The Consett Chronicle

AND NORTH-WEST DURHAM ADVERTISER.

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Business Announcements.

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GOOD STABLING.

CONSETT CHRONICLE FOOTBALL COMPETITION.

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CONSOLATION PRIZE FIVE SHILLINGS.

We offer a prize of TWO GUINEAS to the Competitor who gives the results of the whole of the undermentioned Five matches correctly. Should no one name the whole of the Five results correctly a CONSOLATION PRIZE of FIVE SHILLINGS will be given to the Competitor who gives the most correct results.

Cut out the Coupon, and write in the space left for the purpose the number of the Goals you expect to be scored by each Club. Write your Name and Address plainly at the foot, and send the Coupon not later than ONE o'clock on SATURDAY AFTERNOON in each week, to

COUPON EDITOR,
CONSETT CHRONICLE,
CONSETT.

COUPON.

(TO BE CUT OUT.)

SATURDAY, December 4th, 1897.

CLUB.	Goals.		CLUB.	Goals.
SHOTLEY BRIDGE R.		v.	CONSETT PARK	
BIRTLEY		v.	STANLEY	
PRUDHOE		v.	ALLENDALE	
DERBY		v.	SUNDERLAND	
LEADGATE EXILES		v.	CROOK TOWN	

On the ground of the first-named club.

NAME ....

ADDRESS ....

The name or names of the successful competitors will be announced in the *Consett Chronicle* every week.

The award of the Editor must be considered final.

Persons in the employ of the Editor are not eligible to take part in the competition.

The matches given in our last week's Coupon resulted as follows:—

HOWDEN-LE-WEAR	3	LEADGATE EXILES	1
STANLEY	0	SUNDERLAND	2
IVESTON	0	SHOTLEY BRIDGE R.	3
SUNDERLAND	4	STOKE	0
ANNFIELD PLAIN	1	CONSETT SWIFTS	1

SPORTS AND PASTIMES.

OUR COUPON COMPETITION.

A consolation prize of 5s. has been divided between Mr Wm. Edward Walker, 114, Front Street, Leadgate, and Mr J. McNamee, 4, Red Row, Crookhall, near Leadgate.

RESULTS.

Appended is a table of results of the principal local games decided on Saturday last:—

Consett	1	Annfield Plain	1
Allendale	1	Walbottle	1
Sunderland A	2	Stanley	0
Howden	3	Leadgate Exiles	1
Darlington	2	Tow Law	0
Shotley	3	Iveston	0
Hobson	1	Bill Quay	0
Lintzford	3	Consett Park	0
Birtley	1	Hebburn	0
Newbottle	3	Chester-le-Street	0
Prudhoe	2	Dipton	0
Stanley Wed	1	Annfield Plain Wed	0
Pelton Fell	4	Craghead	0
Bearpark	7	Brandon	2
Tanfield Lea Cæsars	4	Dipton St. John's	2
Leadgate Park R	3	Tantobie	0
Exiles Reserve	3	Consett Reserve	0
Shotley Reserve	0	Allendale Reserve	0
South Tanfield	6	Blackhill Celtic	0

A DRAW AT THE PLAIN.

The return match between Consett Swifts and Annfield Plain Celtic came off on Saturday last, resulting in a draw of one goal each. "Walloper" turned out for the first time this season, and was given a loyal reception. The game, notwithstanding the condition of the field, was a fast one, Annfield having the best of the opening stages. The Swifts woke up, and after Forster had effected miraculous saves, Jimmy Rafferty gave the Swifts the lead, which they held until the last quarter of an hour. The Celts did most of the pressing in the last half, but their shooting was wretched, and time after time splendid chances were lost by this weakness. The attendance at the match was a very poor one, a good many of the Celts' supporters travelling to Stanley. The result of the last game at Annfield Plain between the two teams, ended in a decisive victory for the Plainites by 7 goals to 2. "How the mighty have fallen." Turning to the performance of the players,

THE CELTS

gave their best exhibition this season. The presence of the burly centre half, Parker, seems to have given the Plain lads better heart. Sam Forster was the hero of the game, and saved several stinging shots in splendid style. He had three times more work to do than Stoker, and his display was very pleasing to the supporters of the home club. Moore was safer at back than McLatchie, who made innumerable mistakes. The old Craghead lad's kicking and tackling was splendid, and he seldom allowed Jimmy Rafferty and Eustace to pass him. The equalising point for the Celts was obtained by some grand play, in which Moore took a prominent part. McLatchie was "off," and gave few glimpses of his old form. "Walloper," who has been taking a rest for three months, kicked and tackled well, and Dempsey found him a hard nut to crack. Andy Coyle was the best half on the home side, time after time stopping rushes by the Consett forwards. Dick Cunningham gave a fair exhibition, as did his brother, who occupied the position of centre forward. In Spence, the Celts have a promising youth, and his exhibition on Saturday gave general satisfaction. In the second half, he waltzed round the visiting defenders in merry style, and from one of his accurate passes, Cunningham mulled. Bobby Forster and Jack Coyle were also in good form, but the latter should have fed Bell more regularly in the first half.

THE VISITORS

felt some difficulty in playing in the mud, which, before the game was concluded, was several inches deep. Their custodian had very little work to do, and could not be blamed for the shot that passed him. Wood was the better of the backs, his kicking being clean and powerful. His partner, Laidlaw, did not play up to his regular form, but showed a tendency for kicking out of play. The halves were in grand trim, and time after time defeated attacks by the Plain front rank. Dempsey was the pick of the forwards, with Bradley little behind. Willis showed up well in the latter portion of the game, but generally stuck to the ball too long. Matty Eustace and Jimmy Rafferty had very little work on the left wing.

STANLEY V. SUNDERLAND A.

The downfall of Stanley on Saturday, created some sensation in football circles, the general anticipation having been, that the Wearsiders would emerge from the fray second best. The sticky condition of the ground may have, to some extent, been responsible for the collapse of the Lilies, but it is only fair to assume that the visitors would also feel handicapped through the presence of the mud. The game was not of the best, on either side, but the visitors were certainly superior on the day's play, and deserved their victory. As for the Lilies; they have no reason to be dispirited at their defeat; for though the Wearsiders had previously done very moderately in their Alliance games, they have always been recognised as a powerful team. Saturday's result is a glorious demonstration of the fickleness of football form.

THE GAME.

Both teams were at full strength, the visitors including Hamilton and Hutton, of first team fame, whilst Sammy Thompson made his debut for the Lilywhites. Strangely enough, both teams sported the same coloured shirts, and the visitors turning theirs inside out, presented a very white-washy appearance. The ground, of course, was in a terribly greasy condition. Starting up the hill, the visitors secured the first bye, and then a clinking shot by Dover, well seized and centred by Masterman, gave Watson a look in, and he sent in a rattling shot, which Stephenson cooly ejected. Long punting ensued, and a mull by Joyce let in Robinson, who raced for him. Morris ran out, and cleared with a huge kick. Fast and furious the battle raged in the mud, the homesters on the whole having the best. Stephenson was too good for a clinking shot from Sammy Thompson, the Leadgate pet, and at the opposite end, George Morris gave a touch of his ability by fisting out a scorcher from Prince. Fish, for the Lilies, was conspicuous for good, all-round play hereabouts, and, thanks largely to his skill, a warm struggle took place in the visiting territory. Masterman mulled

A ROSY CHANCE,

but the Lilies returned to the charge, only to be met with a sterling defence. The visitors on the whole showed the smarter play hereabouts, Prince shining very brightly in unselfish forward play, whilst Hamilton delighted the onlookers by a sprint along the right wing, which proved him to be a shade fleeter than Dover. Evidently anxious to regain his laurels, Dover responded by a fine dribble half the length of the field, finishing by a nice pass to Howe, who shot for the bull's eye, and missed by a few inches. Towards the interval, Sunderland pressed heavily, and Morris twice earned ringing cheers by his smart defence. After "teatime," Sunderland were the first to show the way, and both Morris and Dover worked wonders in defence, the goalkeeper especially proving a great obstacle. Corner after corner fell to the visitors, but Morris always intervened. Then we had a change of scenery, but it was of brief duration, and the visitors soon returned to the onslaught, and this time drew blood, Hamilton scoring No. 1, whilst within three minutes, Hutton added the second and final goal. Stanley played up pluckily, but were always held in check, and the game terminated with Sunderland triumphant by two goals to one.

THE WINNERS

are by no means the poor team that their humble position on the Alliance table would leave one to imagine, and it is passing strange that they should be so far removed from the top of the tree. The forwards are a brilliant quintette, with Young, Hamilton, Hutton and Prince as the shining stars. Robinson is rather light for the centre position, but he makes up for his fighting weight by a superabundance of pluck. Hamilton and Hutton are flyers, and in addition to their speed, they are exceedingly tricky. Simpson was the hero of the halfback line. He worked like a warhorse from start to finish, and stood head and shoulders above his colleagues; albeit neither of them were duffers. The backs were very reliable, and the custodian did what he had to do, very efficiently.

THE LILYWHITES.

So far as the Stanley team is concerned, little fault could be found with the defenders, the forwards being responsible for the result through their feeble efforts when in front of goal. Even Jimmy Howe was off colour, and in the second half, he missed one of the easiest of chances. Masterman was of little service during the first half, but he made some fine centres later on. Sammy Thompson did very little in the centre, and Watson was always wandering out of his position. Crute was perhaps the best of the quintette, and he was far from perfect. The halves all fought fairly well against a fine set of opponents. Milburn pleased me most, he stuck in splendidly from start to finish. Wood was equally resolute, though slow at times, and Fish after starting brilliantly, fell away somewhat towards the finish, being assisted in doing so by a nasty kick accidentally received from Martin Joyce. Dover and "Scotty" played brilliantly at full back, and Morris gave a fine goalkeeping exhibition. On his present form, the Stanley custodian is equal to any goalkeeper in North-West Durham, if not in the Alliance.

MATTERS EVEN AT MEDOMSLEY.

Walbottle visited Medomsley, with the determination of capturing two points. The homesters were also on the look-out for points, they having been beaten the previous Saturday, by Hexham, by three goals to one. The ground was very slippery causing a good deal of mis-kicks and erratic shooting. Allendale had their goal nets on for the first time this season. Walbottle are a very quiet set of youths, and play the game of football. The goalkeeper effected some marvellous saves, although the goal scored against him was very soft indeed. The backs are a set of big'uns, and possess a huge amount of strength, and no fault could be found with either of the two. The halves are fleet, Bates being conspicuous on several occasions. The forwards are a hard-working and fast set of players. When they once break away, they take some stopping.

THE HOMESTERS

played a trifle slow in the first part, but improved as the game advanced. Lynap, in goal, was always on the alert. The goal scored against him was also of a soft description. The backs played moderately, Morton Hedley's place being filled by T. Walton. Matt Walton misjudged many of his kicks, but otherwise he played a creditable game. The halves were a great barrier to the rushes of the Walbottle forwards, M. Hunter shining conspicuously. The whole set of forwards played a first-class game, the only fault being found in Robinson passing the ball too often to Jos. Walton.

DIPTON AGAIN GO DOWN.

Dipton met Prudhoe in a Tyneside League fixture on Saturday, and tried hard to pull two points, but they again came in a good second. With the absence of Coates and Buck, they seemed as if they did not know where they were. The homesters were only moderate. Of the backs, Thompson was the pick, and played his usual dashing game. M. Evans was off colour, and made a good number of mis-kicks. S. Evans is a promising half, and played well on Saturday. He far surpassed his colleagues. Waggott and Walker were the shining stars of the front rank, Waggott, especially, playing a good game.

THE VISITORS

are a pretty strong team, and play well. The goalkeeper never got a fair chance to show his ability, his goal being too well guarded by the backs, of which Flint was the pick. Leonard, at half-back, was often conspicuous for his grand kicking. The forwards all played well, the most prominent being Curry, who scored the two goals.

SHOTLEY AGAIN VICTORIOUS.

Shotley Bridge Rovers travelled over to Iveston on Saturday last, to fulfil their return League fixture with Iveston Villa. The former now stand at the head of the Derwent Valley League, whilst Iveston are third from the bottom. Winter, Thompson, and Taylor were the three successful men in scoring for the visitors, the former player taking three penalties in succession. The game was of a very fast and exciting nature, Shotley having the best of matters in all ways. The visitors' custodian had an easy time of it, the ball only reaching up to the goal-mouth three or four times. Oliver and Robinson also played well as backs, both doing their duty. The halves also played a good game, and the same may be said of the forwards.

SOUTH TANFIELD

appear to have benefited by the remarks which appeared in last week's *Chronicle*, and last Saturday they delighted their supporters by whacking Blackhill Celtic by six goals to nil. This is the first league game in which the Celtics have been beaten, and it is but fair to point out that they were very weakly represented; four of the ordinary team being absent. Johnson played a good game in goal for the losers; one of his feats being the saving of a penalty kick.

THE "COMPLAINT FROM STANLEY."

Mr G. Sanderson, secretary of Stanley Junior Cricket Club, writes to us with reference to the letter under this heading, which appeared in the *Chronicle* of last week. He says (1) that a letter was not written by a Junior of this Club, as the report says; (2) that medals were never promised to the Juniors by the senior Club; and (3) that gates were not taken up during the whole of the season, but that a charge was only made for one game, and the Juniors were left to their option whether they paid over the money or not to the senior Club funds.

PELTON BEAT CRAGHEAD.

Pelton Fell secured a couple of easy points on Saturday, when they "whacked" Martin Dodd's boys to the tune of four to nil. The home team played splendidly, Davidson being in particularly good form between the sticks. Lawton has seldom been seen to better advantage, his kicking and tackling being good. His partner was also in capital trim, and this the Craghead forwards found to their cost. Fenwick shot three goals within twelve minutes of the start, whilst Dobson was conspicuous by his excellent passing. Dodds worked liked a Trojan, and managed to scrape the ball in the net. Boyson was, as usual, in good form, as were the other forwards. Joe Fairley was the best man on the Craghead side, his heading being a treat. The halves were the pick of the visitors.

BURNOPFIELD LEAGUE.—LAST YEAR'S CHAMPIONS DEFEATED.

Tanfield Lea entertained a strong eleven representing Dipton St. John's, whom they defeated in splendid fashion. The game was hotly contested, and it was hard lines for the home team that the game was stopped owing to darkness setting in, 13 minutes off time. This was due to the late arrival of the visitors. The latter played very pluckily, and were apparently the heaviest team, but they had to submit to the inevitable. Robson was the best man for St. John's, and Lishman could not be blamed for the goals scored against him, for they were all good ones, and he was cheered by the spectators for the splendid manner in which he saved on several occasions. In fact, they all did their best to win, but had to give way to a better team on the day's play. The home team were without Purvis and Turner, but found good substitutes in Brown and F. Christopher. Carr in goal, was in his best humour, and kept his goal grandly, and was well backed up by Saunders and Brown, whose kicking, tackling, and judgment were first-class. The half-backs worked hard especially H. Christopher and Joe Milburn. The last named bids fair to out-shine his brother in the same position. Christopher, for his height, weight, and size, is the best centre-half in the district. Waterman showed a great improvement, and if he will only train, he will be on a par with his mates. The forwards again played one of their best games, and working like a machine, every man seems to be in the right place.

NORTHERN ALLIANCE.

Sunderland A made a big stride on Saturday, through their unexpected triumph over Stanley, the win enabling them to jump over the heads of Shankhouse, South Shields, and Blyth. Birtley are deserving of all honour for the gallant game they played at Hebburn; but their late arrival will almost certainly lead to the replaying of the game. Including the game in the table of results, makes the positions of the teams up-to-date as appended:—

	W.	L.	D.	Goals For	Goals Agst	Pt.
Jarrow	8	0	2	27	4	18
Newcastle United A	9	2	0	39	12	18
Wallsend Park Villa	6	1	1	15	13	13
Gateshead N.E.R	5	4	2	27	19	12
Hebburn Argyle	4	2	1	17	6	9
Willington Athletic	4	3	1	17	16	9
Stanley	3	4	2	19	13	8
Sunderland A	3	7	2	16	25	8
Blyth	3	5	1	12	22	7
South Shields	3	3	2	15	14	7
Shankhouse	3	6	0	14	24	6
Rendel	2	6	0	17	18	4
Birtley	1	6	1	8	24	3
St. Peter's Albion	1	6	1	5	34	3

DERWENTWATER.

FOOTBALL.

NOTICE.—FOOTBALL FIXTURES.

We cannot in future undertake the insertion of football fixtures unless they are paid for as advertisements. The charge for ten lines and under will be 2s, and when this number is exceeded, 3s will be charged.

TYNESIDE LEAGUE.

CONSETT SWIFTS v. ANNFIELD PLAIN CELTIC.

At Annfield Plain, before 300 spectators. The ground was in bad condition, and at three o'clock the teams took up their positions as follows:—

CELTS.		SWIFTS.
S. Forster	Goal	Stoker
Moore	Right back	Laidler
McLatchie	Left back	Wood
R. Cunningham	Right half	J. Rafferty
Parker	Centre half	J. McKie
A. Coyle	Left half	R. Wake
Forster	Right outside	Willis
Coyle	Right inside	Bradley
Cunningham	Centre	Dempsey
Spence	Left inside	Eustace
Bell	Left outside	Rafferty

Linesmen, Messrs Allison and Graham.
Referee, Mr Warburton, Newcastle.

Consett won the toss, and elected to play with the incline in their favour. Forster, Bell, and Cunningham indulged in some fine passing, a corner being conceded to avoid disaster. However, nothing resulted, and two appeals by Consett for free kicks were given in favour of the home men. End-to-end play followed, and the Plainites were again awarded a corner, Parker sending high over the bar. Rafferty was seen to advantage by some sterling play, but Parker ultimately received, and Stoker had to throw out. The Celts had decidedly the better of matters, but Bradley came away, and Forster saved twice in succession. Moore then miskicked, and Forster was called upon to save again. He threw out, and Coyle had a splendid chance, which he lost by slipping. The Swifts played up better, Willis shining conspicuously. A corner to the home men was the next item of importance, but thanks to Moore, the attack was frustrated. McLatchie shot into his own goal, Forster saving in magnificent fashion. He repeated the performance a minute later, by rejecting a hot shot from Bradley. A foul to the Swifts, who had now the best of the play, proved futile, and Forster saved magnificently on several occasions. Coyle just missed, and the Consett players attacked with great energy, and after Forster had saved miraculously, Jimmy Rafferty scored. The Celts pressed on restarting, but the Swifts again came away, and Eustace gave Forster a rare handful, which he disposed of in splendid fashion. Exciting play ensued, and Cunningham was fouled, the resultant free kick proving fruitless. Forster was penalised for a foul, and Wood gave a corner to save from A. Coyle. Dempsey sent over the bar a few minutes later, and half-time arrived with the score:—

Swifts .... 1 goal
Celts .... Nil

Swifts pressed on restarting, and the home goal had a narrow escape, Rafferty hitting the upright. Spence tricked several opponents, and gave to Cunningham, who nearly scored with a fine screw shot. Bell sent in a hard shot, which struck the visiting custodian on the knees, and rebounded. Consett retaliated, but Moore relieved, and Bell got down the wing at a rapid pace. Wood checked his career, and Parker forced a corner with a flying kick. Coyle had a capital chance from a pass by Spence, but shot high over the bar. Even play followed, after which the backs of both teams indulged in some huge punting. A corner to the Celts was grandly placed, and McLatchie aroused applause by some fine tackling. The game was delayed owing to some difference between Bell and Laidler. The Celts again pressed, and Moore fairly outmatched Bradley, and sent in a fine overhead kick. Coyle received, and scrimmaged the ball into the net, amid loud and prolonged cheers. Consett played up better, and after Moore had miskicked, the home goal had a narrow escape. Bell got away down the left, and Laidler deliberately kicked into touch. Moore was again cheered for splendid play, and a foul let in the Consett players. The Celts had now the better of matters, but Wake gave his side a little advantage. Spence gave a clever pass to J. Cunningham, who missed, to the disappointment of the home supporters. Spence tricked Wood and McKie, and sent in a hot shot, which struck the cross-bar. The leather rebounded, and Rafferty headed away. The visitors, led by Dempsey, assailed the home fortress, where play was raging when the whistle sounded, the score being:—

CELTIC .... 1 goal
SWIFTS .... 1 goal

DIPTON WANDERERS v. PRUDHOE.

