters as quickly as possible, and discuss the above (which is strictly a political question) without introducing into it the religious element. Northampton has a right to the voice of two representatives. That is their unquestionable right. They have chosen Mr Bradlaugh to be one of their burgesses, who is acknowledged by his opponents and by the law as duly elected and qualified to sit in Parliament. If he is not qualified then the seat could be declared vacant, or given to his opponent. But such is not the case. Then why prevent a man who is ready and willing to all the law requires from taking his seat? If he is an Atheist, what of that? That does not disqualify him. Then if Atheism is not a disqualification, where is the man who dare defend the action of those who are keeping Mr Bradlaugh out of Parliament? Mr Smith says I am the man. Indeed, then what is your objection, pray? Because he is an Atheist. Then if you can prove Atheism to be a disqualification, I admit willingly you have gained the day, but you cannot. Protestants love to tell the story of Galileo and his calm defiance of the tyranny of the priest, and to use it as an argument against Rome; but they have fallen into the same error. The hatred to liberty of thought still survives. But it exhibits itself in different ways. The great battle between liberty and authority has still to be fought out. I hold that every man is the true owner of his own self and faculties. That no person can be free to exercise his own faculties unless he be free also to enjoy such advantages as he can secure for himself from their exercise; or, as Mr Herbert Spencer has it in his masterly work on the "Data of Ethics:" "The liberty of each limited alone by the like liberty of all;" or that intellectual giant—John Stuart Mill, in his admirable work "On Liberty:" "Over himself, over his own body and mind the individual is sovereign." Sir, Mr Bradlaugh is a man against whom no vile charge can be laid. He has opinions no doubt in opposition to ours, but those opinions are as dear to him as ours are to us, nay, he is as honest in his convictions as we are. By what right then has any person to object to a duly-elected member taking his seat when he is qualified in every sense of the word to do so? I demand a straight answer to a straight question. What right has the House of Commons to prevent an admittedly lawfully returned representative of a constituency from taking his seat? In conclusion, I cannot do better than give Mr Bradlaugh's own words as summing up the whole affair. In a letter addressed to Lord Iddesleigh (then Sir Stafford Northcote), dated March 1st, 1884, he says:—"My turn is coming. You have won sympathy for me throughout the land; you have made Northampton men stand by me closer than ever; you are now awakening the country to stand by Northampton." Mr Justice Stephen says that the appeal is to the constituencies, and I appeal, in the name of justice, by the hope of liberty, in the memory of English struggles for freedom, I appeal, and I hear the answer growing as you shall hear it too, on the day when, from my place in the house, I move "That all resolutions respecting Charles Bradlaugh, member for Northampton, hindering him from obeying the law and punishing him for having obeyed the law, be expunged from the journals of this House as being subversive of the rights of the body of electors in this kingdom."—Yours truly,

John Wallick.

South Pontop, 24th August, 1885.

MR JONES' MEETING AT CONSETT.

To the Editor of the Consett Guardian.

Sir,—I had the pleasure of perusing your paper of last week, in which is reported at considerable length the speech of the Liberal candidate for the representation of the North-Western Division of the county. At the outset, I observe the following assertion: "It is not that they (the Conservative party) cared for the Liberals, or the advancement of the masses, but simply that they might be enabled to attain power and cling to office." In support of that assertion Mr Jones points out that Lord Randolph Churchill hounded on the Government of Mr Gladstone to pass coercive measure for Ireland, while now his lordship "is found in conjunction with the Government to which he now belongs declaring that it is not the intention of the Government to apply any exceptional legislation to Ireland." Sir, Mr Jones being a barrister, I expected something better than that piece of reasoning from him Is it an evidence that because Lord Churchill *now* declares himself against exceptional legislation for Ireland that he does so solely from "sinister motives"? What, then, are we to say respecting the Government who passed the measure, but who, when the time came for its renewal, signified their intention of not proceeding with the *whole* of the Act? Then, again, what about the trio, who, according to the papers, threatened to resign if the odious Act was again renewed. Did all these change their minds from "sinister motives"? Oh, no; for those men are called Liberals, and Liberals never act from sinister motives. If it is, as the chairman of Mr Jones's meeting remarked, "that Ireland is more contented to-day than five years ago," how could the Tories do anything else than let the Act, which everybody admits to be exceptionally severe, fall through, as they have done. Had they acted otherwise, I have no doubt that Mr Jones, who is opposed to coercion, would have been one of the first to have denounced their action. yet now he uses the fact of the non-renewal of that Act by the Tories as an "astounding illustration" to show that they never act from anything but "sinister motives." Bad case, Mr Jones, sound defendant's council. There is another very strange thing to me, Mr Editor. Supposing the sweeping allegation of Mr Jones to be true, and that is, how does it come, seeing that the Conservatives, in their collective capacity, never act from anything but sinister motives, and have no care at all for the advancement of the people, how does it come, I would like to ask, that we find among them, individually, gentlemen who will bear a favourable comparison with those who term themselves Liberals. If this should meet the eye of Mr Jones, let him not think that it is wrote by an opponent in politics, such is not the case; but while going with Mr Jones generally, I shall not subscribe myself to such wholesale charges of deliberate dishonesty on the part of the Conservatives, and, besides, I think such charges are calculated to lessen the chances of the candidate's entrance into Parliament.—I am, sir, yours, &c.,

Junius.

To the Editor of the Consett Guardian.

Sir,—The Chairman at the last Liberal meeting held in Consett, said "It would be impossible for the Conservative party in North-West Durham to bring out a candidate." I hold a somewhat different opinion on that head. It was understood sometime ago that if a certain Liberal candidate could be induced to come forward, the Conservatives would offer no opposition, but that scheme was crushed in the bud, and the original understanding expired with it. Mr Atherley Jones may be a very clever lawyer, but his ideas on some of the leading questions of the day are not such as I should care to accept. He would vote for the opening of museums and public parks on Sundays, by way of finding congenial employment for policemen, believing that they would be better so employed than arresting drunken men. Charitable—very. But the man who makes such a statement has never studied human nature. Here is another specimen of Mr Jones's logic, such as it is: "If religion was not able to hold its own against the attraction offered by the opening of such places, then it was a bad look out for religion." Very plausible on the surface, but shallow and flimsy in point of argument. If it be true that we as a people owe much to Christianity, then is it the duty of every man to hold its elevating principles inviolate. Every organization in this sublimary sphere is subject to the influences of existing laws and usages, nor is the religious observances of this country exempt from that universal rule. It has, however, been left to Mr Atherley Jones to hint that religion might take care of itself—very like a lawyer. His ideas on Criminal Law Amendment Act, and of the total extinction of the House of Lords, all savour of the same school. Such opinions might meet the requirements of a red-hot Radical centre; but I am positive that many of the more intellectual of our district Liberals will pause before they deign to follow such a leader.—Yours truly,

A Moderate Politician.

To the Editor of the Consett Guardian.

Sir,—As we are passing through a very critical period of our national position, I deem it prudent that we should reflect seriously upon the action which should be taken by our future legislators. I cannot, therefore, but look with the gravest apprehension as to the effects of the programme propounded by Mr A. Jones in his address to the electors of the North-Western Division of the County of Durham, as reported in your last week's issue. I trust, therefore, you will allow me to make some remarks thereon, as I think the time has come when every British subject should regard politics, not merely as a party, but as a national question; each one striving, according to his ability, to uphold the Constitution at home, and our prestige abroad, always having regard to the interests of the masses without doing injustice to any. I will not on this occasion touch on the unsatisfactory state of foreign affairs under the late Government. Now, with regard to the Land Laws, I would say by all means make the transfer of land easy and cheap, though I am afraid the profession to which Mr Jones belongs takes pleasure in complicated titles and long law bills. Let those who like to possess land be enabled to buy as much as they can pay for, at the smallest possible expense. I am afraid, however, that the possession of land will not prove a panacea for all the ills which beset human existence. What the better would a pitman or a mechanic be for having five or ten acres of land which he would not know how to cultivate?—far better let the cobbler stick to his last, and if he has saved a little money, let him invest it with judgment, and leave the cultivation of the land to those who have a practical knowledge, and who are content to rise up early and late, take rest, and eat the bread of carefulness. I would, therefore, say, do not be taken in by any clap-trap about the possession of land—farming is a poor trade even to those who know all the ins and outs of it. Mr Jones advocates free education—a more unjust and iniquitous proposition could not be made. It is unfair in the extreme to the ratepayers, and is subversive of that independence of character which hitherto has been the pride of Englishmen. To put the matter plainly, I may say that when a man marries he looks or ought to look to the responsibilities of the married state, and amongst other things the probable expense of bringing up and educating a family. He exercises self-denial, in order that they may have the best education within his means, and when all is done he feels an honest pride when he sees that his anxious care is rewarded by being surrounded with an intelligent, capable family, making their way respectably in the world; and he is doubly rewarded in the possession of a conscientious feeling that he has done his duty, not only to his children, but also to the State. It would be very hard for such a man, after his years of self-denial, to have to begin again to educate all his neighbours' children. Thus far I have regarded this as a working man's question. I now look upon it from a ratepayer's point of view. Up to the time of the passing of the Education Act, the schools of the country were mainly supported by various religious communities, who discharged their self-imposed duties with laudable diligence, and in the main free from bigotry, but withal bringing up the young in the nurture and admonition of the Lord, and teaching them their duty to God and their neighbour. These schools obtained a Government Grant in accordance with their proficiency, and a vast amount of individual aid was given, so as to render them amply efficient, which, together with the school fees, enabled them to do their work honestly and effectually. Under the Education Acts, School Boards were established, which have proved a very grievous burden to the ratepayers. Expensive buildings have been erected, costly equipments have followed, and an expensive staff of officers has been created. Whereas in the voluntary schools, with a due regard to economy and efficiency, the management has been carried out without any charge whatever, free and willingly rendered. The remarks of Mr Jones as to the fees not being worth the time spent in collecting them, are simply absurd, and show an utter want of knowledge of the subject. I, without hesitation, tell the ratepayers that if they had free education the rates will at least be doubled for educational purposes, and be it remembered that in some places where there is a School Board they are now 1s in the £. With regard to the disestablishment of the Church it would be an act of unnecessary wilful destruction. The Church is pursuing its useful career, interfering with no man's conscience and doing a vast amount of good work. It lives in peace and harmony with the various religious bodies with which it is surrounded. *Cui bono?* If you take it away it will simply deprive our rural population of religious instruction, and not benefit in the slightest degree any other religious community. I fear I have trespassed too much upon your space, but the issues involved are so important that I trust you will excuse me, and in conclusion allow me to say Mr Jones will have to alter his programme very materially if he wishes to gain the confidence of the electors; for although by an unpardonable deviation from the rules of the Liberal Association, he was selected as the candidate, he may find that the quiet and security of the ballot will tell a different tale to the utterances of a noisy and uncontrolled meeting.—I beg to remain, your obedient servant,

"True Blue."

HAMSTERLEY CONSERVATIVE MEETING.

To the Editor of the Consett Guardian.

Sir,—The correspondent who supplied the report given in your issue of the 21st inst. of the so-called Conservative meeting at Hamsterley Colliery is an untruthful statement and suppression of what really took place as likely to damage the circulation of your paper in the locality where the facts are known. As he is unlikely to help the cause he seeks to serve, and the attempt to show Mr Waddington's superior intelligence and ability in such striking contrast with the ignorance of the pitmen whom that gentleman (Mr Waddington) seeks to instruct in their political duties is not likely to increase his influence with his desired pupils. The interruption of the meeting was not made under the mild, smoothed words from Mr Waddington as given by your correspondent. Turning to the vague report of the meeting I read it with the respect it deserved, but not with any conviction that it embodied the truth. If the staff reporters from Consett had been at the meeting it would have been differently and accurately reported. I did repeat the words that Mr Waddington would not be allowed to take away the character of men that came to the rescue of the people when in distress. The lecturer was at the time speaking of Messrs Bright, Gladstone, Chamberlain, Dilke, and others, as "old wives," "renegades," "demagogues," &c., and was also referring to the Manchester, Leeds, and Hyde Park demonstrations as being attended by "ignoramuses," &c. In fact, his speech was more or less an outrageous one, very noteable for its inaccuracies and ridiculism. When I interrupted and begged to inform him that the miners of Durham and other workers had been too long at school and those that did not go met the scholars to be taught by a man who thus proved himself to be an "outrageous liar." That was strong language, I admit, but it was force of circumstances that compelled me to use such harsh words. The altercation which followed between the platform and myself, your correspondent has put into the mouth of myself, statements I am prepared to prove I never made, but has carefully omitted what I said in reply to the platform. Your correspondent kept out of sight the fate of that well-attended Conservative meeting. You could count the votes that were recorded to Mr Waddington, and his policy on your fingers. The report imposed upon you has clearly been made to order, and smells strongly of the desk polish of Mr Waddington or his friends, in which they seek to make his superior light and intelligence to shine in contrast with darkness of myself and the class to which I belong. Who is this Mr Waddington who has undertaken to enlighten the miners of Durham on the political history of the past, and to teach them how to discharge their new-found duties? Where has this lover of his class been slumbering all those years, and allowing the people in the county of Durham to sink into such deplorable ignorance? What has he or his party been doing to secure the working men the privilege, in the exercise of which he now seeks to direct us? Mr Waddington claims to be a Conservative working man. Now, if he be a *bona-fide* working man, then he has realised an independency which few working men have attained; and now devotes his leisure time in enlightening the less fortunate working men of the North, and to free them from the influence of demagogues and renagades and paid ignoramuses, by whose labours our power to vote has been secured. Mr Waddington hoped the working men would not follow those latter days Radicals who were Liberals out of other people's pockets. The creative genius of Mr Waddington disguises his infirmities by his outrageous and extravagant speech. Let the working class of the North cast their eyes abroad from the narrow grove and dull routine, and ask themselves who is the late champion of freedom's rights. Is it the Conservative party that Mr Waddington is devoting all his time and labour for the love of principle—not for any personal gain. Let me repeat that I have every respect for an honest Conservative that is actuated by good designs. As to the choice of Conservatives or Radicals, that matter has passed out of the region of discussion in the North into that of actuality. At all events the working class of the North need not trouble themselves about the hostility of the Conservatives or the Conservative so-called working men. We have realized that the Liberals with all their faults—and I admit they have had too many—yet they have done more for the working class than Conservatism. It cannot be too strongly impressed that out of two evils we should choose the least. Take the action and intention of the Liberal party and the conduct of the Conservative party, and any impartial thinker will come to the conclusion that the future composition of Liberals and Radicals as well as the past are exclusively the poor man's friend. I have never had any faith in Whigs or Conservatives. We have had bitter and practical experience of past legislation when Whigs and Conservatives when in the majority. In nations like Ireland, England, and Scotland, the working class should be much better off in every respect, and ought to be in a better condition physically, intellectually, and morally, on account of the vast inheritance of accumulated improvements. My opinion is every new improvement in machinery, every means and method of facilitating production and distribution, every means of creating more value in less time than could formerly be done ought to increase the value of labour, and diminish greatly the form of drudgery. To describe the pinching poverty and all its evil consequences which multitudes of working men has to endure, far surpasses the mere power of any words I may utter. I attribute the condition of the people largely to the combined operation of political spoliation, land engrossing, and commercial competition. My opinion that the future Parliament of 1886 must discuss some project in order to prepare the way for uprooting the present system of labour, plunder, pauperism, crime, and palpable injustice. If not, it is an attempt to profess on behalf of the Commons to practise the principles of justice benevolence, consistently with practical injustice and cruelty. Mr Waddington in his sophistical arguments and paltry excuses, put forward the Conservative party as being the constant supporters of the Irish cause, but he forgot to tell the people that every earnest measure of a remedial character for the Irish people met the unbroken opposition of the Conservative party. When Chas. Parnell and his party brought their grievances before that August assembly—the Commons—although their arguments were logical and defensible, those grievances were aggravated with insults by the Conservative party, and when they complained of their conduct, their complaints were not merely disregarded but checked with impunity. Their utterance provoked anger, their action kindled a blaze of vicious, cruel, severity. Mr Waddington, whose mandacity has become a password in this district, wants to apoligise for Northcote, Lowther, Gibson, Churchill, &c., for denouncing that daring, heroic, Chas. Parnell and his followers as tyrants and firebrands. I believe that the Conservative party are mean enough to apoligise under any discouraging circumstances. They must think that the Irish people are political babes or political idiots, and that they will allow their political welfare to be handed over to the tender barbosity of those people that never cherished one spontaneous thought of sympathy or kindness towards us. The Irish people will be wanting in character, and in individuality, if we rest satisfied until the laws that are passed for our country are in harmony with the moral temper of the people, and a proper security given to them to live in the land that give them birth. If there is one passion that has outlived another in the heart of a true Irishman it is the inborn love for Ireland, for Ireland's greatness, and for Ireland's glory. Let us then constantly strive by good examples and precepts to rouse in our own circle the power of sympathy, generosity, sobriety, manly self-respect, and honest pride, and everything a man should be proud of; let us remember that the satisfaction we will derive from virtues and generous actions will be of a far greater value than the most bountiful forms of material rewards. I apologise for my long epistle, not forgetting to thank you for your past favours.—Yours, &c.,

Patrick Carling.

Lintz Colliery, Aug. 24th 1885.

"INCEDO" AND THE BLACKHILL BIBLE STUDENTS' SOCIETY.

To the Editor of the Consett Guardian.

Sir,—Seeing that "Incedo," in your last issue, has attempted an adverse criticism of our "Blackhill Bible Students' Society," may I be kindly allowed, through your paper, not indeed to criticise "Incedo," but to give your readers a brief summary of what that society has done, and is doing, in the promotion of Bible reading and of Bible study.

1st—Our society has during its sittings brought before its members most of the great Biblical questions of the age. It has thus impelled those members not only to diligent research of the Scriptures, but to the careful study of the best literature upon each question at issue. Has "Incedo" done as much?

2nd—Our society has in its course induced some of its members to enter upon a study for the Christian ministry, and we believe that some now occupy occasionally the pulpit, who without the facilities offered by our society for oral expression, would have remained outside that ecclesiastical edifice. Again, I ask, has "Incedo" done, or attempted to do, as much for his circle of readers?

3rd—Another of its most active members, who less than two years ago, had the vulgar epithets of unbeliever and Atheist hurled at him, has (chiefly through our society) gone to the Bible as a student of its elevating contents, and is now a student of the Greek Testament. Can "Incedo" point to any such achievement, resulting from his gems of criticism?

4th—Our society has, upon every question submitted to its thoughtful consideration, brought before its members the highest theological authorities of the present age and of the dead centuries, from Dean Bradley to Saint Paul. Here again, we ask, has Incedo done, or is he doing, or is he likely to do, any such literary service in the cause of Christ and Christianity?

5th—Our society has stimulated and encouraged its younger members to compose and read papers upon Biblical questions, of the deepest interest and import to the Christian Church. Has Incedo accomplished anything of the kind by his weekly or fortnightly allocutions?

6th and lastly—Our society has in its course so softened the tone of opposing theological opinion, that during its many sittings there has never once been manifested a sneer, nor has there ever been uttered an evil imputation.

This last virtue of our society we specially commend to the notice and cultivation of your snarling critic and correspondent, "Incedo." With thanks, Mr Editor, for your generous insertion of our sittings and weekly utterances, allow me to remain yours truly,

The Chairman of the Blackhill Bible Students' Society.

Blackhill, August 26th, 1885.

THE DIARY OF A CONSETT MAN.

The following is an account of the adventures of Mr John Brown, of Rose Mount, Consett, during a tour abroad this summer:—

On Saturday, July 25th, we left Consett Station at 8·20 a.m., and arrived in Newcastle at 9·10, went on board the *Dragoon* at 11 the same morning, and sailed at 12. Called at Hebburn Staiths and embarked in a cargo of coal, crossed the bar, *en route* for Antwerp at 4 p.m.; passing Whitby the same night at 9·30. On Sunday morning, we passed the European floating ship, and held divine service on board at 10·30, when the Rev Edward Arkless, vicar of Berwick-on-Tweed, preached an eloquent and impressive sermon to the passengers on board. We took a pilot on board at 5 o'clock on Sunday night, and passed the floating light ship anchored in the channel. We held a second service on board in the evening at 6·30, when the same rev gentleman again conducted the services. We arrived at Flushing on the Belgium coast at 9·30 the same night, and took a river pilot on board. We proceeded up the river a distance of 70 miles, and arrived at Antwerp at 2·30 on Monday morning, July 27th. We remained on board the vessel until 8·30, when we came on shore and went to the Hotel De Hollande, where we had breakfast. We then went to view the city of Antwerp. The principal places of intirest are the beautiful parks and grand old buildings, the cathedral—a very historic building, 136 feet in height, and reached from the street by stone steps, 622 in number. It contains a large number of choice Scriptural pieces, and many other things of interest to the visitor. We returned to the hotel at 6 p m. for dinner, when 60 sat down to a substantial repast, including the respected captain of the *Dragoon*, who remained and spent the evening at the hotel.

On Tuesday morning, July 28th, we paid a visit to Messrs Joseph de Vr ee, in Den Postboot, where we partook of breakfast. We then went to the exhibition at Antwerp, and spent nine hours in looking at the numerous articles contained in the building. It is a large structure standing in the outskirts of the town. We stayed on Tuesday night at Merrs de Vries Hotel, in Antwerp. On Wednesday morning, 29th, we left Antwerp by rail for Brussels (a distance of 30 miles) where we arrived at twelve o'clock the same day. It is a beautiful level country between Antwerp and Brussels, deversified by splendid scenery. We visited the principal places of interest in Brussels, notably the Cathedral, a noble building of great historic renown. The Duke of Wellington's monument stands about the centre of the town; also the General Post Office, a very ancient building, which we were permitted to view. We left Brussels the same day to visit the Plains of Waterloo, and went to the Hotel du Musee, an English hotel, of which a niece of Sergeant-Major Cotton, is the hostess, where we had tea, and then went to the top of the large Mound by steps, 225 in number, where we had a splendid view of the historic Plains of Waterloo, all now abounding in waving corn and other farm produce. We brought home some of the heads of corn which were ripe on that date. The farm-house which we visited is called "Ferme et Chaeu d Hauoumont." It is all pierced by the bullets from the French in the battle. In the orchard are the graves of Sergeant-Major Cotton and Capt. Blakman, which were pointed out to us by a guide. We got permission to take from an apple tree, growing in the orchard, five apples, at the part where the battle raged the fiercest on that memorable day in 1815, and the hostess of the hotel kindly presented us with three rifle bullets used by the English in the battle, which with the apples, are now in my possession, as relics from the Plains of Waterloo. We stayed at the Hotel de Musee on Wednesday night. After breakfast on Thursday, we left the Plains of Waterloo for Brussels by rail at 9.30, and arrived at our destination at 12 a.m. the same day. Left there at 2·30, and arrived at Antwerp at 4 o'clock, and stayed at the Postboot Hotel in Antwerp on Thursday night. On Friday morning, July 31st, we left Antwerp by passenger steamer for Flushing, where we arrived at 5 p.m., and crossed the English Channel during the night. We arrived at Gravesend at 2·30 on Saturday morning, and proceeded on to London, reaching the Metropolis at 6 o'clock the same morning. After breakfast we went down Cheapside and the Strand, and visited the *Illustrated London News* Office; also went to Hyde Park, through the ancient marble arch to the Serpentine River, and visited the Albert Memorial, and likewise Albert Hall, a large building capable of holding 12,000 people, and contained all kinds of musical instruments, we heard some beautiful music from the organ in the hall. We then visited the exhibition, and spent eight hours in viewing the principal articles of interest in the exhibition. We left King's Cross Station at 9·30 on Saturday night, August 1st, and arrived at Newcastle at 4 o'clock on Sunday morning, and took the train for Consett, where we arrived at 8·30 the same morning.

Epps's Cocoa.—Grateful and Comforting.—"By a thorough knowledge of the natural laws which govern the operations of digestion and nutrition, and by a careful application of the fine properties of well-selected Cocoa, Mr Epps has provided our breakfast tables with a delicately flavoured beverage which may save us many heavy doctors' bills. It is by the judicious use of such articles of diet that a constitution may be gradually built up until strong enough to resist every tendency to disease. Hundreds of subtle maladies are floating around us ready to attack wherever there is a weak point. We may escape many a fatal shaft by keeping ourselves well fortified with pure blood and a properly nourished frame." *Civil Service Gazette.*—Made simply with boiling water or milk. Sold only in packets, labelled—"James Epps & Co., Homœopathic Chemists, London."—Also, makers of Epps's Chocolate Essence.

Sporting Items.

Medomsley Association Football Club.—At a meeting of the above club the following officers were elected for the ensuing season:—Captain, Mr Geo. Walton; vice-captain, Mr Jas. Snowdon; secretary, Mr T. D. Dales, Allendale Cottages, Lintz Green.

Leadgate Black Watch Football Club.—The election of officers took place on the 14th inst., when the following were elected:—Mr J. Watson, captain; Mr C. Clayton, vice-captain; Mr M. Clare, hon. secretary; Mr W. Hardy, treasurer; Mr C. Clayton, president; Mr T. Bullock, vice-president; Messrs W. Hardy, M. Clare, J. Watson, T. Bullock, T. Reed, J. Thompson, and C. Clayton, committee.

Quoiting at Winlaton.—The quoit handicap promoted by Thomas Forbes, at Henry Raine's Quoit Ground, Winlaton, was concluded on Saturday, between Michael Kelly, of Blaydon, 22 start, and Wm. Toans, of Ryton, 13 start. The former stood two lots to the good, causing Toans to have to attempt to beat Kelly two games in succession to win the handicap, but after a most exciting game, Kelly won by two shots. Score:—Kelly, 51; Toans, 49. Mr Forbes, Winlaton, was referee.

Cricket.

LOCAL FIXTURES.

Aug 29th.—Consett v. Whickham, at Whickham.
" 29th.—Tanfield v. Burnopfield, at Burnopfield.
" 29th.—Marley Hill v. Dunston, at Dunston.

ALLENDALE COTTAGES v. MEDOMSLEY 2nd.

To the Editor of the Consett Guardian.

Sir,—In my report of this match, played on August 15th, I, through a mistake, wrote Allendale Wesleyans instead of Primitives, which, I understand, gave great offence to some of the Wesleyans. As it was simply a mistake, I apologise to them, but, with all due respect to the Wesleyans as a religious community, I fail to see why our Wesleyan friends at Alendale should be so quick to take offence at such a paltry thing as this, especially as so many of them are very fond of the game themselves. Let me add, further, that the game was friendly, and not for any money or anything on either side whatever, which is called by some people gambling. Hoping you will find space for this in your valued paper.—I am, yours, &c.,

Wm. Walton.

Erratum.—In last week's *Guardian* a cricket match was reported to have been played between Medomsley 2nd Eleven and Allendale Wesleyans, on Saturday, Aug. 15th. This should have been Allendale Primitive Methodists, not Wesleyans, as already stated.—Mr Wm. Currey, Wesleyan society steward, Westwood, also writes on behalf of that body denying the accuracy of the report in question.

Derwent Valley v. Y.M.C.A.—Played at Swalwell on Saturday, and resulted in a win for the latter by 51 runs. The batting of H. Shorter for the winners was very good Score:—Y.M.C.A., 95; Derwent Valley, 44.

Crook v. North Road (Darlington).—Played at Crook on Saturday, and ended in a draw. Scores:—Crook, Barkas, 19; J. Harding, 17; Reed, 14; Turnbull, 12; Emerson, 12; W. Harding, 11; total, 165. North Road, Seymour, not out, 31; Simpson, not out, 15; total for four wickets, 67.

Crook 2nd v. North Road 2nd.—Played at North Road on Saturday, and ended in a victory for the home team, the Crook captain refusing to allow the remaining two batsmen to bat, the umpire's decision of the eighth wicket being disputed. Scores:—North Road, Hope, 47; Ferdinand, 17; total, 80. Crook, Wilkinson, 35; Reed, 18; total, 71.

ALBERT HOUSE, NEWCASTLE, v. MEDOMSLEY 2nd.

Played at Medomsley on Friday, August 21st, and finished in a victory for Medomsley. Taylor and Milburn were the only ones who made any stand for Medomsley, while Stelling did similar for the losers. Score:—

Medomsley.		Albert House.	
M. Milburn b Turnbull	23	Stelling b Cant	4
W. E. Charlton b Davison	0	Davison b Milburn	0
W. Walton b Turnbull	0	Turnbull b Cant	3
R. Taylor c Heslop	30	Drybargh c Charlton	0
G. E. Milburn run out	1	Heslop lbw b G. E. Milburn	0
J. Cant run out	2	Turnbull b G. E. Milburn	0
W. Ware b Heslop	0	Mole b G. E. Milburn	5
G. Beadling c Mole	2	Boundry b M. Milburn	6
W. Thompson b Turnbull	2	Milburn run out	3
T. Graham b Turnbull	0	Graham b M. Milburn	0
J. Hornsby not out	0	Cawthorn not out	4
Extras	3	Extras	7
Total	63	Total	32

MEDOMSLEY v. WESTWOOD.

Played at Medomsley on Saturday, and resulted in an easy victory for the visitors. Score:—

Westwood.		Medomsley.	
J. Clark c Campbell b Walton	9	J. Walton lbw b Weston	0
W. Weston c Hornsby b Campbell	12	J. Hornsby b Weston	0
D. Clark b Campbell	8	W. Ward not out	23
J. Bell b Campbell	0	R. Campbell b Weston	3
M. Kennedy b Campbell	0	J. Cant c Kennedy b Weston	2
W. Walton b Campbell	3	R. J. Taylor c Clark b Weston	4
T. Bell c Campbell	10	J. Taylor b Weston	0
T. Simpson ht wkt	5	W. Walton b Weston	2
G. Clark b Cant	6	W. Thompson c Weston b D. Clark	0
J. Dawson b Cant	2	R. Cant b D. Clark	0
L. Fenwick not out	2	M. Charlton b D. Clark	0
Extras	9	Extras	5
Total	66	Total	39

TANFIELD v. WEST STANLEY.

Played at Tanfield on Saturday, and after a very pleasant game, resulted in a win for the home team by four runs. Score:—

Tanfield.		West Stanley.	
J. Laidler c & b Harkness	1	J. Hunter run out	11
T. Jewitt b Harkness	6	J. G. Mann c Nicholson b Bowes	4
J. Robson c Mann b Harkness	14	P. Harkness b Jewitt	15
Rev C. H. Newman b Mann	2	J. Benfold b Jewitt	0
J. Bowes c Dixon b Mann	0	W. Dodds b Jewitt	0
G. Jones b Mann	12	I. Harkness c and b Jewitt	0
A. Temple b Mann	2	J. Dodds b Laidler	3
T. Swinburn c and b Harkness	4	J. Dixon not out	2
H. Nicholson not out	0	J. Dixon b Jewitt	0
R. Bowes c Mann b Harkness	0	T. Brown c Bowes b Laidler	0
W. Hetherington b Harkness	1	G. Cooper b Jewitt	3
Extras	4	Extras	4
Total	46	Total	42

Warning to Miners.—On Monday, the following warning was issued:—Atmospheric pressure, which has been rather changeable lately, seems to be assuming conditions favourable to the accumulation of gas in collieries. A general rise of the mercury is in progress over North-Western Europe, and miners are consequently cautioned against unexpected appearances of gas.

Stoppage of Durham Collieries.—The manager of the Tindale Emily Colliery, near West Auckland, one of Sir J. W. Pease, Bart.'s, group, gave notice to the hands on Monday morning to terminate their engagement in fourteen days. Owing to depression of trade, the owner had decided to lay in the colliery.—The whole of the men and boys employed at Wardley Colliery, numbering over 600, received notice on Saturday to terminate their existing engagements. The colliery is one of the firm of Bowes and Co., and has for a considerable time worked from ten to eleven days a fortnight. The matter has taken a great many people by surprise. The cause of the action taken is said to be depression of trade.