[BY "DONALD."]

These teams met at Dipton on Saturday, before a small gathering of spectators. The ground was in poor condition, owing to the rain which had fallen during the morning. Prudhoe won the toss, and elected to play towards the entrance goal. Temple started the ball for the homesters, and Prudhoe at once began to press. Thompson relieved, and Waggott receiving the ball, sent in a shot, but missed. Scott made a fine run, and shot for home, but Spinks saved. Prudhoe forced a corner, but S. Evans headed out. Curry put in a grand shot, and Spinks effected a save. Give and take play ensued till the whistle blew. Half-time score:—

Dipton .... Nil
Prudhoe .... Nil

Curry started the ball, and Dipton began to press, but the leather was put past. Prudhoe plucked up courage, and came to the homesters' citadel with a rush, but a free kick being given against them, they had to retreat. Curry now tried Spinks with a shot, which he managed to save. The visiting front again came up the field, and Curry, receiving, passed the backs, and then banged home, scoring the first goal. Give-and-take play followed till Curry again beat Spinks with a grand shot, thus registering the second goal. No more scoring followed, and the game ended—

PRUDHOE .... 2 goals
DIPTON .... Nil

ALLENDALE PARK v. WALBOTTLE.

["BY PARKITE."]

These teams met at Medomsley, before 200 spectators. The home team were minus Morton Hedley and Houston, whilst Thompson Walton again made his reappearance in the team. On the start, Walbottle made a rush to the home citadel but Bowes relieved with a big kick. Midfield play followed. Trueman broke away, and on being challenged by Bates, he passed over to Gillender, who took matters to the Walbottle quarters. The visitors' backs at once kicked out. The homesters again made a rush on the visiting defence, with the result that they were awarded a corner. The corner was well placed, but Anderson cleared effectively. The visitors' front rank got very dangerous, but Milburn Hunter relieved the pressure with a timely kick. A smart run by Landells was loudly applauded. Play ruled in midfield. Anderson was conspicuous for some tricky play. Mis-kicks were often exhibited, some very effective chances being spoiled. Half-time arrived with the score:—

Allendale .... Nil
Walbottle .... Nil

On the restart, Allendale set the ball in motion, and soon took matters to the visitors' territory. A free kick for the homesters seemed rosy, but Mat Walton placed badly. Some give and take play ensued, Allendale creeping up to the goal-mouth at every exchange. The Park notwithstanding having to play up the hill, forced the play, but the Walbottle backs were equal to the occasion. Play began to get exciting. It was now becoming impossible to discern the players, it being so misty. At length, Walbottle scored a soft goal, amidst a hum of disapproval. On the ball being set in motion again, Jos. Walton raced up the wing, and passed over to Gillender, but he put past. From the goal-kick, Allendale bombarded with vigour and energy. A combined rush was made on the Walbottle goal, Robinson scoring the equalising point, amidst loud cheering. No further scoring took place, the whistle sounding for the game to cease, leaving the game even, although Allendale had the best of matters:—

Allendale .... 1 goal.
Walbottle .... 1 goal.

DERWENT VALLEY LEAGUE.

IVESTON v. SHOTLEY BRIDGE ROVERS.

[BY "DERWENT LAD."]

These teams met at Iveston, under the auspices of the above League, and before a fair attendance. The homesters won the toss, and elected to play downhill. Gladders set the ball in motion, and at once drew well up, but Oliver, one of the visitors' backs, sent back with a huge kick. The visitors still kept pressing near the goalmouth, and seemed like scoring, but the ball was only sent by. Shotley now took possession, Taylor taking well past the centre line, the ball being sent out. Winter secured and shot for goal, which resulted in a corner. From the kick, a small scrimmage ensued, in which Watson had hard lines in not scoring. The visitors still pressed near the goalmouth, when a penalty was awarded to Shotley close by. Winter took the kick, sending through the first goal for the visitors, amid loud cheering. This seemed to arouse the homesters, the ball being kept well between the centre line, when Taylor got away up the field, and had hard lines in not scoring. Shortly after this, Iveston took possession, and a number of corners were awarded to the visitors, but nothing was gained by them. Half-time arrived with the score—

Shotley .... 1 goal
Iveston .... Nil

On resuming play, the Rovers continued to press, but a free kick was given to Iveston near the goal-mouth, which gave them a chance to score, but came to nothing. The Rovers' forwards now came away in a rank, but hands pulled them up on several occasions. This let in the Villa, and Gladdens scored an offside goal for them. The visitors now played well together for a while, and Thompson, having received the leather from Watson, scored a beauty. Play afterwards became very rough and exciting, and Taylor for Shotley, sent through the third goal off Nixon's knee. Darkness now set in upon them, when the whistle was sounded with the final score:—

SHOTLEY .... 3 goals
IVESTON .... Nil

NORTHERN LEAGUE.

LEADGATE EXILES v. HOWDEN.

These teams met at Howden, before 1000 spectators. The Exiles were without Callaghan, Daly, W. McGee, Brannen, Haley, and Toole, whilst Howden played their strongest eleven. The home men won the toss, and elected to play with the wind. The Exiles pressed on restarting, and had the better of matters, and scored twice, both points being disallowed. Play ruled even to the close, when the score stood three goals to nil in favour of the home men.

DARLINGTON v. TOW LAW.

These teams met at Feethams, before a moderate attendance. Darlington won the toss, and Tow Law at once visited the home quarters, but were repulsed, and some smart play was witnessed in the home half. Thompson sent back, and Canick dashed along the left at a good rate, Potts checking his career with much difficulty. McIntosh sent in a neat shot, which went a trifle wide, and Allison was called upon to negotiate several hot shots. Oliver made a splendid dash through the visitors' ranks, and sent in a grand shot from the right, which went wide. The Quakers still maintained the advantage, but could not score, the Tow Law defenders being in splendid form. From a throw-in on the left, the visitors had again to defend, but McIntosh changed the scene of operations with a dashing run. Todd, however, frustrated his attempt, and Canick again travelled into the Tow Law domains. Temperley was not to be beaten, and relieved with a splendid kick. McIntosh again had a shy, but the ball went wide. Darlington kept up the pressure, and a minute off time, Swenson scored, and when the whistle sounded, the score stood—

Darlington .... 1 goal
Tow Law .... Nil

On resuming, the home men immediately became aggressive, and the ball was sent into the visitors' goal, where, after an exciting struggle, it was sent high over the bar. Callaghan played with great judgment, and Bowes being tripped by Temperley, a penalty kick was allowed. Canick made no mistake, and popped through the second point for the home men. Darlington had the best of the play up to the whistle sounding, when the score stood—

DARLINGTON .... 2 goals
TOW LAW .... Nil

NORTHERN ALLIANCE.

STANLEY v. SUNDERLAND.

[BY "CROSSBAR."]

These teams met at Stanley on Saturday, before 1,000 spectators. At the outset play was of an uninteresting nature, the slippery ground militating against good play. The following were the teams:—

STANLEY.		SUNDERLAND.
Morris	Goal	Stephenson
Joyce	Right back	Harrison
Dover	Left back	Carle
Fish	Right half	Moir
Wood	Centre half	Simpson
Milburn	Left half	Robertson
Crute	Right outside	Hamilton
Watson	Right inside	Ormston
Thompson	Centre	Robinson
Howe	Left inside	Hutton
Masterman	Left outside	Prince

Masterman made two capital centres, which came to nought, and Watson shot in a stinger, which Stephenson cleared. Joyce mulled, and Robinson ran to the home goal, but Morris ran out of goal and cleared. Dover made two magnificent punts which helped his team greatly, but Simpson, the clever centre half of the A, tricked Wood neatly and gave to Hutton, who, however, found himself outwitted by Joyce. Jimmy Howe led the home vanguard to the opposite end, but after some smart passing among the entire front rank, Masterman shot a trifle wide. Thompson then had a smack at goal, but Stephenson caught the ball cleverly. Sunderland replied bravely, and Prince banged in a rasping screw shot, which Morris saved brilliantly. Stanley continued to hold a slight supremacy; but chances of scoring were missed by Crute and Masterman, largely owing to the sticky state of the ground. Dover and Joyce showed brilliant defence for the Whites, and Wood was applauded for clever play. Hamilton raced past Dover, but Milburn rushed up and punted into touch. Sunderland pressed strongly, and a splendid centre by Prince, nearly caused the downfall of the home goal. Ormston bothered Dover, but Billy managed to clear after a warm skirmish. The ball was promptly returned and twice in quick succession, Morris saved splendidly. The Wearsiders then experienced

VERY HARD LINES,

Prince hitting the upright with a grand low shot. Hamilton met the ball on the rebound and banged it back furiously, Dover clearing luckily. A miss by Carle let the Lillies in, but Watson shot weakly. The visitors then had a turn, and Hutton sent in a teazer which Morris gracefully assisted over the bar. A fine save. Half-time arrived with a clean sheet.

Re-starting, Charley Crute made a merry run for the Whites, but the advantage was lost, through Thompson fouling Curle. Hamilton tricked Dover and Joyce very sweetly, but Morris saved his colours by punting into touch. Sammy Thompson broke away, and passed neatly to Howe, but Jimmy dived in a pool of water instead of centring the ball. Masterman distinguished himself by a fine centre, and Prince did ditto for the visitors, who looked very dangerous, but were repelled by Dover. Stanley now took an innings, and Masterman twice shot into the goalmouth, a corner ultimately resulting. Hutton broke away, but "Scotty" sent the ball back with a tremendous kick. Howe had the goal at his mercy, but shot wretchedly. Joyce stopped another break away, and Milburn hit the upright with a fine shot. Morris saved amid intense excitement, with a host of opponents hovering round him. Sunderland returned to the attack, and goals were secured by Hamilton and Hutton, leaving the final result—

SUNDERLAND .... 2 goals
STANLEY .... Nil

BIRTLEY v. HEBBURN ARGYLE.

At Hebburn, before a good attendance. Sorley kicked off, and Birtley came away and scored in the first minute. Argyle came away strongly, and innumerable shots were sent in, but none could reach their intended destination, the Birtley back division clearing most of them with ease. The visitors gradually cleared, and had a brief innings at the other end, but a foul once more placed them on the defensive. Sorley had a grand run down the right, but his final effort went over the bar. Mowat and Stenton also had shies without the desired result. A glorious opportunity came when one of the Birtley backs handled within the limited, and Argyle were granted a penalty kick. Sorley was entrusted with the venture, but greatly disappointed his many admirers by sending the leather past the upright. Argyle made another desperate rush upon the Birtley goal, but the visitors broke away on the right wing, and after covering the full length of the field, sent wide. The visitors at this stage fully held their own, and several sallies were made towards Burns, but this time he was not caught napping. Argyle made strenuous efforts to equalise, and Mowat rushed the Birtley custodian, but without success, the visitors holding their own until half time. Score:

Birtley .... 1 goal
Argyle .... Nil

On resuming, Mowat slipped away on the right, but was rushed in the corner. The ball came to Sorley, who sent in a magnificent shot, which the custodian just cleared. Rice made another attempt, the ball just dropping over the bar. Sorley was next in evidence with a long run, but all his efforts to reach the Birtley goal were frustrated. Birtley managed to get a breather for a while, but the Argyle defenders kept them at bay. Stenton had a clever run down the right, and centred straight across the goal-mouth to Lock, who, with only the custodian in front, failed to accept the pass, and the ball went behind. The Argyle forwards continued to shoot very poorly, and Hunter missed another capital chance. Play settled down in the open, and some time before the finish the Referee was obliged to stop the game owing to the darkness, the score being—

BIRTLEY .... 1 goal
ARGYLE .... Nil

WALDRIDGE v. WATERHOUSES.

The above teams faced each other on the former's ground, before a large number of spectators. Waldridge won the toss, and elected to play down the slope. The visitors set the ball in motion, and were immediately hemmed in by the homesters for a while, Lumley relieving. A determined assault on the home goal was of no avail, and the scene of activity was resumed at the opposite end. Waldridge kept up a hot attack, the visiting custodian having rather a warm time of it. The visitors seldom got over the half-way line. Waldridge did some remarkable work, mainly through Gardiner, Frazer, and Charlton. At last the homesters were rewarded by a splendid pass by Charlton being headed into the net by Frazer. On resuming, Waterhouses attacked, and scored through Ballman. The homesters were determined to add to their score, and just on the point of time, Frazer scored with a magnificent shot, which completely baffled the opposing custodian. The score at the interval was:—

Waldridge .... 2 goals
Waterhouses .... 1 goal

Upon resuming, the visitors commenced to "rough it," but found their equal in Scott, Potts, and Batey, who prevented them becoming dangerous. Waldridge were now playing a strong game, Gardiner and Frazer doing some grand passing on the left. The visitors tried to break away, but met with strong opposition from the home halves, especially Charlton. However, they were not to be denied, and a determined onslaught on the home goal resulted in Palmer heading through No. 2. Waterhouses now settled down to play a defending game, and the Waldridge forwards had hard lines several times in not increasing their score. A well-fought game ended in a draw as under:—

WALDRIDGE .... 2 goals
WATERHOUSES .... 2 goals

BIRTLEY JUNIORS v. KIMBLESWORTH BLUE STARS.

These teams met at Birtley, before a good attendance. Play ruled even for the first quarter of an hour, and Robson scored, the visitors equalling just later. Summerson passed to Allison, who transferred to Brown, who shot at goal, Robson having hard lines in heading over the bar. Edgar gave to Brown, who ran up, but was dispossessed by one of the visitors. From a foul throw against the Juniors, Forster relieved with a good kick. Both teams pressed hard, but were met by a stubborn defence of both sides. Half-time arrived—

Birtley .... 1 goal
Kimblesworth .... 1 goal

From the re-commencement, the Birtley lads had a look in, and Allison, Edgar, and Brown each had a try, but the good custodianship of Thirlway saved his charge from what seemed inevitable downfall. Edgar passed to Allison, who, from a difficult position, sent by. Summerson was conspicuous, but Robson received, and sent on to Tickle, who missed. Brown ran down, but the ball went by. Birtley pressed hard, and secured a corner, which proved fruitless. Another corner resulted, when the goalkeeper, in trying to save, scored No. 2 for the Juniors. From the centre kick, Robson, with a well-directed kick, sent by, as did W. Forster. The visitors had a look in, but were kept at bay by Watson, and from a nice pass from Edgar, Allison scored No. 3 for the Juniors. Kimblesworth played up better, and scored No 2. Play continued to be in favour of Birtley, who ran out victors, by the under-mentioned score—

BIRTLEY .... 7 goals
RED STAR .... 3 goals

SOUTH OOR UNITED v. BEAMISH RED ROW ROVERS.

These teams met at South Moor on Saturday, and after a very uninteresting game which was all in favour of the home lads, the scores were as as follows:—

SOUTH MOOR .... 5 goals
BEAMISH .... Nil

The United showed very good form all through. The forward line especially showing a great deal of dash. The goal-keeper had not much chance of showing his style, as he never got a ball all through the game.

JOTTINGS.

Allendale had a hard nut to crack on Saturday, but they made their opponents go all the way.

The Allendale's committee are a long time in getting the press-box into their new ground.

Jacky Lynop was a spectator at the Walbottle v Allendale game. "Will he not, like his brother, join his old love?"

Would'nt Gillender be glad if he were to join? Jack and Bob can play well together.

Landells played a rattling game on Saturday.

Allendale journey to Prudhoe on Saturday, but do not anticipate a victory.

President Lee did not smile on Saturday. Instead, he was heard to mutter mournfully "Oh, what a surprise."

The Stanley forwards played very seedily on Saturday, not one of them showing up well.

Watson seemed to forget his geography. He was supposed to play inside right; but he wandered "far, far away" from that position.

Charley Crute was fairly accurate in his centres; but he missed a few chances through slipping.

Sammy Thompson seemed quite unable to keep his feet; and Jimmy Howe took a few dips in the lakes.

Jimmy Masterman was off-colour in the first half of the game against Sunderland A. He mended later on, and made a few fine centres.

Samuel Wood and Skipper Milburn are the two "pets" of the Stanley team; but bar the backs and the goalkeeper, they were almost the best men in the team on Saturday.

A correspondent suggests that Stanley Wednesday should be requested to lend a few of their forwards to the Alliance team. Will Benny oblige?

Stanley Wednesday continue to progress gaily in the Wednesday League Competition.

They visited Annfield Plain last Wednesday, and encouraged by the jollying of Ben Johnson and Jack Paxton, won by one goal to love.

Paxton makes a first class supporter behind the ropes; but he is even more useful on the field.

I hope Johnny will take the hint, and quickly resume active service.

The game was rather uninteresting during the first half, but subsequently matters brightened up considerably, and some clinking play was seen.

Billy Gibson played a rare game as centre-forward for Stanley, and the two Bobbys also did good work in the forward rank.

Whitfield is quite an adept in the "rushing" line, and bids fair to fill efficiently the vacancy caused by the retirement of Isaac Newton.

As for Lewis, his charging is similar to that of the Gordon Highlanders. There is no stopping it.

Stanley Wednesday have a clinking full-back in Jack Tindale; but it is rather rough on Annfield Plain that he should desert his home to play for a strange club.

There must be something sweet at Stanley to attract all the football talent of the district.

Gill Whaley tried his skill as linesman last Wednesday, and emerged triumphant. He will pass his examination in that department though he may fail as a centre forward.

Hobson Wanderers continue firmly at the top of the Tyneside League. They visited Bill Quay on Saturday, and gained a well-earned victory by one goal to nil.

Annfield Plain Celtic showed some signs of improvement on Saturday, and managed to play a draw against Consett Swifts.

Stockton are going ahead finely in the Northern League competition with Darlington and Middlesborough as their nearest rivals.

The sensation of the season. Birtley's victory over Hebburn Argyle. Stanley may look out for squalls on Saturday.

But two Northern Alliance games were decided on Saturday, and the results were contrary to general expectations.

Last week, I ventured a prophesy; that "on form, Stanley should take the biscuit and two points from Sunderland A."

The teams shared the buiscult and the mud, but the Wearsiders took the points.

The moral is "never prophesy unless you know." Cross Bar now retires from the field of football predictior, and will become a weather prophet.

If he predicts "snow, rain, mist, and mud" for every Saturday during the football season, he won't go far wrong.

Everything in the football world seemed upside down on Saturday. Even the green-backed warriors from Leadgate came off second best in their encounter with Howden.

Shotley Bridge Rovers again defeated Iveston Villa by three goals to nil.

Scott, the visitors custodian, had an easy time of it on Saturday.

Hobday played well as a half, his heading being a treat.

Robinson and Oliver also played well as backs, they saving a few of their opponents marvellous shots.

Iveston have a grand pair of backs in Forster and Lougheran.

Their forwards are also a tricky lot, Gladders being the pick.

Bradley Cottages defeated Medomsley on the latter's ground by four goals to nil.

Graham, Thompson, and Alderdice played well for the losers.

The home team were without four of their regular players, and had to play with seven men.

Dipton John's were greatly surprised by Tanfield Cæsars on Saturday.

Perhaps it would be better if Dipton would keep Press at home when they are playing away.

The Cæsars have changelled the John's either at Stanley or the Hobson for a gate.

"Dodger" Ford appears in the Stanley ranks on Saturday, Masterman taking a rest, whilst Watson goes outside left.

Stanley A will try their luck against Birtley A, and after their prolonged holiday, the boys should be in great form.

Joe Crowther and Cartmel of Leadgate Park fame are to play for Stanley A v Birtley A.

Birtley A gained their first brace of points in the Northern Combination Competition on Saturday, when they accounted for Bill Quay Celtic.

Waldridge made a creditable draw with Waterhouses on Saturday.

The Waldridge "Eel" was by far the best man on the field. He played a game which would be creditable to a player of greater note.

Of the forwards, Gardiner was the best, while his partner, Frazer, was responsible for the two goals scored.

King and Bennett played up to their old form, Bennet playing his best game this season. King more than once startled his opponents by his sprints.

Scott and Gawman played a good game. In fact, the latter is as regular as a clock.

Batey played a good game at back, and received great help from Potts.

DERWENTWATER.

HOCKEY.

DERWENT VALLEY v. COXHOE HALL.—The Valley eleven travel to Coxhoe Hall, on Saturday, and will be represented by the following:—T D Dales (capt.), goal; J E Parker and J E Thorpe, backs; H G Young, J M Nicholson, and G. G. Robson, half-backs; H H Wattsford, J O Todd, R Renton, W Worden, and C T Foreman, forwards. Bully-off at 3 o'clock.

CRICKET.

BIRTLEY CRICKET CLUB.

The annual meeting of this Club was held in the Schoolroom. The reports of the secretary and treasurer were passed as satisfactory, and with a balance of £4 odd the forthcoming season is looked to with encouragement. The batting average for the Saturday team was topped by T. Hodgson with 28·3, and D. Shepherd was second with 14·7. W. Stobbs took the lead in the bowling department with an average of 4·3 runs per wicket, and D. Shepherd followed up this with 5·24. The Wednesday team batting honours were won by W. Lavender with 11·4, and P. Potter was a good second with 11·2. Colonel Perkins was re-elected president; captain, D. Shepherd; vice-captain, W. Stobbs; secretary, J. McKay; assistant secretary, C. P. Proudlock; treasurer, H. Milbanke; captain Wednesday team, G. Margenson; vice-captain, W. Lavender.

DRAUGHTS.

CONSETT AND DISTRICT DRAUGHTS HANDICAP (OPEN).

FIRST ROUND.

The following is the draw for the Christmas handicap:—

18	R. Chapman	20	B. Piggins
18	J. Longmoor	12	R. Pendleton
16	H. Monroe	21	D. Davie
14	B. Foreman	10	J. Littleton
25	S. Kennedy	21	W. Spedding
17	J. Parkinson	28	G. Eltringham
21	R. McCanse	18	A. Chamberlain
9	J. Rudd	18	G. Lowes
4	T. McLaren	17	R. Barron
20	R. Noble	16	P. Malone
15	W. Drugan	21	J. Almond
9	J. Alderdice	26	R. Milburn
17	J. Jackson	17	C. Porteous
28	C. Allan	20	A. Lamb
5	N. Charlten	18	W. Gill
5	C. Ross	16	R. Bell
16	S. Tomkin	9	J. Millhouse
18	T. Turnbull	14	J. Routledge
28	W. Carruthers	15	R. Parker
17	J. Wheatley	22	J. Brodie
19	S. Spedding	23	R. Hart
14	H. Thubron	5	F. Fairclough
17	D. Wilkinson	20	W. Mawson
14	W. Mitchell	5	W. H. Starr
5	J. Clark	28	S. Martin
14	G. Jameson	17	T. Alderdice
15	R. Routledge	23	J. Strong
28	J. Russell	11	C Lamb
20	J. Chambers	19	S. Walker
5	J. Harkness	17	C. Douse
15	G. Robson	20	D. Doudegan
11	W. Kennedy	15	R. Oswald
21	E. Tindle	14	P. Logan
14	J. Ford	14	G. Maines
14	F. Richardson	16	J. North
17	W. Oliver	25	R. Scott
20	G. Finlay	11	R. Pendleton
15	W. McClain	16	A. Liddle
17	P. Bell	18	J. Moor
11	J. Walker	20	H. Morgan

N.B.—All heats to be played by January 1st, 1898.

DERWENT VALLEY LEAGUE.

Result up to date—

	P.	W.	L.	D.	Goals For	Goals Agst	P.
Shotley	6	6	0	0	16	5	12
Tantobie	8	5	2	1	21	9	11
Leadgate Reserve	5	3	1	1	18	4	7
Spen	5	3	1	1	12	6	7
Lintzford	2	2	0	0	6	0	4
Allendale	5	2	3	0	11	8	4
Iveston	7	2	5	0	10	18	4
Lintz Rovers	6	1	4	1	8	16	3
Consett Park	8	0	8	0	4	40	0

NORTH-WEST DURHAM LEAGUE.

REFEREES FOR DECEMBER.

December 11.

Consett Park v. Allendale .... Jos. Hamilton
Swifts v. South Tanfield .... R. Millighan
Exiles v. Malton .... J. Barrow
Annfield Plain Celtic v. Blackhill .... V. McGuckin

December 18.

Exiles v. Consett Park .... J. Allison
South Tanfield v. Malton .... J. Hamilton
Lintz v. Blackhill .... J. Tennant

January 1.

Lintz v. Exiles .... R. Millighan
Blackhill v. Annfield Plain Celtic .... A. P. Little
Malton v. Shotley .... J. Barrow

BUURNOPFIELD JUNIOR LEAGUE.

REFEREES FOR DECEMBER.

December 11.

Byer Moor v. Whickham .... J. G. Harrison
Blackhill Celtic v. Shotley .... J. E. Taylor
Marley Hill v. Hamsterley .... J. Smith
Tantobie v. Tanfield Lea .... W. Moody

December 18.

Byer Moor v. Consett .... J. Aitkin
Whickham v. Marley Hill .... W. Hodgson
Lintzford v. Tanfield Lea .... P. Hanlon

December 25.

Dipton v. Byer Moor .... G. Gray
Hobson v. Whickham .... J. Lamb
Hamsterley v. Lintzford .... G. Cunningham
Blackhill Celtic v. Tanfield Lea .... J. Raisbeck
Marley Hill v. Tantobie .... J. Sanders

LETTERS to the EDITOR.

As it is desired to make the *Consett Chronicle* a medium for intelligent discussion to its readers, Correspondence is invited from all who have useful information to communicate. But contributors must distinctly understand that all communications sent will be subject to the Editor's revision, and that all statements of a personal, offensive, or impolite character will be unhesitatingly expunged. Correspondents should always criticise the action or the practice complained of, and not the person whom they consider to be at fault. Communications from working men on matters of public interest are frequently the most valuable, and Correspondence of this class is especially invited. The Editor will most willingly revise the letters of those who favour him with their contributions.

The name and address of the writer must accompany all communications. These will not be given where the writer does not wish his identity to be known; nor will they, in any case or under any circumstances whatever, be given to inquirers. Correspondents replying to letters which have appeared in the *Chronicle*, bearing the names and addresses of the writers, are expected to do so over their *bona-fide* names.

Letters ought to be forwarded as early in the week as possible. Communications of this description will be received up to nine o'clock on Wednesday morning, but on no account can they be inserted if sent after this hour.

THE BISHOP OF DURHAM AND CHURCH REFORM.

SIR,—The Bishop of Durham's noteworthy address to the Diocesan Conference on the rightful position of the laity with regard to the self-government of the Church, will be published in pamphlet form by the Church Reform League this week.

May I state through your columns that I shall be glad to forward a free copy to any of your readers on receipt of a stamp for postage?

The Bishop has revised the address specially for publication.—Your obedient servant,

ALFRED HOLDSWORTH.

Church House, Dean's Yard,
Westminster, S.W., Dec. 6, 1897.

CONSETT MARKET SCHEME AND TRADESMEN'S ASSOCIATION.

SIR,—Permit me to say how much I was gratified by the full and excellent report you gave in your last issue of the Tradesmen's Association meeting of the 30th ult. With the exception of one mistake, it is quite correct, viz., you report the balance in hand from the trip as 8s, whereas it should be £2 8s 2d. This, I have no doubt, you will correct.

I was, however, surprised on reading your leading article, on the necessity of a Covered Market in Consett, and the action of the Association upon it. You have fallen into the notion that the Association had not a clear knowledge of its powers, or failed to observe the limits of its discretion, in supposing it had the power to decide "to be or not to be," with reference to the Covered Market.

I need only point to a resolution passed at the same meeting, to prove to your satisfaction, that the members were well aware of the course of procedure, under such circumstances, and also the limit of their powers, namely, that a requisition be drawn up by the secretary, and signed by twenty ratepayers, to be presented to the Chairman of the Urban District Council, asking its consideration, *re* calling a public meeting.

Allow me further to say that my surprise almost amounted to amazement when I found that the Editor of such a go-ahead paper as the *Consett Chronicle*, and one who is celebrated, not only for his literary attainments, his keen insight into matters of to-day, but also for his accurate foresight, should advocate a stand-still policy on this question, on such cheeseparing grounds as the rates, in a rising and progressing town like Consett.

I submit, it is possible to be penny-wise and pound-foolish, even when the rates are considered; and without wishing to make invidious comparison, or, to express an opinion, I think the necessity for a Covered Market, will compare favourably with the necessity for a Technical Institute, for the general and future welfare of our town.

Both may be necessary, and if a small rate is allowable for one, it may be permissible for the other also.

I have, nevertheless, sufficient confidence in the business capacity of Consett tradesmen to believe they can formulate and carry out such a scheme for a Covered Market, without infringing upon the rates.

Is it not possible to carry out such a scheme, on something like the following lines?

To erect a Covered Market, with a good frontage, having three lock-up shops and a main entrance in front, and over the whole length of these a commodious Shire Hall, in which could be conducted all Magisterial, Sessional, Poor Law, and Urban Council functions, bringing to Consett, as the central town of the district, all that important work, which is now carried on in smaller and less important villages affording but meagre accommodation. And thus would be given to the town that important prestige and position which its size and influence demand.

Such a scheme, I think, is not unattainable, and would bring in a regular income sufficient to meet all liabilities incurred by its erection and working, in addition to (the perhaps) small income from the letting of stalls, which would be largely facilitated by the Town Authorities refusing to allow the public streets to be used by itinerant vendors.

In reply to your surprise, that tradesmen, of all others, should advocate a Market scheme, permit me to remind you of the well-attested fact, from all live and progressive towns, that it is far better to attract 20 people to a town, than by lethargy and false economy allow 10 to go out, and by so doing permit a town like Consett, which has all the advantages of position, size, and influence, to gradually sink into that state of somnolency characteristic of want of public spirit and enterprise.—Yours, &c., C. WEAVER.

Consett, Dec. 8th, 1897.

THE RIGHTS OF PROPERTY.

SIR,—Referring to my letter in your last issue, on this subject, permit me to point out, first, the necessity which exists for action—a necessity which very few will for a moment dispute. The great majority of people condemn the Lanchester Common Act as being unrighteous and unreasonable. That the makers of it acknowledged liability is clear, from the fact that a property was set apart to meet contingencies in the shape of damage; that the damages (the extent of which could not have been foreseen) are evident, because the income derived from the said property is quite inadequate to meet the claims. A further acknowledgement and provision was made, "That the Justices *shall* order (not may) a rate to be made," to meet any deficiency which the income from the said property may be unable to meet. This latter clause or provision is simply unworkable, and presents insuperable difficulties, because of the endless toil, time, and expense it would require to get a proper valuation of property, lands, mines, &c., upon the 'Common as distinct and separate from other lands and properties not being on the Common, but in many cases connected with, and included in, one valuation. Besides, there would be neither sense nor justice in making the public pay for a thing they are innocent of. Why not place the saddle upon the right horse? Who causes the damage? Who reaps the benefit? Let them pay those who suffer. Common sense and reason says the Act ought to be repealed, and until such time as this can be accomplished, the property set aside to compensate the injured sufferers ought to be sufficiently augmented out of the royalty rents derived from all minerals (and not out of the injured people) to meet all cases of such damage whether to house or land. With this object in view, every surface owner ought to put his shoulder to the wheel.—Yours truly,

PRO BON PUBLICO.

GRAND BAZAAR IN CONSETT.

OPENING CEREMONY BY LADY DALE.

Despite unfavourable atmospheric auspices, the opening of a grand bazaar, on Wednesday, promoted by the members of the Consett Baptist Chapel, was well patronised, to an extent indeed which could not fail to be encouraging to the promoters. The members of the Baptist denomination have long felt the need of a more comfortable and convenient chapel than that in which they worship at present; and steps were taken to obtain funds with which to provide a new chapel. The undertaking is no unpretentious one for a small body, but the splendid assortment of goods exhibited on the stalls on Wednesday was a proof of the energy and zeal which the promoters have thrown into their work. The cost of the new chapel, which is to be erected on a site near Consett Park, is estimated at £2,000, and for some time the members have been contributing sums of money to the building fund. The interior of the Town Hall, Consett, on Wednesday, presented a scene which was alike animated and picturesque. Considering the nature of the weather, as we have said, the attendance was surprisingly large. Three large stalls were tastefully set off with a beautiful assortment of goods. These embraced articles of apparel, in which some deft needlework was noticeable, and goods which are sure to be transferred from their temporary resting place to adorn many parlours, and other parts of the household. The stallholders are to be congratulated, not only upon the success of their efforts in getting together such a large and varied display, but also upon the tasteful and tempting way in which they arranged them for the bazaar. In addition, there was a refreshment and also a sweets' and flower stall, at either of which the most fastidious epicure could have his wants supplied, while there was a small but interesting collection of live poultry, which seemed to look with a feeling of interest on the proceedings, and which also made their presence felt with no uncertain sound during the opening ceremony on Wednesday. Along with the poultry, there was also on view and sale a diminutive specimen of the canine tribe in the shape of an English terrier; and he also evidently felt at a loss to account for his strange surrounding. The stallholders were—Stall 1—Mrs Teasdale, Mrs Lowes, Mrs E. Bird, Mrs G. Lowes, Miss Teasdale, and helpers; Stall 2—Mrs Dickens, Miss Knifton, Misses Dickens, and helpers; Stall 3—Mrs Walker, Miss Robson, Miss Thompson, Mr J. Ray, Mr W. S. Moss, and helpers; Refreshments—Mrs Russell, Mrs Elliott, Mrs Bird, Mrs Knox, Mrs Jenkins, and Mrs Swindale; Live Stock—Mrs W. Carter, Mrs F. C. Gascoigne, and Mrs G. Farnsworth, jun.; Sweets and Flowers—Mr W. J. Foster, Mr W. Phillips, and 12 members of the Young Ladies' Classes. The arrangements were carried out with a degree of perfection which was creditable to the band of willing workers, headed by the Rev. T. Durant, the energetic pastor; Mr R. Teasdale, the treasurer; and Mr W. S. Moss, the secretary.

THE OPENING CEREMONY

was performed by Lady Dale, who, in response to the request of the committee, kindly consented to shew her sympathy with the undertaking by acceding to their request. Mr H. H. Holliday occupied the chair, and he was accompanied on the platform by Mrs G. Ainsworth and Miss Ainsworth, Mr and Mrs J. Scott, Mr and Mrs J. Petherick, Rev. E. W. Jenkins, and Rev. T. Durant. Amongst those present were Mr and Mrs J. Cockburn, Mr R. Teasdale, Mr and Mrs G. T. Egglestone, Mrs Phillipson, Mrs Maddison, Mrs Smith, Mrs W. Rippon, Mr W. Shell, Mr G. A. Williams, Mrs Kirkhouse, Mr T. Heslop, Mrs and Miss Routledge, Mr and Mrs Palliser, Mrs R. Park (Blackhill), Mrs Vickers, Mr E. Lockey, Mr and Mrs Pattrick, Mrs T. D. Dryden, Mrs Ridley (Palmerston Street).—A hymn having been sung and prayer offered by Mr Jenkins,

Mr DURANT expressed the pleasure he experienced in seeing such a large attendance that day, and remarked that there was scarcely any need for him to say anything about the object for which the bazaar was held. They all knew that for a long time they had been carrying on their work and engaging in public worship in an iron chapel. They would only be too glad to get a better and more convenient place for carrying on their worship of God. It was their intention to raise a building of stone and lime in order that they could, with a greater degree of comfort and convenience, carry on their Christian work. They were gratified by the fact that they had the sympathy of many friends in Consett, and that their appeal for help had been so readily and liberally responded to. They would like to raise some £2,000, and then they could see their way clear to embark on the object, the accomplishment of which they had so much before their minds. He proceeded to read a letter from Mr Ainsworth, who expressed his regret that another important engagement precluded him from attending. Mr Durant added that although Mr Ainsworth was absent, both Mrs Ainsworth and Miss Ainsworth were present. They knew that Sir David and Lady Dale were deeply interested in all that concerned the welfare of Consett, and although they had been here frequently, the people of the place never got wearied of seeing them. (Applause.)

The CHAIRMAN then called upon

LADY DALE, who was very warmly received, to declare the bazaar open. In doing so, her Ladyship remarked that it was very kind of Mr Durant to ask her to come there that day. She need hardly say that it gave her great pleasure to come, because, as she had told them before, she was always delighted to come to Consett. Mr Durant had said that Sir David and she had been pretty often here, but she thought that really they came very seldom. It was a long way from Darlington; the trains did not fit very well, and that meant a whole day to undertake the journey. That being so, it was impossible for Sir David at any rate to come so very frequently. Before she declared the bazaar open, she would like to say a few words relative to the object for which it was held. She had had the pleasure that day of visiting Mrs Petherick, and the site of their new building had been pointed out to her. The site was there, but the new building was in the air at present. She hoped, however, that before long they would see their new chapel erected. It seemed rather a large sum to aim at getting, but if they got a good start that day, they might be encouraged in their good work. She knew they were not a large or a rich body, but she did not think that ought to discourage them, and if they were in earnest about their work they would have the satisfaction of seeing their new chapel erected. She thought they would persevere and do their utmost. Much good work might be done in the small building which they had at present—there was no reason why their worship should not be just as devoted as in a large building—but it was well known that a small place did hamper work, and people were not so ready to attend as when they had a building which was comfortable and warm. Then, too, there was the question of a schoolroom, which was a most important thing. She knew theirs was up-hill work, but the collection of goods which was on sale that day showed that they were really in earnest, and were therefore deserving of success. She had had a look round, and hoped that the patrons of the bazaar would show their appreciation of their work by taking these goods away. Whatever help they could give each other, it was well they should give it, because years rolled on, and, perhaps owing to failing health and strength, they became less able to accord that help, so that they should not throw away opportunities which presented themselves. They all had their own churches to help, but still she thought there were always crumbs that might be spared for others. She had much pleasure in declaring the bazaar open. (Applause).

Mr DURANT proposed a vote of thanks to Lady Dale for opening the bazaar, to Mr Holliday for presiding, and to all who had rendered assistance.

Mr Moss seconded, and the motion was endorsed with much heartiness.

The CHAIRMAN, in acknowledging the vote, apologised for the absence of Mrs Holliday, who was in London. She, however, had written to him, reminding him that he must not forget Mr Durant's bazaar.

The opening ceremony then terminated, Lady Dale making another tour of the stalls. In the course of the afternoon, a pianoforte solo was artistically played by Miss Ainsworth.

The bazaar was well patronised in the evening. An excellent musical programme was submitted by the Consett Amateur Orchestra (Mr G. A. Williams conductor, and Messrs G. Stephenson and J. T. Hudson, accompanists), and the following ladies and gentleman: Mr J. E. Davis, Miss Coulthard, and Madame Bellas-Dryden.

TANFIELD SCHOOL BOARD.

A meeting of the above Board was held on Tuesday at the Stanley Urban Council Chambers, Mr J. Green, J.P., presiding. There were also present the Rev. T. H. Archdall, Rev. J. Thompson, Messrs W. Bulmer, M. G. Armstrong, B. Mason, and the Clerk (Mr W. H. Ritson).

FURNISHING OF CAUSEY ROW SCHOOL.

Several tenders were submitted for three cupboards for Causey Row new school. It was agreed that the tender of Mr Scott, Burnopfield (£17 5s), should be accepted, providing the articles were of pitch pine; if they were not of that material, the order to go to Messrs Porteous, Newcastle, whose tender was £19.