Holloway's Pills.—Weak stomach.—The wisest cannot enumerate one quarter of the distressing symptoms arising from imperfect or disordered digestion, all of which can be relieved by these admirable Pills. They remove cankery taste from the mouth, flatulency and constipation. Holloway's Pills rouse the stomach, liver, and every other organ, thereby bringing digestion to that healthy tone which fully enables it to convert all we eat and drink to the nourishment of our bodies. Hence these Pills are the surest strengtheners and the safest restoratives in nervousness, wasting, and chronic debility. Holloway's Pills are infallible remedies for impaired appetite, eructations, and a multitude of other disagreeable symptoms which render the lives of thousands miserable indeed. These Pills are approved by all classes.

SHOTLEY BRIDGE FLOWER SHOW.

Saturday last was the day appointed for holding the 36th annual exhibition of plants, flowers, fruits, and vegetables, under the auspicious of the famous Shotley Bridge Floral and Horticultural Society, and on the present occasion the quiet village overshadowing the brink of the river Derwent and its immediate surroundings appeared to be *en fete*. The show was held as usual, in the picturesque Spa Grounds, by the kind permission of the lessees, Messrs Wilson Bros. The dawn of day opened exceedingly dull and cloudy, and gloomy forebodings were expressed as to the result of the show. Although showers of rain fell in the cities of Newcastle and Durham, and other parts of the district, we in this locality were for once especially favoured. Soon after noon, the austere and sombre aspect of the sky was suddenly brightened up by the brilliancy of the sun's rays, and the weather turned out everything that could be desired. The show was in every respect, a brilliant success. Once again the exhibition clashed with the great Shildon show, but this circumstance appears not to have injured the Shotley Bridge *fete* in the slightest degree, but has acted detrimentally to the interest of the Shildon carnival. We ventured to point out last year that it was a great mistake for the two principal and most prosperous flower shows in the County of Durham to come off on the same date; but it seems that in the present instance the onus for this unhappy arrangement rests entirely with the people of Shildon themselves. Our local show, we are glad to announce, was better patronised this year than it has ever been, the money taken at the gates amounting to upwards of £200. The N.E.R. Company ran two full excursion trains from Newcastle and Sunderland to Consett and Blackhill and Shotley Bridge Stations; and the ordinary and special trains run from Durham, Crook, and Newcastle, throughout the day brought in a large influx of visitors. In addition, the people resident in the surrounding neighbourhood flocked *en masse* to the show. It is estimated that the number of persons who passed through the gates during the day would number nearly 15,000. One special advantage of this society is that it is under the control of a body of intelligent gentlemen, who constitute a thoroughly representative and enterprising committee, and possesses a most energetic and persevering secretary in Mr Wm. Ramsay. This gentleman supervised and carried out the whole of the arrangements without the slightest hitch arising; and the fitting-up of the showyard was entrusted to Mr A. Houliston, who is likewise one of the most useful and experienced members of the committee. A novel feature was introduced in this year's exhibition in the shape of a grand military tournament and assault-at-arms, by a dozen non-commissioned officers and men from the Royal Artillery (Newcastle Barracks). On this account, the arrangements of the ground were slightly changed from last year. The large and commodious tent wherein the exhibits were displayed was usually stationed just beyond the entrance to the second portion of Spa Grounds, but this time the marquee was placed in the first field. Last year the entries numbered 911, but we have to report a slight falling off this year. Despite this fact, however, all the departments were well represented, and the quality of the exhibits fully reached the high standard of excellence attained on former occasions. In fact, in some respects, the class of flowers, &c., on view, was superior to any previous displays. The judges were Messrs Castles, Benwell Grange; Robson, Birtley; Bolam, Axwell Park; and Cook, Wylam. The competition was exceedingly close and keen, and the adjudicators experienced the uttermost difficulty in accomplishing the task of deciding upon the respective merits of the garden produce brought under their notice. Subjoined is a

LIST OF AWARDS.

OPEN CLASS.

PLANTS.

Group of plants arranged for effect in 50 square feet space—1st, G. Sinfield, Shotley Bridge, 30s; 2nd, W. Whiting, Shotley Bridge, 20s; 3rd, J. Bullock, Snows Green, 15s.

Six stove and greenhouse plants (dissimilar) in bloom—1st, E. Adams, Swalwell, 70s; 2nd, R. Gardner, Dunston, 40s; 3rd, G. Sinfield, Shotley Bridge, 30s.

Four fine foliage plants (dissimilar)—1st, J. Thirlwell, Shotley Bridge, 40s; 2nd, W. Whiting, Shotley Bridge, 20s; 3rd, J. Bullock, Snows Green, 10s.

Three fuchsias (dissimilar)—1st, A. Trotter, Shotley Bridge, 20s; 2nd, J. Moon, Blackhill, 15s; 3rd, W. Anderson, The Briary, 7s 6d.

Two fuchsias (dissimilar)—1st, John Moon, Blackhill, 15s.

Two pots of liliums (dissimilar)—1st, T. Charlton, Shotley Bridge, 7s 6d; 2nd, A. Trotter, Shotley Grove, 5s.

Best lilium auratum—1st, J. Bullock, Snows Green, 6s; 2nd, A. Trotter, Shotley Grove, 4s; 3rd, T. Snowdon, Shotley Bridge, 3s.

One single and one double petunia—1st, John Potts, Shotley Field, 5s; 2nd, Wm. Wilson, Cutlers Hall, 4s; 3rd, A. Trotter, Shotley Grove, 3s.

Three balsams—1st, T. Charlton, Shotley Bridge, 5s; 2nd, A. Trotter, Shotley Grove, 4s.

Three zonale geraniums in 10-inch pots (dissimilar)—1st, John Potts, Shotley Field, 7s 6d; 2nd, G. Sinfield, Shotley Bridge, 5s; 3rd, Wm. Brown, jun., Shotley Bridge, 3s.

Three tricolour geraniums (dissimilar)—1st, W. Anderson, The Briary, 7s 6d; 2nd, John Potts, Shotley Field, 5s.

Three pots of achimenes (dissimilar)—1st, J. Bullock, Snows Green, 7s 6d; 2nd, Thos. Charlton, Shotley Bridge, 5s.

One tuberous-rooted begonia—1st, J. Thirlwell, Shotley Bridge, 3s; 2nd, C. Mosley, Shotley Bridge, 2s; 3rd, A. Trotter, Shotley Grove, 1s.

One herbaceous begonia—1st, J. Moon, Blackhill, 3s; 2nd Wm. Brown, jun., Shotley Bridge, 2s; 3rd T. Barron, Blackhill, 1s.

Three coleus—1st, T. Charlton, Shotley Bridge, 5s; 2nd, Wm. Anderson, The Briary, 4s; 3rd, A. Trotter, Shotley Grove, 3s.

Six gloxineas—1st A. Trotter, Shotley Grove, 5s; 2nd, W. Whiting, Shotley Bridge, 4s.

Six plants suitable for table decoration in 6-inch pots (dissimilar)—1st, W. Whiting, Shotley Bridge, 7s 6d; 2nd, G. Sinfield, Shotley Bridge, 5s; 3rd, E. Adams, Swalwell, 3s.

Four exotic ferns (dissimilar)—1st, J. Bullock, Snows Green, 20s, 2nd, T. Charlton, Shotley Bridge, 15s; 3rd, W. Whiting, Shotley Bridge, 10s.

Six British ferns (dissimilar)—1st, A. Trotter, Snows Green, 15s; 2nd, J. Thirlwell, Shotley Bridge, 10s.

CUT FLOWERS.

Twelve dahlia blooms (nine dissimilar), show varieties—1st, J. Cawthorn, Windy Hill, 7s 6d; 2nd, M. Wheatley, Greenside, 5s; 3rd, William Hall, Lanchester, 3s.

Six fancy dahlia blooms (dissimilar)—1st, M. Wheatley, Greenside, 4s.

Nine cut roses, six varieties—1st, J. H. Coupland, Westwood House, 7s; 2nd, J. Robinson, Shotley Bridge, 5s; 3rd, G. Sinfield, Shotley Bridge, 3s.

Twelve French asters—1st, John Murray, Winlaton, 4s; 2nd, M. Wheatley, Greenside, 3s; 2nd, J. Cawthorn, Windy Hill, 2s.

Twelve globe asters—1st, J. Cawthorn, Windy Hill, 4s; 2nd, M. Wheatley, Greenside, 3s.

Six phloxes (dissimilar)—1st, J. Murray, Winlaton, 4s; 2nd, T. Battensby, Hagg Hill, 3s, 3rd, R. Charlton, Benfieldside, 2s.

Six herbaceous flowers (dissimilar)—1st, J. Robinson, Shotley Bridge, and J. Thorpe, Cutlers Hall, equal 1st; 3rd, T. Battensby, Hagg Hill, 4s.

Six stands of cut flowers—1st, R. Charlton, Benfieldside, 7s 6d; 2nd, W. Anderson, The Briary, 5s; 3rd, A. Trotter, Shotley Grove, 3s.

Six bunches of cut flowers (each bunch one variety)—1st, A. Trotter, Shotley Grove, 5s; 2nd, W. Whiting, Shotley Bridge, 4s; 3rd, John Thirlwell, Shotley Bridge, 3s.

Best floral decoration for dinner table—1st, T. Battensby, Hagg Hill, 15s; 2nd, W. Whiting, Shotley Bridge, 10s. 3rd, W. Anderson, The Briary, 7s 6d.

Lady's hand boquet—1st, W. Whiting, Shotley Bridge, 7s 6d; 2nd, T. Battensby, Hagg Hill, 5s; 3rd, E. Adams, Swalwell, 3s.

FRUIT.

Two bunches of black grapes—1st, J. Lawson, Whickham, 10s; 2nd, Jos. Tate, Whickham, 7s 6d; 3rd, W. Anderson, The Briary, 5s.

Two bunches of white grapes—1st, Jos. Tate, Whickham, 10s; 2nd, J. Lawson, Whickham, 7s 6d; 3rd, G. Sinfield, Shotley Bridge, 5s.

Best Melon (not to be cut)—J. 1st, Lawson, Whickham, 7s 6d; 2nd, C. W. Baynes, London, 5s; 3rd, A. Trotter, Shotley Grove, 3s.

Six peaches—1st, J. Lawson, Whickham, 5s; 2nd, A. Trotter, Shotley Grove, 4s; 3rd, Joseph Tate, Whickham, 3s.

Six apricots—1st, Jos Robinson, Shotley Bridge, 5s; 2nd, C. W. Baynes, London, 4s; 3rd, J. Bullock, Snows Green, 3s.

Six nectarines—1st, Jos. Robinson, Shotley Bridge, 5s; 2nd, J. Lawson, Whickham, 4s.

Six plums—1st, C. W. Baynes, London, 4s; 2nd, J. Lawson, Whickham, 3s; 3rd, Joseph Robinson, Shotley Bridge, 2s.

Six pears—1st, C. W. Baynes, London, 4s; 2nd, J. Lawson, Whickham, 3s; 3rd, Joseph Robinson, Shotley Bridge, 2s.

Dish of cherries—1st, J. Lawson, Whickham, 4s; 2nd, Wm. Anderson, The Briary, 3s; 3rd, Joseph Robinson, Shotley Bridge, 2s.

Dish of strawberries—1st, R. Charlton, Benfieldside, 4s; 2nd, Jos. Robinson, Shotley Bridge, 3s.

VEGETABLES.

Brace of cucumbers—1st, A. Houliston, Shotley Bridge, 5s; 2nd, Wm. Turnbull, Whickham, 4s; 3rd, T. Charlton, Shotley Bridge, 3s.

Best collection of vegetables—1st, R. Charlton, Benfieldside, 10s; 2nd, J. Robinson, Shotley Bridge, 7s 6d; 3rd, Wm. Whiting, Shotley Bridge, 5s.

AMATEURS' CLASS.

PLANTS.

Three stove or greenhouse plants in bloom (dissimilar)—1st (not entered) 40s; 2nd, R. Gardner, Dunston, 25s; 3rd, J. Moon, Blackhill, 15s.

Two fine foliage plants (dissimilar)—1st, J. Thirlwell, Shotley Bridge, 15s; John Potts, Shotley Field, 10s.

Two fuchsias (dissimilar)—1st, John Moon, Blackhill, 15s; 2nd, J. Potts, Shotley Field, 10s; 3rd, J. Thirlwell, Shotley Bridge, 5s.

One fuchsia—1st, J. Potts, Shotley Field, 7s 6d; 2nd, John Moon, Blackhill, 5s.

Two balsams—1st, R. Hall, Shotley Bridge, 4s; 2nd, John Moon, Blackhill, 3s; 3rd, Wm. Wilson, Cutlers Hall, 2s.

One single petunia—1st, John Potts, Shotley Field, 3s; 2nd, Wm. Wilson, Cutlers Hall, 2s; 3rd, J. Moon, Blackhill, 1s.

One double petunia—1st, Wm. Wilson, Cutlers Hall, 4s; 2nd, John Potts Shotley Field, 2s.

Pot of liliums—1st, C. Mosley, Shotley Bridge 4s; 2nd not entered (disqualified).

Two tricolour geraniums (dissimilar)—1st, William Hall, Lanchester 5s; 2nd, J. Potts, Shotley Field, 4s.

Two coleus (dissimilar)—1st, John Potts, Shotley Field, 4s; 2nd, J. Thirlwell, Shotley Bridge, 3s; 3rd, Wm. Hall, Lanchester, 2s.

Three British ferns (dissimilar)—1st, J. Thirlwell, Shotley Bridge, 7s 6d; 2nd, J. Potts, Shotley Field, 5s.

Three exotic ferns (dissimilar)—1st, John Potts, Shotley Field, 10s; 2nd, John Thirlwell, Shotley Bridge, 6s; 3rd, John Moon, Blackhill, 4s.

One tuberous-rooted begonia—1st, J. Thirlwell, Shotley Bridge, 3s.

Shrubby begonia—1st, J. Moon, Blackhill, 3s.

Six table plants suitable for table decoration—1st, J. Thirlwell, Shotley Bridge, 5s.

CUT FLOWERS.

Six dahlia blooms, show varieties (dissimilar)—3rd, W. Hall, Lanchester, 2s (only prize awarded).

Three gladioli spikes (dissimilar)—1st, Wm. Wilson, Cutlers Hall, 6s; 2nd, J. Dixon, Crawleyside, 4s; 3rd, W. Hall, Lanchester, 3s.

Twelve French asters—1st, J. Battensby, Hagg Hill, 4s; John Murray, Winlaton, 3s; M. Redshaw, Shotley Bridge, 2s.

Twelve globe asters—1st, John Murray, Winlaton, 4s; 3rd, W. Wilson, Cutlers Hall, 2s (no second).

Twelve French marigolds—1st, J. Murray, Winlaton, 4s; 2nd, Wm. Hall, Lanchester, 3s; 3rd, Wm. Wilson, Cutlers Hall, 2s.

Six zonale geranium trusses (dissimilar)—1st, Charles Mosley, Shotley Bridge, 4s; 2nd, John Potts, Shotley Field, 3s; 3rd, M. Redshaw, Shotley Bridge, 2s.

Six spikes phloxes—1st, John Murray, Winlaton, 4s; 2nd, T. Battensby, Hagg Hill, 3s; 3rd, Charles Mosley, Shotley Bridge, 2s.

Four stands herbaceous flowers (dissimilar)—1st, W. Wilson, Cutlers Hall, 4s; 2nd, T. Battensby, Hagg Hill, 3s; 3rd, C. Mosley, Shotley Bridge, 2s.

Six stands cut flowers—1st, J. Thirlwell, Shotley Bridge, 4s; 2nd, C. Mosley, Shotley Bridge, 3s.

Four stands cut flowers, each stand one variety—1st, J. Thirlwell, Shotley Bridge, 4s; 3rd, Geo. Ainsworth, Consett, 2s.

Six cut roses (dissimilar)—1st, T. Battensby, Hagg Hill, 4s; 2nd, C. Mosley, Shotley Bridge, 3s; 3rd, John Murray, Winlaton, 2s.

Six miscellaneous plants in bloom in pots not more than 6in.—1st, John Potts, Shotley Field, 5s; 2nd, J. Thirlwell, Shotley Bridge, 4s.

FRUIT.

Six pears—1st, R. Hall, Shotley Bridge, 4s; 2nd, M. Redshaw, Shotley Bridge, 3s; 3rd, J. H. Coupland, Westwood House, 2s.

Six dessert apples—1st, M. Redshaw, Shotley Bridge, 4s; 2nd, G. Waugh, Low Waskerley, 3s; 3rd, A. Houliston, Shotley Bridge, 2s.

Six kitchen apples—1st, M. Redshaw, Shotley Bridge, 4s; 2nd, J. H. Coupland, Westwood House, 3s; 3rd, A. Houliston, Shotley Bridge, 2s.

Six plums—1st, M. Redshaw, Shotley Bridge, 4s.

Pint flavoured gooseberries—1st, M. Redshaw, Shotley Bridge, 3s; 2nd, A. Houliston, Shotley Bridge, 2s; 3rd, C. Mosley, Shotley Bridge, 1s.

Pint black currants—1st, M. Redshaw, Shotley Bridge, 3s; 2nd, J. Dixon, Crawleyside, 2s; 3rd, Wm. Turnbull, Whickham, 1s.

Pint red currants—1st, C. Mosley, Shotley Bridge, 3s; 2nd, R. Hall, Shotley Bridge, 2s; 3rd, J. Dixon, Crawleyside, 1s.

Six heaviest gooseberries—1st, W. Turnbull, Whickham, 3s; 2nd (not entered), 3rd, A. Houliston, Shotley Bridge, 1s.

VEGETABLES.

Six kidney potatoes—1st, J. Murray, Winlaton, 3s; 2nd, Wm. Hall, Lanchester, 2s; 3rd, T. Battensby, Hagg Hill, 1s.

Six round potatoes—1st, Wm. Hall, Lanchester, 3s; 2nd, J Murray, Winlaton, 2s; 3rd, C. Mosley, Shotley Bridge, 1s.

Two early cabbages—1st, M. Redshaw, Shotley Bridge, 3s; 2nd, J. Murray, Winlaton, 2s.

Three early potatoes—1st, J. Murray, Winlaton, 3s; 2nd, J. Dixon, Crawleyside, 2s; 3rd, Wm. Hall, Lanchester, 2s.

Three carrots—1st, J. Murray, Winlaton, 3s; 2nd, Wm. Hall, Lanchester, 1s.

Three parsnips—1st, J. Murray, Winlaton, 3s; 2nd, Wm. Hall, Lanchester, 2s.

Thirty-six pods of peas—1st, Wm. Turnbull, Whickham, 3s; 2nd, J. H. Coupland, Westwood House, 2s; 3rd, J. Potts, Shotley Field, 1s.

Twelve pods of beans—1st, Wm. Hall, Lanchester, 3s; 2nd, C. Mosley, Shotley Bridge, 2s; 3rd, J. H. Coupland, Westwood House, 1s.

Four leeks—1st, J. Murray, Winlaton, 3s; 2nd, Wm. Hall, Lanchester, 2s.

Two heads of celery—1st, J. Murray, Winlaton, 3s; 2nd, Wm. Hall, Lanchester, 2s; 3rd, Wm. Wilson, Cutlers Hall, 1s.

Two cauliflowers—1st, J. Murray, Winlaton, 3s; 2nd, J. Dixon, Crawleyside, 2s; 3rd, M. Redshaw, Shotley Bridge, 1s.

Twelve onions (tripoli excepted)—1st, Wm. Hall, Lanchester, 3s; 2nd, C. Mosley, Shotley Bridge, 2s; 3rd, Wm. Wilson, Cutlers Hall, 1s.

Three roots of beet—1st (not entered); 2nd, J. Murray, Winlaton, 2s; 3rd, Wm. Hall, Lanchester, 1s.

Two red cabbages—1st, Wm. Hall, Lanchester, 3s.

COTTAGERS' CLASS.

PLANTS.

Fine foliage plant—1st, T. Barron, Blackhill, 5s; 2nd, T. Saunders, Medomsley Edge, 4s.

Light fuchsia—1st, J. Thorpe, Cutlers Hall, 7s 6d; 2nd, T. Barron, Blackhill, 5s; 3rd, R. Kirsopp, Pontop Pike, 3s.

Single petunia (in pot)—1st, T. Barron, Blackhill, 7s 6d; 2nd, T. Snowdon, Shotley Bridge, 5s.

Begonia—1st, R. Kirsopp, Pontop Pike, 3s; 3rd, W. Brown, Shotley Bridge, 1s.

Dark fuchsia—1st, R. Kirsopp, Pontop Pike, 7s 6d; 2nd, T. Barron, Blackhill, 5s.

Balsam—1st, T. Barron, Blackhill, 2s; 2nd, J. Thorpe, Cutlers Hall, 1s 6d.

Lilium auratum—1st, T. Snowdon, Shotley Bridge, 5s; 2nd, R. Kirsopp, Pontop Pike, 4s; 3rd, J. Thorpe, Cutlers Hall, 3s.

Zonale geranium (in bloom)—1st, T. Snowdon, Shotley Bridge, 3s; 2nd, Wm. Brown, Shotley Bridge, 2s.

Two exotic ferns—1st, J. Thorpe, Cutlers Hall, 5s; 2nd, T. Saunders, Medomsley Edge, 4s; 3rd, Wm. Brown, Shotley Bridge, 3s.

Three British ferns (dissimilar)—1st, J. Thorpe, Cutlers Hall, 5s; 2nd, T. Saunders, Medomsley Edge 4s; 3rd, T. Barron, Blackhill 3s.

Four cut roses—1st, J. Weightman, Whickham, 3s; 2nd, J. Thorpe, Cutlers Hall, 2s; 3rd, J. Ward, Raizenside, 1s.

Four dahlia blooms (dissimilar)—1st, M. Wheatley, Greenside, 4s; 2nd, J. Cawthorn, Windy Hill, 3s.

Six French asters—1st, M. Wheatley, Greenside, 3s; 2nd, R. Kirsopp, Pontop Pike, 2s; 3rd (not entered).

Six globe asters—1st, R. Kirsopp, Pontop Pike, 3s; 2nd, M. Wheatley, Greenside, 2s; 3rd, J. Ward, Raizenside, 1s.

Three stocks—1st, M. Wheatley, Greenside, 3s; 2nd, J. Bainbridge, Newlandside Hall, 2s; 3rd, R. Kirsopp, Pontop Pike, 1s.

Three spikes gladioli (dissimilar)—1st, J. Thorpe, Cutlers Hall, 6s; 2nd, J. Bainbridge, Newlandside Hall, 4s.

Six French marigolds—1st, M. Wheatley, Greenside, 3s; 2nd, J. Cawthorn Windy Hill, 2s.

Four stands of cut flowers—1st, J. Cawthorn, Windy Hill, 4s; 2nd, J. Thorpe, Cutlers Hall, 3s; 3rd, T. Barron, Blackhill, 2s.

Twelve pansies (six varieties)—1st, R. Kirsopp, Pontop Pike, 4s; 2nd, J. Ward, Raizenside, 3s; 3rd, J. Cawthorn, Windy Hill, 2s.

Three spikes of phloxes (dissimilar)—1st, J. Thorpe, Cutlers Hall, 3s; 2nd, M. Wheatley, Greenside, 2s; 3rd, J. Cawthorn, Windy Hill, 1s.

Three stands of herbaceous flowers (dissimilar)—1st, J. Thorpe, Cutlers Hall, 4s; 2nd, T. Coulson, Benfieldside, 3s; 3rd, R. Kirsopp, Pontop Pike, 2s.

Four phloxes drummondi (dissimilar, three trusses)—1st, T. Barron, Blackhill, 3s; 2nd, J. Thorpe, Cutlers Hall, 2s.

FRUIT.

Six pears—1st, R. Lee, Snows Green, 4s; 2nd, M. Wheatley, Greenside, 3s; 3rd, J. Bainbridge, Newlandside Hall 2s.

Six dessert apples—1st, R. Lee, Snows Green, 4s; 2nd, J. Hood, Lintz Green, 3s; 3rd, T. Snowdon, Shotley Bridge, 2s.

Six kitchen apples—1st, T. Coulson, Benfieldside, 4s; 2nd, J. Bulman, Ebchester, 3s; 3rd, J. Bainbridge, Newlandside Hall, 2s.

Pint flavoured gooseberries—1st, M. Wheatley, Greenside, 3s; 2nd, J. Hood, Lintz Green, 2s, 3rd, J. Thorpe, Cutlers Hall, 1s.

Pint black currants—1st, J. Weightman, Whickham, 3s; 2nd, J. Bulman, Ebchester, 2s; 3rd, J. Bainbridge, Newlandside Hall, 1s.

Pint red currants—1st, M. Ramsay, Shotley Bridge, 3s; 2nd, J. Bainbridge, Newlandside Hall, 2s, 3rd, J. Hood, Lintz Green, 1s.

Six heaviest gooseberries—1st, J. Weightman, Whickham, 3s; 2nd, J. Cawthorn, Windy Hill, 2s; 3rd, T. Snowdon, Shotley Bridge, 1s.

VEGETABLES.

Three early turnips—1st, M. Wheatley, Greenside, 3s; 2nd, J. Bainbridge, Newlandside Hall, 2s; 3rd, J. Cawthorn, Windy Hill, 1s.

Three carrots—1st, J. Ward, Raizenside, 3s; 2nd, R. Lee, Snows Green, 1s.

Two early cabbages—1st, M. Wheatley, Greenside, 3s; 2nd, J. Bulman, Ebchester, 2s; 3rd, J. Ward, Raizenside, 1s.

Six onions—1st, M. Wheatley, Greenside, 3s; 2nd, R. Kirsopp, Pontop Pike, 2s; 3rd, T. Snowdon, Shotley Bridge, 1s.

Three parsnips—1st, J. Cawthorn, Windy Hill, 3s; 2nd, J. Ward, Raizenside, 2s; 3rd, T. Snowdon, Shotley Bridge, 1s.

Six kidney potatoes—1st, T. Snowdon, Shotley Bridge, 3s; 2nd, J. Cawthorn, Windy Hill, 2s; 3rd, M. Wheatley, Greenside, 1s.

Six round potatoes—1st, T. Snowdon, Shotley Bridge, 3s; 2nd, J. Cawthorn, Windy Hill, 2s; 3rd, J. Bulman, Ebchester, 1s.

Twelve pods of beans—1st, R. Lee, Snows Green, 3s; 2nd, J. Bulman, Ebchester, 2s; 3rd, R. Kirsopp, Pontop Pike, 1s.

Twenty-four pods of peas—1st, T. Snowdon, Shotley Bridge, 3s; 2nd, J. Bulman, Ebchester, 2s; 3rd, J. Ward, Raizenside, 1s.

Three leeks—1st, J. Cawthorn, Windy Hill, 3s; 2nd, R. Kirsopp, Pontop Pike, 2s; 3rd, M. Wheatley, Greenside, 1s.

Three roots of beet—1st, J. Ward, Raizenside, 3s; 2nd, R. Lee, Snows Green, 2s; 3rd, J. Hood, Lintz Green, 1s.

Cauliflower—1st, J. Cawthorn, Windy Hill, 3s; 2nd (not entered); 3rd, M. Wheatley, Greenside, 1s.

EXTRA PRIZES.

OPEN CLASS.

For the best three orchids in bloom (given by the Society)—1st, Geo. Ainsworth, Consett, 7s 6d; 2nd, J. Thirlwell, Shotley Bridge, 5s.

For six single dahlia blooms (given by the Society)—1st, Wm. Anderson, The Briary, 3s; 2nd, T. Battensby, Hagg Hill, 2s; 3rd, J. Cawthorn, Windy Hill, 1s.

COTTAGERS' CLASS.

For the best collection of vegetables, six varieties, viz., peas, beens, cabbage, cauliflower, turnips, and potatoes (by Mrs Dickinson, Belle Vue House, Shotley Bridge)—1st, J. Ward, Raizenside, 10s; 2nd, T. Snowdon, Shotley Bridge, 6s; 3rd, R. Kirsopp, Pontop Pike 4s.

For best bunch cut flowers (given by Messrs Wm. Strachan, Blackhill, and J. Lax, Shotley Bridge)—1st, T. Barron, Blackhill, watering pan; 2nd, J. Thorpe, Cutlers Hall, new spade.

For the best four bunches of cut flowers, each bunch one variety (given by Mr J. Moon, Blackhill)—1st, J. Thorpe, Cutlers Hall, a new digging fork.

For best two bunches of wild flowers (given by Mrs Walton-Wilson), confined to those under 18 years of age—1st, Blanche Coulson, 5s; 2nd, Isabella Appleton, 3s.

Messrs William Fell and Co., nurserymen and landscape gardners, Hexham, occupied considerable space with their exhibits, which were much admired. Their two stands of roses were superb, and looked the production from a healthy stock, which we are told consists of nearly 10,000 plants. Single and pompone dahlians were also very fine, and attracted much attention. Conifers in pots were also exhibited, and were placed as a back ground to the cut blooms. Altogether the general appearance of Messrs Fell and Co's. exhibits were most creditable, and added greatly to the many attractions of the show.

Messrs J. Robson and Sons, Hexham, Rose Nuseries, also exhibited a grand display of roses, &c.

THE MILITARY TOURNAMENT.

The most instructive and interesting event of the day was the military tableaux and assault-at-arms, by the under-mentioned officers and men belonging the Royal Artillery, viz., Sergeant Wicks, Sergeant Hardacre, Sergt. Bryant, Sergt.-Trumpeter Kirton, Sergt.-Major McGill, Bombadier Scott, Bombadier Berry, Bombadier Perrin, Bombadier Brennan, and Gunner Colpitts, who were assisted by two or three privates of the regiment. The squad was under the command of Sergt. Wicks, and Sergt.-Major McGill officated as judge and referee. About noon, the soldiers, mounted on horseback, traversed through the principal thoroughfares of Shotley Bridge, Benfieldside, Snows Green, Blackhill, and Consett, and were escorted to the grounds from Mr Moffatt's Hotel, at Shotley Bridge, by the band of the Northumberland Hussars, which is under the management of Mr J. H. Amers. The tournament took place in the furthermost field in the Spa Grounds, an enclosed ring having been reserved for that purpose. The military manœuvres commenced shortly after two o'clock, and were carried on continuously until 6·30 p.m., and proved to be the centre of attraction during the whole of the afternoon to the thousands of spectators in the Spa, who heartily applauded the skilful achievements of the successful competitors.

There were ten events entered in the programme, and the various items resulted as under:—

Sword exercise and pursuing practice (right and left hand) by the following squad:—Sergt. Wicks and Bryant, Bombadiers Hardacre, Brennen, and Berry.

Sword *v.* sword (mounted)—Heat 1—Sergeant Wicks 1st, Sergt. Kirton 2nd. Heat 2—Sergeant Bryant 1st, Sergt. Berry 2nd.

Sword *v.* lance (mounted)—Heat 1—Bombadier Hardacre 1st, Bombadier Scott 2nd. Heat 2—Bombadier Brennan 1st, Bombadier Perrin 2nd.

Lance *v.* Lance (mounted)—Heat 1—Bombadier Hardacre 1st, Bombadier Scott 2nd. Heat 2—Sergt. Kirton 1st, Bombadier Perrin 2nd.

Tent pegging—Bombadier Berry 1st, Sergeant Kirton 2nd, Sergt. Wicks 3rd. Bombadier Berry was successful in pegging the block every time, and his exploits were much admired by the multitude.

Singlestick (dismounted)—Heat 1—Sergt. Kirton 1st, Sergt. Wicks 2nd. Heat 2—Sergt. Bryant 1st, Bombadier Brennen 2nd.

Lemon slicing—Sergt. Wicks 1st, Bombadier Scott 2nd, Sergts. Kirton and Bryant, Bombadiers Perrin and Hardacre equal, 3rd.