COLOURING OF PICKERING NOOK SCHOOL.

Tenders were received for the colouring of Pickering Nook School from Mr Swallow, Stanley, and Mr Johnson Robson. It was decided, before accepting any tenders for painting, to ask Messrs Abbott, Scott, Wray, and Robinson to supply tenders for cleading the cloakroom and passages of the school.

THE GAS QUESTION.

A communication was received from Mr Whittaker, with reference to the gas at West Stanley school, stating that after receiving the complaint from the Board, he sent his men to attend to the matter. They found a stoppage in the Board's pipes and fittings. He instructed his workmen to remove the stoppage, which was done, and the Board would be charged with the cost.

Mr ARMSTRONG said that since then there had been a complaint about the gas at the meter. It was almost impossible to get it turned. He had told the Master to write to Mr Whittaker, and say that the work had not been completed. The men should have taken pains to remove the tightness.

A HEAVY WATER BILL.

Mr THOMPSON asked if it was at the West Stanley School where the water bill had been so large. There seemed to have been a great waste of water, for the charge for the past quarter was 28s.

The CHAIRMAN said that this was because the pipes were interfered with so much. All the pipes had been interfered with, and he would not have been surprised had it been more than the sum mentioned.

TEACHERS AND SCHOLARSHIPS.

An application from Mr J. R. Smailes for leave of absence to attend a scholarship examination was granted.

Mr ARCHDALL suggested that all teachers sitting for scholarships should have leave of absence whenever required.

The Clerk: They have all applied now.

Mr ARCHDALL: I don't think the Board can refuse the applications.

WHAT IS A SOCIAL?

Mr John Bainbridge, on behalf of the Causey Row United Methodist Free Church Choir, wrote applying for the use of the Causey Row Board School for an entertainment on Christmas Eve. He referred to the newspaper reports that had appeared regarding the School not having been put in order after a recent gathering held by the Choir. The Choir, he stated, paid the cleaner, and by so doing, expected that she would have seen about putting things right. He did not think that any blame was attached to the Choir.

Mr THOMPSON: It is an ordinary concert.

Mr ARCHDALL: Is it a concert at all, or is it a social?

The CHAIRMAN: I cannot tell you.

Mr ARCHDALL: I think it is a social.

Mr THOMPSON: I am of the same opinion. I move that it be adjourned.

Mr ARCHDALL: If it is a concert, they should get it on the ordinary terms, and if a social, then it should be refused.

Mr BULMER: Who determines as to what the title of the thing is?

The CHAIRMAN: There is a difference between a social and a concert.

Mr BULMER: But who determines the concert?

Mr ARMSTRONG: The parties who arrange it.

Mr BULMER: And what do they describe it as?

The Clerk: An entertainment; a gathering of the Choir and their friends.

Mr ARMSTRONG: It seems to me to be a social.

Mr ARCHDALL proposed, and Mr THOMPSON seconded, that the School should be granted in the event of the affair being a concert, not a social.

Mr BULMER: I move that they have the use of the School.

Mr ARMSTRONG: What is the designation of a social? Let us have it settled once for all. If it is for a social, I am against it; if not, I am in favour of it.

Mr THOMPSON: A social consists of a tea first, followed by a dance.

The CHAIRMAN: There will be no dancing. I am quite certain of that.

Mr BULMER: There will be no dancing.

Mr ARMSTRONG: If there is to be a dance, I am against it. If there is no dance, I will vote for it. If it is a meeting, they should have it by paying half-a-crown. I am agreeable for singing, speaking, or telling stories, so long as they don't dance, or gallop about the place.

Mr ARCHDALL: You don't include games?

Mr ARMSTRONG: I don't think they should have games.

Mr ARCHDALL: Nor I.

The CHAIRMAN: I will second Mr BULMER's proposal on the understanding that speaking, singing, or reciting shall be allowed, but no dancing.

Mr ARCHDALL: That was my idea.

Mr ARMSTRONG: There are two sorts of concerts. There is the concert when there is a charge, and the concert when there is no charge. It partakes of the nature of a meeting when there is no charge. I am in favour of the application being granted if there is no dancing or games.

Mr THOMPSON: So are all of us.

The motion was adopted.

A SECOND APPLICATION.

An application was received from the Independent Order of Druids for the use of the Stanley Central School. They had asked Mr James and Mr Ridley, who told them they could have the use of the school so far as they were concerned, but must see the Board.

Mr ARMSTRONG said he had told the applicants that they would have no difficulty in obtaining the sanction of the Board for the use of the school at the ordinary rate.

Mr BULMER moved that permission be granted.

Mr T. H. ARCHDALL: I move that we grant the use of the school so far as we have the power.

The CHAIRMAN: Our power comes in this way, that we are paying for all gas, water, &c. We are willing for the Vicar to have the use of the school for small meetings, but if he starts to let it to other people we are going to claim the money for it.—The application was granted.

THE ALLEGED OVERCROWDING AT TANFIELD LEA.

The CHAIRMAN stated that Mr Ward, H.M. Inspector, had recently visited Tanfield Lea, and had recommended that Standard I. should be taken out of the Infant Class, and placed in the Mixed Department. He (Mr Green) readily admitted that the School seemed to be crowded, but this was largely owing to the form of the School, and it was not really overcrowded. Had the room been longer and narrower, the appearance would have been much better. There were two schools not so crowded. Mr Ward would not sanction the removal of the Central Class to Tanfield on account of its practically making things worse so far as Tanfield was concerned.

Mr ARCHDALL: Hear, hear.

The CHAIRMAN: Mr Ward was willing for any reasonable change on account of the infants.

Mr THOMPSON: Didn't Mr Bulmer say that there was overcrowding at Tanfield Lea?

Mr BULMER: You had better wait till we are finished. I was sent for to go to the School; when Mr Ward, Mr Green, and Mr Wood were there. I went up, and found Mr Ward just leaving. I did not detain him; in fact, I did not speak to him, but from what Mr Green and Mr Wood said, he had recommended the removal of Standard I. from the infants' class to the mixed. The question arose as to when it could be removed, and Mr Wood called the Master, who said that he could take the additional standard on the morrow. The class, however, was not removed till yesterday. I went up to the School, and asked how they were getting on in the mixed department, I asked Mr Dawson how he could manage, and he said he thought he could manage very well.

Father THOMPSON: I thought from the very constant reports that Mr Bulmer made, that the School was seriously over-crowded, but I find that in the infants' department, there has been an average attendance of 134, with accommodation for 140. In the higher School, there is accommodation for 289, with an average attendance of 296.

The CHAIRMAN pointed out that the reverend gentleman was in error.

Mr BULMER: I am afraid, if you go into it, you will get further mixed, Father Thompson. Don't take my reports; take the figures given by the teachers. I thought the remarks from the Chairman's lips would suffice in regard to that business.

Father THOMPSON said, after examining the reports, that the average attendances had been nine above the accommodation in the infants' department.

Mr BULMER: All the babies are in the babies' room, and as the Chairman stated, the Inspector has advised that as Standard One could not get on very well, it should be removed to the mixed department.

Father THOMPSON: The mixed will now be overcrowded.

Mr BULMER: It is nothing of the kind.

The CHAIRMAN: Yes, it is.

Mr BULMER: I beg your pardon. I quite misunderstood what you were saying. Standard I. is simply removed till the new building is erected. It is only a temporary thing, and not a "now and ever shall be." The change has been made to give relief to the infants until the new building is erected.

Father THOMPSON: It is overcrowding the Mixed Department.

Mr BULMER: But the Chief Inspector sanctioned the change?

Father THOMPSON: Simply because we get better results thereby.

Mr BULMER: So much the better.

THE BOARD AND THE PRESS.

The CHAIRMAN explained that Mr Ward, the head Inspector, had objected to the proposal of the Committee appointed by the Board, with regard to the girls' entrance being taken along a footpath to be made along the boys' playground, on the ground that the boys' playground was too narrow.

Mr BULMER enquired if the suggested alteration had been approved by the Education Department, and on receiving a reply in the affirmative, he said that it seemed absurd that after plans had been approved by the Department, the Inspector of the Department was to come round, and say that it was unsatisfactory.

Mr ARMSTRONG suggested that it was scarcely proper for reports to be published in the newspapers of the strong remarks regarding the Inspector as were sometimes made use of. He suggested that the reporters should be asked not to report those discussions in which the name of the Inspector was introduced in the manner that it had been previously. He had a decided objection to these reports appearing in the press, and unless an understanding was arrived at that the discussion should not be reported, he should certainly not take part in it. What Mr Bulmer had said, simply amounted to saying that the Inspector had no right to express his opinion after the Educational Board had approved of a proposal. He was quite willing to have the whole question discussed, on the understanding that it was not to be reported.

The CHAIRMAN agreed with Mr Armstrong, but Father THOMPSON said that nothing had been said to which there could be any objection to its having the fullest publicity.

Mr BULMER said that the Board had not the power to forbid the reporters taking notes, and he did not see why they should refrain from reporting matters concerning the Inspector more than anything else. The reporters were admitted to the meeting, and would not be doing their duties if they did not take a report.

Mr ARCHDALL agreed that it was desirable to give full publicity to the doings of the Board. If any member said anything disrespectful, the blame was attached to the member individually, and not to the Board as a whole.

Mr ARMSTRONG proposed, and the CHAIRMAN seconded, that the reporters be asked to refrain from publishing reports in which the name of the Inspector was introduced.

Mr ARCHDALL said that it was undesirable to suppress any remarks expressed at the Board meetings. The Inspector would not judge the Board as a public body on the remarks made by any individual.

Mr BULMER: I think the motion is out of order entirely.

The CHAIRMAN: We will judge of that ourselves. The motion has been proposed and seconded. Is there any amendment?

Mr BULMER: There is no need for any amendment. I don't recognise the motion. It has been decided that the reporters have a right to be present, and they are present.

Father THOMPSON: I think that to adopt the motion would be like constituting ourselves a secret society. Whatever has been said is personal, and if there is anything the Inspector takes umbrage at, it will be the individual who makes the statement, and not the Board as a whole.

Mr ARMSTRONG: This is not the first time that the question of the Inspector has been raised, and opinions expressed and published in the newspapers which are not to my liking, nor to the liking of the majority of the members of this Board. Statements have been made which do not contain a particle of truth, and it has been said that the Inspector has neglected his duties, and that he has treated the Board with small courtesy. In this case, we have a plan, which the Education Department sanctions. The Department's Inspector comes round, and says it is not right. Mr Ward has a perfect right to express that opinion if he found it to be so, and I don't see why his opinion should be held up to ridicule.

Father THOMPSON: Mr Bulmer bases his opinion on the matter on the fact that the plans have been recommended by the Education Department, and I don't think he ever intended to question the right of the Inspector to express any opinion.

Mr BULMER: That is quite true. Mr Armstrong has come out with the statement that there have been some untruths spoken with respect to the Inspector. I would like to know what they were, when they were uttered, and who uttered them. If untruths have been uttered, why were they not answered—why were they not checked at the time, and not held over till the present moment? It will have to be considered now.

Mr ARMSTRONG: You will have to consider it yourself.

Mr BULMER: You go into it. You have made a charge. Mr Armstrong says some untruths have been stated respecting the Inspector. I want to know when and where and by whom they were made.

The CHAIRMAN: You two can settle it between you.

Mr ARMSTRONG (aside): After the meeting.

The CHAIRMAN: It has been proposed that the reporters be requested to leave out of their reports the discussion regarding the Inspector.

Mr BULMER: I demur to that. It is entirely out of order. It is making fools of the reporters.

The CHAIRMAN: Each man can vote as he likes. The majority must rule, and not you.

Mr BULMER: If they don't put it in, I will put it in myself.

Father THOMPSON: Get a paper of your own, Mr Bulmer.

On a division there voted: For the motion—The Chairman and Mr Armstrong. For publicity—Messrs Bulmer, Mason, Archdall, and Thompson.

The CHAIRMAN: I am only sorry that respectable gentlemen like these should be spoken of by any member of the Board as Mr Bulmer has spoken of Mr Ward.

Mr ARCHDALL (in a low tone): These are my sentiments.

The CHAIRMAN: I hope these words will appear in print.

Mr BULMER: What is the Vicar talking about? Let him speak so that we can hear him.

Mr ARMSTRONG: Let us get on with the business.

Mr ARCHDALL pointed out that the rising ground would probably not have been shown on the plans submitted to the Education Department.

The matter then concluded, and shortly afterwards the Board rose.

PRESENTATION TO DR. BURKE AT MEDOMSLEY.

A most interesting gathering took place at the Stag's Head Hotel, Medomsley, on Saturday night, when Dr. Burke (who has become extremely popular in the neighbourhood) was the recipient of a silver mounted walking stick and pipe, which were presented as a token of the respect and esteem in which he is held by the people of Medomsley, and particularly by the members of the Ambulance Class, which Dr. Burke has so ably and successfully conducted. Councillor Palmer presided, and Mr Arthur Hedley occupied the vice-chair.—The Chairman in making the presentation referred to the success which had attended Dr. Burke since he had resided in Medomsley, and to the esteem in which the inhabitants of the district generally regarded him, remarking that as a medical man his services had been greatly appreciated. He then handed the gifts to Dr. Burke amidst much enthusiasm.

Dr. Burke in the course of a facetious and able speech said that notwithstanding the elasticity of the English language, he was obliged, in expressing his gratitude for the present received, to follow upon the old stereotyped formula, and say, "I thank you with all my heart for this expression of good will and kindness." When he said that he wished them to understand and to believe that what he said he felt, though he could scarcely express what he did feel. Nothing could have been more unexpected than that recognition of his services, and he thought it had been as undeserved as it was unexpected. (No, no.) Still, he should appreciate it all the more because it was undeserved, and as long as he carried those articles about with him, he should always be convinced that there were in Medomsley hearts large enough to forgive faults, to forgive mistakes and defects, and minds and hearts large enough to create merit where it did not exist, and reward it where it could not be found. (Laughter.) When he first went to Medomsley, some took him into their confidence, and after pouring forth an oration as to the character of the inhabitants of the village and the growing districts, said they were thoroughly satisfied he would not be there three months. Unless he had been spirited away, and some one being put into his body, he believed he was there still. (Laughter.) No further proof of the kindness of the inhabitants of the village was needed than the useful articles which had been presented to him that night. (Hear, hear.) Very early in the history of mankind, men were not satisfied by simply expressing their sentiments in words, but they invented a peculiar system of connecting their ideas by means of hieroglyphics, and notwithstanding the march of intellect, it had continued, and been handed down to the present day, as was evinced by the handsome presents they had made him that night. After making a humorous reference to the gifts which had been handed to him, Dr. Burke concluded, after again warmly thanking the donors for their kindness to him.—The health of "Mr Stafford and Mr Morris" was heartily drunk, and a very pleasant evening was spent in toast and song.

STANLEY URBAN COUNCIL.

A meeting of the above Council was held on Wednesday afternoon, Mr J. Green presiding. There were also present—Messrs M. G. Armstrong, J. Smith, W. Indian, J. G. Ridley (Clerk), and J. Routledge (Surveyor).

CONSETT TECHNICAL INSTITUTE.

A deputation, consisting of Mr George Ainsworth (Chairman of the Consett Technical Institute Committee, and a member of the Technical Education Committee of the Durham County Council), Mr T. L. Gledstone (Treasurer), Mr W. S. Davies (Secretary of the present Science and Art Class), and Mr G. T. Hyden (Secretary of the present scheme), waited upon the Council.

Mr AINSWORTH said that they in Consett had for many years looked forward to the erection of better premises than those at present existing. They would very much like to teach practical chemistry, which was very desirable in a town such as Consett. They felt that they ought to have a working class advanced day school, and on submitting the proposal to the Consett Iron Company, they had received the assurance of their support. The Education Committee of the County Council had promised £2,000, mainly because they had no means of higher education, and because they considered the district required something of the kind. The Consett Iron Company had given them a grant of £1000 and a site, which was, roughly speaking, worth £500. They wanted £1500 more if they could get it, and had received £500 by private subscriptions. They had approached the Consett Council, and that Council had agreed to levy a rate of one penny in the pound.

Mr GREEN: That will amount to about £150.

Mr AINSWORTH: Yes.

Mr GREEN inquired if the Stanley Council would have any voice in the management of the Institute, if they subscribed towards the scheme.

Mr AINSWORTH said that that matter had not been seriously discussed by the Building Committee now in existence. The present Committee was for building purposes only, and the Committee would subsequently have to be remodelled. Personally, he should say that there would be no hesitation in giving the Stanley Council a voice in the government of the Institute. They wanted as broad and representative a Committee as possible. They were not a close corporation. Mr Ainsworth then submitted plans of the proposed building to the members of the Council, and after these had been fully explained, he thanked the members for their courtesy in receiving the deputation, Mr GREEN stating that the Council would consider the matter at their meeting a fortnight hence.

KIP HILL SEWERAGE.

The following tenders were received for sewerage works at Kip Hill: Mr J. Goldsborough, Chester-le-Street (£213 1s 3d); Hughes Brothers, Sunderland (£233 0s 3d); and John Thompson, Newcastle (£243 4s 9d). Mr Goldsborough's tender was accepted.

NIGHT LIGHTING.

The Clerk stated that Mr Burn had offered to light and extinguish twelve or more lamps in any part of the district for seven hours at 2½d per lamp per night.

Mr ARMSTRONG said although the price seemed somewhat high, he thought they might give the lamps a trial.

On the suggestion of the Chairman, it was agreed to ask the Committee appointed at a previous meeting to report on the subject.

WESTWOOD.

BENEFIT CONCERT.—The inhabitants of the Westwood district were treated to a grand musical treat on Wednesday evening, in the Westwood Board Schools, by several local talented artistes. The programme, which was of a very high-class character, was rendered by Miss Tweddle, Blackhill; Miss Leybourne, Blackhill; Mrs Wright, Blackhill; Mr Bell, Blackhill; and J. McTaggart, Shotley Bridge. The musical accompaniments were ably performed by Miss Richardson, violinist, and Mr J. E. Pallister, pianist. Mr William Richardson, Chopwell, occupied the chair. The proceeds of the concert were in aid of Mr W. R. Thompson, signalman, Ebchester Station, who has been unable to follow his employment for several months owing to ill health.

CASTLESIDE.

PRIMITIVE METHODIST GATHERING.—A supper, generously given by Mr James Harker, was held in the Primitive Methodist Chapel, Castleside, on Saturday evening. The proceeds are in aid of the bazaar which is to be held on New Year's Day with the object of clearing off the debt which still exists on the organ. A large company sat down to a sumptuous and well-served supper. The young ladies presiding at the tables were:—Misses Harker, Bainbridge, Jewitt, Raine, and Pattinson, while the ladies in charge of the kitchen arrangements were Mesdames Jewitt, Pattinson, and Thompson. The following programme was rendered:—Organ solo, Mr T. Elsdon; solo, "The Vesper Hymn," Miss Dalkin; recitation, "Time to Mend," Miss Symn; address, Mr J. W. Muse; pianoforte duet, Miss Stephenson and Mr Elsdon; solo, "How far is it called to the grave," Mr J. G. Raine; flute solo, Mr Knight; doxology. Messrs Joseph Proud and J. B. Pattison, the energetic superintendents of the Sunday School, were amongst those present.

STANLEY.

ACCIDENT.—About half past five o'clock on Tuesday evening, a boy named Henderson, residing with his parents in the Brick Rows, was run over by a trap whilst crossing the street near the shop of Mr Rainshaw, newsagent. Happily, the boy's injuries were not of a serious nature.

LECTURE.—The Rev. Wm. Gelley lectured to a fair company in the Primitive Methodist Chapel, on Monday evening, on "A quart of beer or a barley loaf; which?" The lecture was interesting and amusing, and was thoroughly enjoyed by all present. Mr McClenning, of Oxhill, presided.

LOCAL INVALIDS.—Mrs Routledge, wife of Mr Jos. Routledge, Inspector to the Stanley Urban Council, is at present in moderate health. Mr Wm. Welsh of Holly Terrace, who has been indisposed for several days, is, we are glad to say, improving rapidly; and Mr John Bates, of Front Street, who has had a severe attack of influenza, has again been able to resume business.

VAGRANCY.—At the instance of P.C. Millions, two old offenders, in the persons of John Henry Sproates and Thomas Whitfield appeared before Mr Ridley at the Stanley Police Court on Friday morning, to answer charges of sleeping in cokeovens at Stanley and Shield Row collieries. Whitfield was ordered to be imprisoned for fourteen days, and his colleague was despatched to the Wearside city for half that period.

A RUNAWAY HORSE.—On Friday afternoon, a horse belonging to Mr Thomas Parker, fruiterer, which was standing in Front Street, took fright owing to the reins falling to the ground; and galloped down the street. When near the Board School, the horse rushed on the footpath, and continued there, till the light cart to which it was yoked, came in contact with the lamp-post. A person who was standing by caught hold of the horse, and it was led back by Mr James Masterman. The school children just left when the incident occurred, and it is fortunate that none of of them were injured.

CHURCH BAZAAR.—Attention is directed to the advertisement appearing in another column with reference to the grand bazaar which is to commence in the Central School next Thursday in aid of the mission churches building and the Parish Church improvement funds. For several months past, the Vicar of St. Andrew's, assisted by Mrs James and a host of lady helpers, have laboured indefatigably towards the success of the bazaar; and their labours will, we feel sure, be productive of the best, largest, and most successful bazaar ever held in Stanley. The orthodox, useful, and fancy goods are provided in abundance; and lovers of pleasure will find ample satisfaction in the music, singing, sketches, living waxworks, &c. A large supply of beautiful Christmas cards will be offered for disposal. Mrs F. H. Burn has kindly consented to open the bazaar on Thursday.

"THE ROMANY'S REVENGE.—A grand treat is provided this week for the patrons of Mr Lindon's comfortable theatre in the comedy-tragedy "The Romany's Revenge." The scenery is very fine, "The Thames embankment by night" in the second act being especially attractive; whilst the artistes, one and all, deserve commendation for the ability which they display. Miss E. Stockley shines brilliantly as an emotional actress; and Miss Dorothy Warton takes the role of "Zamet," the gipsy boy in a realistic manner, and Mr Charles Franmore shows consummate skill as "David Rennard" the wolf in sheep's clothing. Mr Herbert Cecil as "John Hope" and Mr George H. Davis as "Archibald Heath" perform their respective roles very effectively. Fun in plenty is supplied by the quaint talk and actions of Bobbie Bloom (Mr Herbert Greville) and Polly Pluck (Miss Violet Greville).

FOOTBALL MEETING.—A general meeting of the members of the Stanley Football Club was held at the Club headquarters, the Stanley Inn, on Monday evening, for the purpose of electing three additional members to the management committee. Mr George Lee presided, and amongst the company present were Messrs H. Fothergill, J. Darney, W. Turner, Cummings, J. Masterman, Sam. Wood, Stephen Wood, A. Rodham, George Stacey, Thomas Wood, Sep. Chisholm, G. Whaley, T. Siddell, J. McGregor, T. Forster, and others. The Chairman explained that the committee had been weakened owing to the resignation of Mr William Gibson, and the illness of two members of the committee, Messrs Brown and T. Nicholson. They were very wishful that the committee should be strengthened by the addition of three members who would attend to their duties, and do their duty to the Club as the present members were doing. Four nominations were received, and the voting resulted as follows—George Blog 18, Thomas Robson 18, Wm. Turner 16, and Mark Ross 16. Messrs Blog and Robson were therefore elected, and on a further division Mr W. Turner was appointed by 11 votes as against 10 for Mr Ross, to fill the third position.

PELTON LANE ENDS.

LANTERN LECTURE.—A successful lantern lecture was given in Co-operative Hall on Sunday last by Mr. M. Cooke. Over 80 slides were shown by aid of the Acetylene gas light, the majority of them relating to the victory of the Gordon Highlanders. There was a good attendance, and the lecture was greatly enjoyed. Solos were rendered at intervals by Mr Thomas Carr of Old Pelton. A collection was taken to defray expenses.

CHOPWELL.

SOCIAL GATHERING.—On Saturday afternoon the members and supporters of the Primitive Methodist Society had an interesting gathering, the occasion being a knife and fork tea, which was excellently served at the house of Mr William Ward, Tees Street. The evening's proceedings were of a most enjoyable nature, and Mr William Allison ably presided at the organ. A number of songs, recitations, &c., were given during the evening, and a silver collection was taken, which amounted to £4 14s 9d. Other friends added to this and made the amount up to £5. This will prove an acceptable addition to the Chapel Building Fund, and it is expected that the opening ceremony will take place early next year.

BEAMISH.

WESLEYAN CHAPEL.—A public tea was given in the Vestry connected with this place of worship, on Wednesday last, by Miss E. Nicholson, of Osborne Villa. There was a good company present. The table was richly spread with a very great variety of good things, prepared and arranged under the superintendence of the generous donor. Mr John Nicholson has been a very zealous supporter of the Christian cause in this place, and has always taken a very warm interest in business connected with the trust. Possessing rare business abilities, his counsel and advice is very highly valued by the office-wearers of the Church. Miss Nicholson, too, by her amiable manner, and her generosity, has endeared herself to the members. Very much of the success that has attended the social gatherings is due to her self-sacrifice and devotion. An entertainment was given afterwards in the Chapel, the proceeds being in aid of the trust fund.

YEARLY FUND DINNER.—The members of the Shepherd and Shepherdess Yearly Fund held their annual dinner at Mr Samuel Edgell's hostelry on Saturday evening, when 50 members and a few friends sat down to a substantial repast, provided by the host and hostess, Mr and Mrs Edgell. The tables were well supplied by the waitresses, Miss Edgell and Miss Bradley. After the cloth had been removed, the chairman gave the report of the fund for the past year, and it was considered very satisfactory. After supper the chair was taken by Mr John J. Marwood, and the vice-chair by Mr Thos. Hall. Songs and recitations were rendered by the following gentlemen: Messrs James Carr, Walter Tindale, Wm. Hardy, Geo. Findley, Geo. Corker, Feuster, Hall, Rafferty, Darling, and others. A very pleasant evening was spent, and the proceedings were brought to a close by the singing of "Auld Lang Syne."

WEST PELTON.

NEW CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY.—A new branch store in connection with the West Pelton and District Co-operative Society has been erected at Co-operative Villas, near Stanley, and will be opened shortly by Mr Mark Richardson, president of the Society. The block of premises consist of grocery, drapery, hardware, and boot departments. The committee of the Society met at the store on Saturday last, and after deliberating with Mr Lennox, of Newcastle, they decided to have the premises lighted with acetylene gas. A tea and concert is to be held in celebration of the opening function.

GUN CLUB.—The members of the West Pelton Rifle and Gun Club held their annual supper and smoker in the long room of Mr Robert White's (Colliery Inn), on Saturday evening. The cups won by the club were on exhibition. These included the famous Major Joicey Cup, which had been offered for competition throughout the year. There was a large attendance of members, and a capital supper was provided by the host and hosters, who deserve to be congratulated for the excellent manner in which they catered for the wants of the guests. The presiding ladies were Mrs White and Miss S. Lish, whilst Mr White and several members of the club helped in carving. Ample justice having been done, the clothes, &c., were removed, and a long programme of songs and toasts entered upon. Captain Humble, under manager at the Colliery, took the chair, and Drill-Instructor Palmer, the vice chair. The Chairman, in proposing the toast of the "Royal Family," alluded to the record reign of Her Majesty the Queen, and expressed a wish that she would be long spared to rule over them. He also referred to the recent visit of the Prince to the Chester-le-Street district. The toast having been enthusiastically drunk, the vice-chairman proposed "Success to the West Pelton Gun and Rifle Club." Their club, he said, had had a very successful season, and there was every prospect of it being more prosperous. The two cups before them that night were won by the members of the club, which he was glad to say was in a good financial position. The speaker concluded by referring to the kindness of Major Joicey in offering a cup. The "Host and hostess" was the next toast, and several members spoke in high terms of the manner in which Mr and Mrs White had treated the members of the club, and it was the wish of those present that Mr White would be spared to provide many more suppers for them. The toast was drank with musical honours, and in responding Mr White thanked them for their kind words, and said he would try to further improve on what he had done in the past. (Applause.) After the toasts of "The Chairman," "Vice-Chairman," and "The trade of the district" were proposed and responded to, Mr John O'Connor, of Pelton Fell, favoured the company with a song, which was quickly followed by others from Sergt. Geo. Pinkney, Mr Scarr, the Chairman, Mr Patterson, and others. The proceedings which had been of a very enjoyable character, concluded with the singing of the National Anthem.

YEARLY FUND SUPPER.—The members of the yearly fund connected with the Durham Ox Inn (Mr Thos. Middleton) held their annual supper at their headquarters, on Saturday evening last. The Club, which is a six-monthly one, has, after all expenses have been paid, declared a dividend of 3s 6d to each member. The repast was an excellent one, and reflected great credit on the hostess, who had all arrangements in hand. Mr Dorling and Mr Middleton acted as carvers, whilst Mrs Dorling and Mrs F. Clark also assisted at the tables. Over 30 members sat down, and the good things were liberally partaken of. After supper, the tables were cleared, Mr John Robinson, Secretary of the Club, was voted to the chair, and Mr Thos. Henderson to the vice-chair. After the usual loyal toasts had been submitted and responded to, the Chairman, in eulogistic terms, proposed "Success to the Durham Ox Yearly Club," which, he said, had had a very successful half-year. Their membership had increased, and there was every indication of their Society having a prosperous future before it. (Applause.) The toast having been drunk, the Vice-Chairman favoured the company with a song, which was well rendered and appreciated. Mr Henderson said he had great pleasure in proposing that the health of the host and hostess be drank. Mr Middleton, he said, had catered for them on several occasions, and had given the greatest satisfaction. He was well known throughout the district for the kind manner in which he behaved to those in need, and hoped he would be long spared to grace the proceedings with his presence. Mrs Middleton had shown very great kindness to the members of the club, and expressed a wish that it would not be the last time she provided a repast for them. The toast was received with musical honours, after which Mr Middleton returned thanks on behalf of himself and his wife. He was grateful to the members of the club for the manner in which they supported him, and said that he had always found it a pleasure to help the club, which he thought would continue to prosper. The toasts of "The Trade of the District," "The Chairman," "Vice-Chairman," and "The Ladies," having been proposed and replied to, Mrs Clarke sang a solo in splendid voice, her effort receiving well-earned applause. Mr Thos. Dorling next amused those present with an able speech, and his effort gave every satisfaction. Several songs were rendered by the members of the club, the chairman's contribution evoking applause. The proceedings, which throughout had been of a very enjoyable character, concluded with the singing of "Auld Lang Syne" and the National Anthem. The supper, it may be mentioned, was held to celebrate the breaking up of the club.

Business Announcements.

JOHN ATKINSON,
BUILDER AND CONTRACTOR,

BEGS to inform the Inhabitants of Consett and District that he is prepared to Remove Furniture, Lead Coal, and Clean Ashpits on the most Reasonable Terms.

A HORSE AND TRAP LET OUT ON HIRE.
Apply No. 1, DELVES TERRACE, Consett.

HART'S DINING ROOMS,
12, RAGLAN STREET, CONSETT
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HOT DINNERS DAILY.
Refreshments at Moderate Charges.
Good Accommodation.
Parties, Balls, &c., Catered for.

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FRESH MILK, TWICE DAILY.
FRESH CREAM AND BUTTER, ALWAYS ON HAND.

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VERY GOOD & VERY CHEAP
ARE THE
BOOTS & SHOES
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SIX GOLD MEDALS AWARDED, 1896-97.

KER'S ALE The Beverage of the Future.
KER'S ALE Purely Hop Bittered.
KER'S ALE Non-Alcoholic.

Contains all the Tonic and Refreshing Qualities of Beer.

Can only be had from the Brewers, J. KERSHAW and SONS. We can now supply the Public with our Gold Medal Mineral Waters—

Fermented Stone Ginger	"Verdo"
Dandelion Stout	Syphons Soda Water
Champagne Cider	,, Potass Water
Jubilee Drink	&c., &c.

LEMONADE, &c., &c.
Awarded Six Gold Medals for PURITY, CLEANLINESS, and QUALITY.
Can be had from the Makers—

KERSHAW & SONS,
PLANTATION STREET, LEADGATE, AND GATESHEAD.

M. FAWELL,
GROCER PROVISION MERCHANT, TEA DEALER, AND DRAPER,
FRONT STREET & DELVES LANE,
OPPOSITE THE "CONSETT CHRONICLE" OFFICE.
CONSETT.
VANS CALL IN ALL PARTS OF THE DISTRICT.

People of all creeds and from all nations
Get their bills put up on my stations.

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IS the only BILLPOSTER that has rented Stations within the three districts of Consett, Leadgate, and Benfieldside. Bills posted and Dis- buted at the lowest rates.

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A Large Assortment of
CHEESE, BUTTER, BACON, LARD, &c.,
always on hand.

FINE ART GALLERY,
SADLER STREET, DURHAM.

T. RUSHWORTH & SON,
CARVERS AND GILDERS.

PICTURE FRAMES OF EVERY DESCRIPTION MADE TO ORDER.
TURES CLEANED, LINED AND RESTORED.

HUDSPITH'S PILE PILLS.

HAVE no equal for PILES, ACHING KIDNEY and SCANTY high coloured URINE; weakness and pains in the BACK. Invaluable to Females and Miners. Absolutely free from Poison.

Supplied in Boxes at 1/1½ and 2/6 of most Chemists, Co-operative Stores, and Drug Store, or Post Free from T. HUDSPITH, Cert. Botanic and F.C. Sm. Lond., Botanist Dispensary, Langley Moor, Durham.

The above may be obtained of Mr. GEORGE PATTRICK, 5, Front Street, Consett.

"JOHNNY, will you be quiet! else I shan't take you to
KIRKUP'S
(WEST STANLEY) for a new pair of Boots next Saturday." Johnny was dumb immediately He'd had a pair before, and knew their value

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43, SHERBURN TERRACE, CONSETT.

EVERY ATTENTION GIVEN TO ORDERS, WHICH ARE CAREFULLY AND PROMPTLY EXECUTED.

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DINNERS, from 12 p.m. every day.
BALLS, PARTIES, and all other Social Gatherings catered for at reasonable rates.
Tea Boiler, Ware, &c., on hire.

ESTABLISHED 21 YEARS.

MATTHEW KIRKLAND
(Successor to MR. THOMAS BARRY),
HAIRDRESSER,
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UMBRELLAS RE-COVERED & REPAIRED.

ROBERT MILBURN,
BUTCHER,
FRONT STREET, CONSETT,

BEGS to inform his customers, and the public generally, that he is removing to newer and more commodious premises, adjoining Mrs. Christopher's Livery Stables, where he trusts to receive a continuation of the patronage which has been so liberally bestowed upon him in the past.

LUMLEY'S
IS
THE NOTED SHOP
FOR
CHEAP SUITS.
6, SHERBURN TERRACE, CONSETT.

WHEN YOU ARE IN NEWCASTLE,
Call and see your old friend
T. HOFFMAN
(THE HUMORIST),
AT THE
THREE TUNS HOTEL, NEWGATE STREET.

Ales and Wines of the Finest Quality.
Cigars of the Choicest Brands.

JAMES PALLISER,
WHOLESALE AND RETAIL
TEA MERCHANT,
47 & 48, PARK ROAD, BLACKHILL.

THE NOTED GROCERIES AND PROVISIONS STORES AND FLOUR WAREHOUSE.

JOHN SWINBURN MURRAY,
THE
AGRICULTURAL AUCTIONEER,
VALUER AND GENERAL COMMISSION AGENT,
ROYAL AUCTION MART SALE OFFICE, BENFIELDSIDE.
Appointed by His Honour JUDGE MEYNELL, to Levy Distress for Rent, under the New Law of Distress Amendment Act, 1888.

FOR BEST VALUE IN

BACON	FLOUR
CHEESE	TEA, and
BUTTER	GENERAL
LARD	GROCERIES

TRY
G. D. POWELL,
CASH PROVISION STORES,
4, PARK ROAD, CONSETT.

THOS. SWAINSTON,
Complete House Furnisher,

WISHES to Announce to all Furnishing or Replenishing their Homes for the Holidays, that he has a

LARGE STOCK
OF
SITTING ROOM SUITES
AND
BEDROOM FURNITURE,
Bedsteads, Mangles,
CARPETS,
HEARTHRUGS,
Oilcloths, Fenders,
BRASSES,
AND
General Furnishing Hardware,

At Lowest Prices and to suit all Classes.

ALL GOODS MARKED IN PLAIN FIGURES.

2s. in the Pound Discount for Cash.

An Early Call and Inspection is Cordially Invited.

Business Announcements.

GLORIOUS NEWS FOR XMAS.

WHAT YOU'LL WANT AND WHERE TO GET IT.

WHAT YOU'LL WANT!

Christmas comes but once a year,
'Tis then we look for right good cheer,
You all may get it, never fear.
If you Buy at KIRKUP'S.

You'll want some Currants, Raisins, Spice
To make your Christmas Pudding nice,
If you are wise, take my advice,
And Buy them all at KIRKUP'S.

Again, I know you're bound to make
Some Pastry and a Christmas Cake,
The Lady who is wide awake.
Will Buy her Flour at KIRKUP'S.

And should you have some company,
You'll want a first-class Cup of tea,
The best for Price and Quality,
Is that you'll get at KIRKUP'S.

Remember if you'd saving be,
In buying Christmas Grocery,
Just be advised at once by me,
And spend your Cash at KIRKUP'S.

XMAS HAMS.

NICE AND LEAN, NOT TOO LARGE, AND NOT TOO MUCH MONEY,
MIND THAT!

XMAS JAMS.

FRESH, WHOLESOME, WONDERFULLY CHEAP, AND JUST THE SORT CHILDREN LIKE.

OBSERVE!

If you want HIGHEST VALUE in CHRISTMAS GROCERIES and PROVISIONS, buy at

KIRKUP'S,

and the money you thus save will enable you to spend

A MERRY XMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR.

THE NOTED CHEAP BOOT AND SHOE SHOP.

P. H. KIRKUP,
Tea Dealer, Grocer, and Provision Merchant,
WEST STANLEY.

W. LEE,
BUTCHER
(Late Manager to River Plate Co.),
Has commenced Business in
NEWMARKET STREET, CONSETT
(Next Door to Mr. Simon Rowe's),

AND invites Attention to his First-Class Stock of
PRIME BEEF, MUTTON, PORK, &c.
All Orders promptly attended to.

WILLIAM NICHOL,
SADDLER AND HARNESS MAKER
FRONT STREET, CONSETT.

NEW PREMISES NOW OPEN.

ALL KINDS OF SADDLERY AND HARNESS.
REPAIRS NEATLY AND EXPEDITIOUSLY EXECUTED.

FIRE! FIRE!! FIRE!!!

SCOTTISH UNION AND NATIONAL INSURANCE COMPANY.
FIRE. — ESTABLISHED 1824. — LIFE.

Capital	£6,000,000 (Six Millions).
Funds	£4,000,000 (Four Millions).

Insurance effected on Property of every description at equitable rates, corresponding to the class of risk, on the most favourable terms and conditions.

For Prospectus and Proposal Forms apply to Local Agent,
W. RAMSAY,
North-Eastern Bank, Blackhill.

Tuition.

LADIES' ART STUDIO,
WEDE PARK HOUSE, DIPTON.

LESSONS in PAINTING and DRAWING will be given by Miss COMPTON, at Consett, Blackhill, Stanley, and Pelton, Commencing November 4th. Further Information at Studio. Miss COMPTON will be at home every Tuesday.