Fighting for the cockade—Sergt. Wicks' squad (blue and white) beat Sergt. Kirton's (red and white). This event created a great deal of amusement, as the defeated men all lost their cockades, while the victors preserved theirs intact.

Cleaving the Turk's head—Sergeant Wicks, Bombadiers Brennen and Berry (equal) 1st, Sergt. Bryant 2nd, and Sergt. Kirton 3rd.

Wrestling on horseback—Heat 1—Bombadier Brennen threw Sergt. Scott. Heat 2—Bombadier Berry threw Sergt. Bryant.

Another great attraction was provided by the excellent music discoursed by the splendid band of the Northumberland Hussars (numbering 26 performers), under the able direction of Mr Lax. Unfortunately the band stand was erected in a corner of the grounds, and the music was echoed into the adjoining wood, but chiefly through the instrumentality of Mr C. Stephenson, the Committee deemed it expedient to remove the musicians into the tournament ring. The following programme was executed by the band:—Part 1:—March, "Les Volontaires," (*Metra*); overture, "Masaniello," (*Auber*); valse, "L'Estudiantina," (*Waldteufel*); grand national fantasia, "England," (*F. Godfrey*); valse, "Pomone," (*Waldteufel*); selection, "Falka," (*Chassaigne*); reminiscences of Scotland, (*F. Godfrey*); galop, "Tally ho," (*Bernstein*). Part 2:—Overture, "Haydee," (*Auber*); valse, "Toujours ou Jamais," (*Waldteufel*); reminiscences of Ireland, (*F. Godfrey*); valse, "Auf Wiedersehen," (*Lothian*); ballet music (from Wm. Tell), (*Rossini*); valse, "Mein Schonster Tag in Berlin," (*Gung'l*); galop, "Polish Lancers," (*Jacobi*). Part III consisted of a selection of dance music—polkas, valses, quadrilles, schottishes, &c. Refreshments were served on the grounds by Messrs Wilson, who also provided tea for the visitors in a large show. The present show, on the whole, has been far the best and most interesting held in connection with the society, as everyone seemed to be pleased with the entertainment offered by the magnificent band; and also passed the highest encomiums upon the clever movements of the Royal Artillerymen.

NORTH-WEST DIVISION OF DURHAM.

It was advertised that Mr J. T. Mills, of Oldham, a Conservative working man, would address a public meeting on political topics in the Agricultural Hall, Benfieldside, on Wednesday evening, but during the course of the afternoon, the promoters received a telegram informing them that Mr Mills had unfortunately missed the train, accordingly no meeting was held.

LIBERAL MEETING AT DIPTON.

On Tuesday night, a largely-attended and enthusiastic meeting of the electors in the Dipton Polling District, was held in the Free Methodist School-room, under the presidency of Mr J. A. Curry (Chairman of the Local Liberal Association), in furtherance of the candidature of Mr Atherley Jones for this Parliamentary Division. Stirring and eloquent addresses in support of Mr Jones were delivered by Mr Johnson (Tanfield Lea), Mr Daniel Reed (Leadgate), and Mr John Orr (Annfield Plain), vice-president of the Divisional Council.—It was unanimously resolved to advocate the claims of Mr Jones as a candidate.

THE CHESTER-LE-STREET DIVISION.

MR BOTTOMLEY AT THE SPEN.

Last Friday evening, Mr J. H. Bottomley, Conservative candidate for Gateshead, delivered a political address in the Miners' Hall, Spen. Mr B. Smith, Ryton, occupied the chair, and there was a numerous attendance.

The CHAIRMAN briefly introduced Mr Bottomley to the assembly; after which

Mr BOTTOMLEY rose, amidst applause, and announced that the subject of his lecture that evening would be promises and performances in connection with the late Liberal Government. Mr Gladstone's Government entered office under the most favourable conditions. They had a good boat, a willing crew, a captain who was a grand old man, and calm water. They promised us peace, retrenchment, and reform; but few would presume to say that the promise had been carried out. When asked how it was that we had not had peace, retrenchment, and reform, Liberals said that there had been unexampled obstruction in the House of Commons. But gentlemen who made this statement must not have read the evidence of their leaders—Mr Gladstone, Lord Hartington, the Duke of Argyll, and others—who had admitted that there had not been the obstruction that some of the more extreme members of their party had spoken of. The first point in the triple promise was peace. Who could say that it had been kept? And why had it not been kept. Let them look at the Transvaal, at Egypt, and the Soudan, and say whether we had had peace. They knew the circumstances of the war in the Transvaal. After three massacres of English troops a sufficient force was at last sent over to support the supremacy of the Queen, which Mr Gladstone in the Queen's speech had promised to do. But before they arrived on the scene of action a peace was made by telegraph. What he had to say was that, if it was right to make peace, then it was right to have had no war, and save expenditure of life and money. When the peace was made an agreement was entered into between the Boers and the English Government; but since that every point of the agreement had been violated by the Boers, and the natives were subjected to the same ill-treatment that they were before Lord Beaconsfield, without expense and without the loss of a single life, peacefully annexed the Transvaal. Mr Bottomley having alluded to the Egyptian policy of the late Government, and their enormous expenditure, remarked that the Liberals now said, "Oh, if we have failed in peace and retrenchment, we have at any rate got reform." But then the Liberals tried to pass an incomplete measure, and were compelled to call in the Conservative leaders to assist them to pass the franchise bill in the form that Liberal leaders had previously said to be the only logical and consistent way of dealing with the question. In conclusion, Mr Bottomley stated he had shown that the Liberals had not given us peace and retrenchment, and that we were by no means indebted to the Liberals only for the Reform Act; and then he quoted well-known Liberals to show that Liberals themselves were of the same opinion.

In answer to a question by Mr Armstrong, Mr BOTTOMLEY said that the late Government had another coercion bill in the pigeon holes, but the present Government on coming into office decided to do without it, and did more than that, showing their trust in the people by dispensing with the services of the detectives which surrounded the members of the late Cabinet. The dual control was not the cause of the war in Egypt. Lord Salisbury instituted the dual control in order to put the disorderly state of Egyptian finances right. It was, however, used by the Liberal Government for political purposes, and that was the cause of the war. It must also be remembered that the dual control ceased when the French fleet sailed away and left the English to do the fighting. In answer to the question "Did not the Conservatives hound the Gladstone Government on to war and then condemn them for making war," he said that it was admitted that the shrieks of the Europeans who were being massacred were heard on board the English ships anchored off Alexandria, and that either the ships should be withdrawn or the men landed to quell the anarchy. (Cheers.)

Mr ROBSON proposed a cordial vote of thanks to Mr Bottomley for his very able address and the straightforward and manly manner in which he had answered the questions.

Mr ARMSTRONG and two others rose to second the motion, which was afterwards supported by Mr T. TUCKER, and carried amidst cheering.

A vote of thanks to the chairman concluded the proceedings.

PELTON AND URPETH LIBERAL ASSOCIATION.

Mr Waling, of Leeds, delivered his well-known lecture, under the auspices of the above association, on "Liberalism," in the Iron Room, West Pelton, on Monday night. There was a very large and attentive audience. Mr John Humble presided, and introduced the lecturer in a few well-chosen remarks. Amongst those present we noticed Messrs Geo. Ridley, Stanley; C. Ritson, secretary to the Liberal Association; Rev R. Lang, Messrs Kirkup, Hepple, Robson, Emmerson, Blakey, and Richardson.

The coming election is exciting a large amount of interest, and the District Liberal Association has already chosen an election committee to work for Mr James Joicey, of Dissington, who it will be recollected was the accepted candidate at the Liberal Council and representative meeting at Gateshead.

MR ASHWORTH'S CANDIDATURE.

On Friday night, Mr W. Ashworth, the Conservative candidate for the Chester-le-Street Division, addressed a meeting held on the ground adjoining the Cross at Ryton. There was a large attendance. Mr Jobson was chairman. At the conclusion of his address Mr Ashworth answered several questions. On the motion of Mr William Lishman, seconded by Mr Moody (a Liberal living at Addison Colliery), a vote of thanks was passed to Mr Ashworth for his address, and the meeting concluded.

CONSERVATIVE LECTURE AT WINLATON.

On Wednesday night, Mr J. E. Blakeborough, Bradford, lectured to a large audience in the Drill Hall, Winlaton, on "Liberalism *v.* Conservatism." Mr Jobson presided. The lecturer said he was a Conservative because he found that the principles of what was termed Conservatism had a tendency to secure to him his rights and privileges and his freedom and liberty of speech. On the other hand, a man could not express his feelings on any given questions inside Liberal circles without being practically boycotted. They were false to their own principles of freedom of thought and speech. Then again the Liberals appealed to the working classes as their special friends, but he contended that Conservatism was good, not only for the working classes alone, but for the community as a whole. He claimed that Conservatism, having during the generations which had passed raised England to her present pre-eminent position in the world, claimed their sympathies. It also claimed their sympathies, because it defended the institutions which had made the country great; but though the leaders of Conservatism were prepared to support the institutions which at present existed, they were also prepared to reform them in accordance with the spirit of the age. The lecturer then proceeded to compare Tory and Liberal policy, pointing out that Mr Gladstone and his colleagues had systematically opposed reform when introduced by Mr G. O. Trevelyan, that Mr Disraeli's Education Act was also opposed by the Liberal party, and that on all occasions they had used reform as an election cry, and failed to approach it until compelled.—Mr Oliver Young moved, and Mr R. J. Milburne seconded, a vote of thanks to the lecturer.—Mr Harris moved an amendment condemning Mr Blakeborough for mis-statements which he alleged he had made.—The amendment was not seconded, and the resolution was carried with acclamation.

THE HEXHAM DIVISION.

A meeting in connection with the Prudhoe Local Liberal Association was held in the United Methodist Free Church School-room on Thursday se'nnight. There was a large attendance. The Rev F. Raine, Free Methodist, occupied the chair. Mr Wm. Trotter, of South Acomb, Stocksfield, was the principal speaker. In his opening remarks he said he wished to say a few words about the search for a candidate for the Hexham division of the county. He had had a conversation on that subject with Mr Geo. A. Fenwick, of Bywell Hall. There was a very general wish in the division to secure the services of Mr G. O. Trevelyan—(applause)—as a candidate, but he was afraid that they would be unsuccessful. Mr Fenwick had told him that the efforts to secure Mr Trevelyan were likely to fall through. Mr Fenwick had been in correspondence with the Trevelyans, and that was the conclusion he had come to. He (the speaker), after a consultation with two or three friends, wrote to Mr James Joicey, asking that gentleman for five or ten minutes' conversation in reference to the want of a candidate for this division, and the overplus of candidates in the division to which he at present was attached. They all knew that there had been some unfortunate misapprehensions in connection with the Chester-le-Street Division and those who supported Mr Joicey. He saw Mr Joicey, and that gentleman said he had pledged his word to go to the poll, and nothing could induce him to withdraw that pledge. While he regretted Mr Joicey's decision, he could not but admire his pluck. Mr Fenwick after that said he thought the next best thing would be to suggest a re-opening of the correspondence with Mr W. B. Beaumont. There had no doubt been a misunderstanding with that gentleman; and things were said at Hexham which were calculated to give offence to Mr Beaumont. Some of their Radical friends had called Mr Beaumont sensitive for taking offence at what was said then. Mr Fenwick thought that Mr Beaumont should again be asked, and if he could be prevailed on to accept it would, under the circumstances, be the best thing for the division. He had mentioned that to them to redeem his promise to Mr Fenwick, and it was a subject for their consideration and for them to talk over when they met together. He might say that Mr Fenwick's remarks had his hearty concurrence. (Applause.)—Mr Trotter then delivered an address on "The Land Laws."—Votes of thanks to Mr Trotter and the chairman closed the proceedings.

A LANCHESTER FARMER AND HIS MAIDSERVANT.

At the Durham County Court, last week—before His Honour E. J. Meynell (judge)—Catherine Foy of Sunniside Farm, near Leadgate, domestic servant, sued James William Armstrong, West Newbiggen Farm, near Lanchester, farmer, for £7s 3d wages due.—Mr Oliver appeared for defendant.—Plaintiff said she was engaged at the Newcastle hirings in May last, by the defendant, for six months, her wages being set down at £7 for the half-year. She stayed with defendant seven weeks, and he had paid her 19s 10½d. She was now suing him for the balance due to her, 17s 3d.—In answer to His Honour, plaintiff said she could not stay with defendant on account of his behaviour towards her. He used to come in drunk and abuse her. Defendant was a married man. She left on the 22nd June, because defendant came in, used some bad language towards her, and struck her. He struck her because he said she had let two little dogs get into the garden. He accused her of having left the gate open, whereas it was himself who had done so. He knocked her head against the door as she was going out to get some water.—His Honour: Is that the first time? Plaintiff: No, sir. He came in and abused me before that. Was he drunk on this occasion?—No. Has he ever struck you before?—No. When he struck you what did you do?—I went away. Was there anybody present when he struck you?—Nobody but the mistress.—Cross-examined: She brought defendant before the Lanchester Magistrates for the assault, and he was fined.—His Honour: How much was he fined?—Plaintiff: I think it was 1s and the costs.—By Mr Oliver: Defendant's child was in the kitchen when the assault took place.—In answer to His Honour, plaintiff said defendant took her by the shoulders and knocked her head against the wall.—His Honour: Did it hurt you?—Plaintiff: Yes sir.—Mr Oliver: Was it not more just like a push to one side?—Plaintiff: No, sir.—Mr Oliver then called defendant, who said he engaged the girl for £7 the half-year. He remembered coming home on the 22nd June and saying something to plaintiff about the dogs being in the garden, in consequence of which the clothes had to be washed over again. She then went away in a bad temper, carrying a water pail, when the child got its hand fastened in the pail somehow or other, and he merely stopped her until he liberated the child's hand. She then went away to Lanchester and got a summons, and when it was heard before the magistrates it was dismissed, but he had the costs to pay.—His Honour: It was not altogether dismissed then.—In answer to Mr Oliver, defendant denied ever knocking plaintiff's head against the wall.—His Honour gave judgment for the amount claimed forthwith.

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

INTERNATIONAL INVENTIONS EXHIBITION.—It appears from the *London Gazette* that the highest award of a Gold Medal has been adjudged to Mr J. W. Benson, Ludgate Hill, London, for his new patent "Ludgate" Watch.

EARLY HARVESTING.—A fine crop of oats and barley has been cut on the farm of Mr Reuben Snowdon, Dumpling Hall Farm, Scotswood, the oats standing nearly six feet in height, which is remarkable in this part of the country.

The most wholesome and nutritious of confections is far less consumed than it would be were it not for the greatly adulterated articles sold under the name of chocolate. Every cake of chocolate bearing the name of Cadbury is guaranteed to consist solely of pure Cocoa and white sugar, and may therefore be given to children with perfect safety. Chocolate makers by special appointment to the Queen.

DR. BARDSLEY'S ANTIBILIOUS PILLS.—For radiating all impurities of the blood from the system they have no equal. They have never failed to effect a cure, giving tone and strength to the system debilitated by disease.—Sold by all Chemists in Boxes at 1s 1½d and 2s 9d. Box sent post free on receipt of 15 or 35 stamps. Wm. Mather, Wholesale Druggist, Manchester.

ONE BOX OF CLARKE'S B41 PILLS is warranted to cure all discharges from the Urinary Organs, in either sex (acquired or constitutional), Gravel, and Pains in the back. Guaranteed free from Mercury. Sold in Boxes, 4s 6d each, by all Chemists and Patent Medicine Vendors throughout the World; or sent to any address for sixty stamps by the Makers, THE LINCOLN AND MIDLAND COUNTIES DRUG COMPANY, Lincoln. Wholesale Agents, BARCLAY & SONS, London, and all the Wholesale Houses.

THROAT AFFECTIONS AND HOARSENESS.—All suffering from irritation of the throat and hoarseness will be agreeably surprised at the almost immediate relief afforded by the use of "Brown's Bronchial Troches." These famous "lozenges" are now sold by most respectable chemists in this country at 1s. 1½d. per box. People troubled with a "hacking cough," a "slight cold," or bronchial affections, cannot try them too soon, as similar troubles, if allowed to progress, result in serious Pulmonary and Asthmatic affections. See that the words "Brown's Bronchial Troches" are on the Government Stamp around each box.—Prepared by JOHN I. BROWN & SONS, Boston, U.S. European depot removed to 33, Farringdon Road, London.

THE NORTHERN IRON TRADE.

DR SPENCE WATSON AGAIN ARBITRATOR.

A meeting took place on Monday in Darlington of the Board of Conciliation and Arbitration in the North of England Iron Trade, for the purpose of dealing with the wages question. It will be remembered that an attempt has lately been made to revive the sliding scale, and thus comply with the strongly-urged suggestion of Dr R. Spence Watson, of Newcastle, who has acted on three occasions as arbitrator. As, however, the employers were able to offer a sliding scale basis of only 1s 6d above shillings for pounds (long weight), and refused to make the present wages of 6s 6d and 7s short and long weight respectively the minimum, the attempt came to naught, the operatives adhering to a demand for a scale-basis of 1s 9d above shillings for pounds and the existing wages as a minimum. On the 13th inst. the employers gave notice that they claimed a reduction of 9d per ton on puddling, and 7½ per cent. on all other forge and mill wages, to take effect not later than the 12th of September next; and it was this demand which the Board met to consider. The President (Mr W. Whitwell) was in the chair, and Mr T. Cullen in the vice-chair. Mr Wm. Jenkins represented the Consett Iron Company; and Messrs T. Williams (Consett) and M. Nugent (Consett Tinmill) attended as operatives' delegates.

Mr W. JENKINS (Consett) asked whether it was the final decision of the operatives to go to arbitration upon the wages question? He believed it would be more palatable to the men if a sliding scale was adopted upon such a basis as adjudicated by some competent person.

Mr T. CULLEN asked if the employers were prepared to modify their offer to the operatives. They had modified their offer to accept a sliding scale from 2s 6d above shillings for pounds to 1s 9d. He did not want to go before an arbitrator.

Mr T. WHISTON (Jarrow) said the majority of operatives were against the scale on the 1s 6d basis.

The PRESIDENT asked the employers if they were prepared to modify their offer?

Mr J. HEAD stated the real hitch between the employers and the operatives was the minimum. The negotiations for the adoption of a sliding scale fell to the ground because the operatives would consent to no scale which would possibly reduce the rate of wages below the present scale. One of the principal objects the employers had in view was to obtain a reduction in the present rate of wages.

Mr T. WILLIAMS (Consett) said the operatives were not unfavourable to the scale itself, but the basis on which the employers wished to make it. He considered the operatives' offer fair and equitable.

Mr TROW said the question for the operatives to consider was—"Were they, at that meeting, prepared to select an umpire?" The question of a reduction in wages had never been discussed by the subscribers to that Board, and he believed they were not prepared to go before an arbitrator until the men had been consulted on that important question. In his opinion, before an arbitrator was selected the matter should be placed fairly before the workmen as to whether they were prepared to abide by his decision or not.

The PRESIDENT reminded the Board that at their meeting held on August 10th, they came with instructions from their constituents refusing to arbitrate upon a sliding scale which had a basis of less than 1s 9d above shillings for pounds, without a minimum, but they were willing to arbitrate upon the general wages question. Proper notice had been given by the employers of their claim for a reduction, and, failing an agreement to it, they went to arbitration in the ordinary way and under the standing rules of the Board.

Mr TROW contended that the only question upon which the men had as yet been consulted was whether they would sooner submit the wages question to arbitration than have the basis of a sliding scale without a minimum. They had not been asked to consider whether they were prepared to arbitrate upon a notice to bring their wages lower than they ever were.

Mr J. C. IANSON deprecated the raising of the question whether the men would not loyally abide by the decision of an arbitrator. The employers had arrived at a dead-lock with regard to a sliding-scale, and their only alternative was to give notice of a reduction.

Mr JENKINS asked if they were to assume that the fundamental position of the Board was always forgotten, and that when a notice, whether for a reduction or an increase, was given, the men should be consulted whether they would go to arbitration and abide by the arbitrator's award?

The PRESIDENT read rule 8, by which each representative was deemed fully authorised to act for the works which had elected him, and the decision of a majority of the Board was binding upon the employers and operatives of all works connected with the Board. He also read rule 18, which provided that when the members failed to come to a mutual settlement, after having called in the referee (Mr D. Dale)—which in this case had already been done—an arbitrator should be appointed, and his decision should be binding upon all parties.

Mr WILLIAMS: We are not opposed to go to arbitration. All that we say is: Let the men give a pledge by ballot that they will abide loyally by the award when it is given.

Mr JENKINS: We do not want that. The fundamental condition of our rules is that the men will abide by them at all times.

Mr J. R. WINPENNY read the employers' claim for a reduction in the general wages.

The PRESIDENT said: The object of the employers in making this claim, as they have stated over and over again, is this: They want to be able to complete in the markets, and to ensure work for themselves, and consequently for their workmen. If they were full of work there would be no object to alter the wages.

The Board then proceeded to the choice of an arbitrator. The employers suggested either Mr David Dale or Sir Joseph Pease, Bart., M.P., or Sir Isaac Lowthian Bell, Bart. The operative representatives submitted the names of Mr Shaw-Lefevre, M.P., Mr John Morley, M.P., or Dr Spence Watson.

The VICE-PRESIDENT said the men objected to the gentlemen suggested by the employers, as they were all connected with the trade.

Mr JENKINS asked if they were not all the better for that?

The VICE-PRESIDENT: No; we think they are all the worse.

Subsequently Mr T. WILLIAMS urged that the men should be consulted on the appointment of arbitrator.

The PRESIDENT said he could not allow that point to be again entered into, after his ruling.

Mr JENKINS intimated, on behalf of the employers, that they were not unwilling to accept Dr Spence Watson as arbitrator.

This proposition was then submitted to the Board and unanimously carried.

On the motion of Mr JENKINS, the President was asked to communicate with Dr Watson on the subject.

HYMNS for Sunday School Anniversaries, &c., printed on the shortest notice, and at the *cheapest* rate, by ROBERT JACKSON, Consett.

"ROUGH ON CORNS."—Ask Chemists, Perfumers, or Grocers for "Wells' Rough on Corns." Quick, complete, permanent cure for hard or soft corns, warts, bunions, 7½d. and 1s. bottles.

PRINTING OF EVERY DESCRIPTION at the *lowest* possible prices by ROBERT JACKSON "Guardian" Office, Consett. Estimates furnished.

MAN'S NOBLEST WORK.—This is an age of great and works wonderful inventions. Steam, electricity, water, air, all are made to serve man, but unquestionably the greatest inventions are those which preserve man's health and prolong his life, and among the greatest of these are Stanton's Cough Pills. There effects are truly wonderful, and hundreds are happy to-day who once looked forward to an early grave. For Coughs, Colds, Bronchitis, Asthma Loss of Voice, Hay Fever, Hoarseness, Croup, or any Affection whatever of the Throat, Chest, or Lungs, Stanton's Cough Pills will positively cure. We can cheerfully recommend them to all, and can unhesitatingly say they are the only sure cure for Throat and Lung Affections. Sold by all Chemists in Boxes at 13½d and 2s. 9d. Box sent post free on receipt of 15 or 35 stamps. Wm. Mather, Wholesale Druggists Manchester

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 p.m.

ESTABLISHED 1830. 962y

ARRIVAL OF ANOTHER
MONSTRE STOCK OF
PAPER HANGINGS!
AT 2D. AND UPWARDS.

J. W. DAVISON'S,
FRONT STREET, CONSETT.

EDUCATIONAL.

JON. C. WYLIE, PRIVATE TEACHER IN LANGUAGES AND MATHEMATICS.
☞ PUPILS ATTENDED AT THEIR OWN HOMES.

JOHN FREEK,
GROCER AND PROVISION DEALER,
23, VICTORIA STREET,
CONSETT.

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

Public Notices.

LOOK OUT for the CONSETT CAGE-BIRD and PIGEON SHOW, to be held at A. PARKER'S, Black Horse Inn, on October 31st, 1885. 972u

LOOK HERE! LOOK HERE!!

MEDOMSLEY FLOWER SHOW and SPORTS will be held on Saturday, September 19th, 1885.

NOTICE.—I, JAMES WALTON, of Watling Street, Leadgate, do hereby give Notice that I will not be answerable for any Debt or Debts my Wife, MARY WALTON, may contract after this date.
(Signed), JAMES WALTON.
August 25th, 1885. 965u

☞ £5 REWARD.

ANY Person giving information that will lead to the Conviction of the Person or Persons who FIRED AT ME, NEAR IVESTON, on Friday Afternoon last, August 21st, 1885, will receive the above Reward.—Signed, JOHN INNES, Watchmaker, Lanchester.
August 27th, 1885. 979u

HODGSON TESTIMONIAL FUND.

THE SUBSCRIPTION LISTS of the above will CLOSE on Wednesday, September 9th, on the Evening of which date there will be a MEETING at the house of Mr. R. BROWN, Bute Arms, Dipton, at Half-past Seven o'clock. 977u

☞ NOTICE.

THE Board of Directors of the First Shotley Bridge and District 370th Starr-Bowkett Building Society announce another APPROPRIATION to be taken by Ballot on Monday Evening, the 7th September, at 7·15 p.m., in the Sons of Temperance Hall, Blackhill.
MEMBERS! See that you are clear on the books.
945u M. NOBLE, Chairman.

LINTZ AMATEUR BICYCLE CLUB GROUNDS.

SATURDAYS, SEPTEMBER 19th and 26th, 1885

£8 ALL-ENGLAND FOOT HANDICAP, 110 YARDS. Entrance, 1s. Entries Close September 12th, to W. TURNBULL, Lintz Green. 15 MINUTES GO-AS-YOU-PLEASE HANDICAP, £1 10s. 0d. QUOIT HANDICAP, £1 5s. 0d. 80 YARDS OLD MEN'S RACE (over 50 years), 10s.

MUSIC!

J. SURTEES, Organist of Christ Church, Consett, GIVES LESSONS IN HARMONY, and on the PIANO, HARMONIUM, and ORGAN.
☞ Pianos at low prices; direct from the best English and Foreign Makers.
ADDRESS:—
2, CEMETERY ROAD, BLACKHILL. 674u

NOTICE.

THE SINGER MANUFACTURING COMPANY beg to intimate to their Patrons in Consett and District that they have just OPENED A SHOP in the TOWN HALL BUILDINGS, Middle Street, Consett, where they have on Sale or Hire an Assortment of their well-known Sewing Machines for every class of Sewing. LATEST AND HIGHEST AWARD GOLD MEDAL HEALTH EXHIBITION, LONDON. All kinds of Sewing Machines Repaired or Exchanged. Every requisite for Sewing Machines and Cotton Oil Silk, &c., always in stock.
NOTE THE ADDRESS:—
TOWN HALL BUILDINGS, MIDDLE STREET, CONSETT. 941u

TOW LAW FLOWER SHOW,
INDUSTRIAL EXHIBITION,
GRAND CHORAL CONTEST, AND LAWN TENNIS TOURNAMENT,
ON SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 5th, 1885.

OVER 450 PRIZES for PLANTS, FLOWERS, Fruits, Vegetables, Poultry, Pigeons, Rabbits, Butter, Eggs, Bread, Industrial, Lady Amateur's, and School Children's Work. Schedules and Entry Forms ready. Entries taken up to Tuesday, September 1st, and for Lawn Tennis to September 4th.
987u W. ANDERSON, Secretary, Tow Law.

KYO FLOWER SHOW.
THE SEVENTEENTH ANNUAL
EXHIBITION
OF
FLOWERS, PLANTS, FRUITS, AND VEGETABLES,
Will be held in a Field belonging Mr. JOSEPH IRWIN, Catchgate,
ON SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 5th, 1885.
Gates open at One o'clock.

The Services of the TANFIELD LEA BRASS BAND (Winners of Band Contests at Annfield Plain and Bishop Auckland) have been secured to play on that occasion

SPORTS.

Football Match.—First Prize, Ball, worth 10s. 6d.; Second, 7s. 6d.; Third 5s.; Fourth, 2s. 6d. Entrance Free.
Handicap Footrace, 120 Yards.—First Prize, £2; Second, £1; Third, 10s. Entrance, 1s.
Boys' Race.—First Prize, 4s.; Second, 2s.; Third, 1s. Entrance Free. For Boys under 12 years.
Skipping.—For Girls under 12 years, within 2 miles radius. First Prize, 4s.; Second, 2s.; Third, 1s. Entrance Free.
Aunt Sally and other Games will also be indulged in.
All Entries to be made for Racing, &c., not later than Three p.m. Entries taken by Committee at Tent.

A GRAND BALL will be held in the Marquee after the Show is closed, for which an efficient Quadrille Band has been engaged.
Admission—Gentlemen, 1s.; Ladies, 6d. Dancing to commence at 7·30.

☞ ADMISSION TO THE SHOW.—Adults, 6d.; Children, 3d.
Terms for Stalls may be had at the Gate. Stallholders will not be allowed to sell Sandwiches.
964u GEORGE BULLERWELL, Secretary.

Public Notices.

Re ROBERT HEDLEY, of Consett, Butcher, Deceased.

THE BOOKS of the above-named deceased are now in my hands, and all persons owing accounts to the estate are requested to pay the same to me—the person duly authorised—at my Office, Town Hall, Consett.
ADAM BRODIE, F.S.A.
Dated May 28th, 1885. 718u

THOMAS H. BATCHELOR
Announces the PURCHASE OF THE STOCK
OF
Mr. R. W. SHAW, Leadgate,
AMOUNTING TO OVER £1,030,
At a large Discount from Cost Price, and will Offer the same, in conjunction with his present Sale,
ON FRIDAY EVENING, AUGUST 21st, AND FOLLOWING DAYS.

☞ This is the most genuine opportunity of Buying Cheap Goods that has occurred in Consett or the neighbourhood for years past.

9, 9A, and 22, MIDDLE STREET, CONSETT.

LICENSING ACT I. 35 & 36 Vict. c. 94, s. 40 (1).

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO APPLY FOR A REMOVAL LICENSE.

To the Overseers of the Poor of the Township of Conside and Knitsley, and to the Superintendent of Police of the West Division of Chester Ward, in the County of Durham.

I, THOMAS DUNNE, now residing at Mount Pleasant, Consett, in the Parish of Lanchester, in the County of Durham, Grocer, &c., HEREBY GIVE YOU NOTICE, that it is my intention to apply at the Adjourned Annual Licensing Meeting for the West Division of Chester Ward, in the County of Durham, to be holden at Lanchester, in the said County, on the Seventeenth day of September next ensuing, for an Order sanctioning the Removal of a License held by GEORGE CRANSTON, of Iveston, in the said County, for the Sale of Intoxicating Liquors to be drunk or consumed on or off the Premises, in a certain House and in the Premises thereunto belonging, situate at Iveston aforesaid, in the West Division of Chester Ward Licensing District, in the said County, to a certain House and Premises situate at Mount Pleasant, Consett, in the Township of Conside and Knitsley, in the County of Durham, in my own occupation.
Given under my Hand this Twenty second day of August, One Thousand Eight Hundred and Eight-five.
963u THOMAS DUNNE.

NORTH-WEST DURHAM CONSERVATIVE ASSOCIATION.

A LECTURE
☞ ON THE "POLITICS OF THE DAY,"
Will be given by
MR. J. T. MILLS,
Of Oldham, in the
NATIONAL SCHOOLS, PARLIAMENT STREET, CONSETT,
On Saturday, August the 29th, at 7 p.m.

ADMISSION, FREE. ALL ARE INVITED.

THE NORTH WESTERN DIVISION OF THE COUNTY OF DURHAM.

L. A. ATHERLEY-JONES, ESQ.,
Of London (Barrister-at-Law),
WILL ADDRESS
MEETINGS
OF THE
ELECTORS OF THIS DIVISION,
AS FOLLOWS:—

CO-OPERATIVE HALL, BURNOPFIELD, on Monday, August 31st, 1885, at Half-past Seven o'clock p.m.

IRON SCHOOL, ESH COLLIERY, on Wednesday, September 2nd 1885, at Three o'clock p.m. J. G. CROFTON, Esq., Chairman.

SCHOOL-ROOM, LANGLEY PARK, on Wednesday, September 2nd, 1885, at Seven o'clock p.m. WILLIAM LOGAN, Esq., Chairman.

CO-OPERATIVE HALL, DIPTON, on Thursday, September 3rd, 1885, at Half-past Seven o'clock p.m.

MEDOMSLEY, on Monday, September 7th, 1885, at Half-past Seven o'clock p.m.

VILLAGE GREEN, LANCHESTER, on Wednesday, September 10th, 1885, at Half-past Three o'clock p.m. WILLIAM LOGAN, Esq., Chairman.

BRITISH SCHOOL-ROOM, CORNSAY COLLIERY, on Wednesday, September 9th, 1885, at Half-past Seven o'clock p.m. CHARLES DAVISON, Esq., in the Chair.

BOARD SCHOOLS, CASTLESIDE, on Thursday, September 10th, 1885, at Half-past Seven o'clock p.m. THOMAS J. MUSE, Esq., in the Chair. 968u

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

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

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

Sales by Auction.

By Mr. William Raw.

Front Street, Leadgate.

MR. WILLIAM RAW, honoured with instructions from Mr. CALEB HETHERINGTON, who with his wife and family are about to Emigrate to Australia, will SELL BY AUCTION, the whole of his valuable Household FURNITURE, on Wednesday, September 2nd, 1885, comprising good, fine-toned Piano; Mahogany Chest of Drawers; Mahogany Bookcase, with Glass Front; Mahogany Press; Mahogany Centre Table; Mahogany Sofa, in Hair-seating; 8 Mahogany Chairs, in Hair-seating; Easy Chair, in Hair-seating; 6 Kitchen Chairs, Polished; 2 Rocking Chairs; 2 Kitchen Tables; 2 Tea Tables; Mantle Mirror; Eight-days' Clock; Mahogany Half-Tester Bedstead and Hangings; Strong Iron Half-Tester Bedstead; 2 Iron Bedsteads; Large Press Bed, with Drawers; Large Mahogany Swing Dressing Glass; Smaller Dressing Glass; Good Sewing Machine; 2 Feather Beds; Down Bed; Flock Bed; 2 Cornice Poles; Sitting-room Carpet and Hearthrug; Bed-room Carpet; Stair Carpet and Rods; Oilcloth and Matting; Home Washer and Mangling Machine; Filter; Poss-tub and Staff; Pails; Tubs; Ware; Glass; Fenders and Fire-irons; several good Pictures; Ornaments, &c.; Barrel Churn and Dairy Utensils; Wheelbarrow; Hay Rakes and Forks; and several other useful articles.
N.B.—The Furniture is good, well worthy the attention of buyers, and will all be Sold without Reserve.
Sale to commence at One o'clock precisely.
Sale Office, Durham Road, Blackhill. 940u

By Messrs. Nicholson and Murray.

Royal Auction Mart, Benfieldside.

MONDAY, AUGUST 31st, 1885.

15 Prime Fat Cattle.
160 Sheep and Lambs.
2 Veal Calves.
Several very good Dairy Cows, calved, and to calve.
Store Cattle, numbers uncertain.
25 Grey-faced Keeping Lambs, good class.
20 H.B. Tup Lambs, very fresh and grand quality.
10 Scotch Wethers.
20 Hams.
20 Sides of Bacon.
1 Coup Cart.
Calves, Poultry, &c.
Sale to commence at One o'clock.
985u NICHOLSON & MURRAY, Auctioneers.

ROYAL AUCTION MART, BENFIELDSIDE.

☞ Special Sale of Lambs, on Saturday, September 5th, 1885.

MESSRS. NICHOLSON & MURRAY will hold their next SPECIAL SALE OF KEEPING LAMBS on the above date.
Particulars in next week's *Guardian*. 986u

By Mr. John S. Murray.

To Colliery Owners, Contractors, Farmers, and Others.

MR. JOHN S. MURRAY will SELL BY AUCTION, on Wednesday, September 9th, 1885, at the house of Mr. WILLIAM MADDISON, Redwell Hills, Leadgate, a quantity of HORSES, CARTS; ROLLEY, 4-WHEEL DOG-CART, good as new; Stanhope Phæton; Dog-Cart; Brake; Cab; Cart Harness; Spring Cart Harness; Gig Harness; Riding Saddles; Wire Rope, for Fencing, about 2 tons Boring Machine, with Drills complete; a large quantity of Steel Drills; a quantity of Chain; Spanners; Blacksmiths' Tongs; Brass Weights; large Weigh Beam; Rail Bender; Ploughs; Harrows; Cattle; Sheep; Geese, &c.
Full particulars in Bills, and next week's *Guardian*.
Sale to commence at One o'clock prompt.
Royal Auction Mart Sale Office, Benfieldside. 988u

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

By Mr. J. Vickers.

Tow Law Auction Mart.—Weekly Sales.

MONDAY FIRST, AUGUST 31st, 1885.
Present Entries comprise—
A number of Dairy Cows and Heifers.
Fat and Store Cattle.
2 Veal Calves.
150 Fat Sheep and Lambs.
60 Twice-crossed Lambs.
400 to 500 Mule Lambs, from Wolsingham Park Farms, and other local places.
Draught Filly, 2½ years old, quiet in all harness.
Yearling Filly.
Bay Cob, 15 hands, good worker.
Geese, Ducks, Poultry, &c.
Entries taken up to day of Sale.
Sale to commence at 12·30 with Dairy Cows.
JOSEPH VICKERS, Auctioneer.
Partridge Close, Tow Law. 970u

By Mr. A. Phillipson.

Excellent Freehold Property for Sale at West Stanley.

MR. A. PHILLIPSON, favoured with instructions from Messrs. R. and J. SIMPSON and Mrs. SIMPSON, will OFFER FOR SALE BY PUBLIC AUCTION, at the house of Mr. JOHN CLARKSON, Commercial Hotel, West Stanley, on Wednesday Evening, September 9th, 1885, at Half-past Six o'clock, all that Excellent
BLOCK OF FREEHOLD PROPERTY,
Comprising—FOUR TWO-ROOMED COTTAGES, with 2 Good Cellars, Pantries, Wood Stable, Large Yard, and Conveniences. Also, a PIECE OF LAND, comprising 237½ Square Yards or thereabouts.
This attractive Property is situate on the Main Street in the Centre of Stanley; substantially built; Yearly Rental over £38; and will commend itself as an investment of uncommon merit.
The Tenants will show the Property, and for further particulars apply to ROBERT or JOSEPH SIMPSON, Stanley, or to the AUCTIONEER, Dipton. 971u

☞ 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.

IMPORTANT NOTICE.

ADAM BRODIE, Town Hall, Consett, has arranged that from July 6th, 1885, he will be assisted in the business of Auctioneer, Valuer, and Estate Agent, by his son, ROBERT JOHN BRODIE, who has for the last ten years acted as his Clerk, and trusts that with his co-operation he may still further be favoured with the confidence and support of his friends and the general public, and can promise the same careful attention to instructions which has hitherto secured for him their patronage. 713u

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.

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

Business Announcements.

THE CONSETT AND DISTRICT PERMANENT
BENEFIT BUILDING SOCIETY,
TOWN HALL, CONSETT.
☞ SHARES MAY BE TAKEN ANY DAY.
Advances made on Freehold or Copyhold Property repayable as arranged, or for fixed periods.
428u ADAM BRODIE, F.S.A., Secretary.

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

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.

BICYCLES and TRICYCLES FOR SALE. NEW AND SECOND-HAND. Liberal Discount for Cash. Illustrated Lists Post Free.
D. RUDGE & Co.,
The Oldest and Largest Cycle Manufacturers in the World,
WORKS: COVENTRY.
DEPOT: 12, BIGG MARKET, NEWCASTLE.
T. D. OLIVER, Manager.
Splendid New Stock of Rudge Safety Bicycles, and Coventry Rotary and Double Driving Tricycles.
Repairs by experienced Coventry Workmen. 428u

FRIGERIO & POWER,
45, GRAINGER STREET,
NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE,
Beg to state that through the opening of the great tunnel of Mount St. Gothard, they have been able to import a large Stock of
☞ GENUINE PURE WINES
From the Vineyards of Italy, which for purity and strength cannot be equalled, as they are good and nourishing, and which they now offer at the following low prices, viz:—
14s., 16s., 18s., 20s., and 24s. per Dozen Bottles.
Also, a special nourishing Port at 30s. Carriage paid on 12 Bottles and upwards. 579u

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.

HIGH CLASS DENTISTRY.
MR. T. C. CAMPBELL
SURGEON DENTIST,
8, GRAINGER STREET,
NEWCASTLE.
☞ ARTIFICIAL TEETH AT REASONABLE PRICES.
COMPLETE UPPER OR LOWER SET
From 30s. to £4 10s.
PARTIAL SETS OR SINGLE TEETH
From 3s. to 10s. per Tooth.
Every Set is adapted to the mouth on the most improved principles, without extraction of Stumps or other painful operation, guaranteed to fit perfectly, and warranted.
Teeth painlessly extracted by the aid of Nitrous Oxide Gas.
Operations in Dental Surgery skilfully performed, and all charges strictly moderate.
Country patients visiting Mr. CAMPBELL's Establishment in Newcastle, will have all the advantages of a most complete Dental Apparatus, and, whenever possible, will be allowed their railway fare. 841u

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.
☞ 36s. per Dozen; 3s. per Pottle. Carriage paid on 6 bottles and upwards.
W. GLENDENNING,
WINE MERCHANT,
9, GRAINGER STREET, NEWCASTLE. 103

NOTICES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

GEORGE WELLS.—Your reply to report of meeting at Spen arrived *too late*. It will appear in our next.

The Consett Guardian.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 28TH, 1885.

JOTTINGS BY THE WAY.

[BY "INCEDO."]

Mr Ramsey and the gentlemen who work in conjunction with him on the Shotley Bridge Flower Show committee are to be congratulated on the unprecedented success that has happily attended the greatest of all their ventures—the military tournament. The speculation was a risk, for unfavourable weather would have marred the best concerted arrangements; but fortune often favours the enterprising, just as the fickle dame is said to shield the brave. An influx of some 10,000 people to the district could not be other than a gain to more than one class of tradespeople. The arrangements this year were perfect; and never was so excellent an entertainment given to the public for sixpence. The music discoursed by the band of the Northumberland Hussars was classic. Many were the commendatory observations passed on that head, and well were they merited. The display of skill in the use of sword and spear by a detachment of non-commissioned officers and men from the Royal Artillery, Newcastle, was witnessed with much interest. Sergt.-Major McGill and and Sergt. Wicks—two fine specimens of the British soldier—were in command of the party, and the soldierly bearing of the men was the subject of much favourable comment. Sergt. Wicks, who has seen active service abroad, is an adept with sword and spear; and the active fellows who rode with him on Saturday last are little in point of excellence behind their leader. They rode their spirited chargers with much grace, and handled their weapons like men who knew their business. Indeed, soldiers of the type who visited Shotley Bridge on Saturday are a credit to any arm of Her Majesty's service. Much credit is due to the officers of the Royal Artillery, who very kindly assented to the detachment going so far from the city. They will, however, lose nothing by the act; the men well sustained their *esprit de corps*; and such gentlemanly indulgences serve to link still closer that feeling of attachment and respect which has long existed between the officers and men of the most distinguished corps in the British Army.

There is a little incident in connection with the tournament which I have kept till the last, you see, because, in truth, I did not intend to tell it. The reader will remember that on the completion of one feature of the programme, and immediately before the introduction of another, the troops rode slowly around the enclosure in single file, the prancing steeds tossing their heads and whisking their tails as if they alone were the central objects of attraction. The men rode with a jaunty air, and just as they filed past the writer, I overheard a young lady exclaim in a suppressed whisper—"Oh, what pretty fellows!" The exclamation was accompanied with a sigh, and methought I heard her little heart beating; but it might have been the measured cadence of the delightful music that rose and fell on the summer air.

An encouraging compliment was paid to the Consett Iron Company the other day. It appears that our local industry supplied the steel plates for a certain Tyne-built steamer, which unfortunately came to grief on her maiden voyage. The vessel had her bows stove in by being in collision with another ship; and as sorrows, says Shakespeare, come not singly but in battalions, it so transpired that the steamer subsequently ran aground on the coast of Holland. She was with difficulty got off the jagged rocks and brought back to the Tyne and docked. It was then that the full extent of the damage was ascertained; and out of this arose the compliment to the makers—the Consett Iron Company. It appears that the quality of the steel was so excellent that although no fewer than eighteen plates, some twelve feet in length and four feet in width, were destroyed, not one of them were broken—only bent and twisted. This, of course, saved the vessel. The owners congratulated the builders, whilst they in turn complimented the makers. Mr Jenkins, the general manager, wrote an autograph letter thanking the shipbuilders for the kindly expressions set forth in their letter, and hoped for a continuation of their favours.

This is something apart altogether from the formal routine of business, and such interchanges of appreciation are seldom heard of in modern times. The question involved is, however, a broad one, and must at no distant date command the attention of those in high places. In these days of merchant shipping reform it is not a little curious that while one hears so much about points of form in loading and insurance, and other precautionary measures to minimise the dangers of the sea, hardly a whisper is heard about the quality of the material used in the construction of steel and iron vessels. Of course, steel plates and bars are capable of standing a given tensil strain—a strain to which in the ordinary course of things the material may never be subjected. What does experience prove? Hardly a week elapses without the news of some appalling collision at sea; and, as the story goes, one or both of the vessels goes to that mighty repository known as "Davie Jones' locker." Nay, it not unfrequently happens that they go to the bottom in two minutes after the shock. Now, what I wish to point out is this—were the steel or iron of which the shell of vessels are composed really genuine, they would keep afloat longer; and there would consequently be less loss of life and property. The scientific principles upon which vessels are now built ought to be a sufficient guarantee against their being sent to the bottom in a minute. The quality of the material is of the first importance, and if that were attended to, vessels as now built with double bottoms and six or seven water-tight compartments would, as in the case referred to above, stand a shock with ship or rock, and still dance on the bosom of the rolling tide. Note—to whom it may concern. These observations are practical, and the right of re-production is reserved. I mention this because certain "evil-disposed person or persons" have been making free with the beloved children of my brain. In June of the present year an article occupying some three columns appeared in this journal. The subject was akin to the above note, and was the product of the same pen. Great was my surprise to meet my poor relation a few weeks later in very good company, the editor of a newspaper with a circulation of some 160,000 copies having kindly taken the fugitive by the hand. Nothing was said about the circumstances under which they met the wanderer; consequently there was neither credit given to the proprietor of the *Consett Guardian* nor thanks to his humble correspondent.

Local and District News.

CONSETT.

EARLY LAYING.—A pullet of this year's hatching, about five months old, belonging to Mr Matthew Lowdon, of Consett, commenced to lay last Tuesday.

On Wednesday, the employes of Mr T. H. Batchelor, draper, Consett, had an afternoon's outing to the Sycamores, Rowley, through the kindness of Mr W. J. Scott. The weather being fine the party proceeded to Rowley by the two o'clock train, and after having thoroughly enjoyed themselves, returned to Consett about seven o'clock.

A HUGE MUSHROOM.—During the present week there is being exhibited as a curiosity in the shop window of Mr Robert Symington, fruiterer, of Front Street, Consett, a mushroom of exceedingly enormous dimensions. On examination, it measured fully 10½ inches in diameter, 32 inches in circumference, and weighed 1½ lbs., the stalk itself being almost as thick as a person's wrist. The mushroom had been gathered early on Tuesday morning, in a field in the vicinity of Consett Hall, by Isaiah Sheldon, of Furnace Row, Consett.

SALE OF CONSETT PARK ESTATE.—This estate, which is situate about a mile south of Consett, containing 133A. 2R. 7P., was sold by auction by Mr William Raw, auctioneer, Blackhill, at the house of Mr M. McGurk, Victoria Hotel, Consett, on Monday afternoon. There was a large attendance. The bidding was quick and spirited, and in a few minutes the estate changed hands. Bidding commenced with an offer from Mr Richard Murray of £2,000, quickly followed by Messrs John Crawford, £2,100; William Aynsley, £2,500; John Crawford, £2,600; Thomas McCourty, £2,700; Richard Murray, £2,800; William R. Taylor, £3,000; John Crawford, £3,100; M. McGurk, £3,150; Mr Wm. R. Taylor, Selby Lodge, became the purchaser at £3,200, or 36½ years' purchase on the total rental. Mr C. Rowlandson, The College, Durham, was the agent, and Mr Thos. Maddison, jun., Durham, was the solicitor for the vendor.

Re JAMES FROSDICK.—In the Newcastle Bankruptcy Court, on Wednesday—before His Honour Judge Holl, Q.C.—the application of James Frosdick, Consett, billposter, for his discharge came on for hearing. The debter was adjudicated a bankrupt on the 27th January last, and passed his final examination on March 19th.—The Official Receiver opposed the application, and stated in his report:—(1st)—That the debtor had neglected to keep proper books of account in his business. (2nd)—That he had traded after knowledge of insolvency. (3rd)—That he had given an undue preference to one of his creditors. (4th)—That previously he had made a statutory composition or arrangement with his creditors.—His Honour, after hearing Mr J. McCartan in support of the application; and Mr J. B. Lazenby (who appeared for the petitioning creditor); and the Official Receiver, in opposition thereto, delivered judgment, in which he granted the debtor his discharge, but suspended its operation for three months.

VISIT OF LLOYD'S COMMITTEE.—Lloyds' Visiting Committee paid a visit of inspection on Saturday to the Consett Iron and Steel Works. The party consisted of Mr W. H. Tindall, chairman; Mr T. B. Walker, chairman of Sub-committee of Classification; Messrs James Laing, Sunderland, H. G. Bristow, Henry Green, F. B. B. Natusch, W. F. Saunders, all of London, and Walter Easton, Glasgow, members of the General Committee at Lloyds'; B. Waymouth, secretary, B. Martell, surveyor-in-chief of shipping; H. J. Cornish, assistant chief surveyor; W. Parker, engineer surveyor-in-chief, and A. Scott, accompanied by the local surveyors of the society. On arriving at the works they were met by Mr Jenkins, the managing director, and the heads of departments. The committee spent several hours in going through the establishment, and in making a minute and exhaustive examination of the works, returning to Newcastle in the afternoon. The principal object of the visit was to inspect the manner of manufacture of mild steel for shipbuilding purposes, which has been largely entered into by the Consett Iron Company. The steel produced is made on the Martin-Siemens principle. The members of the committee expressed their gratification at the appliances which had been adopted in the manufacture of this material, and after having had a large number of tests made in their presence spoke in high terms of the excellence of the quality of the steel.

BLACKHILL.

At a meeting of ratepayers comprised in the district of St. Cuthbert's, Benfieldside, Burial Board, held on Monday night, in the Low School-room, Blackhill—Mr Wm. Turner in the chair—the Rev G. H. Ross-Lewin (vicar of Benfieldside), was elected a member of the Burial Board in the room of the Rev Thomas Smith, deceased, the appointment being until the annual meeting on September 17th next.

ST. MARY'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH.—The bell-ringers of the above church assembled in the tower on Tuesday evening to pay a last tribute of respect to their late lamented pastor, the Rev Thos. Smith, who died a month that day, by ringing a muffled peal. After tolling the age of deceased on the big bell (namely 57 years), a start was made for 720 changes of grandsire doubles, which were accomplished in due course by the following:—Messrs E. J. Sloane, J. T. Dobson, J. Moore, B. King, A. Nichols, and R. Moore.

ROYAL AUCTION MART, BENFIELDSIDE.—On Saturday, Messrs Nicholson and Murray sold at their mart 1,700 lambs at the following rates:—Black-faced gimmers, 8s 6d to 10s 9d; black-faced wethers, 6s 3d to 10s 6d; half-bred gimmers, 21s to 22s 6d.—On Monday, they sold 23 fat cattle from £8 2s 6d to £19 10s; 100 fat lambs, 16s 9d to 34s 6d; 130 fat sheep, 31s to 53s 3d; 11 cows and heifers, £10 10s to £17 10s; hams at 5d per pound; poultry at good prices.—The next special sale of lambs will be held on Saturday, Sept. 5th, when there will be offered from 1,500 to 2,000 of the best Hirsels in Scotland.

BIBLE STUDENTS' SOCIETY.—In its last sitting, in place of any special biblical point, the society had under consideration the recent utterances of Mr Spurgeon, relative to the uncertain, the heterodox, and even Unitarian and sceptical tone of many of the pulpits of the present day. The utterances of Mr Spurgeon were fully sustained by the personal experiences of some of the members, even in relation to our diocese of Durham, where it was said that many of the Cardinal doctrines of our ancestral faith were being sapped, not by the unblushing sceptic, atheist, or agnostic, but by men of Christian name, and of influence and office in our Christian Churches. In particular, it was urged that in relation to the question of future retribution, there seemed to be a perfect chaos of opinion. The worst feature of the whole of this departure from the old standards of the faith was the decreasing study of the written word, and the mere slavish dependence upon popular pulpit orators, and upon the mere *ipse dixit* of writers more famed for their erratic elegancies of diction than for profundity of thought. It was thus that doctrines, which had vitalized the universal Church for eighteen hundred years, and been the earthly theme of millions of saints whose memories are yet, and for ever will be, green, odorous in the paradise of Christendom, were being questioned and cast aside at the idolatrous altars of man-worship and of pompous literary vanities. The question then arose, How can the tide of this inflooding current of vapid, sentimental, and emasculated theology be driven back, and our growing generation be protected from its desolating influence? After varied, and, indeed, many most useful suggestions, the outcome of the whole amounted to this: That the pulpit be more specific, and even dogmatic, in its utterances, of what it knows to have been since the age of the Apostles the accepted and dogmatic creed of universal Christendom; that the pulpit enforce upon its hearers the paramount duty of not merely the Sabbath reading, but the daily reading of the scriptures, and that there be occasionally a catechetical congregational service, whereby the unity of the faith may be preserved and perpetuated. A vote of thanks was then carried *nem con.* to Mr Spurgeon for his timely and courageous utterance upon this growing and insidious form of theological intoxication.

SHOTLEY BRIDGE.

THE ALLEGED NUISANCE.—On Monday, at the Consett Police Court—before Lieut.-Col. Wilbraham and J. W. Walton-Wilson, Esq.—Mr John Dixon, the Inspector of Nuisances under the Benfieldside Local Board, applied to the Bench for an order permitting him to enter the premises of Mr W. Brown, of Shotley Bridge, and open-out certain drains running from that gentleman's water-closet, which were alleged to be defective, and created a foul nuisance underneath the floors of the rooms of the house belonging to Mr Coulson.—Mr Brown attended in person to oppose the application, and said that he claimed the protection of the Court. He strongly objected to Mr Dixon being allowed to examine his drain-pipes, but expressed his willingness to let any competent person do so. He also stated that Mr Dixon had used threatening language to him, and asserted that he would do his worst for him.—Mr Dixon denied these allegations, and informed the Bench that it was Mr Brown who had threatened him.—Mr Brown also questioned whether Mr Dixon was authorised by a resolution of the Board to do what he was asking for.—Mr Dixon replied that he was instructed by a resolution of the Board to enter Mr Brown's premises and endeavour to ascertain the cause of the nuisance.—The Chairman was of opinion that Mr Brown was introducing private and personal matters into what affected and concerned the health of the public at large.—Mr Brown explained that he only objected to Mr Dixon entering his premises, but was quite agreeable to have any competent person named by the Bench to examine his pipes.—The magistrates suggested that some experienced gentleman should accompany Mr Dixon on his inspection, and that gentleman assented to this course.—The Bench further pointed out to Mr Brown that, in the event of failing to discover the source of the nuisance on his premises, the Inspector would be obliged to replace the pipes, and make good any damage done.—After arguing the matter at considerable length, Mr Brown firmly adhered to his determination not to let Mr Dixon enter his premises; and the justices eventually issued an order giving the Inspector of Nuisances the requisite permission.

WEARDALE.

The entries for the Weardale Agricultural Show on Saturday, include some Royal Show animals.

THE MOORS.—The best of sport is still experienced on the Weardale moors. The principal lessee, Mr Rogerson, Weardale House, entertains a large party, who daily find excellent game and make good bags. On Friday, Mr Richardson, of London, and party arrived at Cowshill Hotel, to open the grouse campaign on Killhope and Wellhope moors.

TANFIELD.

PARISH CHURCH.—On Sunday evening, a large congregation assembled in the above church to hear a sermon by Canon Body, who was announced to preach, but who, owing to illness and acting on the advice of his medical adviser, refrained from undertaking duty on Sunday last. The Rev C. H. Newman, curate of the parish, preached an able and eloquent sermon. Prayers were read by the vicar (the Rev T. H. Archdall) and the curate, the lessons being read by Mr James Gilchrist, of Marley Hill. The service was fully choral. The collection was in aid of the Sunday schools.

LEADGATE.

The Rev Canon Body, of Durham, was announced to preach in St. Ives Church, Redwell Hills, last Sunday, but owing to serious indisposition he was not able to fulfil his engagement.

BANKRUPTCY EXAMINATION.—At the Newcastle Bankruptcy Court yesterday (Thursday), before Mr Daggett, Registrar, the first public examination of John James, formerly tailor and draper, Front Street, Leadgate, was held.—The debtor said he had not been in business for last six years. He estimated that securities in the hands of creditors would show a surplus of £411 7s 2d, and this with his furniture and fixtures would, after paying 11s 4d rates, give full assets amounting to £445 15s. His unsecured liabilities amounted to £154 12s10d. He had borrowed various sums for his business, building operations, and for living, besides £30 to send his son to college. He had six houses at Stanley and two houses and shops at Durham. A Jarrow Building Society held a first charge of £1,100 on the houses at Stanley, and there were other charges on the property amounting to £125. His Durham property was mortgaged to Messrs Paley and Rochester for £450, and to Messrs Thorpe and Sons of Manchester, for £300, for security of goods he got from them when in business. He had kept renewing bills to them because they threatened to turn him out the house, although he considered the mortgage ample security. Their account now amounted to £584. He filed his petition because he was afraid that if an arbitration between Messrs Thorpe and himself was decided against him, they would realise his property and deprive his other creditors of all benefit. He had deposited £9 10s towards the cost of the petition with Mr Dixon, his solicitor.—The enquiry was adjourned.

PRIMITIVE METHODIST SUNDAY SCHOOL.—On Sunday, the teachers and scholars in connection with this place of worship, held a grand flower service and service of song. In the morning, Mr J. L. Surtees, of Consett, delivered a short and appropriate discourse, after which the scholars recited a selection of dialogues and poetry. In the afternoon, a splendid service of song was rendered, entitled "The Basket of Flowers." Mr Surtees was reader; Mr J. Jackson, conductor; and Mr G. Shield, harmoniumist. This service reflects special credit on all who took part, being so admirably executed throughout. In the evening, Mr Surtees preached a short discourse from the words "Sirs, we would see Jesus." The scholars again recited poetry, dialogues, &c.—There was arranged all along the front of the platform, over 50 bouquets of beautiful varigated flowers, each adorned with a scriptural text. The scholors being all so neatly dressed on the occasion, the whole was magnificent to behold. The entire services redounds to the credit of Mr Henry Whitfield, the superintendent of the school, for the most efficient manner in which the scholars equipped themselves during the day. This was a special effort in aid of the school funds. The collections were good, taking into account the dullness of the times, and the congregations were very large. On Monday afternoon, as arranged Messrs John Maughan and Silvester Forster, two of the teachers, conveyed the whole of the flowers down to the workhouse at Lanchester, for the benefit of the inmates who are residents therein. Mr Brotherhood most thankfully accepted the same, and was exceedingly courteous to the two teachers for the gift of flowers.

ALLENDALE COTTAGES.

PRIMITIVE METHODIST SUNDAY SCHOOL.—On Sunday, the teachers of the above school held a Flower Service. In the morning and evening excellent sermons were preached by the Rev J. Moffit, late of Seaton Delaval, and in the afternoon the children recited scripture, poetry, and dialogues, interspersed with music by the choir. The platform was decorated with bouquets of cut flowers kindly given by friends in the vicinity, and had a pleasing effect. The services were well attended and the results in every respect satisfactory. On Monday morning, the flowers were sent to Lanchester and Newcastle Workhouses.

ANNFIELD PLAIN.

The collieries owned by the Messrs Dickinson and Company have for the last few days been working short time—a circumstance hitherto unknown in connection with these pits. The reason of this, it is supposed, is owing to the prevalence of cholera abroad, where large quantities of the coal shipped by this firm are sent. The ocean traffic is consequently delayed, and is affecting the pits, and causing them to work short time.

STRANGE FREAK.—On Wednesday morning, John Awd, an old man of 70, living at Annfield Plain, having had a few words with his wife, left the house with the expressed determination of doing away with himself. After his disappearance, the wife and relatives raised an alarm, fearing that he had committed suicide. The police made a diligent search through the district, and P.C. Minto succeeded in finding the man yesterday (Thursday) afternoon lying in an outhouse near Maiden Law. Not having partaken of food since the preceding morning, the man was in an exhausted condition.

OXHILL.

PRIMITIVE METHODIST CHAPEL: SPECIAL SERVICES.—On Saturday, a sermon was preached in the afternoon by Mr J. Nairn (evangelist), of Sunderland; after which a public tea was provided. A public meeting was held in the evening, presided over by Mr Thos. Brabban, of Marley Hill. Able and soul-stirring addresses on the work of God were delivered by Mr J. Sasbury, Annfield Plain; Mr T. R. Oates, Causey Row; Mr P. Reay, Annfield Plain; and Mr J. Nairn. The meeting throughout was rich in spiritual fervour. A coffee supper was held at the close of the meeting.—On Sunday, special sermons were preached morning and evening by Mr Nairn; and in the afternoon by Mr T. Haddon, of West Pelton. Liberal collections were taken on behalf of the trust funds. Mr Nairn, is at present conducting revival services at Oxhill.

GATESHEAD.

COUNTY LICENSING SESSIONS.—The annual Brewster Sessions for the Gateshead district of the county of Durham was opened on Tuesday in the Court House, Gateshead, before Mr W. W. Pattinson, Ald. Newall, Mr R. Forster, and Mr U. Ritson. The following applied for full licenses:—Jane Maddison, Cricketers' Arms, Bill Quay; W. Tindall, Perseverance Arms, Springwell; and Wm. Gilchrist, Wardley Inn, Bill Quay. The magistrates declined to accede to the applications, and also to grant a wine license to William Gilchrist, who applied for one as an alternative to a full license. Consideration of the black list was adjourned, while the old licenses against which there were no convictions were renewed.—Supt. Harrison reported that there were at present 106 public-houses in that petty sessional division, 35 beer-houses, and 24 off beer and spirit licenses. The population was 50,339.

CROOK.

Lady Pease, who is in Scotland, has sent £1 to the Methodist New Connexion at Crook.

DURHAM.

SUDDEN DEATH IN THE MINE.—On Monday, Mr J. Graham, coroner, held an inquest at the Railway Hotel, Durham, on the body of a man named Thomas Mason, a miner, 54 years of age, who dropped down dead the same morning in Durham Main Colliery. A verdict of "Death from natural causes" was returned.

DURHAM COUNTY BREWSTER SESSIONS.—The annual general licensing sessions for the Durham Petty Sessional Division of the County were held on Monday, at the police court, before the Revs A. D. Shafto and W. Greenwell.—Supt. Dunn reported that there were 258 licensed houses in the division, of which 221 were fully licensed. There were 21 beer houses with "on," and 16 with "off" licenses. The "black list" contained the names of only two offenders, and their licenses were renewed, as were those of the remaining publicans. The only application made was for the transfer of a license for sweets, and this was granted.