MUSICAL TUITION.

MISS F. L. STELLING, A.L.C.M.,
GIVES LESSONS on the Pianoforte and in Theory. Pupils prepared for Examinations.
Terms on application.
ROGER STREET, BLACKHILL.

VIOLIN PUPILS WANTED.

T. H. WOOD, CONDUCTOR,
NEW THEATRE, CONSETT.

FOR TERMS AND PARTICULARS
APPLY 3, FOSTER STREET, DELVES LANE.

MUSICAL TUITION.

GEORGE DRYDEN, A.L.C.M., SILVER MEDALLIST (Organist of Medomsley Church), gives LESSONS on the ORGAN, PIANOFORTE, HARMONIUM, and THEORY OF MUSIC.

G.D. devotes particular attention to the Preparation of Candidates for Examinations, his Pupils having gained over 50 Certificates, including THE SILVER MEDALLIST for 1890; also FIRST, SECOND, and THIRD-CLASS HONOURS IN EVERY GRADE.

TERMS ON APPLICATION.

ADDRESS:—No. 40, Sherburn Terrace, Consett.

Business Announcements.

PAINLESS DENTISTRY—Comfort and Fit Guaranteed—Prices Reasonable. Attendance every Saturday, 2 to 5-30. Mr. Townend, Dental Surgeon, at Cockburn's, Stationer, Front Street.

GEORGE R. HOBSON,
FAMILY GROCER & PROVISION DEALER,
WINE, SPIRIT, ALE, AND PORTER MERCHANT,
CATCHGATE,
ANNFIELD PLAIN,

WISHES his Customers the COMPLIMENTS OF THE SEASON, and begs to Offer for their Consideration the following

PRICE LIST:

WINES, SPIRITS, &c., OF THE FINEST QUALITY.

Old Irish Whiskey, 1s 8d, 2s, 2s 6d, 3s, and 4s per bottle.

Fine Old Scotch Whiskey, 2s and 2s 6d per bottle.

Very Old Scotch Whiskey, 3s, 3s 6d, and 4s per bottle.

Old Jamaica Rum, 2s, 2s 6d, 3s, and 3s 6d per bottle.

London Gin, 2s, 2s 6d, 3s, and 3s 6d per bottle

Holland's Gin, 2s 8d per bottle.

British Wines (various), 1s 1d and 1s 3d per bottle.

Brandy, 4s, 4s 6d, 5s, and 6s 6d per bot.

Fine Sherry, 1s 6d, 2s, 2s 6d, 3s, and 3s 6d per bottle.

Good Port, 1s 6d, 2s, 2s 6d, 3s, and 3s 6d per bottle.

Champagnes, Clarets, &c., of various brands, always in stock.

ALES AND STOUT,

In Casks of 4½ Gallons and 9 Gallons, at 1s per Gallon and upwards; in Bottles at 1s 6d per dozen, in six dozen lots.

ORDERS BY POST RECEIVE PROMPT ATTENTION.

GEO. R. HOBSON,
AGENT FOR
WHITBREAD AND CO., LTD., ALES AND STOUT.

Half-Pint Bottles - -	1s 6d per dozen.
Imperial Pints - - -	2s 6d per dozen.

IN PRIME CONDITION.

Delivered to any part of the District.

BE SURE YOU GET WHITBREAD'S THIS CHRISTMAS.

CARDS! CARDS!! CARDS!!!
CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR CARDS.

FOR above visit ARMSTRONG'S SHOW ROOMS, at Rear of Shop. Splendid Assortment, unequalled in the District.
Note the Address—M. G. ARMSTRONG, West Stanley Post Office.

SENSATION AT DIPTON.

THE GREAT SALE OF THE SEASON NOW GOING ON.

SEIZE this Golden Opportunity, and pay a Visit to

THE NEWCASTLE DRAPERY AND CLOTHING STORES,
FRONT STREET, DIPTON.
Must be cleared prior to Stock-Taking.
STARTLING REDUCTIONS.

J. A. CASTLE, PROPRIETOR.

JOHN CRAWFORD,
AGRICULTURAL AUCTIONEER, VALUER, COMMISSION AND EMIGRATION AGENT
AND HOUSE AGENT
VICTORIA STREET, CONSETT.

ALL CLASSES OF SALES TAKEN.
PROMPT SETTLEMENTS.
BAILIFF under the Law of Distress Amendment Act.
Sale and Emigration Office, 25, Victoria Street, Consett.

THE NORTHERN
ACETYLENE GAS & CARBIDE CO.,
ACETYLENE GAS AND LIGHTING ENGINEERS,
79, HIGH BRIDGE, NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE

Sole Agents for Kay's Patent Acetylene Gas Generators.

The only Safe and Reliable Acetylene Gas Generators for the Manufacture of Acetylene Gas on a Commercial Scale.

INSTALLATIONS executed on our System up to any number of Lights.

SPECIAL Acetylene Gas Generators for the Lighting of Towns, Street Lighting, Railway Stations, Collieries, Workhouses, Hotels, Engineering and Boiler Works, Private Mansions, Halls, Schools, &c.

SPECIAL Portable Gas Generators, with or without Acetylene Gas; Wind-proof Arc Lamps for lighting Shipyards, Dockyards, Railway Yards, Contractors' Purposes, Examining and Working Inside of Boilers, Tunnels; Discharging Ships' Cargo, Docks and Wharves.

Complete Catalogues on application.

Sales by Auction.

ROYAL AUCTION MART, BENFIELDSIDE.
MONDAY, December 13th, 1897.

10 FAT CATTLE and 1 FAT BULL.
80 FAT SHEEP.
VEAL and KEEPING CALVES.
DAIRY COWS and HEIFERS.
PORK PIGS, POULTRY, LADDERS, &c.
2 Prime GEESE and GANDER (keepers).
Sale at One o'clock.
J. S. MURRAY.

CHRISTMAS SHOW AND SALE, Monday, December 20th. Entries close Tuesday, December 14th.

A SPECIAL, for PORK PIGS, GEESE, TURKEYS, RABBITS, and POULTRY, both alive and dead, Saturday, December 18th.
J. S. MURRAY.

Public Notice.

ANNFIELD PLAIN URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

STATEMENT OF THE RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE BY THE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL for the above-named District for the period ended the 31st day of March, 1897.

RECEIPTS.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
From General District Rate				1712	17	11
,, Contribution towards Extension of Water Mains				7	10	0
,, County Council in respect of Main Roads				542	9	9
,, Other Receipts				2	13	1
,, Burial Board:—						
Balance transferred from Joint Burials Committee	45	15	8			
Miscellaneous Receipts	13	16	6			
				59	12	2
				£2325	2	11

EXPENDITURE.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
To Sewerage Works				1	16	1
,, Sewage Disposal Works				35	16	11
,, Repairs of District Roads				184	11	1
,, Water Supply				30	0	0
,, Public Lighting				4	10	0
,, Public Offices				1	14	0
,, Infectious Diseases (Notification) Act, 1889				0	11	8
,, Election Expenses				56	5	6
,, Salaries				58	1	2
,, Establishment Charges				45	14	4
,, Miscellaneous Expenses				10	2	6
,, Burial Board:—						
Salaries	22	10	0			
Miscellaneous Expenses	3	3	0			
				25	13	3
Total Expenditure ...				454	16	7
Balances:—						
In hands of Treasurer ...	1806	12	7			
,, ,, (Burial)	33	18	11			
,, Surveyor ...	29	14	10			
				1870	6	4
				£2325	2	11

I HEREBY CERTIFY that I have compared the entries in the above Statement with the Vouchers and other Documents relating thereto, and that the regulations with respect to such Statement have been duly complied with.

I HEREBY FURTHER CERTIFY that I have ascertained, by Audit, the correctness of such Statement, and that the Expenditure of the District Council during the period ended the 31st day of March, 1897, included in such Statement, and allowed by me at the Audit, is Four Hundred and Fifty-four Pounds, Sixteen Shillings, and Sevenpence.

As witness my hand this 4th day of November, 1897.
(Signed), H. WARD OLIVER, District Auditor.
T. L. WATCHMAN, Clerk.

Sales by Auction.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 13TH.

N. ELSDON, will sell, in the New Sale Rooms, behind his Mineral Water Works, on the above date, a large quantity of UNREDEEMED PLEDGES, which must be sold. They are an extra good lot. Also a quantity of FURNITURE, &c., &c.; 30 Small Table Machines.
Sale at One o'clock.
Offices, Delves Lane, Consett.

TOW LAW AUCTION MART.

THE THIRTEENTH ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PRIZE SHOW and SALE of FAT CATTLE and SHEEP, Monday, December 13th, 1897.
Present Entries comprise:—
70 Prime Fat Cattle.
250 Prime Fat Sheep and Hoggs.
15 Pork Pigs.
12 Fat Geese

The entries include several grand lots of both Cattle and Sheep, specially fed for this Sale; in fact, it will be one of the grandest displays of Fat Stock ever seen at this Mart, and are from the most eminent feeders of North-West Durham.

All Stock to be in the Mart by 9 a.m. Judging at a Quarter-past 10. Sale at 11 a.m. Luncheon at 4 p.m., provided by Mr Wheatley, Park Hotel. Tickets, 2s 6d each, returned to purchasers. Admission to Mart yard by catalogue, 6d each.
Special Morning and afternoon trains.
J. VICKERS, Auctioneer.

LANCHESTER STOCK MART COMPANY LIMITED.

MR JACKSON GREEN, Auctioneer.

CHRISTMAS SHOW and SALE, WEDNESDAY, December 15th, at 1 p.m.
20 to 25 FAT CATTLE.
100 FAT SHEEP and HOGGS,
6 or 8 PORK PIGS.
1½ Doz. SWILLS.
The Fat Stock are a Grand Lot, having all been fed specially for Christmas.
JOHN GIBSON, SECRETARY.

DAMAGE BY FIRE AND WATER.

REMOVED to JOHN CRAWFORD'S SALE ROOMS, Victoria Street, Consett, a large quantity of DRAPERIES, BLANKETS, SHEETS, OVERCOATS, PRINTS, CARPETS, HEARTHRUGS, COLLARS, TIES, SHIRTING, Ladies' and Children's BONNETS, Gent's HATS and CAPS, Ladies' JACKETS, UNDERCLOTHING, SHAWLS, &c.

The Lots are slightly damaged by Water.

Sale by Auction. Commence at Two o'clock on Saturday First, December 11th, and re-commence on Monday, December 13th, with Furniture and Draperies at One o'clock.
No reserve. Must be cleared out.

Public Announcements.

CONSETT AND DISTRICT PHILHARMONIC SOCIETY.

President — GEO. AINSWORTH, Esq., J.P., Consett.

Hon. Treasurer—R. KIRSOPP, Esq. (Messrs. Hodgkin, Barnett, Pease, and Spence, Consett.

A
GRAND CONCERT
Will be given in the
CONSETT NEW TOWN HALL,
On WEDNESDAY EVENING Dec. 15th, 1897,
When Mendelssohn's Oratorio—
ST. PAUL

Will be performed by a Chorus of 150 Voices, and the Society's Orchestra, largely augmented by Instrumentalists from Amers' Exhibition Band, and the Bradford Permanent Orchestra.

SOLOISTS:
MISS ANNIE NELSON
(The Australian Soprano), of Melbourne, Adelaide, Liverpool, and Leading Provincial Concerts;
MADAME BELLAS-DRYDEN,
(Contralto), the local favourite;
MR. J. SHAKESPEARE ROBINSON,
(For 8 years Solo Tenor in York Minster) of London and Leading Provincial Concerts;
MR. DAN PRICE
(Baritone), of Westminster Abbey.

Conductor - - Mr G. P. STEPHENSON, Organist and Choirmaster, of St. Cuthberts, Benfieldside.

Leader of Orchestra - Mr GEO. A. WILLIAMS.

Doors open at 7 o'clock; to commence at 7-45.

Prices of Admission—Reserved Seats (entrance from Front Street), 3s; Second Seats (entrance Middle Street), 2s; Third Seats, 1s.

Carriages may be ordered for 10-15. Plan of Hall at A. Ramsden's, Ltd., New Town Hall Buildings, where seats can be booked. No Money taken at the Doors before 7-30.

Tickets may also be had of Mr E. J. Lamb, Stationer, Shakespeare Street, Consett; Mr Cook, Stationer, Durham Road, Blackhill; the Hon. Treasurer, Hon. Secretaries, and any other member of the Committee or Chorus.

ST. AIDAN'S ANNUAL CHURCH GATHERING, DECEMBER 21st. Tea from 5 to 7.

SALE OF WORK AND CHRISTMAS TREE, After which there will be an ENTERTAINMENT and SOCIAL GATHERING.

Tickets, One Shilling Each. Children half-price.

The Rev. R. H. SMALLWOOD hopes to be present at this Gathering. See Bills.

PRELIMINARY NOTICE.
DR. BARNARDO'S HOMES.

A GRAND CONCERT

Will be held in the TOWN HALL, Consett, on FEBRUARY 2ND, 1898, in aid of the above object.

Particulars in future announcements.

GRAND BAZAAR
AT STANLEY.

DON'T forget the Great Bazaar, in aid of the Mission Churches Building and Parish Church Improvement Funds, to be held in the

CENTRAL SCHOOLS,
ON
DECEMBER 16TH, 17TH, and 18TH.
Open each day from 2 till 10 p.m.

Pleasure will be provided to all sorts and conditions of people by the

LIVING WAXWORKS, the PICTURE GALLERY, and Various other ATTRACTIONS.

See the Splendid Display of CHRISTMAS CARDS, the best in the North of England.

The Bazaar will be opened by Mrs F. H. BURN, on Thursday, December 16th, at 2 p.m.

ADMISSION — Thursday, from 2 till 5, 1s; after 5, 6d. Friday, from 2 till 5, 6d; after 5, 3d. Saturday, 3d, which will be returned in goods on production of the admission tickets.

COME IN MILLIONS, and dont leave your Purses at home.

Public Announcements.

CONSETT AND DISTRICT CRICKET CLUB

22ND ANNUAL CONCERT, in the New Town Hall, Consett, on WEDNESDAY EVENING, JANUARY 26th, 1898, when the following talented Artistes will appear:

Miss EMILY FOXCROFT,
Contralto, London.
Mr W. M. GEORGE,
The famous Society Humourist,
Mr HARRY LISTON,
London, in his newest edition of "Merry Moments."

A Plan of the Hall, showing Reserved Numbered Seats, at 2s each, can now be seen at the Office of the Hon. Secretary (W. Ramsay, Esq., N.E. Bank, Blackhill).

MR. THOMAS HOLLAND, the pleasing Tenor Singer, is OPEN FOR ENGAGEMENTS at Concerts, Bazaars, Socials, Sacred Concerts, or Oratorial Works. Pupil of Mr. Jeffery, Cathedral Organist and Choir-master at St. Nicholas's, Newcastle. Address—
17, PROSPECT TERRACE,
ANNFIELD PLAIN.

DERWENT VALLEY PLOUGHING ASSOCIATION.

THE Fifth Annual Competition will be held at Medomsley, on the Farms of Messrs W. and J. Hunter (Town Farm), and J. Hunter (Grange Farm), on Wednesday, December 15th. Prize List, Rules, and Forms of Entry on application to the Secretary. Last day of Entry, Monday, December 6th, 1897.
GEO. BELL, JUN., Secretary.

TECHNICAL INSTITUTE FOR CONSETT.

SUBSCRIPTION LIST.

	£	s.	d.
Already acknowledged -	1449	14	6
Rev. J. Foran, St. Mary's, Blackhill - - -	3	3	0
Mr Thos. Little, Delves, Consett (2nd Donation) - -	0	2	6
	£1452	19	6

Subscriptions may be paid to
Mr T. L. GLEDSTONE (Hon. Treas.),
North-Eastern Bank, Consett,
or further information obtained from the Hon. Secs.,
Mr W. S. DAVIES,
Brynglas, Consett.
Mr G. T. HYDEN,
Blackfyne House, Blackhill.

VICTORIA THEATRE, STANLEY.

LESSEE AND MANAGER.........MARK H. LINDON.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 13th, and Five following Evenings—

GILBERT and NEILSON'S Grand Opera Company in a Reportaire, including—MONDAY & FRIDAY,
MARITANA.
TUESDAY and SATURDAY—
THE BOHEMIAN GIRL,
AND—THE
DAUGHTER OF THE REGIMENT.

NEW THEATRE, CONSETT.

Lessee and Manager, Mr. HUGH ROBERTSON.

(Also of the Royalty Theatre and Opera House, Barrow-in-Furness, and Theatre Royal, Jarrow-on-Tyne.)

Resident Manager, Mr. LLOYD CLARANCE

TO-NIGHT, Thursday, Dec. 9th,
FALLEN AMONG THIEVES
FRIDAY and SATURDAY, Dec. 10 & 11,
SINS OF THE NIGHT.

MONDAY, December 13th, 1897, and during the Week, Messrs Cattani's Excelsior Star Variety Company. The World-renowned

BROS. CATTANI,

Acknowledged by the Press and Public to be the greatest and most artistic Athletes the world has ever seen. They have been the rage of London, and this is their first appearance in England since their Continental Tour.

The Cattani Bros. will give their wonderful and varied Feats of Strength during their engagement. Don't miss this wonderful Act.

Seats may be booked for dress circle at Archibald Ramsden's Piano Warehouse, Town Hall Buildings, Consett, by letter or telegram.

Prices of Admission:—Private Boxes, £1 1s; Single Seats, 3s.; Dress Circle, 2s.; Back of Dress Circle, 1s. 6d.; Side Boxes, 1s.; Pit, 6d.; Gallery, 4d.

Box Plan at Ramsden's.

Doors Open at 7 o'clock, Commence 7-30. Early Doors Open at 6-45.

Excursions.

NORTH-EASTERN RAILWAY.

AN Excursion Train will be run as under:—

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 18TH.

ELECTRIC AND GENERAL ENGINEERING EXHIBITION, and LEAGUE FOOTBALL MATCH—SUNDERLAND v. EVERTON—AT SUNDERLAND.

From BLACKHILL, at 12-10 p.m. (with bookings from Shotley Bridge, Ebchester, and Lintz Green), to NEWCASTLE, MONKWEARMOUTH, and SUNDERLAND, returning from Sunderland at 9-10, Monkwearmouth at 9-13, and Newcastle at 9-38 p.m. the same day.

For further particulars see bills.
GEORGE S. GIBB,
General Manager.
York, December, 1897.

Wanted.

WANTED, in Annfield Plain, a large HOUSE, or Two COTTAGES, either to Rent or Purchase.—Apply Box 25, *Chronicle* Office, Consett.

WANTED, FIFTY YOUNG LADIES, who wear Sizes 2 and 3 in Boots, to purchase 50 Pairs of Lady's 7s 6d Kid Boots for 4s 11½d the pair.—PHILIP H. KIRKUP, Front Street, Stanley.

WANTED, 1,000 LADIES to send a Postcard to the Huddersfield Manufacturing Company, Huddersfield, for Patterns of their Latest Dress Fabrics; All-wool Flannel, 6½d. per yard.

WANTED ENGAGEMENTS.—Mr. H. CARLYON; Miss CISSY CARLYON, the Champion Top-boot Dancer; Masters H. CARLTON and E. CARLYON, the two Juvenile Macks, Knockabout and All-round Comedians, Double Turns, Single Turns, and Expert Dancers; Skirt Dancing, High Kicking, and Splits. Our Artists have received repeated success in our line of business. Terms Moderate. — The CARLYON FAMILY, 87, Poplar Street, South Moor, by Chester-le-Street, County Durham.

Wanted.

WANTED, a GENERAL SERVANT.—Apply to Mrs KIDD, Aynsley Terrace, Consett.

To Let.

TO LET, FOREST LODGE; 4 Rooms, Garden, Stable, Byre, &c. The Hythe Farm House and Garden.—Apply to Mr CRAGGS, Red Houses, Woodlands.