BRUTAL ASSAULT AT BEARPARK.—At the Durham County Police Court, on Wednesday, Patrick Finnigan, an Irishman, was charged with assaulting a married woman near Bearpark, on the 21st inst. About eleven o'clock on Friday evening the prisoner went into Mrs Dillon's and lay down on the bed where some children were sleeping. He afterwards accused Mrs Dillon of robbing him of his pocket-book and 8s. Mrs Dillon got him out and bolted the door; but the prisoner broke it open twice and beat her with a poker, inflicting serious injuries.—The Chairman, who said women must be protected from such brutal attacks, sent the prisoner to gaol for three months with hard labour.

DIPTON.

ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST.—Considerable progress has been made during the summer months with the new church, which will in a short time be ready for the roof. The building already presents a very attractive appearance, and will when finished form a prominent and unique object alongside the road leading from Leadgate to Newcastle.

SUNDAY SCHOOL TREAT.—The vicar gave his annual treat to the scholars attending the Church Sunday School, on Saturday last, in a field at Springfield, kindly lent by Mrs Turnbull. Of nearly 250 children on the books there was a large muster present. The afternoon turning out fine, many of the parents and the general public were spectators of the fun and frolic with which the youngsters amused themselves, and the teachers were most energetic in organising games and athletic contests—the latter especially pleasing the lads, amongst whom there were keen competitions for first honours, more particularly in the pole jumping and running. Having had two hours enjoyment of this kind, they were marshalled for tea, of which there was a plentiful supply, and then resumed their sports, which were kept up till dusk was set in—when cheers were called for and heartily responded to, for the vicar, the teachers, and Mrs Turnbull for the use of the field.

COLLIERLEY SCHOOL BOARD.—The monthly meeting took place at the Board Schools at Dipton on Wednesday afternoon. Present: Messrs J. A. Curry (in the chair), R. Holmes, W. Robson, and the clerk (Mr W. W. Thompson).—After confirming the minutes of the last meeting, the report of the head master (Mr Prevell) was read, showing that the attendance was only moderate since the re-commencement of the school after the holidays.—The Attendance Officer (Mr D. Mole) reported that there were several children who had only made one-half of the number of possible attendances, and also many parties who were backward in the payment of the school fees. As the parties had been repeatedly warned, that official was instructed to take proceedings against the defaulting parents.—The reports of the school examination not having been forthcoming at the proper time, a letter was read from Mr A. E. Bernays, Her Majesty's Inspector, stating that the matter would be attended to as early as possible.—The members expressed some disappointment at the reports not been duly to hand, and the inadvertance had caused considerable inconvenience.—Mr Radford's official leave-taking communication was read, and the Clerk was directed to reply to the late auditor's letter in complimentary terms.—Mr Holmes made an application for the use of the Board Schools, for the purposes of a lecture on on "Phrenology," to be delivered by Mr Tate, of Sunderland.—The Chairman and Mr Robson deemed it advisable to firmly adhere to the course pursued in regard to previous applications, and not entertain the application. The Board had even refused to let the schools to ratepayers.—Mr Rowell, of Newcastle, attended the meeting, and explained the alterations effected in the heating apparatus, which he considered would prove satisfactory to the Board, and no doubt would work well.—After singing the cheques, and transacting some unimportant business, the Board adjourned.

LINTZ COLLIERY.

SAD ACCIDENT ON THE RAILWAY.—On Thursday se'nnight, an inquiry was held at the house of Mr Ralph Clark, The Leazes, Burnopfield, before Mr J. Graham, coroner, into the circumstances attending the death of John W. Gray, a lad of 14 years, who expired on the 11th inst., from injuries received on July 29th. Gray was employed as a switch-boy on the Lintz Railway. About two o'clock on the afternoon of the 29th ult. he was "setting" three trucks to be brought up the bank to the colliery, when the brake slipped, and on putting the "hand-spike" in a second time, it got too far through the wheel, and caught him in the abdomen. Grey fell to the ground, and coming in contact with the second truck, he was pushed on before it, sustaining severe injuries to his body and foot, ultimately resulting in his death. During the three weeks he lingered, he received attention at the hands of Dr Benson and his assistant.—The verdict was "Died from injuries accidentally received."

LANCHESTER.

The Primitive Methodists of Lanchester have held their Sabbath School anniversary, sermons on the Sunday being preached by Mr R. Brown, of Consett.—On Saturday afternoon, a public tea was provided, followed by a meeting, presided over by Mr Smith, of Blackhill, and addressed by the Rev H. Yool (Consett), Mr Mitchell Cook, and others.

PAROCHIAL GATHERING.—A parish tea was held at Lanchester on Wednesday evening, to welcome the newly-appointed vicar, the Rev F. W. Glyn, M.A. A large company assembled to partake of the many varied good things provided, and to give a hearty welcome to the rev gentleman. The following ladies had the arrangement and management, and carried out their work in an excellent manner, viz:—Mesdames Sanders (Newcastle), Reed, Dunn, Brotherhood, G. Parker, J. Walton, R. Walton, R. Thompson, Towns, H. Dixon, Rich, Clarke (Newcastle), Atkinson; Misses Robinson, White, and Hazon (Newcastle), Grey, E. Thompson, H. Parker, H. Gibson, A. Reed, H. Hodgson, and M. Pallister.—After tea, a most enjoyable meeting was held in the large schoolroom, which was filled to its fullest extent. Mr W. Logan, Stobilee House, Langley Park, churchwarden, presided.—Addresses suitable to the occasion, and all embodying welcome and good wishes to the guest of the evening, were given by the Chairman; Rev R. Brent, vicar of Holmside; Rev L. Sanders, vicar of St. Paul's, Newcastle-on-Tyne; and Mr Dunn, Lanchester.—The Vicar, on rising to respond to the addresses given, was received in a most cordial and hearty manner by the large assembly.—Mr Rich, in a neat speech, proposed a vote of thanks to the ladies for preparing and presiding over the tea in such an admirable manner.—Mr Glyn responded on their behalf.—Several appropriate hymns were sung, the organist (Miss E. Thompson) presiding at the piano.—A hearty vote of thanks to the Chairman brought a most successful gathering to a close.

WOLSINGHAM.

WEARDALE HIGHWAY BOARD.—The monthly meeting was held on Tuesday at Wolsingham—Mr C. J. Backhouse, J.P., in the chair. Cheques were signed for main road account, £78 12s 6d; district road, £8 0s 9d; and tradesmen's bills, £3. Mr Ridley, Tow Law, who, a short time ago was allowed to enclose land by the side of the road between Tow Law and Thornley, on condition that he made a footpath, is to be requested by letter to carry out the arrangements.

TOW LAW.

Colonel and Mrs Dowdle conducted two very successful meetings in the Salvation Army Barracks on Monday last, and the popularity of these officers was shown by the crowded state of the building.

The "Beacon of Hope" Lodge of Good Templars, one of the largest in South Durham, had a very enjoyable outing on Wednesday, in the shape of a pic-nic, in the beautiful grounds of Houselop. It was attended by a large number of members, and concluded very pleasantly.

FLOWER SHOW.—The committee of the Tow Law Flower Show have decided for the first time since its institution not to allow intoxicating liquors to be sold in the field on the show day. The tender of the Good Templars to provide an efficient tea and refreshment tent has been accepted, and the result cannot fail to be an improvement on the old system. As the change has caused some little feeling among the publicans, some of them are arranging a counter attraction on the day of the show, in the shape of rabbit coursing and other sports, in an adjoining field.

BLANCHLAND.

ANNUAL FAIR.—This annual fair for the sale of sheep, lambs, cattle, &c., was held on Monday, on the usual fair ground adjoining the village. The weather was fine, and there was a large attendance of farmers and others from the surrounding localities. A great number of lambs were on offer. Mr Nicholson, of Broomshields, alone showing 1,600, 131 of which he sold to Mr C. Stephenson, of Edmondbyers, at 19s each. Sales generally were slowly effected, and at prices rather below those of last year. Black-faced lambs sold from 8s to 10s per head; grey-faced do., from 15s to 19s. A small supply of milch cows and grazing cattle were present, demand for which was exceedingly little, and few transactions took place. Altogether the fair was a poor one

WEST STANLEY.

C.E.T.S.—PROPOSED TESTIMONIAL TO MR E. W. ROBSON.—On Monday evening, a special entertainment was given in the school room in connection with the above society, and assistance was rendered by members of the Tanfield and Burnopfield branches. A charge was made for admission, the proceeds being devoted towards a testimonial to Mr E. W. Robson, late choirmaster of the society at West Stanley, who is removing to Barnoldswick.—The Vice-president (Rev L. M. Chesters) presided, and there was a good attendance.—After opening the meeting, the Chairman said he was sure all would be pleased indeed to see Mr Robson back that evening. He had just received a short holiday, which he had spent amongst his friends at Stanley. As they all knew, Mr Robson had worked wonderfully well on behalf of that society, and he (the rev. gentleman) was sure all wished to express something of their good feeling towards him and their best wishes for him by the entertainment that was given that night, with a view to making some recognition of his help. It was thought by some that the best way would be by subscription, but the majority of the committee were in favour of an entertainment, so that all who wished could attend and show their interest in Mr Robson and their good will towards him. He hoped they had pursued the right course. (Applause.)—The programme, as follows, was then proceeded with:—Songs by Mr Kelly, "See that my grave's kept green" and "The cottage by the sea"; recitations by Mr J. Robson, "Fire and butter," "The Feyther-in-Law's revenge," and "Shadows on the blind"; songs by Rev C. H. Newman, "Our Jack's come home to-day," "The Ape and the maid," "The skipper of St. Ives," and "The careful man"; Miss Masterman sang "The ring my mother wore"; recitation by Miss Gibson, "The market basket"; songs by Mr Ramsay, "I really can't keep still," "Come, lasses and lads," and "The duel"; songs by Miss Anderson, "The fire in the grate" and "Too late"; songs by Mr R. Grundy, "The fireman" and "The steam arm"; song by Miss Hindhaugh, "Remember or forget"; reading by Mr Lumley, "The Irish schoolmaster"; song by Mr G. Anderson, "A boy's best friend is his mother"; song by Mr Hindhaugh, "The unlucky man"; melody by the choir, "Beautiful home" (conducted by Mr R. Grundy). Mr G. Anderson acted as accompanist to the choir and some of the soloists in a creditable manner. The programme was rather long, but of the various items first honours were awarded to the Rev C. H. Newman for the enjoyable rendering of his songs and accompaniments. It would be well if the majority of performers would copy Mr Newman as far as possible in articulating clearly, so as to enable the audience to understand the piece better. Mr J. Robson is a capital reciter, his pronounciation being very clear, and he deservedly won the plaudits of the audience, as also did Miss Gibson in her recitation—in fact, all the performances were successful, the various pieces being heartily applauded without exception.—Mr E. W. Robson, at the invitation of the Chairman, addressed a few words to the audience, remarking that he was very pleased to be amongst them again so soon; his holiday being unexpected was all the more enjoyable. He was sorry to leave the prosperous temperance society and all his kind friends, and he might say that in all that he had done for the society he had been ably assisted by the energetic committee and the worthy clergymen of the parish. There is no temperance society at Barnoldswick where he had gone to, but he hoped to organise one soon (applause); the only thing wanting is the vicar's consent, and no doubt that would be all right. (Applause.) His parting advice in conclusion, was for them to stick together and continue their meetings and entertainments, and if there are any present who have not joined the society Mr Grundy will be pleased to take any pledges. He again bade a hearty good-bye. (Loud applause.)—The Chairman thought they would all be pleased to hear Mr Robson's remarks, and he hoped the society would soon be started at Barnoldswick. (Applause.)—The usual votes of thanks concluded the proceedings.

CHESTER-LE-STREET.

At the meeting of the Chester-le-Street Board of Guardians, on Thursday se'nnight—Mr T. Robson presiding—the Master reported that through the kindness of the committee of the Beamish, Pontop, and Consett Agricultural Society, the children and young men of the house were allowed to attend the annual show, held in that town on Wednesday.

SUICIDE.—On Wednesday morning, an elderly man named Matthew Benton, residing in the North Bourne, Chester-le-Street, committed suicide in a very determined manner. An accident some eight years ago rendered deceased incapable of following his employment. He had lately been in a depressed state of mind. He arose on Wednesday morning at four o'clock. At five a boy got up to go to work, and, to his horror, found his grandfather hanging by the neck. Life was extinct.

FATAL VEHICLE ACCIDENT AT NEW LAMBTON.—About 11 o'clock on Monday night, a shocking accident occurred near a pit at New Lambton, whereby a man named Passmore lost his life, and two other people had a narrow escape. Passmore, who was a miner, had been bringing home to New Lambton from Chester-le-Street a horse and cart, where he had been with them. On going through a bridge near his home, the cart caught an arch of the bridge, and was upset. The cries of the occupants were heard by a young man named Masterman, who procured assistance. Passmore was found to have been thrown almost clean off the cart, but a portion of it was resting on his carotid vein, which was fractured. He was quite dead. The other occupants—Mrs Naylor and a son of Passmore—were little the worse for the mishap. Passmore's body was removed to his home.

RURAL SANITARY AUTHORITY.—The usual meeting of the Chester-le-Street Rural Sanitary Authority was held on Thursday week, Mr Thos. Robson in the chair. A letter was read from the Local Government Board, asking whether the Authority had done anything towards the building of an hospital for infectious diseases, as suggested by the inspector, Mr Knollys, a few months ago.—The Chairman said the matter had been considered before, but owing to other items having engaged the attention of the Guardians, no definite conclusion had been arrived at.—The Clerk was therefore instructed to answer the letter of the Local Government Board to that effect.—Respecting the water supply of Chester-le-Street and Chester Moor, a communication was received from the Consett Water Company, in answer to a letter sent by the clerk, asking for particulars of the supply. All the questions were answered in a satisfactory manner, and a copy was ordered to be sent to Mr Arnold Taylor, who held an inquiry there a fortnight ago.—Mr Thos. Barras, sanitary inspector, reported that the case of overcrowding at Witton Gilbert, reported at the last meeting, had now been abated.

RIFLE COMPETITION.—The annual battalion shooting of the 4th Durham Rifle Volunteers commenced on Saturday at their range at Chester-le-Street. The weather was very cold, but fortunately the rain, which threatened all day to descend, held off. A strong left rear wind which was blowing interfered greatly with high scores, nevertheless some fairly good totals were made. The competitions all secured capital entries and resulted as follows:—Colonel Rowlandson's Cup, value £10, with £5 added to a sweepstakes of 1s each; 500 and 600 yards:—Colour-Sergt. Marley, Felling, £3 and cup, 34; Priv. E. Wishart, Beamish, £2, 34; Priv. A. Forsyth, Felling, £1, 33; Priv. W. Fawcett, Beamish, 10s, 33; Priv. R. Atkin, Chester-le-Street, 10s, 32; Sergt. A. Forsyth, Felling, 10s, 32; Sergt. H. Divine, Felling, 10s, 32.—Major Joicey's Cup; distances 200 and 500 yards.—Sergt. A. Forsyth, Felling, cup and £2, 36; Priv. B. Forsyth, Felling, £1, 33; Corp. J. Thompson, Chester-le-Street, 10s, 33; Priv. C. Spence, Chester-le-Street, 10s, 33; Priv. J. Bonsell, Chester-le-Street, 10s, 32; Priv Darling, Felling, 10s, 32; Priv. J. W. Wilton, Felling, 10s 32; Sergt. G. B. Flack, Durham, 10s, 32. Recruits' competition for two cups given by Major Wilkin; distances 150 and 200 yards:—Priv. J. Wilson, Birtley, 33; Priv. Copeland, Durham, 31.

WHITTONSTALL.

At the monthly meeting of the Newcastle Society of Antiquaries, held on Wednesday night, at the Castle—Ald. Cail presiding—the Rev J. L. Low (rector) read his "Notes on Whittonstall," giving most interesting facts about this ancient parish.—Mr Hodgkin, in proposing a vote of thanks to Mr Low for his paper, said that if every parish contributed such a paper, we should have at once the county history complete. (Applause)

CORNSAY COLLIERY.

JUVENILE TEMPLARS.—On Saturday se'nnight, the members and friends of the "Happy Home" Juvenile Temple went to Low Mill Farm (by the kind permission of Mr Halle, farmer), for a day's outing. The weather was all that could be desired, and all joined in various sports and heartily enjoyed themselves. Tea and buns were served out on the green, of which over 150 partook, which, thanks to the kind liberality of Mr Ferens, of Oswald House, Durham, were supplied free. After tea the sports were resumed, and kept up until 7 30 p.m.

BURNOPFIELD.

DURHAM MINERS' UNION.—A crowded meeting of the Hobson miners was held in the lodge-room on Tuesday night. About six weeks ago the men seceded from the above Association, as the pit was only working short time, they could not afford the levy of 3d per fortnight for men out of employment. The meeting was attended by Messrs Crawford, Patterson, and Johnson. After hearing Mr Crawford, the men agreed to re-join the association.

STANHOPE.

On Saturday, the Stanhope Band of Hope and Temperance Society held their annual gala in the Castle Park at Stanhope.

BREWSTER SESSIONS.—The annual licensing sessions were held at Stanhope on Friday last—before Messrs Hildyard and Backhouse and Dr Arnison.—Superintendent Liddell said he had nothing to bring before their worships. There were no applications of any kind, and there had been neither convictions nor complaints during the year.—The bench complemented the innkeepers on the excellent conduct of their houses.

NORTH-WEST DIVISION OF DURHAM.

MR JONES AT ANNFIELD PLAIN.

Mr Atherley Jones, barrister, last (Thursday) evenimg addressed another large and enthusiastic meeting of the electors of this Division in the Co-opeative Hall, Annfield Plain. The chair was filled by Mr Philip Reay, Chairman of the Catchgate Polling District Liberal Association, and on the platform were Messrs Adam Brodie (Consett), J. W. Taylor (Dipton), T. Collinson (Catchgate), J. A. Curry (Dipton), W. Fitzpatrick (Annfield Plain), M. Martin (Catchgate), Wm. Indian (West Stanley), &c. The body of the spacious Hall was filled with miners.

The CHAIRMAN, in opening, hoped they would accord a fair and impartial hearing to Mr Jones, and tender that gentleman a hearty welcome all round. (Cheers.) After describing the operations of the Central Council, which resulted in the selection of Mr Jones as their candidate for Parliamentary distinction, he expressed his opinion that the delegates had chosen, according to the mandate of the electors, a gentleman who was well qualified in every respect to represent their interests in the House of Commons, and he felt assured that Mr Jones would serve his constituents to the best of his ability. (Loud cheers.)

Mr JONES, who met with a most enthusiastic reception, said he came there that night—first, to make, he hoped, a full and frank expression of his political faith, and if necessary to go through the ordeal of catechising afterwards (laughter); and secondly, he had to ask that meeting to confirm the action of the Liberal Association in selecting him as candidate for their suffrages. (Cheers.) Now, he was fully aware that many persons properly described as Radicals differed on that point, and others found fault with the Liberal Association, which was somewhat invidiously termed a caucus. These might not always be perfect in their organisation, but in the way in which they gave utterance to their opinions, or formed their conclusions as to the merits or demerits of any particular candidates, he ventured to say that, speaking from large experience, they in that Division possessed an Association resting on a representative and popular basis, receiving its mandate from the public meetings, free and open to all electors and non-electors who chose to attend, and it is a thousand times superior to two or three gentlemen assembling in the "snug" of a public-house (laughter and cheers) for that purpose—a thousand times more preferable to some rich person or nobleman's son forcing himself upon a constituency at his own sweet will and pleasure. (Cheers.) If the caucus rests upon a truly representative basis, they could not have safer means for ensuring the proper representation of the constituency in the choice of a candidate. He felt this, especially as the Chairman pointed out that it had been a somewhat close contest between himself and his worthy friend, Lieut. Lambton. He had no doubt, had the latter gentleman been chosen as candidate, he would have made an excellent member. Although Lieut. Lambton was a neighbour of their's, he believed that he himself was well known to the miners of the County of Durham, and there was some feeling of gratitude in the hearts of the working classes of England—not of Durham only—towards the memory of his father, Ernest Jones, who fought for the cause of liberty and freedom twenty years ago (cheers); and therefore, although he was but a tyro in politics, it was as the son of this great man that he solicited their suffrages. (Cheers.) If he gave expressions of opinion that were perhaps discordant to their ears, they would not be able to say at any future time that he had concealed from them what his professions were. Lately, Conservative leaders and politicians had been so venturesome as to come into the County of Durham, and they had the audacity, which is always significant of a Conservative, to endeavour to persuade the miners that they are the friends of the working classes, and to point out that, through the medium of Lord Salisbury and Lord Randolph Churchill, they intend conferring a still larger instalment of social, political, and religious freedom upon the working classes. He would ask them to judge the Conservative party and contrast what they had accomplished in the past with the performances and achievements of the Liberal party, and he had not the slightest hesitation in asserting that they would say that the policy of the Conservative party is a most miserable and lamentable one. (Cheers.) He ventured to say that for all the great measures of reform passed this last 50 years for the well-being and prosperity of this country, they were indebted to the Liberal party—to the persistent advocacy of such men as Mr Bright, Mr Gladstone, and other pioneers of progress he might name. (Cheers, and a voice: "Richard Cobden.") These measures had been passed despite the strenuous and stubborn opposition offered by the Conservative party. For Tories to come forward and say they are the real friends of the working classes, it is absolutely untrue. Who passed the great measure by which their Roman Catholic countrymen and fellow-subjects on the other side of the water were emancipated? Those who are acquainted with the history of that period, will remember the injustice and oppression under which their unfortunate subjects suffered. Who abolished the University tests, Church rates, slavery, &c.? It was the Liberal party, in spite of the fierce and bitter opposition of Conservatives. Coming to other questions of great social value, they owed to the Liberal party the abolition of the paper duty, which had gained for them their cheap penny and halfpenny newspapers; and if they looked at the subject of political reform, every such measure owes its origin to Liberal projection and Liberal exertion. Take the Reform Bill of 1867, which the Conservatives now claimed the credit of passing. It was said by them that the Liberals were going to give the country property franchise, but they were granting household franchise. Now, it was the Liberals who first voted for the extension of the Franchise, despite the counteracting efforts of the Conservative party, and it was to the action of the Liberals party both inside and outside the House of Commons, and the expressed determination of the country that the Conservative Government were forced to grant them household suffrage. Lord Derby, he believed, stated that the Tories were not disposed to meddle with the question of Reform but it was granted by the Conservatives, not for the purpose of benefitting the people, but because it enabled them to "dish the Whigs." (Laughter and applause.) It was simply wrong of them through fear, and under the cloak of evil motives, to attain for themselves party power. Not merely in political and religious matters, but in questions associated with labour also, they would find that they were indebted to the Liberal party for the passing of the Mines' Regulation Act, and as he claimed to know something of that measure, he might say that no legislation ever carried ensured the safety of mines and the people working therein more than this Act. (Cheers). That was carried by Liberal determination in the face of determined opposition of a considerable section of the Conservative statesmen and politicians, and some of the great—not mineowners, but landed proprietors, in the North of England. Coming to education, the Liberals gave them the Education Act, and would, he hoped, grant them free education. (Cheers.) Under the circumstances, it is useless for Conservatives of all shades—from Lord Tom Noddy (laughter) down to Mr —— he forgot his name (renewed laughter)—gentlemen of exotic growth (loud laughter)—who sprang from God knows where (more laughter), and would go to God knows where (laughter)—to tell them that this is not true. The Liberal party had done all that is beneficial to the working men in the past, and the Conservative party had endeavoured to accomplish all that is evil. (Cheers.) Glancing at the future, the Conservatives had offered them a new programme. They will enquire (so they say) into the causes of the depression in trade, and had already appointed a Royal Commission to alleviate the sufferings of the working classes in times of crisis by investigating the evil effects of foreign competition. But why did Mr Broadhurst (a working man's representative), Mr Forster, and Mr Goschen decline to serve on that Commission? They said, "You have formed your Commission in the interests of Fair Trade and Protection, and we will not sit with persons simply devoted to that craze." (Laughter.) It is a curious fact that the gentlemen are chiefly composed of Fair Traders, or what the Liberals called Protectionists. They desired that a tariff should be imposed on something imported into this country, but when pressed to name the articles, they could not tell them. Mr Lowther—better known as "Jemmy Lowther" (laughter)—would by all means tax wheat. Some present could remember that previous to the repeal of the Corn Laws, the people of this country were literally starving, and had to pay 10d or 1s for a loaf of bread, which could now be procured for 4d or 5d. Corn which now cost 30s per quarter, was then sold at 80s or more per quarter. The people rose in indignation, and insisted that the Corn Laws should be swept away. (Cheers.) He did not think the working classes would stand the tax being re-imposed, and he was certain the middle classes would not agree to it. They would never stand it, if they only got a small Tory loaf for a large Liberal loaf. (Cheers.) It is perfectly clear that unless they taxed wheat and cotton, there is nothing else that could be taxed which would have any appreciable effect upon the revenues. For any sane politician to assert that it would be much better to charge ½d more for their loaf of bread was absolutely absurd. (Loud cheers.) It was only the other day Mr Gladstone tried to put a ½d per gallon on beer. Mr Bass, one of the largest brewers, told them that the only persons in this country who would feel the effects of such an imposition would be the brewers themselves, and it would not increase the price of beer a single centum. The Tories, however, shrieked out in great alarm about taxing the poor man's beer, simply because there was a holy alliance between them and the publicans. (Laughter.) They agreed to tax the working man's bread, but they actually opposed the taxation of the working man's beer! (Laughter.) Lord R. Churchill also informed them that the Conservatives were going to do something for the working classes in connection with the Land Laws. Now, he (Mr Jones) was in favour of Land Reform. There was no greater scandal in existence than the present condition of the land laws in this country. (Cheers.) He therefore had serious thoughts of turning a Conservative when he read the avowal of Lord Churchill. (Laughter.) Since then, however, he had read a speech delivered by the gentleman who was entrusted to draft and prepare this Bill for the improvement of land tenure, viz., the Attorney-General, Sir R. Webster, who is an apprentice in politics, but a clever lawyer. He said the other day, at a large meeting of Conservatives—for truly some 100 and 200 persons was a great gathering for them (laughter)—that it was not the intention of the Conservatives to do anything to the Land Laws, because they were perfection themselves at the present time. (Laughter.) It would not be possible, said the Attorney-General, to render the Land Laws more expedient, better, or cheaper than at present. ("Shame.") He (Mr Jones) stood aghast when he read this extraordinary statement of Sir Richard Webster. With regard to the Disestablishment of the Church, would the Conservatives pass this measure? They had carefully avoided, so far, all reference to this subject in the past. As regards the future, they may be perfectly sure that the Conservatives will never lay a sacrilegious hand on the loaves and fishes of the Established Church. (Laughter.) The Liberals were prepared to deal with the Disestablishment of the Church. (Loud cheers.) Although they had not yet formulated a scheme for the Reform of the Land Laws, they earnestly sought after it, and there were legislators amongst the Liberal party—men like Mr Arthur Arnold—who had endeavoured to prepare some reasonable scheme of Land Reform. Against the laws of primogeniture and entail—which ties up land in the hands of a person so that he has only a life interest in it, and is not enabled to sell it or make it in the slightest degree productive—it is perfectly true that Lord Cairns' Act afforded certain facilities for the transfer of land. Mr Henry George, on the other hand, advocated a scheme, by which he would parcel the land amongst the people, and also threatened to confiscate not only the property, but also the income (providing they had not spent it) the landowners derived from the soil, and said they would be lucky if they were not put into a debtor's prison. (Laughter.) That was an extreme view. Furthermore, many moderate Liberals thought the Land Laws might be improved simply by the abolition of primogeniture and the law of entail, and by an easy and efficacious mode of transferring the land. He was of opinion that such schemes of land nationalisation would not attain the desired aim, but would simply produce anarchy terrible to contemplate. There is a middle course—by the abolition of the law of entail, by the establishment of a free registration of title, by a mode of transfer which obtains in every European country, and by compelling—he thought that would be fair and just—the waste lands of this country to be devoted for the purpose intended by God—viz., entrusted to man. (Cheers.) By a system of State aid such as was tried in Prussia, by the establishment of land banks so as to assist and promote a peasant proprietorship, he believed they would do a great deal towards freeing the land, and transfering it to the people at large, to whom it would be a blessing, and would reinstate them once more in the position which they held in relation to the land in this country some years ago. (Cheers.) The land would not then be in the possession of 30,000 proprietors, or would 12 men own one-half of the soil in Scotland. He did not see how any reasonable man could object to the Disestablishment of the Church, and as far as the clergymen were concerned—excepting the bishops and other dignataries—they would be benefitted thereby. Instead of bishops with their thousands, and rectors here and there with their enormous salaries, the hard working parsons and poor curates in their neighbourhood—who were striving to do their duty—would have their stipends increased. He did not object to the Church as a religious body, but he urged that there should be no unequal distinctions between one sect and another. (Cheers.) He did not advocate the confiscation of the property of the Church, but if their ancient cathedrals were restored to their rightful owners they would belong to the Roman Catholics, who built these edifices during their hiearchy. Mr Jones next expressed his views on the temperance question and the abolition of the House of Lords, and dealt with other matters already referred to in these columns. In conclusion, he expressed a hope that at the next General Election the Liberal party would return to power, if not under the leadership of Mr Gladstone, he trusted the duty of commanding the party would devolve upon Mr Chamberlain. (Cheers.) They could depend upon this—that all measures which would tend to assist and promote the prosperity and well-being of the people of this country would come from the Liberal party. (Loud cheers.) If he was fortunate enought to be elected as their Parliamentary representative, he would do his best to serve their interests, and to promote all measures affecting the social, political, religious, and commercial prosperity of the people. (Loud and prolonged cheering.)

During question time, an elderly person in front of the platform created much amusement by asking Mr Jones what he thought about "The Lord of the Manor?" Mr JONES replied that he thought that person to be a most agreeable fellow. (Loud laughter.) When it was explained that the question referred to royalty rents, Mr Jones stated that these rents should be re-considered and re-adjusted. The only additional question of interest asked was in relation to the Laws of Blasphemy, when Mr Jones promised to vote for their abolition. Respecting the Criminal Law Amendment Bill, Mr Jones expressed his opinion that a vast amount of mischief had been wrought by the action of a certain London newspaper—although he gave the editor and proprietors credit for the honesty of their intentions—but he knew, from his actual knowledge of London itself, that the stories were grossly exaggerated, and were printed in a most sensational and purient style. (Cheers.)

On the motion of Mr W. FITZPATRICK, seconded by Mr THOMAS COLLINSON, and supported by Mr JOHN ORR, and other persons in the body of the Hall, a resolution affirming that Mr Jones was a fit and proper Parliamentary representative for that Division, and pledging itself to use all efforts to secure his return, was carrried by acclamation, not a single hand being held up against it. The result was received with a tremendous outburst of applause, cheers being given for Mr Gladstone.

Mr JONES, having replied in suitable terms, proposed that a similar compliment be tendered to Mr Reay for his conduct in the chair.

This was also enthusiastically carried, and the proceedings were brought to a close.

CONSERVATIVE MEETING AT MEDOMSLEY.

Last (Thursday) evening, a fairly-attended meeting of Conservative electors was held in Mr Mace's long room, Medomsley, to hear Mr J. T. Mills (Oldham) deliver his lecture on "The politics of the day." Mr C. D. W. Balleny (Ebchester) presided, and there were also on the platform Messrs Richard Murray (Benfieldside), and Geo. Moody (Ebchester). In introducing the speaker, the CHAIRMAN remarked on the dullness of trade in this country, and ascribed it to free trade, advocating as a remedy a federation with our colonies.