For Sale.

FOR SALE, Two HOUSES in Sherburn Terrace, Consett. Yearly Rent, £31 4s. One HOUSE in Stephen Street, Consett. Yearly Rent. £24.—Apply J. S. MURRAY.

FOR SALE or to LET, HOUSE of Seven large Rooms, Wash-house, &c., situated in Medomsley Road, Consett. Price, £475; or Rent, £27 per annum.—For particulars apply to J. T. HESLOP, New Market Street, Consett.

FOR SALE, Six pleasantly-situated New HOUSES, with Streets and Footpaths made, situated in Bell View Terrace, Consett. Price £300. Also, HOUSES in Elsdon Terrace, No. 1, Consett. Price £240. Other Properties in good situations.—For further particulars apply N. ELSDON, Auctioneer, House and Estate Agent.

FOR SALE by Private Treaty, the FREEHOLD CORNER HOUSE and SHOP, in best position in Annfield Plain, suitable for any business. Offers will be received by R. ROBSON, No. 8, Stone Row, South Pontop, or R. PRINGLE, Front Street, Annfield Plain.

FOR SALE, Twelve PIGS, 8 weeks old.—Apply to GEORGE NICHOL, Braeside, Near Castleside.

Business Announcements.

GLENDENNING'S BEEF AND MALT WINE.

3/9 per Bottle. 2/- per Half-Bottle.

Wm. Aynsley, Grocer & Wine Merchant, Consett, Blackhill, Leadgate, and Stanley.
T. Milner, Chemist, Consett.
Jos. Murray, Grocer & Wine Merchant, Consett.
Geo. Pattrick, Chemist, Consett.
Dryden & Co., Grocers & Wine Merchants, Consett.
N. Elsdon, Wine Merchant, Consett.
Richard Murray, Wine Merchant, Blackhill.
J. Snaith, Blue Bell Inn, Lanchester.
Mrs. Glendinning, King's Head Inn, Shotley Bridge.
Mrs. Temperley, Commercial Hotel, Leadgate.
Mrs. Cawthorne, Colliery Hotel, Hobson Colliery.
J. Irwin, Pack Horse, Tanfield.
T. Lumley Railway Inn, Annfield Plain.
G. R. Hobson, Wine Merchant, Catchgate.
T. Armstrong, Wine Merchant, Blackhall Mill.
Turnbull Bros., Grocers, Burnopfield.
W. Wright, Burton House, Burnopfield.
T. Calvert, Grocer, Medomsley.
W. Dixon, Oak Inn, South Moor
J. Robinson, Chemist, Stanley & Annfield Plain.
R. Browell, Miner's Arms, Spen.
J. Moses, Post Office, Tow Law.
S. Leighton, Craghead Hotel, Craghead.
J. Whitfield, Forester's Arms, Frosterley.
W. Young, Red Lion Inn, Dipton.
J. Curry, Wine Merchant, Stanhope.
Dover & Co., Wine and Spirit Merchants, Belle Vue House, Dipton.
J. Gladders, Oak Tree Inn, Tantobie.
T. Gatiss, Earl Grey Inn, Kyo.
W. Oyston, Wine and Spirit Merchant, Esh.

Dales' GOLD MEDAL Dubbin. Makes Boots and Harness Waterproof as a Duck's Back and soft as velvet. Adds three times to the wear and allows polishing. 22 Exhibition Highest Awards. Tins 2d, 6d, 1/-, & 2/6 of all Bootmakers Saddlers, &c.

TO INVENTORS.
OFFICE FOR PATENTS.
ESTABLISHED 1870.
G. J. CLARKSON,
CHARTERED PATENT AGENT,
6, FINKLE STREET, STOCKTON-ON-TEES,
AND
7, CHESTNUT AVENUE, QUEEN'S ROAD HULL
Circular of Information Post Free.

THE
Consett Chronicle
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 10, 1897.

THE LANCHESTER GUARDIANS AND TEMPERANCE.

THE MAJOR PORTION of the time at the last meeting of the Lanchester Guardians was devoted to what may be called a temperance debate. Indeed, by very reason of the prolixity of the discussion, we are informed that the Consett representatives missed their train for home — a contingency which, though simple enough when put down as a mere statement, never fails to raffle the temper of the most devoted believer in the dispensations of "Kismet." But we are not concerned at present with the misfortunes of Guardians who miss their trains, even though they did not lose their tempers. We desire to draw attention to the merits of the debate, leaving the merits of the beer to those whose duty it may be to sample it before it can be ascertained that it is safe and suitable for pauper palates. When a question of diet or discipline is raised, the inmates of the Workhouse themselves are, of course, not consulted in the matter. It would, however, have been rather interesting to have obtained their opinion as to whether it was wise to allow them beer to wash down their Christmas dinner. We have no doubt that there would have been a striking exemplification of the spirit of unanimity upon one thing which was deemed desirable. To a man, aye, and to a woman, they would, we think, have gone for beer. There is a rhythmic similarity between this last word and another which is associated with the Christmas season—"cheer"—and it may safely be assumed that the inmates of the Workhouse regard their service of beer as being one of the favourite constituents in their Christmas dinner. Since, however, the inmates of the Workhouse are not permitted to express their opinion as to what they shall eat or what they shall drink or wherewithal they shall be clothed, and since the Guardians are supposed to be the best judges on these matters, they discussed at some length, as we have said, not the beer itself—for might not this operation have accounted for the missing of trains?—but the question whether the paupers should have a little of this favourite condiment to their Christmas dinner. What might have been the leading argument of those who are opposed to the inmates having beer really falls to the ground—or to, drop the metaphor, cannot be advanced—by reason of the fact that the beer is a gift, and therefore the ratepayers have not to meet the expense of the luxury. This consideration out of the way, the question merely resolves itself into one of principle. We have every respect for the opinions of those who take total abstinence as one of the leading articles of their faith. But we shall not concede to such people the absolute right of affirming that it is a wrong thing to give a pint of beer to a pauper as a liquid accompaniment to his Christmas dinner. There are many people — neither paupers nor likely to be paupers — who regard beer as one of the felicities of life; and they are never given to coercing those who differ from them in this matter by forcing drink down their throats, thereby causing them to swallow their principles and a pint of beer at the same time. We are not seeking to foster intemperance, or even urging the paupers to make beasts of themselves on Christmas or any other day, even though they had the opportunity. Far from it. "Moderation," said good old THOMAS FULLER, "is the silver thread which runs through the great pearl chain of virtues," and we are told by another great authority to be "temperate in all things." Recognising all this, together with the fact that the cost of the Christmas supply of ale to the inmates is not to come out of the rates, and also that there is to be a strict limitation to the quantity doled out to each pauper, we think that the Guardians are not likely to excite in the Workhouse inmates a desire for dissipation on Christmas day by allowing them to have a pint of beer to dinner. To veto such an allowance would not only show a disregard for generous impulses which prompt the donors to give the beer, but also seek to deprive the paupers of a luxury which they are likely to enjoy, without prejudice, as the lawyers say, to their physical well-being. With regard to the allowance of whisky which has been made to one individual for such a lengthened time, the case is certainly diffierent. There is reason for inquiry as to whether the money is being rightly spent, and also whether the whisky is doing any good to the patient. It would be rather interesting to calculate even the approximate quantity of spirit which must have been consumed during the time this case has been on the books of the relieving officer. It is not, however, a matter for making fun of. Of course, the prescriptions of a doctor must, in most cases, be strictly adhered to, or there would be little use in asking their advice at all; and while, in the case before us, medical opinion should stand above all considerations of mere principle, we repeat that there was everything to justify Mr POWELL, and those who think and voted with him, in calling attention to the matter. A proposition was made that the quantity of whisky allowed should be reduced, but the *status quo* was maintained by the casting vote of the CHAIRMAN.

SUNDAY TRAIN SERVICE.

NEWCASTLE may not be the hub of the universe, but it is a centre which is frequently visited by the residents in this district both for business and pleasure, and the Railway Company should certainly strive to give every facility in the way of a suitable train service. It has been remarked that, where monopolies exist, too much regard is not shown for the convenience and satisfaction of the public. This is very often the case alike with an ordinary trading concern and the railway companies. The North-Eastern Company have the whole of this district to themselves, but it is to be admitted that in most cases they have manifested a desire to suit the wishes of the public in regard to the running of trains. It would be difficult to imagine how in these go-ahead days we should be able to do without railway trains, and those who have the direction of such concerns should study as far as possible to make the convenience of the public, as we already indicated, one of their principal aims. While decidedly averse to every departure which is likely to involve Sunday labour, we are of opinion that in populous districts at least one Sunday train is almost a necessity. The residents in the Annfield Plain district labour under a decided disadvantage in this respect. It is impossible for them to reach Newcastle by train on a Sunday although lines of railroad pass by their very doors. The local authorities of the district have for some time been giving the matter their earnest consideration, and a representative deputation waited upon Sir JAMES JOICEY, Bart., M.P., at Newcastle on Saturday, for the purpose of urging that gentleman to use his influence not only in the way of obtaining a Sunday train, but also in securing an improvement in the ordinary week-day service. The case for the petitioners was very forcibly put by the members of the deputation, and the sympathy of Sir James was enlisted in the matter, that gentleman promising to forward it to the proper quarter. So far as the remarks of the deputation go, there is everything to justify them in asking for the concession, and also in expecting that it will be granted. Sir James explained that the Company were desirous that as little should be done as possible to increase the Sunday traffic, but beyond this his utterances do not seem to indicate any personal opposition to the prayer of the petitioners. Many people have a rooted objection to Sunday trains, by reason of the fact that it necessarily involves the employment of part of the Company's staff, but it has been shewn that this can be turned into a very cogent argument on the other side, for, while people have a desire to travel on a Sunday, in the absence of a convenient train, they have to resort to vehicles which entail a whole day's labour for those who are in charge of them. We trust the residents in the Annfield Plain district will soon have their reasonable request granted. As we have said there is every reason to justify them in hoping that it will not be refused.

A MOOT POINT.

THE members of the Tanfield School Board, at their meeting on Tuesday, engaged in the very common, though not very profitable operation of endeavouring to split a hair. We speak figuratively, of course. The operation named was started by an appplication which had been received on behalf of the members of the Causey United Methodist Free Church Choir for the use of the Board School, in which to hold an entertainment on Christmas Eve. The members of a church or chapel choir are generally supposed to be people who would conduct themselves with decorum even within the hallowed precincts of a Board School, and one would have thought that the application had only to be mentioned to be granted. But the members of the Board did not seem to be in that mood for granting anything without certain reservations. There seemed to be a fear, begotten, apparently, of an objection to saltatory exercises, that dancing would be indulged in by the members of the Christmas Eve party. Permission would be given if only a concert were held, but this would be withheld, should it be the intention of the applicants to allow their meeting to partake of the nature of a "social." Accordingly, the members of the Board went in for a somewhat lengthened discussion upon the precise distinction of a "social" and a "concert." "What is the designation of a 'social,'" said one member, "let us have it settled once for all." The answer was forthcoming that a "social" "consists of a tea followed by a dance." If the members—learned and unlearned, assuming that there are any of the latter class on the Board—had taken the trouble to consult a dictionary, they might have gleaned that no such definition was given of the word. Dr. JOHNSON, the most industrious, as he was perhaps one of the ablest of all lexicographers, although at times giving rather whimsical definitions to certain terms which would not be accepted as absolute by ordinary people of his own day, would scarcely have ventured to define a social after the manner in which it was defined by a member of the Tanfield School Board. The biggest dunce or the smallest boy in school would have no difficulty is deciding what part of speech the word "social" is. Provincially, of course, the word is used as a noun; but a "social" does not "consist of a tea, followed by a dance." A "social" may be held in a parlour, or a kitchen, or a public-house, or indeed in any place within or without the meaning of any Act, where there is neither a desire to dance nor an opportunity for gratifying that desire. We had thought that the days when dancing was regarded as an ungraceful or unbecoming thing had passed away. DAVIE DEANS, one of the great creations of the "Wizard of the North," characterised dancing as a "regular and voluntary fit of distraction." We confess to a feeling of surprise that DAVIE DEANS is still with us. That one of the elements in the enjoyment of a social gathering should be vetoed even by members of a School Board, is a thing to be marvelled at. There is no reason given—no particle of argument adduced — for this strange hostility to a favourite amusement; and we do not congratulate the members of the Tanfield School Board upon the action they have taken. Dancing, by implication, being denounced as a hateful thing, the members of the Board went on to indicate a feeling of the most pronounced aceticism which would hardly be creditable to an old-fashioned Puritan. The application of the United Methodist Free Church Choir of Causey was granted; but only on strange conditions, viz., that neither dancing nor games be indulged in in the Board School on Christmas Eve. The Board might have gone a step further, and chartered a couple of heavy policemen to attend the Christmas gathering and check any possible inclination to levity. The social meeting might have been all the more enjoyable for this. We wonder whether the Board would willingly let the School say for funeral wakes, without any restrictions as to the number of lugubrious wails which should be raised. We have heard of a rooted objection being held to dancing, and that objection supported by very plausible arguments, but to prohibit games—harmless parlour games which can be engaged in by young and old—is certainly going too far, to put the case in its mildest possible form. We should not be surprised if the policy of the Board in this direction were to play rather an important part at the next election. They have certainly displayed a spirit which is altogether out of keeping with the times.

THE MARKET QUESTION.

A LETTER appears in another column, from Mr C. WEAVER, Consett, with reference to our editorial on the question of a Covered-in Market for the town. It was scarcely necessary for our correspondent to remind us that the Tradesmen's Association were not vested with the absolute power of saying aye or no to the adoptton of the scheme. Passing over the personal compliment which Mr WEAVER deigns to pay us, and which it is scarcely necessary for us to repudiate—in fact, editorial modesty is traditionally of a peculiar nature—we come to Mr WEAVER's comparison between the necessity for a Covered Market and a Technical Institute. To speak by the card, and in order not to be outdone by equivocation, we should affirm at once that it is almost wildness to put the two institutions on a parallel. In these days of fierce competition, when the dreaded foreigner, provided with educational facilities which we do not possess, is likely to get so far in front of us in the commercial race, a Technical Institute in every available centre has become a clamant necessity. In passing, it may be said that all honour is due to those gentlemen who in this district are working with zeal, almost at red-hot pitch, to establish in Consett a Technical Institute. Institutes of the kind have met with unqualified success, wherever they have been opened. In no single instance that has come to our knowledge, have they not been appreciated. But a Covered Market, it has been seen, is not such a necessary institution, especially in a place like Consett. Unlike the Institute which has been put in the running by Mr WEAVER, Public Markets have not in every instance been a success, although their erection was advocated with the certainty that they would not only prove a profitable investment, but also a boon to the public. In some instances they have proved neither; the public care nothing for them, and the buildings are only occupying a great deal of valuable space, monuments in themselves to the policy of those who "will continue to blunder in spite of experience." It is in consequence of a knowledge of failure in other places that we sought the ratepayers of the town to consider the cost before they gave their order. We are not opposed to the erection of a Market, which, Mr WEAVER thinks, could be established "without infringing on the rates," reserving at the same time our opinion as to the desirability of the undertaking, and the probability of its success. But the burthen of Mr WEAVER's letter—the one note which rings through almost every line—is the high estimate which he places on the town of Consett with its "position, size, influence," &c. We have no desire to belittle the town or accentuate its insignificance. But to ensure its future prosperity, we do not believe, as Mr WEAVER believes, that a Covered Market is the one thing needful. Our correspondent, in his letter, is a little inconsistent. He has "sufficient confidence in the business capacity of Consett tradesmen," but, in the absence of a Covered Market, indicates a fear that the town will "gradually sink into that state of somnolency characteristic of want of public spirit and enterprise"—all of which is scarcely a favourable testimonial to the tradesmen of the place. That the business men of Consett have been conspicuous for their energy and enterprise we do admit; but that that energy and enterprise is to be marred and blighted if a scheme for the erection of a Covered Market is not embarked upon, we do not admit. Consett has progressed, Consett has improved, not by reason of a Public Market, but in spite of the fact that the town does not boast of such an institution. But Mr WEAVER is so far carried away with his scheme that he is desirous of making the Market itself the very nucleus — the proud and prominent centre — of all the civil life of the place. Within a few yards of the din of the cabbage-monger and the old clothes man, the scrap-iron merchant and the toffee vendor, we are to have respectable members of the Urban District Council debating on the town's affairs; we are to have the poor law administered, and we are to have offenders against the peace and property of her Majesty's tried by the Justices. What a centre of activity this Market is to be! But it looks well on paper, and we have no doubt, despite of our somewhat playful remarks, that such a scheme as that proposed, might be favourably considered by—a few.

NOTES AND COMMENTS.

SCOTSMEN AT HOME.

It may seem somewhat paradoxical to affirm that there is truth in paradoxes, but there are instances in which this is so. We may recall the following: "An Englishman is never happy except when he is miserable; an Irishman is never at peace except when he is at war; and a Scotsman is never at home except when he is abroad." There is a great deal of truth, especially in the case of the Scot. Max O'Rell also tells the following story: Put two Scotsmen in one end of a desert island, and two Englishmen at the other. Return in the course of a few years, and it will be found that the Englishmen have never spoken to each other, because they have never been introduced; while the Scotsmen will have formed themseves into a Caledonian Club. On the face of it, this is an exaggeration, but the story, as a story, is certainly so far illustrative of the characteristics of the two nationalities. There are a number of Scotsmen who have taken up their residence in Consett and district, as in almost every district all the world over, and they have agreed to band themselves together to keep alive memories of "the land o' cakes." At a meeting, held in Consett on Saturday, presided over by Dr. Morison, it was agreed to form a Caledonian Society for North-West Durham. We wish the Scotsmen every success in their venture. They are proverbially clannish, and this fact alone will go far to ensure that success.

THE CASTLESIDE HERO.

Although it is admitted that on almost every conceivable subject in the world there is a diversity of opinion, most people are unanimous in according honour to those who perform acts of heroism. The saving of human life, or lives, has ever been held to be an act which is deserving of the highest commendation; and the hero is invariably extolled in a manner which does not partake of the simulated kind. We have seen this frequently demonstrated in the case of members of a fire brigade in our large towns who distinguish themselves not so much in getting under the conflagration as in saving human lives which are jeopardised; in lifeboatmen; and in the cases of individuals who succeed in sporadic cases in performing acts of bravery with the same success. A young Cstleside man, Mr E. T. Duckworth, was on Saturday, at a public meeting held in his honour, presented with the honorary vellum certificate of the Royal Humane Society of England. The act which merited the recognition was a truly heroic one, and although the effort to rescue a drowning man under circumstances of exceptional difficulty was unsuccessful, this does not in any way detract from the valour of the attempt itself. The circumstances incidental to the case will be found in our report of Saturday evening's proceedings. Mr Duckworth was publicly congratulated, as he deserved to be; and we have no doubt the recognition of his heroism, which was so well expressed by the gentlemen present, will be thoroughly appreciated by the young man himself, who goes out to a life in which the possibilities of future acts of bravery are very great indeed.

THE CLERGY AND FINANCE.

We do not think there was much to commend the motion made at the last meeting of the Lanchester Guardians to the effect that the salary of the Workhouse chaplains should be increased. In one case, certainly, there was less justification than in the other. In one instance the increase was solicited, where the application was not altogether justified; in the other, it was not solicited, where it was decidedly more deserved. We are of the party who maintain that the vicar of a country parish—assuming that he is tolerably well paid for his parochial work—should also include in his parish the Workhouse, where such an institution exists. It is altogether different in the case of similar institutions in large towns where there is a paid chaplain, and where the ordinary clergy, by reason of the more irksome nature of the duties they have to perform, cannot undertake the spiritual supervision of more than their own flocks. But in a country parish, where it cannot be said that the vicar is likely to be killed with over-work, surely the poor people who are housed in a parochial institution located within that parish, should be entitled to the ministrations of the resident clergy. It is really paying for religion by proxy. All members of churches and chapels give their offerings voluntarily, and the poor who cannot give are not turned away on that account. The inmates of the Lanchester Workhouse are therefore ministered to at the expense, not of the individuals themselves who avail themselves of clerical service, but of the ratepayers. The contention that the clergy have to live like the ordinary mortal is too strong, we are afraid, to be questioned; but the nobility of their calling should certainly not be lowered to that of ministering to the poor at so much per head. We repeat that the Guardians acted wisely in negativing the motion which was made at the meeting last Thursday.