Mr MILLS, who was warmly received, hoped they were not all Conservatives, for it was somewhat of a monotonous thing to be constantly talking to one class of people, and if there were amongst them any Radicals he might emulate the Salvation Army and convert the Radical sinner into a righteous Tory. (Laughter.) For did not the scriptures say that there was "More rejoicing over one sinner repenting than over ninety-and-nine just persons needing no repentance," and if he could manage that, he believed he would be doing good service. (Cheers.) This was a most important period in the history of the working men of this country. Previous to 1832, they were governed by the aristocracy, and all things considered they managed to govern fairly well, though not to please the people, who agitated for a reform, which ultimately resulted in the Reform Bill of 1832 being passed. From 1832 to 1867 they were governed principally by the middle classes. In that year, 700,000 *bona-fide* working men were admitted to the right of the franchise, and he could not understand why the Government of 1867 did not see their way clear to set it on a broader basis, by giving to the counties the privilege extended to the boroughs. (Cheers.) The Liberals put off this question as long as they could, in order that at election times they might have a cry, and thus arouse the sympathies of the working classes; but as soon as they got in they troubled no more with their schemes till fairly forced. (Cheers.) When the Corn Laws were repealed, they opposed them as long as they could; and though between 1832 and 1867 they had good working majorities, yet they never dealt with reform in a practical manner. When 1866 came they had played with the question as long as they could; the people were getting disgusted, and then Mr Gladstone brought forward a measure to enfranchise about 400,000 men—a remarkable extension of political power—they were defeated, and the Conservatives came into power, and they dealt with it in a practical manner. (Cheers.) Mr Disraeli brought in a Bill, and they who had been so anxious about reform, as a body, opposed it, only 46 of their party having courage to help Mr Disraeli to pass it; and yet, strange to say, anything favourable about the bill they take themselves the credit for, and when there was anything in it they wanted to find fault with, they said it was a Tory measure. If Mr Bright wants to declaim on the minority clause he will say "The Tories passed the minority clause," and so with Messrs Gladstone and Hartington whatever in it they have against they declared to be the work of the Tories. Therefore he submitted it was a Tory measure, and they ought to have the credit of it. (Cheers.) He did not think they were very anxious about extending it to the counties, or they would not have waited for years. Why not grapple with it with a Government young and strong? (Cheers.) They heard a good deal now-a-days about the Liberals being peacelike and the Tories warlike, but since 1834 they had had 29 wars, and for 23 they were indebted to the peace-loving Liberals, and only six to the warlike Tories. (Cheers.) Mr Chamberlain, the leading exponent of Radical principles, was going about preaching doctrines and advocating a policy which anyone knows will never be carried into operation, except by a war such as that of Charles I. or Cromwell, and though he had so much to say about the "unearned increment" in land, yet he said nothing about the "unearned increment" in the screw trade. (Laughter.) Regarding Free Trade, it was sometimes said that Tories wanted to put a tax of 5s on corn. As a body they did not, and no Government, especially the Tory Government, would ever think of taxing the food of the country. The people would never submit the Corn Laws to be re-established—would never stand a tax on their food. He concluded by urging them not to be led away by either Liberal or Conservative speakers, but having heard both sides, to calmly give their decision at the polling booth in favour of those whom they thought most likely to govern them best. (Cheers.)

Votes of thanks to Chairman and speaker, the former complaining that the *Consett Guardian* did not give a fair report of their last meeting, and contended that it was not disorderly as reported, brought the proceedings to a close.

CONSERVATISM AT LANCHESTER.

An influential meeting of Conservatives was held at the Blue Bell Inn, Lanchester, last (Thursday) evening—Lieut.-Col. Wilbraham in the chair. The secretary (Mr J. J. Thompson) having detailed the doings of the party in North-West Durham during the past two months, enrolled new members and received subscriptions for the branch Association, which seems of late to have imparted into it new life and vigour, compared to a few years ago, when the Association existed only in name.

Mrs Wilson, the lady who was injured during the horse leaping at the Beamish and Consett Agricultural Show last week, is now progressing favourably.

THE SEASON.—The September part of "The Season" is well worthy the patronage of our lady readers, the contents being of great interest to those who wish to dress well at an inexpensive rate. There are three plates of new fashions exquisitely coloured, beside 16 richly-illustrated folio pages of dress and needlework, a supplement, and a large sheet of full-sized patterns and designs of embroidery. The work is designed to assist ladies in needlework and all that pertains to dress for themselves and their children, and the information it contains should make it of great value to them.

WOMAN'S PERSISTENCY.

In a night train, recently, was a woman who persisted in requesting the affable guard to inform her when Chester was reached. Every time the guard passed he was greeted with:—

"Please to tell me when we get to Chester."

Courteous man though he is, even his patience was finally exhausted, and he politely requested the unfortunate female to maintain silence, as he had heard and would heed her injunction. Chester was finally reached, and "Chester" was yelled at the door. The train again started, and the guard was entering his carriage, when his tormentor exclaimed:—

"Will you tell me when we get to Chester?"

"This is Chester!" he exclaimed, and he was about to whistle to the driver to stop.

"I'm real glad you obliged me," said the daughter of Eve to the exasperated official, and comfortably seating herself for a further journey added, "my third 'cusing' used to live here."

COLLIERY EXPLOSIONS.

A NEW "THEORY" ON THE CAUSE OF GAS EFFUSIONS PREVIOUS TO COLLIERY EXPLOSIONS.

(BY WM. SCORER, OF HARTON COLLIERY.)

My theory is—1st, that the evolution of heat from the earth, and especially from the coal faces and the goaves of a mine, is the direct cause of the evolution of gas from the coal into the air current; and, 2nd, that the evolution of heat and gas is caused by low temperature, and that the rising and falling of the temperature at the surface is the cause of heat and gas effusion, both at bank and down the mine.

When the sun is up the temperature of the air is greatly increased, and when the sun is down the temperature is much reduced. Now, when the surface temperature is about equal to the normal heat of the mine, there is no heat can escape from the walls and goaves of the mine; but as soon as the surface temperature decreases much below the normal heat of the mine, then the heat escapes in large volumes from the earth, causing great circulation in the gas fissures of the coal faces and goave spaces. It is a fact that when air enters a mine at 40 degrees that it comes out at the upcast very nearly the same as the normal heat of the mine. Suppose the normal heat of a mine is 70 degrees, this would give us 30 degrees of heat that the whole air current has absorbed during its passage through the mine. Now, when this heat makes its escape in large volumes into the air current, it will cause a much larger escape of gas from the coal faces and from the goaves at the same time.

During the day-time the temperature is always higher than during the night, and we know that gas is given off in greater quantity from the surface of the ground during the night-time. The reason of this is, that the temperature of the atmosphere has fallen very much, and hence the earth begins to give off large volumes of heat, and this brings away the gas concealed in the ground. This is especially the case with large heaps of loose coal lying on the surface. During periods of high temperature the heat and gas escape valves are closed, as it were. There is no heat or gas can escape then. But as soon as the temperature falls, then the confined heat and gas begin to come into the colder air. It is the same as if you were to put an extra weight upon the safety valve of a boiler during the day and confining the heat and steam, and then to take the weight off at night—the heat and steam would rush out of the safety valve into the air in great force. To-day the air passing into a mine is 80 degrees, to-morrow it is 50 degrees. Everything in that mine will feel the change that takes place. The heat and gas will pour into the air current in large volumes, until the normal heat is reached.

The average rise and fall of temperature from mid-day to mid-night will not be less than 20 degrees, but it varies very much, sometimes ranging very high for days together, and then ranging very low. It very often happens, after a period of high temperature, a sudden fall takes place, and we have a period of very wet weather, causing great effusion of heat and gas from the earth, but especially from the coal heaps at bank, and from the walls and goaves of the mine. These are the times when explosions are most likely to happen in pits.

The effect of warm weather in winter is very dangerous, if succeeded by a sharp frost, as we sometimes find the temperature lower by 20 or 30 degrees in a few hours. A simple change of wind from south to north will do this. The effect of very dry weather is likewise dangerous, if followed by a sudden fall of rain. This will cause an immense sum of heat and gas to effuse from the ground and coal heaps and goaves and coal faces of the mine, thus fouling the air current and rendering an explosion very probable.

There have been many theories advanced to account for gas explosions in coal mines, but they are all unable to account for the large quantity of fire-damp that is in the air course previous to the explosion. No scientific man as yet has been able to account for the large volume of gas that must have been in the air-ways before the pit could be filled with flame; but in order to make their own peculiar theories fit, they are actually trying to make it appear as if those great explosions would take place without gas; but their reasoning is thoroughly fallacious, and will have to be abandoned. It is impossible to imagine an explosion in a mine without either coal dust or fire-damp in the air current; but to think of a large colliery explosion without the presence of a considerable per centage of fire-damp in the air current is very foolish, indeed. Hence the coal dust theory is very unsatisfactory.

CHANGING TEMPERATURE.

Another very prevalent theory is the rising and falling of the barometer, or air pressure. That this is a helping cause no wise man will doubt; but it has been found on close observation that nearly all our large colliery explosions take place during high pressure. Hence this theory is likewise very unsatisfactory in accounting for any large effusion of gas into the air current previous to an explosion. And yet our scientific men are trying to prove it as the principal cause of gas escapes from the goaves and fissures of the mine. Anything more unreasonable can hardly be imagined. Even our Meteorological Office is issuing colliery warnings every two or three days based on this theory; but the real cause is hid from their eyes, and hence they are in the dark, and the public are bewildered and have no confidence in those colliery warnings.

EARTH TREMORS.

Another theory is that of earthquakes, for nearly all our large explosions seem to be accompanied with earth tremors. They are much more frequent in the winter than in the summer, and are nearly always at night-time, so that the same thing that causes the one seems to cause the other; hence we have certain scientific men trying to prove that colliery explosions are caused by earthquakes. The fact is that low temperature is the great cause of earthquakes also. An earthquake is simply the earth contracting together from the loss of heat. In winter time when the air is very cold the heat that escapes from the earth is immense, causing great contraction of the earth's crust.

HIGH TEMPERATURE.

Very many men, especially Mr Galloway, have tried to prove that high temperature was the cause of gas effusion in mines, but after very careful examination they were obliged to abandon it, as scarcely ever has an explosion occurred during high temperature. Nearly all their experience goes to prove that colliery explosions take place during a "high barometer and a low temperature." Hence they abandoned high temperature as being a cause at all, and began to issue colliery warnings when the barometer was likely to be high, supposing it to be the cause only; so that they have been unable to discover as yet how low temperature could produce this great mystery, fire-damp, previous to large explosions.

THUNDERSTORMS.

It is the opinion of many that the electric fluid is the cause of some colliery explosions, simply because many colliery explosions do happen during thunderstorms; but the fact is, the effect of a thunderstorm is to greatly reduce the temperature of the atmosphere. Previous to a thunderstorm there is nearly always great heat in the atmosphere. The temperature has ranged high for days; the air becomes sultry and oppressive. We all know there is going to be a thunderstorm, so we tell each other about it. The fact is, there has been a very high range of temperature previous to the storm, but immediately the storm begins, the heat of the atmosphere suddenly decreases, and within the space of an hour or two there has been a large reduction of temperature. The whole area covered by the storm is greatly affected by the change. All the escape valves are opened, and the heat and gas that have been sealed up for days rush from the earth in great volumes into the colder air, until it is heated up again. It is during this short period when the temperature is low that the air current is fouled with fire-damp. Almost the whole mine feels the great change that has taken place at the surface. The pent up heat and gas of days come suddenly off into the passing current at the very time when the air at bank is largely fouled with the gas arising from the ground and coal heaps. That the air current of a mine will be very largely fouled by a change like this cannot be very well doubted, and all by a change of temperature at the surface, while the barometer may not have moved at all.

We will now proceed to apply our theory to some of the great explosions that have taken place in the past, and we will do so on the evidence of those very scientific gentlemen we have referred to, who were at a loss to account for the great effusion of fire-damp previous to the explosions.

SEAHAM COLLIERY EXPLOSION.

This explosion took place on September 8, 1880, causing the death of 165 men. There was a scientific inquiry, but the verdict of the jury was, "That the pit fired by the air current being in an explosive condition, but how it became so was a mystery." The extraordinary per centage of gas in the air current previous to the explosion makes the various theories set up to account for it appear quite unreasonable. Even Professor Abel himself was at a loss to account for this "great mystery." Indeed, the whole of the witnesses seemed to be appalled at the large quantity of gas that must have been in the air current previous to the explosion, so great was the blast.

Now, there can be no doubt that the surface temperature that prevailed about Seaham for two or three days before this explosion was very high, as the following extract from the *Weekly Chronicle*, January 21, 1881, will show:—"Then comes the appalling disaster at Seaham Colliery, in which 165 brave men fell victims, when, after oppressively hot weather, there was a sudden fall of the temperature."

HOW THE AIR CURRENTS FOULED.

During this period of "hot weather" the heat and gas fissures of the earth and of the mine would be closed, and the heat of the surface air would be greater than the heat of the earth's crust, and more than equal to the normal heat of the mine. But as soon as this "sudden fall of the temperature" had taken place, then the earth began to send forth very large volumes of heat and gas into the colder air. The concealed heat and gas in the large heaps of coal that were lying at the surface would come off in great quantities, the whole constitution of the mine would experience the great change that had taken place at bank, and the walls and goaves of the mine after having given off no heat or gas for days would begin to give off vast quantities of confined heat and gas into the colder air current that was passing. In this way the air current was fouled before it got far in-bye, a man fires a shot on the main way, the gaseous air explodes, and the whole mine is filled with fire.

A VAST EFFUSION OF GAS.

Suppose there were 300,000 cubic feet of air per minute passing through this mine (whose normal heat will be about 70 degrees), and the air at the surface is 30 degrees, when it gets to the bottom of the upcast it will not be less than 65 degrees; so that the air has absorbed 35 degrees per cubic foot from the mine, or a total of 10½ millions of degrees per minute. Now, suppose the surface temperature to rise to 70 degrees, it is evident that this mighty effusion of heat from the mine will cease, and as long as it remains high there will be no evolution of heat from the walls and goaves of the mine. But as soon as there has been a large fall of surface temperature, the suppressed heat of the mine will come off in large volumes into the colder air current; and if this great evolution of heat from the goaves and coal faces of the mine is the cause of gas effusion, then this is the very time it will come off likewise. And if for a long time the temperature was high, there would be an immense sum of gas pent up in the goaves and fissures of the mine, and when the temperature fell there would be a vast effusion of gas into the air current for some time after the fall.

PENYGRAIG COLLIERY EXPLOSION.

Mr Galloway, of the Royal Society, gave his evidence at this inquest that the great explosion there on December 10th, 1880, was largely caused by the great quantity of coal dust in the mine. But during his evidence he gives us very important data on which to found a far more simple cause as to the great sum of fire-damp that was in the main air course previous to the explosion. He says that he took the temperature of the mine on the 12th of January, 1881, which was as follows:—

	Dry Bulb.	Wet Bulb.
At bank	28 degrees	27 degrees
,, bottom of downcast	38 ,,	38 ,,
,, the workings	58 ,,	52 ,,
,, bottom of upcast	66 ,,	60 ,,

Normal heat of mine.........73 degrees.

It will be seen that the air passing through this pit absorbed about 40 degrees of heat per minute per cubic foot, and suppose there were 100,000 cubic feet of air per minute passing down, then the evolution of heat into the air from the coal would be about four million degrees of heat per minute.

Now, suppose the ventilation was stopped for about twenty hours, and just one-half its quantity was to pass down, then there would be an immense sum of heat and gas stored up in the goaves and fissures of the mine equal to 2,400 million degrees of heat and gas, and as soon as the ventilation was fully restored again, this immense volume of heat and gas would come off.

VENTILATION INTERRUPTED.

Now, it appears from the evidence of Mr Galloway that an over-winding accident did take place at the upcast pit about a day and a half before the explosion, causing great damage to the covering. It is very evident that this would cause a large stoppage of the ventilating current, which would remain very slack until the damaged covering was repaired, and that during this slack ventilation the evolution of heat and gas from the mine would be very largely stopped likewise. But as soon as the accident was repaired and the ventilation fully restored, the escape valves of the mine would be opened, and all the pent up heat and gas would come off in large volumes into the air current, then a man fires a shot, the mine explodes, and 100 lives are lost. I have no hesitation in saying that this is a far more reasonable explanation than that of Mr Galloway's.

"A NEW DISCOVERY."

This new discovery of scientific truth will explain the cause of nearly every colliery explosion that has taken place in late years. It will give a reasonable explanation of the explosiveness of the air current before the explosion. It will clear up the great mystery, FIRE-DAMP, that has hitherto baffled all inquiry. It is the key that opens the door to a new law, or, rather, an old law in science, whereby many mysterious things can be simply accounted for, and cleared up, that have been quite unexplainable hitherto.

This discovery of the true law will show when fire-damp may be reasonably expected to make its appearance in the air current of a mine, and to be prepared for the danger at the proper time, and not be in the dark as at present, for low temperature has not been supposed before this to be dangerous to mines, but the very opposite is the opinion of our learned men. It ought to be a great help in solving the mystery, how to prevent explosions of fire-damp in mines.

REFLECTIONS.

This discovery of the cause of fire-damp in mines suggests the following reflections:—

1st, That the evolution of heat from the mine is the cause of the evolution of gas from the mine.

2nd, That low temperature is the cause of both.

3rd, That stopping the ventilation is not so dangerous, but when it is fully restored again is the time of danger.

4th, That there is much more danger of fire-damp at night-time than during the day.

5th, That winter time is the most dangerous time for fire-damp escapes in mines.

6th, That coal heaps lying near the mouth of downcast shaft are highly dangerous.

7th, That heat effusion, gas effusion, and earthquakes are coincident with each other, and are the results of one cause—low temperature.

8th, That the sudden reduction of temperature during thunderstorms is likewise very dangerous.

DON'T DIE IN THE HOUSE.—"Rough on Rats," clears out rats, mice, beetles, roaches, bed-bugs, flies, ants, moles, chipmunks, gophers. 7½d. and 1s. boxes at Chemists.

TOWLE'S PENNYROYAL AND STEEL PILLS FOR FEMALES quickly correct all irregularities, and relieve the distressing symptoms so prevalent with the sex. Boxes 1s. 1½d. and 2s. 9d., of all Chemists. Sent anywhere on receipt of 15 or 34 Stamps by the maker, E. T. TOWLE, Chemist Nottingham.

SOMETHING FOR YOUNG PEOPLE.

PRIDE AND USEFULNESS.

"Yes, I've been very strict with those children," said the Bronze Clock to the China Shepherdess, who stood near him on the mantelpiece, holding up a shell-shaped vase, "but it's the only way to train a large family like this."

"I'm sure you've done wonders with them," said the Shepherdess, who thought the Clock the wisest person in the world.

"Well, I've done my best," said the Clock, modestly, "and I must say they are very regular in their habits; but I still find it necessary to be firm. When a whole household looks up to you, and depends upon you, it doesn't do to let down for a single minute."

"No, indeed!" said the Shepherdess.

"Sometimes they seem to think I ought to. When bed time comes, the children look imploringly at me, begging to be allowed to stay a little longer, and then mamma looks to see what I think about it; but I set my face very rigidly, and point straight at the hour. It's a matter of principle with me."

"I see!" said the Shepherdess, with an admiring murmur.

"I've had some trouble with Ben. He's a lazy little fellow, and it's really amusing to see the look of dismay he gives me when he hurries down late to breakfast. I fix a stern glance upon him, and mamma knows I won't stand any trifling, for she lets everything else go to get him off to school at exactly the time I have always insisted upon."

"So much care must be a great tax on you," said the Shepherdess.

"Of course, for I have to be on the alert night and day. Bridget peeps in the first thing in the morning, to see if I think she is up early enough, and the master never goes to his most important business appointments without consulting me."

"They never could get along without you in the world," exclaimed the Shepherdess.

The Clock thought so too, and became every day more filled with the idea of his own consequence. He was so possessed with the feeling that the whole family were made to move at his command that he was astonished when the oldest boy began paying less heed to the time-honoured go-to-bed hour of [illegible] children, and felt a growing sense of insulted d[illegible] as this irregularity seemed to increase in [illegible] hold as the years went on. [illegible] the house-

"What are they thinking of!" he said to his friend the Shepherdess, who was in warm sympathy with him, and deeply resented the slights cast upon him. "Do they imagine they can live without my directing? If they do, I must teach them their mistake some day. I'll stop!"

"Oh, dear!" cried the Shepherdess, in great distress. "It's dreadful, I know, to be so treated after such years of faithful service, but don't do anything so desperate as that! What would become of them?"

But the Clock wore a severe face as the school four—so long regarded with awe, as he day by day pointed to it with an unbending hand—came at last to be entirely neglected, and an angry clang crept into the tinkle with which he told the hour when good nights always used to be said, and no one noticed either look or tone.

One evening a merry company of boys and girls gathered, and laugh and chat and music sounded, while the Clock grew crosser and crosser, until he at length rang out eleven strokes before quiet fell on the house.

"I can't stand this any longer," he declared, very decidedly. "The time has come when this family must look out for itself."

He stopped ticking, and the poor little Shepherdess waited in terror for the ruin she felt sure must follow. It seemed to begin at once, for everybody got up late the next morning, and there was some disorder and confusion, at which the clock rejoiced.

But before night things were running as usual, and mamma said: "I must have forgotten to wind the Clock." She did it; but he was so angry at having created so small a sensation that he at once stopped again. Then he was sent away for repairs. "Are all the family alive still?" he asked the Shepherdess when he was brought back and set up in his old place.

"Yes," she said.

"And have they regular meals every day?"

"Yes."

He sulked and held his breath for at least fifteen minutes. This, of course, put him back, which he soon had the comfort of seeing caused annoyance and perplexity among those who still looked up to him in confidence. Being set right, he worked himself into such a state of crabbedness that he gained nearly half an hour.

"Serves them right!" he snarled, seeing with delight how much discomfort he caused. "Now they are beginning to see that I am a person not to be trifled with." But one day the master said: "This clock is worn out; it no longer keeps good time."

"And its gong must be cracked," said somebody else, "for its ring is so harsh I cannot bear to hear it."

"Carry it up to the garret."

It was placed upon a shelf with its face to the wall. It ran down, and its tick remained silent and its stroke was hushed. No bright eyes looked up to it, and no one listened for its voice. Rust and dust and decay settled upon it, sad reminders that the Bronze Clock's days of usefulness were over.

SKETCHING A ROGUE.

Some time ago a newspaper paragraph told of a certain bank which keeps a photographer stationed in a room commanding a view of the business enclosure. When suspicious-looking characters come in to present cheques they are at once photographed, of course without their knowledge. Clever as the idea is, a little boy made practical use of it years before it occurred to the bank directors.

Thomas Gainsborough, the celebrated portrait-painter, shewed extraordinary talent while he was still a child. At the back of his father's house was a large orchard, separated from the road by a fence. The ripe fruit had for some time been mysteriously disappearing, but the thief had not been detected. One morning, little Tom rose early to sketch in the enclosure, and while he sat quietly engaged, noticed a man's face peering over the fence. He was gazing longingly at the ripe pears, and though strongly tempted, evidently hesitated to steal.

Gainsborough hastily made a sketch of his features, but causing some slight noise during the process, the man was frightened away.

The sketch was displayed at the breakfast-table, and afterwards led to the identification of the culprit. The man declared his innocence until confronted by the faithful portrait of his own features. Then his bravado speedily disappeared, and he confessed to a long course of pilfering.

NUTS TO CRACK.

1.—I consist of sixteen letters. My 2, 3, 6, 10 is a river; my 7, 11, 4, 13, 3, 6, 15, 8 is a quadruped; my 4, 13, 3, 4, 12 is a province; my 1, 16, 10 is a noun; and my *whole* stretches far and wide.

2.—I require eight letters. My 8, 7, 6, 5 is of iron or wood, and may be steel or brass, deal or mahogany; my 1, 4, 3, 2 is a mixed tint, known in connection with dress; and my *whole* is uncommon.

3.—When I and May
Went out one day
To take a little stroll,
A beast came by,
With gleaming eye,
His looks, indeed, were *whole*.

May soon espied
Him by her side,
And *second* did exclaim;
He quickly heard,
And, seeing *third*,
Right after us he came.

Said I to May,
Let's run, I pray,
And *first* without delay;
I'm glad to state
We found a gate,
And so got safe away.

4.—*First*, in front; *second*, still further in front; and *whole*, a protection.

5.—In fish, not in bird.
In sentence, not in word.
In paper, not in book.
In macaw, not in rook.
In moss, not in grass.
In silver, not in brass.
In hare, not in goat.
My *whole* is a kind of boat.

6.—DOUBLE ACROSTICS.—If you object to my *first*, you must not grumble at my *second*. A tree, a novelist, a bird, a title.

7.—My initials mention a game, and my finals give part of its machinery. A vehicle, a brave man, a flower, a season, a noise.

LAST WEEK'S KERNELS.

1.—Ten, fen, fin, fix, six. 2. Knaresborough. 3. Matfelon. 4. Goldsmith, Scott, Cowper, Gray, Moore, Wordsworth, Prior, Dryden, Campbell, Pope, Spenser. 5. Wheelbarrow. 6. Washington. 7. Chinese Gordon.

Teacher: "John, suppose I were to shoot at a tree with five birds on it and killed three, how many would be left?" John: "Three, sir." Teacher: "No, two would be left, you ignoramus." John: "No, there wouldn't, though. The three shot would be left, and the other two would have flied away."

LADIES' COLUMN.

The grouse are having a very un[illegible] quiet time of it at present. Those first days of awakening [illegible] to the sound of the sportsmen's guns must be very star[illegible] experiences. If the old birds hand down tradition[illegible] young ones of what is meant by the [illegible] invasion of their quiet homes on the [illegible] of August, what an anxious time there ma[illegible] be on the moorland. The birds find themselves only regarded as tenants at will, liable to summary ejectment without any compensation for disturbance. Tourists are like the famous sheep of Panurge in following one another on certain tracts. One year French watering places are the chief resort, Etretat, Biarritz, or Trouville, the next year the Engadine is the favourite spot. Last year the cholera scare on the Continent did much to reawaken the interest the author of "Waverley" had created for Scotland, which in recent years had died down. This year a few letters in the daily papers denouncing the incivility of innkeepers, landlords proving themselves to be despots, have done much to check the stream of travellers towards the Border. There is no doubt but that the ordinary Scotch "mine host of the inn" is wanting in suavity. To describe his manners the famous formula comes in of the Icelandic traveller regarding snakes—"of these there are none." Sandy does not polish as years go on, rather as the amenities of life are more widely understood does his ruggedness offend the Southern ear. Sir Walter Scott wrote up Scotland and brought the Highlands into notice. The Scotch innkeeper presumes upon the "Waverley" traditions and gives himself airs of importance. Travellers are there on sufferance, by kind permission of the natives, who allow the visitors to pay the extreme price for very indifferent comforts. But a change is already setting in. The generation of readers is dying out that [illegible] pilgrimage to these "Waverley" shrines, and [illegible] young people of high school training care little for the novels which were the delight of their parents before sensationalism came into vogue.

Ten years ago no enthusiastic traveller would have dared to write in daily papers to complain of a landlord in the land of Scott. Now the merest grumble awakens slumbering echoes which "roll from soul to soul," as the poet says, and the result will certainly be injurious to the canny Scot.

The Thames seems to have a still greater place than usual in the affections of English people this year. The houseboat is a comparatively modern institution, but bids fair to grow and become a formidable rival to the country inns. The houseboat is merely a barge on the deck of which a long saloon is built, which is divided into separate apartments for eating, sleeping, cooking, &c. The accommodation varies, of course, with the size of the boat, but there may be two, or even three sleeping cabins, one for eating and living and one for cooking. Given good weather, a party of friends of congenial tempers and life in the houseboat for three months of each year a very delightful. With every barge is a small dingey, for making excursions in, to row up and down the river when it is not desired to move the whole establishment.

The summer season is generally taken advantage of by excavators bent on unearthing treasure in all parts of the world. The list grows daily, and is an eccentric one. The rich American lady who is in search of the Garden of Eden, or rather, to write correctly, of its site, has made some important discoveries in Chaldea, south of Babylon, of which the most important is the uncovering more of the remains of an ancient city which is believed to be the ancient Sippora on the bank of the Euphrates. Chaldean history, or rather tradition, has it that at the site where Sippora afterwards stood Noah buried all the records of the antediluvian world before the flood took place. Without entering upon speculations as to how far the lines of country must have been affected by a vast deluge, we may wish the American lady every success. She means to dig up thoroughly until she finds something very astonishing; and there is no question of the valuable secrets which these buried cities have to yield to indefatigable investigators.

Another set of treasure seekers is going to work in the fortress of Magdeburg. According to tradition, when the French were obliged hastily to evacuate in 1813, they buried money amounting to two or three millions, whether of francs or pounds, we are not informed. It is scarcely likely that such a store as this would have been left undiscovered in the nineteenth century, covetous, not to say greedy, of wealth.

The newest mantles and jackets are all furnished with hoods, not for use but for ornament. There are figures which look well with hoods, and others to which it gives deformity. The coloured linings look very bright and pretty if the dresses are in harmony. There is nothing new in this addition to a cloak or long jacket, but the innovation this year is in having the hood on very short capes and mantles. The effect is given of a lady being all hood, as some of the hoods come down to the waist behind. They are all of the circular open form, or else the open shape which comes to a point.

The latest draping of the back of the skirt is the burnouse, in the style of the old hood of the burnouse cloak worn some 20 years ago. It has many advantages over the informal and irregular mode of looping up a skirt, for which few dressmakers could give any rules. The best plan is to purchase a really good paper model and follow its instructions, as all descriptions are only misleading.

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LOVE IN A MIST:

A ROMANCE.

BY KENINGALE COOK, LL.D.,
Author of "The Guitar Player," "The King's Kent," &c., &c.

CHAPTER IX.

AN ACCOMMODATING HUSBAND.

Lady Katherine's refusal to acknowledge her husband was a smart buffet, and it made Otto ponder a moment or two; meanwhile her majestic rage had been too much for her, and she had sunk back again into her chair, exhausted.

"If she were the only person alive that knew me then," he thought to himself, "it might be difficult to identify myself, and I should be in a hole, for she'd see me deeper before she'd say a word to get me out, if she thought she saw a chance of bluffing the thing. It would cost something, but surely I could get half-a-dozen to come over and swear to me. Let me see, there's the Count, if he's not dead, and Captain Strick, if only he's been moderately temperate, and old Jacques, the billiard-marker—he was a tough old sort; I could find up plenty.

Then he spoke again to his wife. "I am not so very much altered; you have recognised me, so will others. You may say there is a crime in my way which would prevent my acting in my own interests. I forged my own death and burial certificates; it's not exactly a pious thing to do, but I don't think its a criminal offence, in fact, I'm sure it isn't. Now, if I had forged some other person's death evidences, and so got rich by succeeding to his effects, that might have been criminal; but I have not made myself rich in any such way. Here I am; poor, but virtuous."

"Again I say I do not recognise you," said Lady Katherine, but her voice had not the same confident ring as before.

Otto took no notice of her words; he was winning the game, he thought. "Were you not glad that I died and left you?" he said, in a wheedling tone. "Seven years' peace! Think well of that! Seven years you have been able to live respectably without me. You can surely afford me now a moment's notice, after such a time of tranquil fond oblivion." The wretch had all the makings of the stage villain of the quite modern type. The home of such a man in real life is the boulevards of a big city, far removed from the soft influences of nature, with acquaintances instead of friends; a hard, dry, gay, glittering and selfish existence, instead of either a beautiful or a useful one.

"I defy you!" cried Lady Katherine; "even if you were my husband, you have been seven years missing. I can marry—or am now married, which is equivalent to it."

"Not quite, I think," said Otto, with a *dégagé* air—he took less interest in the game now it had become so easy. Lady Katherine's powers were evidently nothing against him. She could not frustrate his purposes in any way. She was falling into his hands like a ripe plum. He would enjoy, he thought, all the pecuniary advantages of having a rich wife to draw upon, without the responsibility of appearing in the *ménage* himself. The other gentleman did, and would, no doubt, continue to do all the needful. "What a consummate arrangement," he said to himself.

"You are certainly married, my dear," he went on; "but not in the way you suppose. You are still married to me, and only waiting for me to claim you. Of course, if you like, you have the option of claiming me, which comes to the same thing . . . nearly. I still can claim my rights—I take much interest in my country's laws."

A look of utter hopelessness settled upon Lady Katherine's face. The ray of hope which had brightened her a few moments before, and the strength of will which had resulted from it, had both vanished.

"Listen to me a moment," resumed the subtle vagabond. "Unfortunate false reports—what matters how they arose—made you believe your husband dead. I can see in my mind's eye the intelligent counsel addressing the judge—not that there will be any need of going such lengths to prove my case. 'This poor man,' I can hear him say, 'this unhappy husband is far away, he does not hear of these reports, these false reports of his own death. Some one, from interested motives no doubt, forges certificates to prove his death; in fact, makes him dead in law. But is the unfortunate man dead? is he to lose these rights, perhaps dearer to him than life? Are we to speak, to consent to his death,—nay, to murder him outright, to deprive him of his identity, and in the sacred name of the law? No!'" said the scamp, warming with the subject which he was now holding, as it were, at arm's length, "no, he cannot be so deprived of his personality. Penelope waited all the years of the lonely wanderings of Ulysses, but if she had not done so, would he have been any the less Ulysses, any the less her husband when he returned? Now he comes to claim his rights, his natural, honest rights, which are not lapsed, but have been merely held in abeyance.—You were hasty, my dear Kate, and should have mourned me longer. Here I am, your husband, at your service."

"Wretched man!" burst out Lady Katherine, in sudden passion, violent but weak, "your plot shall fail—our marriage took place abroad. It will not hold good here under the circumstances."

"It was strictly legal," rejoined Otto; "you perhaps forget that it took place at the British Consulate. The poor man who performed the rite died soon after, but the registrar, I imagine, survives."

Lady Katherine remained silent for a moment. If this return of the prodigal had taken place soon after his reported death, and before his wife had seen her way to cut herself free from the old surroundings, and had succeeded almost in obliterating the memory of them, her dilemma would have been a million times less cruel. There would have been no welcome, no fatted calf would have been killed; but Katherine would perforce have accepted the inevitable. But now all was changed; she had entered upon an irreproachable life in the eyes of the world, and was asked to come down from her high place in society to a worse position than even the one she had left, the hopelessly ineligible situation of a convicted adventuress. She would be regarded as having established herself on false pretences, suspected of having connived at a report of Baringer's death, of having basely defrauded a confiding man who had placed his affection and his name in her keeping. Abstract sympathy may be awarded both by sympathetic and by philosophic minds to a wretched mortal whose plan of life has been wrecked; but practical sympathy—social support—she would never, never win. She knew enough of the world to be very sure of that.

On the one side she saw immediate exposure with its disastrous unalterable results; on the other, what?—A doubtful plan, perhaps a crime, but at all events a chance; at least a postponement of the deluge now threatened by black darkness of gathered clouds, a delay such as to a criminal on his hanging morning is almost as comforting as a reprieve.

When she spoke again, it was with a change of tone. She had got her wits about her once more. The ghastly game of skill between the two was resumed. She felt like the old necromancers must have felt whenthey were trying to make a good bargain with his Satanic majesty, who is generally understood to have stood smiling and polite before them, very much as Otto looked now.

"Who knows of the marriage you speak of?" she inquired, in a trembling voice that strove to be calm.

"I and my documents," replied Otto, taking some papers from his pocket.

"No one else—no one in this country?"

"No one."

"You come, you say, to claim your rights——"

"My rights cannot be denied," replied Otto; "such rights claim of themselves."

"Then," said Lady Katherine, rising suddenly and seizing the oriental dagger which lay among bric-a-brac on the table close by, "I also claim mine!"

"Is it for me?" said Otto, pointing to the dagger with scorn, but holding his arm on guard by way of precaution.

"No, for myself!" cried Lady Katherine, in accents which the bitter emotion she had passed through enabled her to make tremblingly real, theatrical though her gestures were, for in reality she had no intention of making away with herself.

"Nay, hold!" said Otto relieved, and with a deprecating gesture. He was quite willing that she should score her point, for the matter was working, he surmised, just in the way he desired.

"You claim your rights!" hissed Lady Katherine, holding the dagger's point to her breast.

"She's only making terms," he said to himself; "still, there's no harm in being prudent. Besides, what's the good of enraging her?"

So he spoke gently. "I claim my rights! Dear Mrs. Baringer, I did not quite say that. It all depends which course may seem most prudent. You yourself may have a word to say, you may have views. You have known what it is to make plans, I think,—else why when you went through the ceremony of marriage with Mr. Urswick (whose acquaintance, by-the-bye, I have not yet had the pleasure of making)—"

A look flashed from Lady Katherine as if a new pang was striking through her heart.

"Why did you not use your proper name? I find your maiden name in the register."

"The title came after you were dead. Besides, we had only lived abroad, and my mother wished to bury all that past. When we came home from that unhappy exile, I was young, and I came to England not as your widow—not even as what I was before I knew you, for I was only Miss Katherine, not Lady Katherine then. All was changed, and if forgotten like a fading dream, the past might be as if it had not been."

"What *if's*! Is it so easy to forget?"

"It was right to try to forget; it was my duty to try to forget; you were dead, and I was glad to forget. I am candid, you see; and you know that anyone who went through what I went through would have been glad if only forgetfulness could have been obtained. The title, too, which reached my father just before he died, made my position different. His creditors got paid; we were rich for a few months. Then he died. What were we to do? The lands went with the title, the money was all but gone. My name had been changed, and by no act of mine, for the title came to me from my own family, and not as your widow! My mother arranged a marriage for me, and all would have been well—all was well till just now—but for this infamy, this unexpected, cruel trickery of yours."

"Then all is well still, provided the infamy, as you call it, of mine, remains unknown. Who knows anything of these matters but we two? I need not claim my rights. I'm open to some compromise. Of course I could find witnesses," he added, "to testify to the fact of our marriage and my identity, but their memories would have to be refreshed, and they are not likely to trouble the waters, if we only keep the pool quiet between ourselves."

It had again become a game of skill between the two, and in proportion that each had become cooler, each of the combatants had the advantage of a close acquaintance with the other's ways and wiles, drawn from the unforgotten experience of the past. Lady Katherine was over-matched, but she played the strongest card in her hand.

"You wish me then," she said, in an indignant tone, "to buy myself the right to be a criminal! Up to this moment, observe, I am only unfortunate and deserving of every honest man and woman's pity. Supposing I return to you, confess to Mr. Urswick my horrible mistake—my husband long since proved and accepted as dead, but now by strange mischance discovered to have been alive. You would insist upon your rights,—you should have them. Mr. Urswick would give me an allowance; not enough for you to quarter yourself on. I should then apply for a separation from you."

She had become cool enough to see clearly what Otto's game was, and, in spite of her words, had decided in one of those momentous crises of the inner spirit which come in the twinkling of an eye, and overrule the reason, to play the dangerous part of concealment. This was exactly what he wanted, but she had summoned all her powers to oppose his plan, in order to shew that she was not without resources, and was not falling like too ripe fruit into his hungry hands.

He met her at once on the point where he knew she would feel most keenly. "What a nine days' scandal it would make!" he said. "I ought to take a brief engagement as a journalist; having all the facts at my fingers' ends, I might command a high price. Choice expressions for a hundred varied paragraphs, 'Bigamy in high life,' 'A *revenant* husband,' 'A new Enoch Arden,' 'The continent and the island, with a husband in each!' There's no end to them, all interesting. But to be more serious; think of what you lose,—pride, position, wealth; then of what you gain—throw in notoriety of course—an old discarded spouse, a most charming fellow without a doubt, but without a shilling he can call his own. Yet,—" and his voice took the new inflection that would have ensured him a place as an actor—"his temptation! —think how strong it is!—to do the virtuous thing for once in a while. You would be *Lady* Baringer, I presume; it has an agreeable sound. Pray let me think upon the matter. 'Faith! why should I resist (and here his affectation would have been sublime upon the stage) when *virtue tempts me*!"

"Virtue tempts you!—the only temptation virtue could have for you would be when it paid you better to be honest than dishonest. I know you only too well. You want to sell your silence at a high price; you've come to the conclusion that this scheme is your last chance of making plunder. No doubt you concocted it some time ago, and have now put it forward because you have exhausted every other way of raising the wind. Virtue! you don't even know what the word means."

"I am content, my lady, to leave my morals in your hands; you may represent virtue, and put all the wickedness down to me."

"My control of money, you must know, is very limited. My husband's wealth is in his landed property. If you ask for too much, I simply say 'No' to your plundering plans altogether. Then you'll see that I can be virtuous too; I'll deny your identity, and if you prove it, poison myself."

"Now, don't get angry again, Kate," said Otto, in a conciliatory tone, and rubbing his hands. They were coming to business at last. "Squeeze out a few hundreds now. You can say you want some new jewellery or a little extra for dress. This will satisfy me for the moment, and I will come again when I need more."

"I have one condition; if you don't agree to it you don't get a single shilling from me. It is that you leave England once and for all. This pledge made and kept, certain sums shall be forwarded to you abroad every three months."

"I agree, my lady. I've all the world before him whence to choose,' all the world but England: Well, it's a dreary, moral, Sundayfied, shopkeeping, fog-ridden old place. That country's mine which makes me most at ease; my wants are few; I like a nicely fitting glove; haven't had many pairs lately by-the-by; I can't do without a little, just a very little gamble now and then; wine, cigars, and one or two other luxuries are indispensable—when I can command them. Thank you, my lady; I am prepared to fall in with your views to a nicety. You know I'm always a most accommodating man. And now that business is settled, and you've got over your fright—by Jove, you were in a state at first—aren't you glad to see me? Old times, you know—"

"You're an insufferable knave; I'd have you hung this moment, if it were in my power."

"Gently, Lady Kate, gently! What's the excitement now? You don't hang me, you know; you transport me. And by-the-way, you know, I can't leave London till your first instalment comes."

The sound of a carriage stopping at the door is borne to Lady Katherine's ears, quickened as they are by apprehensiveness. She looks at her watch, and a new alarm is visible on her face. A much longer time than she had supposed had passed in this terrible interview.

"Some one is coming," she whispered hoarsely to Otto—"quick, invent some reason why you are here."

The door was opened by a footman, and as the new comer came up to it along the hall, Otto, by magic as it appeared, produced a complete change in his own aspect. Two rapid tugs at his garments almost entirely altered their character. A grave responsibility settled upon his face; he might even be said to look pious. He had a timid depreciatory manner, a close copy of the air of a sub-secretary of a charitable institution, in the presence of a leading lady-patroness. This was the part he assumed with lightning rapidity and wonderful illusory effect, and both pose and expression bore eloquent testimony alike to his mimetic powers, and to his adroitness and fertility of expedient.

He had begun to speak before Mr. Urswick entered the room, and proceeded without any haste or tremor in his voice, but with a slight snuffle and stammer very unlike his ordinary plausible tones.

"Then you'll kindly make inquiries?" he was saying to Lady Urswick. "This is one of the most deserving cases noted by our society. It is well worthy of your investigation and assistance."

Then, seeing the new comer, he bowed low but stiffly, with a dignified and slightly harsh, "Your servant, sir." He remembered that the representative position of the official should command respect, as well as that the agent before the patron should shew subservience.

With another bow, and a respectful greeting to Lady Katherine, he quitted the room, the beau-ideal of a stranger who had taken in the situation at a glance,—the husband's return; and with much delicacy of feeling made himself scarce as promptly as he could, yet so as to shew no flurry.

"The further papers shall follow, my lady!" he murmured blandly as he went out.

"So you're home again," said Lady Katherine to Sebastian Urswick as the door closed. "I was expecting you, and am glad your train was so punctual. Are you tired?"

"Not a bit," replied Sebastian gaily, "ever so much stronger for the country air. By-the-by who was it left the room just now? I don't remember to have seen him here before."

"Oh, it's nothing," exclaimed Lady Katherine, crushing Otto's card in her hand; "its only a begging impostor, that's all; at least he's probably that. One almost yields, they are so plausible," she added, with a slight quaver in her voice.

"You are not looking well; you look pale and disturbed," said Sebastian, inquiringly.

"He brought a piteous tale of misfortune; he professes to represent a charitable society. I am so very sensitive, you know; to hear of distress and trouble shakes my nerves so soon."

"Well, we'll talk of something else," said Sebastian; "it seems to be you now that want change."

Lady Katherine made no reply, but looked the lady of delicate sensibilities and humanitarian feeling to perfection.

(*To be continued.*)

"MAYN'T I have some more sugar in my tea, Auntie George, please?" "More sugar! Why, my dear child, you have had three lumps already." "Yes, auntie, I know I have, but they all melt away so!"

THE ORIGIN OF THE THIMBLE.—The thimble is a Dutch invention that was first brought to England in 1695 by one John Lofting, who began its manufacture at Islington, gaining thereby both honour and profit. Its name was derived from the words thumb and bell, being for a long time called thumbell, and only lately thimble. Old records say that thimbles were at first worn on the thumb; but we can scarcely conceive how they could be of much use there. Formerly they were made of brass and iron only, but of late years, steel, silver, gold, horn, ivory, and even pearl and glass, have all been used for making thimbles. I saw some very beautiful ones in China, that were exquisitely carved, of pearl, and bound with gold, and the end also of gold. These pearl thimbles are quite as costly and far prettier than those made entirely of gold. Usually there is a pearl sheath for the scissors, and a dainty needle-book of pearl, edged with gold, to accompany the thimble, the whole is enclosed in an exquisite little pocket case, shaped like a book, and bound in satin and pearl. A thimble owned by the queen-consort of Siam is shaped like a lotus bud, this being the royal flower of that country, and almost everything about the court bearing, in a greater or less degree, some impress of the lotus. This thimble is of gold, thickly studded with diamonds that are so arranged as to form the lady's name and the date of her marriage. It was a bridal gift from the king, who, having seen the English ladies at his court using thimbles, took this method of introducing them among his own people. In Naples, very pretty thimbles, composed of lava from Mount Vesuvius, are occasionally sold, but rather as curiosities than for real utility, being, from the extreme brittleness of the lava, very easily broken. I hear also of thimbles made of asphaltum from the Dead Sea, and of one composed of a fragment of the old elm tree of Cambridge, Massachusetts, under which General Washington stood when taking command of the United States army, in July, 1775; but I do not suppose that any of these were ever intended to be used in sewing. In the ordinary manufacture of gold and silver thimbles, thin plates of the metal are introduced into the die, and then punched into shape. But in Paris the French have a way of their own for making gold thimbles that are said to be much more durable than those made in the usual way. Pieces of very thin sheet iron are cut into discs of about two inches in diameter. These, after being heated to redness, are struck by means of a punch into a succession of holes of a gradually increasing depth to give the proper shape. The thimble is then trimmed, polished, and indented around its outer surface with tiny holes. It is next converted into steel by a process called cementation, then tempered, scoured, and brought to a blue colour. After all this is completed, a thin sheet of gold is introduced into the interior and fastened to the steel by a mandrel, while gold leaf is attached firmly by pressure to the outside, the edges being seamed in a small groove made to receive them. This completes the thimble that will last for years. The steel used in its construction will scarcely wear out in a long lifetime, and the gold, if worn away, is easily replaced.

Those men who are of the noblest dispositions think themselves the happiest when others share their happiness with them.

Never are human beings smaller than when they want to plague and punish without knowing how.

The nerve which never relaxes—the eye which never blanches—the thought which never wanders,—these are the masters of victory.

Be not vacillating in your purposes; let not every bright meteor that shoots across your path attract you to new aims. This would be to make your life but as whirling sands borne about by every fickle wind.

ADVICE to wives. Don't make up your mind that your husband is an angel, and don't palm yourself on him as one either.

IT is the privilege of a lover to be at one and the same time in two situations. When beside his sweetheart he is also beside himself.

IF you give a satisfactory answer to an enquiry after the health of your parents, what character in history will you name?—Bothwell.

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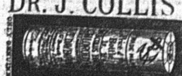
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Original Poetry.

THE SCULLERMAN.

Aye! aye! sir, the water looks murky;
 A river's a curious sight;
No wonder that strangers seem shirky,
 And dread to be near it at night;
Sit astarn, sir, come past me, there, steady;
 If you wouldn't mind holding the lamp;
Begins to feel wintry a'ready;
 Cold? Aye sir; feels chilly an' damp.

Been long on the river? Why, bless you!
 I was suckled an' weaned on the quay;
Sit still, sir, there's naught to distress you;
 The river's a mother to me;
I sat i' the boat long o' father,
 Fifty years since or near about that;
You can land near the bridge if you'd rather;
 Sommat floating? It's only a cat.

Your right, they are not always cats, sir,
 As floats in the river at night;
Why, just 'bout this place we are at, sir,
 I've seen many a terrible sight;
Young women, sir, winsome and pretty;
 Bad husbands an' fathers, sir, aye!
Driven to it poor things, it's a pity
 That a girl for a devil should die.

Well I knows a young woman near me, sir;
 Her husband's a demon for drink;
Ill treat her? You ask, Why, dear me, sir,
 She is used like a dog I should think;
Poor Sally! she works all the day, sir,
 For bonnie wee Bet; that's the bairn,
An' he's allus roamin' away, sir,
 Adrinkin' near all she can earn.

Want a match? In the pouch o' my jacket
 You'll find one, that's it, t'other side;
Heard a splash, sir? You must be mistaken,
 It's only the lash o' the tide;
Thank you, sir. Back to-morrow? All right sir!
 Give a whistle, I'll not keep you long;
Be careful, here, gi'e me the light, sir,
 Through that gateway, you cannot get wrong.

Hold hard while I pull her up closer,
 Stop a bit, hold the lamp, sir, what's that?
Beg pardon! I got on your toes, sir,
 Look, look, there's a shawl an' a hat!
Another bad job I'm afeard, sir,
 Two on 'em all ghastly an' wet,
A mother, poor thing! an' her babby,
 Good heavens, its Sally and Bet!

Wallsend. JOHN ROWELL-WALLER.

CONSETT PETTY SESSIONS.

MONDAY, Aug. 24th.—Before Lieut.-Col. A. B. WILBRAHAM (chairman), and J. W. WALTON-WILSON, Esq.

DRUNK AND DISORDERLIES.

Robert Yates was charged by P.C. Laverick with being drunk and disorderly at Castleside, on Sunday, August 2nd.—Defendant was found guilty and was fined 5s and costs.

Lawrence McBride, of Blackhill, an old man, pleaded guilty to a charge, preferred against him by P.C. Martin, of being very drunk and fighting in Victoria Street, Consett about ten o'clock last Saturday night.—The Bench imposed a fine of 11s 10d, including costs; or seven days hard labour.

THE EDUCATION ACT.

Nicholas Oley, of Shotley Bridge, was summoned by Mr A. McKean, on behalf of the Benfieldside School Board, for not causing his boy Nicholas to attend school.—Defendant was fined 5s, inclusive of costs.

THE "OLD HUNDREDTH" IN A NEW PHASE.

John Wilson, a street ballad singer, was brought up by Sergt. Norman and pleaded guilty to a charge of being drunk and disorderly.—About twenty minutes to eleven o'clock on the previous Saturday night, the officer found the prisoner in a very intoxicated state in Middle Street, Consett. At that time he was was singing the 100th Psalm to the Old Hundredth tune (laughter), and offered to sing any person in the world. (Renewed laughter).—He was fined 5s and costs, with the alternative of seven days' imprisonment.

ARREARS IN BASTARDY.

William Wheatley, a puddler, employed at the Consett Tinmill, was brought up to show cause why he had neglected to pay £4 5s due on an affiliation order to Catherine Arthurs, a young woman [illegible] at Blackhill.—Prosecutrix stated that defendant had not paid her anything on the order.—Wh[illegible] explained that he had been out of work for [illegible] the past three months, and had been unable to pay.—[illegible] the prosecutrix did not desire to press the char[illegible] the Bench allowed the case to stand over for a [illegible]th, to give the defendant an opportunity of making some arrangements with the prosecutrix.

A CHIMNEY ON FIRE.

Henry Nelson (who was represented by his wife), of Derwent Street, Blackhill, was summoned under the bye-laws of the Benfieldside Local Board for allowing his chimney to be on fire.—P.C. Philipson adduced that on Saturday night, 1st inst, he observed the chimney of the defendant's dwelling-house on fire, causing dense volumes of smoke and soot to fall in Derwent Street, which was crowded at the time, thus creating a great nuisance. He entered the house, and saw a large fire burning in the grate, and he told Mrs Nelson that she ought to get the chimney cleaned out.—Mrs Nelson averred that she knew nothing about the chimney being on fire, and denied that there was fire of unusual magnitude burning in the kitchen.—After Sergt. Cruickshank had given testimony in support of the charge, the Bench inflicted a penalty of 1s and 6s expenses.

WILFUL DAMAGE.

George William Newton Brown, of Happy Land, near Iveston, was brought up to answer a charge of doing wilful damage to hay, the property of Mr Geo. Brown, of Consett, to the amount of 6d.—Mr Morgan, the landlord of the Number One public-house, stated that shortly before five o'clock on the preceding (Sunday) morning, he saw a ladder placed against a haystack, and the prisoner was lying on the top thereof. Witness came to the police station and informed Sergeant Murphy.—Prisoner admitted that he was on the stack for an hour-and-a-half. He was "on the road," and as he did not know which direction to take, he merely got on to the stack until some one came up and told him which way to go.—Prisoner was fined 1s, and ordered to pay 6d damage and costs.

DEAR MUSHROOMS.

William Williamson was summoned for damaging grass, to the extent of 6d, belonging to Mr Joseph Pumphrey, of Elm Park.—Walter Phipps, gamekeeper, attested that on Sunday morning, the 16th inst., he observed the defendant in a field on Mr Pumphrey's estate, gathering mushrooms, and subsequently he entered a pasture on the farm of Mr Sanderson, of Oliverford. When caught by him, the defendant delivered up his mushrooms.—Defendant denied that he ever entered Mr Pumphrey's fields. He was travelling along the Tow Law Road, and merely walked on the private road used by Mr Sanderson. Phipps took the mushrooms from him.—The Bench informed the defendant that he had no right to enter other people's property for the purpose of gathering mushrooms, and inflicted a fine of 6s 6d, including amount of damage and costs.

Thomas Charlton pleaded guilty to a similar offence, committed in fields in the occupation of Mr Thos. Carr, of Dyke Nook farm, near Consett, on Monday, August 10th.—This charge was likewise preferred by Mr Phipps, and defendant was mulcted in a similar penalty.

AN AMUSING CASE.

Michael Mealey, John William Clare, and *James Hughes*, young men, of Leadgate, were charged with trespassing in a field, the property of Mr Andrew Smith, farmer, of Crookhall, on the 4th inst., damaging the herbage to the extent of 1d each.—About 7·45 on the night in question, P.C. Symon watched the defendants, accompanied by seven little boys, enter one of Mr Smith's fields, and after remaining a few moments, returned by the same route they traversed previously.—In answer to the defendants, Symon admitted that he watched them from the Iveston railway, which might be a distance of between 250 and 300 yards away.—Defendants occasioned a great deal of amusement in Court by affirming that the officer stood talking to a servant girl for ten minutes, and that he gave a little lad a penny to tell him their names.—Both statements were repudiated by the policeman.—Defendants also declared that they had gone to Mr Smith and settled the case.—The Magistrates believed there was a doubt in the case, and dismissed all the summonses.

BREACH OF THE PEACE.

John Lattimer and *Michael McAnaney*, ironworkers, of Consett, each pleaded guilty to this offence.—On Friday night, the 20th inst., P.C. Neesam deposed that he was called into the Coach and Horses Inn, Middle Street, to eject the two defendants, who were fighting inside. After putting them out, a sword-stick was handed to him, and one of the defendants complained that the weapon, which had been drawn and was bent, had been used against him.—Both offenders were bound over in the sum of £5 to keep the peace for three months, and bear 8s each as costs.

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LOCAL FLOWER SHOWS.

WITTON GILBERT.

The eighteenth annual show of the Witton Gilbert Horticultural Society was held on Monday in a field kindly lent by Messrs Hunter, and Elliot of the Charlaw Colliery Company. The exhibition, for a local show, was a fair average, but the depression in trade caused the society to give up the industrial classes for the present year, hence the entries in comparison were less than at last year's show. In the open class the chief prize-takers were Messrs Turner, Fell House, Witton Gilbert; Burrell, Waterhouses; and Lowes, Hamsteels. In the amateur class—Messrs Slater, Plawsworth; Ellison, Waldridge Fell; Short, Kimblesworth; Quickmire, Esh Winning; and Gardner, Bearpark. Cottagers' class—Messrs Bell, Waterhouses; Cook, Bearpark; Dunn, Plawsworth; Vickers, Esh New Winning; Burton and Ralph Hall, Witton Gilbert; Jos. Greenwood and R. Richardson, Pity Mee. The farmers' class was fairly represented, the principal prize-takers being Mr P. W. Bell, Witton Hall; T. Lawson, White House; R. Weatherburn, Plawsworth. Sports were held on the ground, and the proceedings terminated with a grand ball, with Mr Gill as master of ceremonies.

SHILDON.

ANOTHER SUCCESS OF LOCAL BANDS.—The seventeenth annual horticultural and industrial show came on at Shildon on Saturday, and, as usual, was attended by a vast number of persons. This, too, despite the very threatening character of the weather which prevailed throughout the day over the whole district. There were 34,000 entries, which is some 10,000 less than last year. Nearly 1,600 prizes were offered for competition in all classes. There were three brass band contests. Valuable money prizes attract the best bands in the North, whose respective competitive performances throughout the day are a real treat. The celebrated Linthwaite band secured the premier position in the first of these, and was awarded a prize consisting of £15 in cash and a silver cornet worth £12 11s. Black Dykes came second (£15), and Annfield Plain third (£10). The unsuccessful bands were 3rd Lancashire Artillery Volunteers, Woodlands, Tanfield Lea, and Skinningrove and Loftus. In contest No. 2, Annfield Plain carried off first prize (£10), Linthwaite second (£8), and Woodlands third (£5). There were the same bands in this contest as in the first, with the addition of the Darlington Operatic. The same orchestras met again in the third contest, when Black Dykes won first prize (£10), Linthwaite second (£8), and 3rd Lancashire Artillery Volunteers third (£5). Mr Charles Godfrey, Royal Horse Guards (Blue), London, was judge.—A local correspondent writes:—"The Annfield Plain Brass Band is worthy of mention at the present time. Its members are now in first-class musical order under the efficient leadership of Mr Rain, and in his absence Mr Thomas Walker, of Annfield Plain, handles the baton. This most efficient band figured well at the Shildon Show on Saturday considering the many well trained and ably taught bands which contested against them at the famous and celebrated flower show at Shildon. It is pleasing to know that Annfield Plain Brass Band brought home the honour of having been awarded a first and third prize from the contests. The fact speaks volumes for their efficiency this season, and I assert fearless of contradiction that this band stands first in the district as to its ability to perform music.

SERIOUS CHARGE AGAINST A CONSETT YOUTH.

At the Consett Police Court on Monday—before Lieut.-Col. A. B. Wilbraham (presiding), and J. W. Walton-Wilson, Esq—a youth named *Robert Carr*, aged 23, of Edith Street, whose parents hold a respectable position in the district, appeared on bail (having been arrested by P.C. Best in Shotley Spa Grounds on Saturday last) to answer a charge of attempting to commit a rape upon Isabella Bates, a young girl of 14 years, residing at Allendale Cottages, on the 17th inst. Mr T. W. Welford (Consett) defended the prisoner.

Prior to the opening of the Court, Mrs Caroline Bates, sister-in-law of the prosecutor, residing at Redwell Hills, asking their Worships to withdraw the charge, for the sake of the girl herself. The Bench, however, declined to accede to the application, and decided to hear the evidence. Prosecutrix deposed that on the Monday previous, she was proceeding along the highway between Leadgate and Medomsley carrying a baby in her arms, when she met the prisoner. He asked her if the child was hers, and she replied "No." Carr then took the baby from her, and knocked her down on the roadside. Prisoner placed his hand over her mouth, but some woman working in an adjourned field heard her cries, and came to her assistance, after which the prisoner decamped.

In answer to Mr Granger (Magistrates' Clerk) prosecutor stated that Carr did not touch her indecently, and his clothes were not disarranged.

The Magistrates did not think there was sufficient evidence to justify a case of attempted rape, but agreed to reduce the charge to a common assault. It was also intimated that if the prisoner objected to be tried forthwith, a warrant would be issued for his arrest.

Under these circumstances, Mr Welford assented to the case being dealt with summarily, and the prisoner pleaded guilty to this offence.

Prosecutrix having repeated her testimony, Ellen Gallagher, a single woman, living at Allendale Cottages, was called. She attested that on the day referred to she was engaged in hoeing turnips in a field near Medomsley, along with Sarah Ellen Steel. She saw a man approaching along the road, but she was at such a distance off that she could not recognise him. She could not say whether Carr was the person or not. She also noticed the prosecutrix going in the direction of Allendale Cottages. Witness heard the little girl shouting, and on looking up, she saw the man get up off the young woman and pick up the baby. The girl was crying, and she heard her say to the man, "You will get wrong." The man thereafter ran away, and witness shouted to him, "I'll inform the police."

In cross-examination by Mr Welford, witness said she might be working 100 yards away from where the little girl was knocked down. There was a stone fence between herself and the prosecutrix. She saw the man in the act of rising up, but could not positively swear that he was down on the ground.

By the Chairman: She could not see the girl when she was lying down.

Caroline Bates, the sister-in-law, of Redwell Hills, adduced that on the day mentioned, she gave the prosecutrix her baby to carry to Allendale Cottages. She followed the girl some distance behind. She encountered the prisoner going towards Medomsley. When she first saw him he was running, but as he approached her, he commenced to walk. Prisoner asked her if she had seen a policeman, to which she at first replied, "No." However, not liking the appearance of the man with his frightened look, she afterwards said, "Yes, the policeman's coming," and the prisoner immediately scaled a wall and disappeared. She could hear the baby crying, and when she overtook the prosecutrix she was likewise weeping. The back of her dress was a little dusty. The girl's mouth was also swollen, and she made a complaint to witness.

By the Bench: Her dress was so dusty that she might have been lying on the ground; but the dusty state of the road might likewise account for it. After she met the prisoner, she might perhaps travel 100 yards before she came upon the girl.

By Mr Welford: She did not desire to press the charge, on behalf of the little girl.

Mr Welford, in defence, urged that Carr was not *compos mentis*, that his father was well connected, and that prisoner belonged to a most respectable family. In the face of these circumstances, he hoped the Bench would deal as leniently as they could with the young man, who was placed in an unfortunate position.

After the Magistrates had consulted together a short while, the Chairman said they considered this a very serious case of assault, and were inclined to the belief that the facts might have been more seriously adduced against the prisoner. The Bench were determined to put a stop to this sort of thing, and imposed a fine of £3 and costs.

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LANCHESTER AND CONSETT LICENSING SESSIONS.

The annual general licensing sessions for the West Division of Chester Ward, was held at Lanchester Court-house on Thursday week, before the Rev J. P. De Pledge (presiding), Messrs Geo. G. Taylor Smith, Geo. Hedley, J. W. Walton-Wilson, and Lieut.-Col. Wilbraham.

Mr W. H. Oliver, Durham, appeared on behalf of Joseph James, beerhouse-keeper, Langley Park, for a full license to his premises, which belongs to Mrs Margaret Lakey, innkeeper, Cornsay Colliery. There was only one fully-licensed house and three beerhouses in Langley Park, a village containing between 800 and 1,000 inhabitants. The house was rated at £30 per annum, and was in every respect adapted to the purposes of a fully-licensed inn.—Applicant, in reply to the Bench, admitted that he only rented three rooms in this house, for which he paid 3s weekly; but Mr Oliver stated that if Mr James obtained the license, he would get possession of the whole of the premises.

Edward Taylor, retailer of spirits and beer, made a similar application in respect to the premises occupied and owned by himself at Iveslev Three Lane Ends, near Hedleyhope, of which the annual value is £40.

Mrs McElhone, on behalf of her husband, Thos. McElhone, beerhouse-keeper, Derwent Street, Blackhill, applied for a full license for the house belonging to themselves, the annual value of the same being upwards of £30.

Elizabeth Hetherington, beerhouse-keeper, Burnopfield, likewise made application for a full license for her premises, which she stated were rated at £25 per annum. There were only four public-houses in Burnopfield, and the village was increasing in size day by day.

The next application was made by Mr Patrick, Durham, for John Robert Atkinson, spirit and beer dealer, Cornsay Colliery, for a full license to the premises in his occupation, and belonging to the administratrix of the late Joseph Johnson, brewer, of Durham. The population of Cornsay Colliery, it was stated, numbered between 2,000 and 3,000 inhabitants, and there was only another public-house in the district. Some pipe works, employing a large number of men, had recently been started in the neighburhood, and these were working very successfully. Mr Patrick submitted that it would be advantageous to the public to grant another full license for the village, and Atkinson's house was well suited for that purpose, providing ample accommodation for travellers and men of business.—Mr Geo. G. Taylor Smith: Is not the other licensed house a "tied" house?—Applicant: Yes.—Mr Smith: And yours will be a "tied" house also?—Applicant: Yes, your worships.

John Nevin, beer dealer, Lintz Colliery (who was represented by Mr W. H. Oliver), asked for a full license for premises belonging to his mother, Charlotte Nevin. It was pointed out that Lintz Colliery, with a population 800, does not possess a public-house, the nearest one being a mile away. The application was not opposed by the colliery owners, and a petition was handed in, signed by a large number of commercial travellers, &c., wherein Mr Nevin was asked to obtain a license for their especial convenience when transacting business at The Lintz.—Mr Oliver intimated that applicant only desired permission to sell beer to be drunk on his premises.—Mr Granger (magistrates' clerk): You have applied for a full license, and in that case you will have to give notice for a fresh application at the adjourned licensing day. The magistrates never grant a full license to sell beer only.—Mr Oliver: Very well, we will ask for a full license as usual.—Mr Smith expressed an opinion that the same petition was presented to the Bench in previous years; but the applicant assured their Worships that the memorial was a fresh one, the signatures having only been obtained the previous week. [redacted]

Mr Greenwell, barrister, Durham, appeared for Thomas Dunne, retailer of spirits and beer, of Mount Pleasant, Consett, and applied for a full license for the large and commodious premises owned by that gentleman. The request was made on the ground of the increased necessities of the town of Consett, and that it would be for the public benefit to grant the license. Mr Greenwell pointed out that Consett now comprised a population of over 9,000 inhabitants, and there were only twelve fully-licensed houses, four beerhouses, and three houses with "off" licenses in the place. The last license was granted in 1878, to the Fountain Hotel, which was situate in a different part of the town. The rateable value had increased from £20,000 in 1878, to over £26,500 at the present time. Mr Dunne's premises were in close proximity to the police court buildings, the county court and its new offices, and the contemplated park for Consett would be situate adjacent to the premises. Therefore it was highly desirable that a well-conducted house should be placed in that locality, especially when over 200 new houses had been erected by the Consett Iron Company close to the applicant's house. If the Bench thought it expedient to grant the license, Mr Richard Murray, the owner, would be willing to give up the license of the Brittania Inn, Victoria Street Consett, or of a public-house belonging to him at Iveston, in favour of Mr Dunne.—Mr Murray having attested to this fact, gave it as his opinion that Mr Dunne's premises were easily accessible, and admirably adapted for the purposes of a fully-licensed inn. It is proposed to call the new public-house the Imperial Hotel.

The following persons applied for licenses for the sale by retail of beer, cider, or wine, under the Wine and Beerhouse Acts, 1869 and 1870:—Arthur Alderson, grocer, Consett, for premises belonging to Mr M. McGurk, innkeeper, beer (off); James Lynch, beerhouse-keeper, Ewehurst Head, near Dipton, for premises belonging to Mr Thompson Allan, spirit merchant, Scarborough, wine (on).

The Magistrates retired to consider the applications. After half-an-hour's absence they returned, and the Chairman said the justices had declined the first six applications. With regard to Mr Dunne's application, if Mr Murray was willing to give up the license of the Brittania Inn, Consett, and transfer the license from the public-house at Iveston to Consett, the Magistrates would consider the application at the adjourned licensing day, providing the plans of the house were produced.—Mr Alderson's application was refused, but the request of Mr Lynch to sell wine was acceded to.

The following is the "black list" of innkeepers:—John Ward, Consett, innkeeper, selling drink during prohibited hours, Sept. 8th, 1884; fined £5 and costs, and license endorsed.—James Burns, beerhouse-keeper, Blackhill, opening his premises during prohibited hours, March 25th, 1885; 40s and costs, and license endorsed.—Wm. Maddison, Satley, innkeeper, permitting drunkenness, June 11th, 1885; 20s and costs.—Richard Wall, Quebec, innkeeper, selling without a license at Quebec sports, July 23rd, 1885; fined £12 10s and costs, and license forfeited. (The license has been temporarily re-granted).

It was stated that Ward had left the district. The Bench strongly cautioned Burns and Maddison before renewing their licenses.—In the case of Richard Wall, Mr Patrick (Durham) applied on behalf of the administratrix of the late Joseph Johnson, brewer, Durham, for the license of the Hamsteels Inn to be granted to the receiver of the estate, and with their worships' permission, to allow Wall to hold the license for another year.—The license was eventually granted to Wall, after he had been duly warned by the Bench, who informed him that he had committed a very grave offence.

SUDDEN DEATH AT SOUTH PONTOP.—We are sorry to record the very sudden demise of George Pinkney, aged 46 years, who died in the forenoon of Friday last. Deceased has lived at South Pontop about thirteen years, and was employed as deputy-overman. He was much respected by the workmen he moved amongst, and his death was much lamented. Pinkney has not been able to follow his employment for the last two years, and his wife and family have given him every attention and the best possible medical advice has been obtained. Dr Fall, of Catchgate, was his regular medical attendant, and was most careful in his treatment of the deceased, who suffered from heart disease. Pinkney rose from his bed on Friday morning as usual, and partook of breakfast, after which he was engaged in reading a short time. Nothing unusual was observed when he had ceased to live. No inquest was held. His remains were interred on Sunday afternoon at St. Thomas's Church, Harelaw. He was followed to his last resting-place by a large concourse of people of all classes.

MR C. M. PALMER, M.P., AT THE FELLING.

Speaking at the Felling on Wednesday evening, Mr C. M. Palmer, M.P., referred to his appointment upon the Royal Commission to inquire into the present depressed state of trade. He said he was aware many people had scoffed at the formation of this Commission, and certain superior statesmen had declined to serve upon it, as it was one of those questions that appeared absurd in their superior ideas; but although this was the case, and many newspapers had spoken of it in anything but complimentary terms, he was not one of those to be frightened by any such nonsense. It was a matter well known to all that there was a serious depression of trade throughout the country. Agriculture was in a state bordering upon ruin. Thousands of tons of our ships were lying idle in our harbours; while our manufacturing industries and the coal trade were in anything but a satisfactory condition. Then we found that these periods of depression are becoming not only frequent, but continued longer, and surely there must be a cause for this. Opinions were much divided as to the cause. Some attributed this deplorable state of things to over-production, but it could not be said that this was entirely to blame. Some said it was Free Trade, which he could not agree with. Others laid the blame to bad harvests, but we had the depression in good seasons just the same. Others, again, said it was the trades' unions restricting production and introducing foreign labour. Then they had royalty rents and way-leave rents. He felt that there needed something doing in regard to royalty rents, for instead of decreasing they were increasing; and as to the way-leave rents, he would have them bought up altogether. Railway rates were higher in this country than anywhere upon the Continent, both in goods and traffic, and they certainly called for investigation. We saw that our trade with other countries was diminishing, and our trade with our colonies was increasing. It ought to be our policy, by every means in our power, to promote commercial intercourse with our colonies, for thereby not only would our trade be enlarged, but the men of those colonies would come forward and help us to fight our enemies. He had no doubt of the beneficial result of the Commission. (Applause.)

Market Reports.

NEWCASTLE FLOUR, Saturday.—Hungarian, 2s 0d; American, 1s 9d; No. 1 superfine, 1s 9d; superfines 1s 8d; fines, 1s 6d; households, 1s 4d; seconds, 0s 0d ryemeal, 1s 6d; wheatmeal, 1s 6d; oatmeals, English 2s 2d; Scotch, 2s 0d per stone; 4lb loaf, 6d.

NEWCASTLE FRUIT AND POTATO, Saturday.—Scotch potatoes, 6d; English do., 9d to 2s; onions, 1s to 1s 4d per stone; figs, 4d to 6d per lb; apples, 0s 0d to 0s per stone; New Towns, 0d to 0d per lb; russets, 0d per lb; cauliflowers, 1½d to 2½d each; oranges, 1s to 1s 6d per dozen; gooseberries, 3d per quart; cabbage, roots, and other classes at late rates.

NEWCASTLE MEAT AND POULTRY, Saturday.—

	s.	d.	s.	d.		s.	d.	s.	d.
Prime large beef	0	9 to	0	11	Pigeons, pr couple	1	6 to	2	0
Prime mutton ...	0	11	1	0	Turkeys, per lb...	0	0	0	0
Small Pork.........	0	9	0	11	Turkeys, pults ...	0	0	0	0
Veal	0	8	0	9	Partridge, brace.	0	0	0	0
Lamb, per lb	0	10	0	11	Pheasants	0	0	0	0
American beef ...	0	2½	0	7	Geese, per lb	0	0	0	0
" mutton	0	5	0	9	Goslings, each ...	7	0	9	0
" lamb ...	0	0	0	0	Hares, each	0	0	0	0
" veal ...	0	7	0	9½	Leverets	2	6	3	0
" pork ...	0	8	0	9	Rabbits, couple..	2	6	3	0
Hens, each.........	1	0	1	9	Ptarmigan, cuple	2	6	3	6
Ducks, per couple	0	0	0	0	Black Game, brce	0	0	0	0
Ducklings, per cp.	6	0	7	0	English fresh butter, per lb...	1	2	1	4
Chickens............	6	0	7	0					
Wild ducks, brace	0	0	0	0	Fresh eggs 12 for 1s				
Quails, per couple	0	0	3	0	Salmon, per lb....	0	11	1	3
Grouse, per cople	0	0	0	0	Do. trout ..	0	11	1	0

DURHAM PROVISION, Saturday.—Chickens, 1s 6d to 2s 3d; ducks, 2s 0d to 2s 6d; hens, 1s 0d to 2s each; pigeons, 1s 0d to 1s 3d; rabbits, 2s 4d to 2s 6d per couple; hares, 0s to 0s 0d each; eggs, 10 to 12 for 1s; butter, 1s 2d to 1s 3d; gooseberries, 2d to 3d; strawberries, 4d to 6d; red currants, 4d; black currants, 6d; cherries, red, 4d to 7d; white, 10d per lb; green peas, 8d to 1s 6d; onions, 1s 0d to 2s 0d per peck; potatoes, new, 8d to 1s. 0d; old potatoes, 6d. per st.

NEWCASTLE HAY AND STRAW, Tuesday.—Old land hay, £4 6s to £5 5s; this year's growth, £3 15s 0d to £4 10s 0d; new land hay, £5 0s to £6 6s; this year's growth, £4 0s to £5 0s; clover hay, £0 0s to £0 0s per ton; wheat straw, 3s 0d to 3s 4d; barley straw, 0s 0d to 0s 0d; oat straw, 3s 0d to 0s 0d per thrave; carts of hay at market, 30; carts of straw, 22

NEWCASTLE CATTLE, Tuesday.—The arrivals from a distance consisted of 81 cattle, — sheep and 327 pigs from Aberdeen and the districts in the North-east coast of Scotland; 772 beasts and 832 sheep from foreign countries, 71 beasts from Ireland, and 21 from Canada.

Respecting quality, every description of stock was below a seasonable average.

1 wagon of cattle went South yesterday to Barrow-in-Furness.

The supply of beef comprised 1,814 head. There was a dull time in the beef trade to day, all brands made less money, and nothing or the South. At the close a bad clearance was effected.

The number of sheep and lambs shown was 11,010. The mutton and lamb trade was heavy. The better class of wedders made about late rates, but the middling and inferior sorts were a slow, dragging trade, with a part left over at the finish.

The number of pigs shown was 137. There is no change to note in the pork trade to-day.

PRICES FOR THIS DAY SINKING THE OFFAL.

Beef, prime heifers, per stone	8s 6d	to	8s 9d	
Secondary sorts........................	8s 0d	..	8s 3d	
First-class oxen	8s 3d	..	8s 6d	
Middling	7s 9d	..	8s 0d	
Cows and inferior	6s 0d	..	7s 0d	
Pigs	4s 6d	..	6s 6d	
Sheep, small, per lb..................	7½d	to	8d	
" large fat, per lb.	7¼d	to	7½d	
Lambs per lb	8d	to	9d	

Nos: Cattle, 1,814; sheep and lambs, 11,010; pigs, 230

Railway Time Table.

CONSETT BRANCH.

WEEK DAYS.

Stations.		A.M.	A.M.	A.M.	P.M.	P.M.	P.M.	P.M.
NEWCASTLE	Dep.	6·10	9·40	11·0	12·20	2·30	5·25	7·30
Scotswood......	"	6·17	9·47	11·7	12·27	2·37	5·27	7·37
Swalwell	"	6·24	9·54	11·14	12·34	2·43	5·32	7·44
Rowlands Gill	"	6·34	10·4	11·24	12·44	2·53	5·49	7·54
Lintz Green...	"	6·40	10·10	11·30	12·50	2·59	5·55	8·0
Ebchester	"	6·53	10·20	11·40	1·0	3·12	6·5	8·13
Shotley Bridge	"	6·59	10·24	11·44	1·4	3·18	6·9	8·19
CONSETT	Arr.	7·5	10·30	11·50	1·10	3·23	6·15	8·25
CONSETT	Dep.	7·10	10·32	...	1·12	3·25	...	6·33
Knitsley......	"	7·21	10·43	...	1·23	3·36	...	6·44
Lanchester...	"	7·30	10·53	...	1·32	3·45	...	6·53
Witton Gilbert	"	7·38	11·1	...	1·40	3·53	...	7·1
Aldin Grange	"	7·45	11·9	...	1·47	4·0	...	7·9
DURHAM	Arr.	7·50	11·15	...	1·52	4·5	...	7·15

Stations.		A.M.	A.M.	A.M.	P.M.	P.M.	P.M.	P.M.
DURHAM	Dep.	7·25	...	11·45	2·35	...	5·10	8·10
Aldin Grange	"	7·32	...	11·52	2·41	...	5·17	8·17
Witton Gilbert	"	7·40	...	12·0	2·48	...	5·25	8·25
Lanchester......	"	7·50	...	12·10	2·58	...	5·35	8·35
Knitsley.........	"	8·2	...	12·20	3·8	...	5·45	8·45
CONSETT	Arr.	8·12	...	12·30	3·18	...	5·55	8·55
CONSETT	Dep.	8·15	9·10	12·33	3·25	...	5·56	9·2
Shotley Bridge	"	8·20	9·15	12·38	3·30	...	6·0	9·7
Ebchester	"	8·24	9·19	12·42	3·34	...	6·4	9·12
Lintz Green ...	"	8·34	9·29	12·50	3·44	...	6·14	9·22
Rowlands Gill	"	8·39	9·34	12·55	3·50	...	6·20	9·28
Swalwell.........	"	8·47	9·42	1·3	3·57	...	6·27	9·36
Scotswood	"	8·54	9·49	1·9	4·4	...	6·34	9·43
NEWCASTLE	Ar.	9·5	10·0	1·20	4·15	...	6·45	9·53

SUNDAYS.

	A.M.	P.M.		A.M.	P.M.
NEWCASTLE ...	7·30	7·20	CONSETT ...dep.	8·35	8·20
Scotswood	7·37	7·27	Shotley Bridge ...	8·40	8·25
Swalwell	7·44	7·34	Ebchester...........	8·44	8·29
Rowlands Gill......	7·54	7·44	Lintz Green.........	8·54	8·39
Lintz Green	8·0	7·50	Rowlands Gill......	8·59	8·44
Ebchester	8·13	8·0	Swalwell	9·8	8·53
Shotley Bridge....	8·19	8·4	Scotswood..........	9·14	8·59
CONSETT......arr.	8·25	8·10	NEWCASTLE ar.	9·25	9·10

MARKET TRAINS ON SATURDAYS.

First second, and third class return tickets will be issued on Saturdays by the following trains:—

	A.M.	P.M.		A.M.	
NEWCASTLE ..	7·10	4·15	DURHAM ...dep.	7·55	...
Scotswood.........	7·17	4·22	Aldin Grange	8·1	...
Swalwell	7·24	4·30	Witton Gilbert ...	8·9	...
Rowlands Gill....	7·34	4·40	Lanchester	8·20	...
Lintz Green......	7·40	4·46	Knitsley	8·32	...
Ebchester	7·53	4·59	CONSETT and BLACKHILL a	8·45	...
Shotley Bridge.....	7·59	5·5	CONSETT and BLACKHILL d	8·50	...
CONSETT and BLACKHILL a	8·5	5·12	Shotley Bridge ...	8·55	...
CONSETT and BLACKHILL d	9·20	...	Ebchester..........	8·59	...
Knitsley	9·32	...	Lintz Green.......	9·9	...
Lanchester	9·41	...	Rowlands Gill.....	9·15	...
Witton Gilbert ...	9·50	...	Swalwell	9·22	...
Aldin Grange.....	9·58	...	Scotswood..........	9·29	...
DURHAM......arr	10·5	...	NEWCASTLE dp	9·40	...

ADVICE TO MOTHERS!—Are you broken in your rest by a sick child suffering with the pain of cutting teeth? Go at once to a chemist and get a bottle of MRS. WINSLOW'S SOOTHING SYRUP. It will relieve the poor sufferer immediately. It is perfectly harmless and pleasant to taste, it produces natural, quiet sleep, by relieving the child from pain, and the little cherub awakes "as bright as a button." It soothes the child, it softens the gums, allays all pain, relieves wind, regulates the bowels, and is the best known remedy for dysentery and diarrhœa, whether arising from teething or other causes. Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup is sold by Medicine dealers everywhere at 1s. 1½d. per bottle.

WEST PELTON CHURCH ORGAN OPENING.

On Wednesday, this organ (which has been built by Harrison and Harrison, of Durham) was formally opened by Mr. W. J. Ions, organist of Newcastle Cathedral. The proceedings commenced by a splendid tea provided in the iron school-room, proceeds being in aid of the organ fund. The tables were given and presided over by the following:—Vicar's table—Misses Mathwin; Mrs Joicey's table—Mrs Andrews and Miss Carr; Mesdames Clark and Storey; Mesdames Nicholson and H. Nicholson; Mesdames Richards and Kay; assisted by other ladies and gentlemen. The tables were beautifully decorated with flowers, and everything was of first-class character.

Long before the time appointed for service, the church was filled, but by seven o'clock it was crowded to excess. The following clergymen were present:—Rev J. Mathwin (vicar) and Rev J. J. Day (curate); Revs D. S. Guy (Bensham); J. W. Mitchell (Leadgate); J. Crennell and L. M. Chesters (Beamish); T. Stirrup (Burnopfield); T. H. Archdall and C. H. Newman (Tanfield); Appleton (Gateshead); C. Baldwin and Carr (Jesmond); R. W. Snape (Lamesley); Birley (Chester-le-Street); Canon Kearney (Low Fell); Rowley (Birtley); and Wilkins (Pelton).

The choir and clergy having arrived at the west end of the church in their surplices, marched down the isle singing hymn 590, "The Church's one foundation." Prayers were read by the Vicar and Curate, and there were two special lessons. After the psalms, a sweet voluntary was played by Mr Ions, Andante No. 2 in G (Batiste), showing to great advantage the soft and solo stops, as well as the masterly execution of the player. The hymns during service were:—Nos. 316, "Angel voices;" 519, "Hark, the organ;" 284, "Holy offerings;" recessional hymn after sermon, 478, "Onward way rejoicing." After service Mr Ions played as many pieces as time would permit before leaving for the train, the various pieces showing off the organ in a very pleasing way, and it is to be regretted that the recital was curtailed. The organ has been erected at a cost of £500, a portion of which sum still yet remains to be subscribed. The instrument is certainly pleasing both to the eye and to the ear, and will be of great assistance in the services of the church.

Rev D. S. GUY, before beginning the sermon, said: It is with intense regret that I have to announce to you that Canon Body has been, through illness, prevented from occupying this pulpit. I am sure that I may crave your indulgence as invited almost at the last moment by your vicar. I have consented most inadequately to attempt to fill his place. Nothing but my deep respect for your vicar and my great desire to help him in his extremity could have induced me to do so. The text was Psalm xxix. 9—"In His temple everything saith glory." That Psalm (said the rev. gentleman) is a magnificent description of a thunderstorm. The mighty march of the storm from north to south—the desolation and havoc which it works in its route, the very peal of thunder and flash of the lightning, the increasing fury and lull of the elements, are depicted to us. In the prelude the psalmist at once lifts our thoughts from earth to heaven, after calling on the angels to admire God's glory in the thunderstorm. "Give unto the Lord, O ye Mighty" (and that word Mighty is the word that is always addressed to the angels of God); "Give unto the Lord the glory due unto His name, worship Him in the beauty of holiness." The psalmist also beautifully reminds us that that same Lord who sends this thunder is the God who restrains the fury of the elements, and gives strength and peace to His people. The Lord sitteth above the flood King for ever and ever. The Lord will bless His people with peace. In this temple of the universe, everything saith glory. All these scenes and sights were of the psalmist, not merely scenes of inanimate nature or the result of certain fixed natural laws, but the voice of the living God. The cloud of thunder, the flash of the lightning, the crashing of the mountains, and the noise of the storm are to Him just so many voices of God proceeding out of nature—voices of created things crying out "Glory, glory," through all God's universe, glory to the Hand that had created them. It is a happy thing when man learns to look upon nature in this way. Next time a thunderstorm comes, if you are at home, take your bibles, and whilst the noise sounds in your ears and the lightning illumines your room, turn to the 29th Psalm, and try to enter into the same conception as the psalmist did when he penned these words, and try to develop that sense of God's presence in nature around you. I want also to bring before your notice to-night the object and aim men have here below in building and beautifying temples for God. In His temple everything saith glory, and to apply these words to the temples we worship in, and the object which has brought us together to-night, will not be to force the meaning of the words, nor detract for a moment from the wider meaning and sense they most certainly have. Temples have been built almost from the beginning of the world, and travel in whatever lands we may find it has been the instructive thought of men to build temples to the Gods they worship. Abraham chose a special spot to build his altar to speak to God and offer his sacrifice. It was taken up and emphasized, when God gave special directions about the tabernacle and the building of the Jewish Temple. The preacher dwelt upon the necessity of places set apart for worship, their value and help to the worshipper, the witness they bare to the glory of God. When you pass along in the train and see them standing out as testimony of the power of Christianity upon the minds of men, the lessons to be learnt from the internal arrangements of the Church. The font stands at the entrance, because baptism is the initial rite of the Church. At the other end of the Church is the holy table, because to approach there is the highest privilege men can have. I might go on pointing out other arrangements and their meaning, how that you take your seats to be instructed in the principles of the Christian faith, and how that the pulpit stands midway between the font and the holy table, did time permit. The rev. gentleman proceeded to speak of Church adornment and its effects. We are met together with a special object. After much kindness shown by the members of one family, and no small assistance and generosity from members of the congregation and parishioners, you have at last met to dedicate your organ to God. There is still a small debt remaining, which I hope your liberality will help to remove. I would urge you to make a right use of the organ in helping you to glorify God, and swell the strain of the great universe of glory to God.

The collection was in aid of the organ fund.

LANCHESTER BOARD OF GUARDIANS.

The fortnightly meeting was held at Lanchester Union Workhouse yesterday (Thursday) morning, under the presidency of Mr Geo. G. Taylor Smith, J.P. There were present: The Revs Canon F. Kearney and J. P. De Pledge, J.P.; Messrs Geo. Hobson, John Buckham, T. J. Muse, Wm. Brown, N. Clark, T. Pringle, J. Eltringham, G. Humble, J. A. Curry, and the Clerk (Mr W. H. Ritson).

OVERSEERS AND THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES.

An application was made from Sergeant Charles Thornton, of Dipton, for the payment of 5s, expenses incurred in conveying a weak-minded youth named Parkin, in a trap to Lanchester Workhouse, on the Thursday previous.

The Master (Mr W. Brotherhood) explained that the youth was brought down to Lanchester by Sergt. Thornton and a constable, on an order signed by the overseer. It was stated that Parkin's parents lived at Kyo, and were in good circumstances. He had been allowed to roam about just as he liked, and had become an intolerable nuisance to the various colliery owners in the district. The youth had been brought up before the Consett Bench, on a charge of vagrancy—sleeping in coke-ovens and out-houses at nights—and committed to goal. On his release, Parkin had been recaptured, and the police threatened that, in case he (the Master) refused his admittance to the House, they would again lock him up for being a vagrant. He consequently admitted the young man, but he should like to protest against overseers signing such orders, except in cases of urgency and necessity, as prescribed by the Poor Law Regulations. He had before cause to complain of this sort of thing being done indiscriminately, as on one occasion the Overseers of Collierley signed an order for the admission into the Workhouse of a man who was in a beastly state of intoxication.

The CHAIRMAN said this was not an urgent case, therefore the Overseers ought not have signed such an order. The Poor Law Orders, in a note appended to article 9, specified—"As regards orders given by Overseers, the Poor Law Board said that the Overseer is only entitled to give orders for admission to the Workhouse in cases of sudden and urgent necessity."

The Clerk pointed out that the police ought to apply to the Overseers for payment of the trap hire, and then the Overseers could deduct the amount from his rate account.

Mr HOBSON stated that he did not know much concerning the case, but he understood that Parkin's parents were able and willing to pay for his maintenance in the House.

The Relieving Officer observed that the police were bound, in any case, to attend Lanchester that day, as they had to be inspected. (Laughter.)

The Board directed Mr Walton to make enquiries into the case, and report to them.

A FRESH START IN LIFE.

The Master reported that he had admitted to the House the young woman Jane Cranston, who was committed to gaol for a month by the Consett Bench on a charge of larceny; her baby having been admitted at the time of her committal. She had been forwarded from Durham by Mr Thompson-Smith, the secretary to the Discharged Prisoners' Aid Society, who desired to procure for her a suitable situation as a farm servant. Mr Priestman, J.P. (Chairman of the Consett Bench), had also written offering to bear £10 expenses in getting her re-instated in a good position.

DECREASE OF POVERTY.

The CHAIRMAN enquired of the Relieving Officers how it was that there were fewer people now in the Workhouse, and a less number of persons living in comparative distress in the district?

Mr Moon replied that the number of out-door paupers had only slightly increased, chiefly amongst the old women, whom it would be a pity to remove from their established houses.

CRAGHEAD AGAIN.

The Clerk announced that he had received the Order, on Friday, 14th inst., from the Local Government Board, transferring the village of Craghead from Lanchester to the Chester-le-Street Union, but it did not take effect until March, 1886.

The Rev J. P. DE PLEDGE enquired how it was that a certain summons from Craghead, preferred against a parent for not causing his child to attend school, was withdrawn at Lanchester Petty Sessions by the School Attendance Committee, simply on the ground that Craghead had passed out of their jurisdiction.

The CHAIRMAN and the Clerk both informed the rev. gentleman that since the receipt of the Order Mr Ward had received special instructions to pay particular attention to that part of the district.

A GOOD EXAMPLE.

The Master stated that on Monday last, he received some handsome bunches of cut flowers, sent by the teachers of the Leadgate and Allendale Cottages Primitive Methodist Sunday Schools, for distribution amongst the inmates.

On the motion of the CHAIRMAN, it was agreed that the Clerk should write a letter to these parties thanking them for their gifts.

DOCTORS AND VACCINATION.

Mr Proud (Vaccination Officer) having reported that Dr Allen, assistant to Dr Geo Renton, of Leadgate, declined to furnish the vaccination certificate to a certain person until she had paid the confinement fees, the Board instructed its Clerk to write a strong letter to Dr Allen, informing him that unless he did not give up the certificate forthwith, further measures would be taken against him to compel him to do so.

INMATES OF THE WORKHOUSE.

Week ending Aug. 19th	147
Corresponding week of last year	162
Week ending Aug 22nd	142
Corresponding week of last year	165
Vagrants relieved during past fortnight..	8
" corresponding fortnight last year..	5

The Board adjourned.

AN AWFUL HEATHEN.—At the Durham County Police Court on Wednesday, an old woman, named Jane Fairley, was charged with assaulting Harry G. Pooley, at Waterhouses on the 16th. It appeared that on Sunday evening week complainant, who is a prominent member of the Salvation Army, was going up towards his house, when defendant called him a black-legged b——, and also called his family, whereupon he went down on his knees and prayed for her. She requested him to go away, but as he refused and continued praying, she threw two pailfuls of water over him.—Fined 2s 6d and costs.

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BIRTHS.

BLACKHILL.—Viewfield, 24th inst., the wife of W. Richardson, stone merchant, of a son.

17th inst., the wife of M. Hobday, of a son.

WINLATON.—The Groves, 25th inst., the wife of John I. Bagnall, of a daughter.

MARRIAGES.

WOLSINGHAM.—Register Office, 21st inst., Mr Thomas Hall to Miss M. J. Lee, both of Wolsingham.

NEWCASTLE.—20th inst., at the Register Office, Wm. Tait Leith, of Hulme, Manchester, to Mary Collingwood, daughter of Wm. Collingwood, of Swalwell.

DEATHS.

CONSETT.—13, Trafalgar Street, 26th inst., Annie, the beloved daughter of Thomas and Jane Wailes aged 27 years. To be interred at Castleside, on Sunday. Cortege to leave 2 30 p.m. 976d

Mount Pleasant, on the 27th inst., aged 68 years, John Rees. Interment at Benfieldside Cemetery, on Sunday afternoon. Funeral *cortege* to leave the house at Three o'clock prompt. Friends, please accept this intimation. 980d

LEADGATE.—26th inst. (at the house of her daughter, Mrs H. Leathard, Front Street), Phoebe Henderson, aged 68 years. To be interred at St. Ives, on Sunday First, at Three o'clock. Friends, please accept this intimation. 973d

BLANCHLAND.—Garden House, 24th inst., aged 81, George Davidson, land steward.

SWALWELL.—25th inst., aged 61, James Grey.

26th inst., aged 48, suddenly, John Perry.

CARLISLE INFIRMARY.—18th inst., aged 21 years, Esther Cowing, the dearly beloved daughter of William and Elizabeth Twentyman, Low Westwood, Ebchester 980d

BARCUS CLOSE.—21st inst., aged 87, Ann, relict of the late Thomas Hodgshon, Swalwell.

BLAYDON.—Cowen Street, 22nd inst., aged 42, George Rumfitt, husband of Mary Rumfitt.

St. Thomas's Terrace, 21st inst., aged 36, Sarah Jane wife of Wm. Biggins, saddler.

25th inst., aged 28, Adam, only son of Mary Thompson.

DURHAM.—Halgarth Street, 23rd inst., aged 69, Mr Matthew Pratt, weaver.

Printed and Published by ROBERT JACKSON, at the Atmospheric Printing Works, Front Street, Consett.—Friday, August 28th, 1885.

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