CLEANLINESS NEXT TO GODLINESS.

Leaving the question of chaplains' salaries the Lanchester Guardians very properly passed on to the consideration of another matter which has a close affinity to a certain virtue supposed to rank next to godliness. The Workhouse Committee recommended that a laundry maid be engaged at a salary of £26. Not a bad salary certainly, for such a person in such a situation! But it does seem strange that in an institution where there are so many women folks, who have to be kept by the parish, there should exist the necessity for taking in another of their sex to be paid a salary for doing women's work. It is admitted that there are in the Workhouse a number of able-bodied women, and surely they should be capable of performing the duties which the Guardians have agreed to pay an official to perform. The difficulty apparently lies not in the washing work—for, surely all of the feminine gender can wash clothes—but in the ironing way. It need not be an undertaking of any serious difficulty to initiate one of their number into the intricacies of this peculiar department of laundry work. Inmates of a Workhouse cannot be said to be too punctilious about the precision with which their linen is got up. But the Workhouse Master, who seems to have a passion for details, for he informs the Guardians and the public that no less than 3,752 articles pass through the washhouse every week, leads us to understand that it is not the paupers who require a competent laundry-maid, but the three nurses, who, to use his own words, "nearly take a laundry-maid to themselves." The Guardians apparently overlooked this important fact, when they agreed to the appointment of a laundry-maid at a salary of £20 per annum.

THE DUTIES OF A FIRE BRIGADE.

The only matter which was discussed at any length at the last meeting of the Consett Urban District Council was the recent disastrous fire at the Co-operative Stores. All the members were unanimous in congratulating the members of the Fire Brigade on their energy and gallantry, and who, although unable to arrest the progress of the devastating flames which devoured the contents of a huge block of buildings like match wood, at any rate succeeded in saving the adjoining property, which was in great jeopardy. It was, however, stated at the meeting that one of the fire plugs close to the Stores was never "tapped" by the Brigade, and it was also urged that the appliances for meeting such a serious contingency as that which occurred a week or two ago were not as perfect as they might be. The Surveyor stated that the reason why the plug near the Stores was not opened was in consequence of the intense heat preventing the men getting near at all. As to the defects in the apparatus, if such really exist, nothing was further said. Mention was made of the necessity which existed for thorough discipline in the Fire Brigade, and also the imperativeness of frequent practice by the members in order to determine with accurateness the exact location of each fire plug. This latter suggestion is one which should not be lost sight of by those who are in command of the Brigade.

ADULTERATED COFFEE.

A Consett tradesman has favoured us with a copy of a letter which was recently addressed by a Dutchman to a Glasgow firm respecting a consignment of coffee, which he alleged was not according to sample. "Der last two bags of goffey, which we did get from you," he wrote, "is mixed with rat's durd. Der goffey may be good nuff, but der durd spoils der whole trade. Mein countrymans like not der flavour. We did not see der durd in der sample which your agent showt us. It dakes some time to pick it out. We ordered blane goffey."

MORE ABOUT "DEBATES AND THEIR UTILITY."

The letter which appeared in our columns last week under the above heading, has elicited an epistle from another correspondent, Mr S. Smiley, West Pelton. We regret that pressure on our space will not permit of the publication of the full text of the letter; and we have therefore been compelled once more to resort to the process which, in journalistic parlance, is known as "boiling down." Mr Smiley thinks that our correspondent of last week is under a wrong impression with regard to the view which is taken by Christians of public debate. The Church, he says, has never neglected the duty of diffusing knowledge, both religious and secular; indeed, she has been "the herald of education, and the foster-mother of all educational advantages that we enjoy to-day." All development, he claims, all freedom of thought and speech, "have not been won by public debate, but by the Christian Church working persistently through fierce opposition." He agrees that the wise man should teach the uninformed, but asks where such wise man is to be found, and adds, "we cannot find him among the Secularist party, because that party has nothing to impart in the way of knowledge. They know nothing, they affirm nothing. They have no programme of life and future happiness. They came from they don't know where; they are going to they don't know where. They have no creed, and consequently no chart or helm to guide them over the sea of life." "The reason why the Christian does not like public debate," he says, "is because Christianity is not now on its trial. Those days are gone. It has proved its Divine authorship; it has justified its existence; it has borne fruit." He affirms that the battle-field of the Christian is not on the public platform, but in the slums where the poor may be ministered to. Mr Smiley concludes his letter with an anecdote, which, though not a clinching argument in his favour, may be repeated here. An Edinburgh message boy was wheeling a barrow up a hill. The little fellow became exhausted and sat down to rest a bit. A University Professor who had been watching him for some time accosted him thus, "You are wheeling your barrow at a great disadvantage to yourself, by going in a straight line up the hill. You should cross the hill this way and then that way, and so on until you you ascend the top." The Professor proceeded to prove by science and logic the wisdom of his advice. The boy meekly retorted, "Sir, will yer hold yer jaw, and gi'es a shove."

PARISH BATHS.

Most Parish Councils may lay claim to the title of "Progressive." Ever since the adoption of the great measure of "devolution of authority" which gave birth to Parish Councils, the representatives of these bodies have shown a great desire for the welfare of their respective communities. Indeed, in some cases, neighbouring authorities seem to have vied with each other in the way of seeing which should show the greatest enterprise. The Parish Councillor, proud of his title, is also proud of his parish, and there is everywhere evident in this district a commendable desire to give to each rural community, as far as possible, all the advantages of the town. At Pelton, there is a movement on foot to establish parish baths. This is perhaps a venture which partakes somewhat of the nature of novelty. Such an institution as that mentioned could not fail to be appreciated by the parishioners. The only consideration, and very significant in itself, is that of cost. Baths, especially a large swimming bath, cannot be erected for nothing; but once established, there need be no fear about their success. In some places the large bath serves a dual purpose. In summer it is used for swimming, and in winter it is covered over and used as a gymnasium. What with the prospect of the electric light for almost every village, and the proposal to establish parish baths, a means of making country life attractive, about which the minds of even statesmen have been agitated for years, seems likely to be evolved from causes which have not been hitherto anticipated.

THE ROAD TO DORMAN'S COTTAGES.

The condition of the road from Kit's Well to Dorman's Cottages was the chief item of interest discussed at Monday night's meeting of the Lanchester Parish Council. During the past fortnight it has been a veritable quagmire. In many places the mud is knee deep. Mr Champney described it as a disgrace to any civilized community, and there is no exaggeration in his description. Indeed, both District Council and Parish Council are agreed that a better road is needed. The only point on which there is any disagreement is the responsibility for making it. When the attention of the Durham County Council was called to the matter some time ago, they suggested that the occupiers might vacate the cottages if they were not satisfied with the road. That, no doubt, would be a ready, although not a very logical, way out of the difficulty. The houses are there, and it is clearly the duty of somebody to make a road to them. A very decided opinion has been expressed by many of the members of the District Council that the owners of the cottages ought to be called upon to make the road, and in view of what has been done in similar cases elsewhere, we are inclined to think that their contention is right. Only recently the County Council have called on owners to provide roads to their property in East Durham, and in the event of these not being made within a reasonable time, it is understood that closing orders will be applied for. However, as will be seen, the Parish Council appointed a deputation to meet the District Council yesterday, and as both are agreed that a better road is needed, it is probable that immediate and definite steps will be taken to secure one.

ANNFIELD PLAIN.

PRIMITIVE METHODIST ACTIVITY.—Miss Holmes, of Whitley, is now conducting a successful series of mission services at the Primitive Methodist Church.

CATCHGATE.

Mr James Pears, landlord of the Crown and Thistle Inn, has a whippet bitch some two and a half years of age, which was born with only three legs. The animal has got on very well with her three stumps, and can hold her own in running with the majority of dogs in the district.

ILLNESS OF MR GEORGE HOBSON JUNIOR.—We regret to anounce that Mr George R. Hobson, wine and spirit, postmaster &c. is somewhat seriously inditposed. Mr Hobson is widley known and respect throughout North West Durham; and sincere wishes are expressed that he will speedily recover his wonted health.

BURNHOPE.

FATAL FALL DOWN A PIT SHAFT.—A shocking accident occurred on Saturday morning, at Burnhope Colliery, to an onsetter named William McColl, 35 years of age, residing in Eastwood Road, Burnhope. He accidentally fell down the shaft, a distance of about 40 fathoms, and sustained serious injuries. He was conveyed to Newcastle Infirmary, where he lies in a precarious condition.

LANCHESTER.

JOINT HOSPITAL BOARD.—A meeting of the Lanchester Joint Hospital Board was held on Thursday, Mr H. C. Wood presiding, when reports from Dr. Renton and Dr. Wilson stated that the fever hospitals at Leadgate and Langley Park were empty. Tenders for sewage disposal works at Langley were submitted by Messrs J. Wardlaw, Newcastle, (£99 13s 0d) and J. H. Bell, Bishop Auckland (£104 17s 6d). The former was accepted.

LEADGATE.

ACCIDENT.—On Tuesday morning, a man named Thomas Wood, a miner, living in Plantation Street, sustained severe injuries to his back and legs whilst following out his employment in the Eden Colliery.

GOOD TEMPLARY.—The members of the local lodge of this Society held their annual tea and entertainment in the Primitive Methodist Sunday School, on Saturday evening, when over 200 persons sat down to a capital repast provided by the members of the Lodge. The ladies at the tables were Miss Dryden, Miss Young, Miss E. Quasick, Miss E. Pratt, Miss M. J. Robson, Niss N. Bell, Miss Georgina Sheldon, Mrs Vine, Mrs Bainbridge, and Mrs Appleton. After tea, a successful concert was given by the members of the Lanchester Primitive Methodist choir, under the leadership of Mr Fred. Lines. The chair was occupied by the Rev. Thos. Durant, Newcastle, who delivered an appropriate address.

BLACKHILL.

DANCE AT THE MECHANICS' INSTITUTE.—A very interesting gathering took place at St. Aiden's Hall on Tuesday night, the occasion being a social gathering and dance in aid of the funds of the Mechanics' Institute. There was a good attendance, and refreshments were provided by Mrs Porless, Blackhill, the band being under the conductorship of Mr J. R. Wood, Consett. The stewards were—Messrs J. J. Wedgewood, H. Dowson, R. Heymer, and H. W. Brodie. Messrs J. Siddell and M. Hobday were the M.C.'s. The proceeds are to be devoted to the purchasing of new books for the Institute.

METHODIST FREE CHURCH.—On Wednesday evening, a very successful entertainment and supper was provided, in the above Church, by Mrs J. Robson, of Durham Road, the Misses Robson gracefully assisting at the supper tables. Notwithstanding the inclement and unpropitious state of the weather, a large company was present, and partook of the very excellent repast which Mrs Robson had so generously provided. The proceeds, which realised a good sum, will be devoted to the Church Funds. In the early part of the evening, a capital concert and entertainment were provided, the Rev. Mr Forster occupying the chair. Special mention should be made of Mr J. Wilkinson, Newcastle, whose efforts were highly appreciated by the audience. Amongst others who ably assisted in the programme were Mr J. Jones, Master G. H. Wilson, Miss F. Jones, Mr Gardiner, &c. The Chairman addressed a few appropriate remarks to those present, and a very pleasant evening was brought to a close by the singing of the Doxology.

WITTON GILBERT.

YEARLY FUND SUPPER.—The members of the Travellers' Rest Yearly Fund held their annual supper in their club room at the house of Mr John Jackson. A capital repast was provided by the host and hostess, and over thirty members sat down. After the tables had been cleared, Mr Robson took the chair, being supported in the vice-chair by Mr J. Hunter, of Langley Park. Several toasts were proposed, and songs were contributed by Messrs Geo. Jackson, Thos. Sudders, Jos. Hunter, John Stockdale, Thos. Lawson, and Joe Brewers. The accompanist was Mr Cox, of Langley Park. It was stated during the evening that, as there was very little sickness throughout the year, the committee decided to pay a dividend of 8s 6d. to each member.

THREE TUNS YEARLY CLUB FUND.—The members of this fund held their annual supper and concert at the house of Mr Wm. Hunter, on Saturday evening. A sumptious repast was provided by the host and hostess, and was partaken of by a numerous company. The carvers were Mr Lawson, Mr Peacock and Mr Wheatley, whilst Mrs Jackson and Mrs Rehwick also helped at the tables. After the cloths were removed, Mr Lawson took the chair, and Mr Ridley the vice-chair. The Chairman proposed the toast of the "Royal Family," remarking that the district had been honoured a few weeks ago by a visit from their future king, the Prince of Wales. He also referred eo the record reign of Her Majesty the Queen, and the death of the Duchess of Teck. The vice-chairman responded, after which the toast of the "Host and Hostess" was drunk. Mrs Hunter briefly responded, stating that she would be always willing to help the Club to the best of her abilities. Mr Amos proposed "Success to the Club," after which the evening was spent in harmony, songs being rendered by Mr Lawson, Mr Amos, Mr Lowther, Miss Jackson, and others. Miss Jackson acted as accompanist, and the proceedings, which had been very enjoyable throughout, closed with the singing of the National Anthem

SACRISTON.

IRISH NATIONAL LEAGUE.—The members of the Sacriston branch of this Leagne held a meeting in the Queen's Head Hotel, on Sunday evening, the chair being taken by Mr R. Needham. There was a fair attendance, and several members were enrolled. Mr Thomas Hughes is acting as secretary.

WESLEYAN CHURCH.—Special sermons were preached at this church on Sunday, by Mr Joseph Holmes in the morning, and Mr Wardle in the evening. During the evening service, a solo, entitled "He Shall Feed His Flock," was rendered by Mr Thomas Holland, of Annfield Plain. The choir, with Miss Hutchinson as organist, and Mr Henry Bell conductor, also rendered solos and hymns.

MECHANICS' YEARLY FUND.—The members of the Charlaw and Sacriston Mechanics Yearly Fund held their annual supper at their headquarters, the Colliery Inn. An excellent supper was provided by the host and hosters (Mr and Mrs Stoker), to which ample justice was done by over thirty persons. After supper, a smoking concert took place in an adjoining room, the chair being occupied by Mr J. Fairbank. The toasts of "Success to the Charlaw Coal Company," "the host and hostess," "the Chairman," and "The Royal Family," were proposed and responded to. The following gentlemen contributed to the harmony of the evening:—The Chairman, Vice-chairman (Mr Sieeman), Mr D. Simms, Mr R. Stoker, Mr B. Waite, Mr A. Curren, Mr J. Wheatley, Mr J. Alderson, Mr E. Davison, Mr J. Laddie, Mr M. Carroll, Mr T. Greener, and Mr T. Green, pianoist. The proceedings broke up with the singing of "Auld Long Syne."

CONCERT.—A successful concert was given in the Co-operative Hall, kindly lent for the occasion by the Committee of the Annfield Plain Co-operative Society, on Saturday evening, by Mr Tom Holland's company, from Annfield Plain. Mr Thomas Bell presided, and in the course of his remarks, said that he was glad to see so many people come to welcome Mr Holland. The programme opened with a part song by the company, which was well rendered. Mr Hosking sang "The Soldier's Request" very effectively, and a duet by Miss Collicot and Mr Holland, entitled "Very Suspicious," was greatly appreciated. The company were then favoured with another part song, and Mr Holland was encored for his rendering of "The Star of the Desert." Miss Prinn, Miss Holland, Miss Collicot, Miss Haw, all rendered songs in a pleasing manner. Miss Holland opened the second part of the programme with the song, "Sell no more," and evoked much laughter, which was repeated when Mr Holland and Mr Haw appeared in the duet, "Naming the Baby." "Killarney" was well rendered by Miss Prinn, and a duet, "The Yankee Lad and the Irish Lass," was effectively sung by Mr Holland and Miss Holland. The concert was concluded with the singing of the National Anthem. The artistes were accompanied on the piano by Mr S. Armstrong. On Sunday, a sacred concert was given in the Co-operative Hall, the chair being occupied by Mr Collins. There was a large number of people present on each occasion.

OBITUARY ANNALS OF NORTH-WEST DURHAM.

[ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.]

In these papers it is proposed to give some account of the most remarkable occurrences in the whole area of the Lanchester Union during a period of sixty years. It is believed that they will be of interest to the readers of the *Chronicle*, and their co-operation is solicited in making the record as complete as possible. The utmost care has been taken to give nothing that would be likely to cause offence or give pain. Many of the events chronicled will be within the recollection of some of our older readers, and we shall be glad to receive additional facts relative to any of the events or people mentioned. The record has been compiled with great care, and the names and dates may be accepted as absolutely correct. With a view to making this department of the *Chronicle* interesting, the Editor will be glad to answer, free of charge, inquiries respecting the date of the death of any person in North-West Durham during the period covered by the record.

1865.

(CONTINUED FROM LAST WEEK)

1 Oct., Edward Butler, Blackhill, manager at Iron Works, aged 42.

1 Oct., Mary Ann, widow of Joseph Brunskill Robson, butcher, Leadgate, aged 59.

7 Oct., James Elsdon, aged 13, whaler, Burnhope Colliery, scalded by falling into hot water.

7 Oct., George Musgrave, Middle Friarside, aged 41.

8 Oct., Dorothy, daughter of John Smith, engineman, Oxhill, aged 22.

9 Oct., John Brown, Shotley Bridge, aged 71.

12 Oct., Isabella, wife of Robert Smith, farmer, Fines House, aged 66.

12 Oct., George Gray, Castleside, aged 49.

13 Oct., Isabella, wife of Thomas Dawson, High Kyo, aged 67.

18 Oct., Mary, wife of Charles Gibson, shoemaker, White-le-Head, aged 33.

18 Oct., Rowland Burdon, Leadgate, aged 72.

19 Oct., Catherine, wife of Luke Dodds, Derwent Cottages, aged 41.

22 Oct., Jane, wife of John Mordue, West Stanley, aged 21.

25 Oct., Francis Ridley, Leadgate, aged 41.

25 Oct., Catherine, wife of James Cuthbertson, Innkeeper, Medomsley, aged 57.

31 Oct., Jane, wife of Ralph Wheatley, Bradley Cottages, aged 49.

3 Nov., Mary, widow of John Waugh, Broomshields, aged 70.

6 Nov., Sarah, wife of Thomas Shield, joiner, Shotley Bridge, aged 36.

7 Nov., William Burns, Burnopfield, aged 39.

7 Nov., Jane, widow of Thomas Stafford, Lanchester, aged 53.

8 Nov., Andrew Holmes, aged 11 years, died from injuries caused by a bogie going over him on Pontop Colliery Railway, on the 2nd November.

9 Nov., Mary, widow of Robert Armstrong, High Conside, aged 65.

10 Nov., Elizabeth, aged 3 years, daughter of Patrick Campbell, Blackfine, accidentally burnt to death.

12 Nov., Elizabeth, wife of John McGreger, Causey Row, aged 50.

14 Nov., Ann Burton, annuitant, Hamsteels, aged 66.

15 Nov., Charles Allen, brewer and spirit merchant, Annfield Plain, aged 58.

15 Nov., Charles Kirkland, police officer, Burnopfield, aged 53.

17 Nov., John Smailes, Tanfield, aged 52.

18 Nov., Isabella Robson, Conside Iron Works, aged 49.

18 Nov., Joseph, son of John Temperley, Captain's House, Greencroft, aged 20.

19 Nov., John Allison, Springwell Cottage, aged 55.

20 Nov., James McMath, aged 28, miner, killed by a fall of coal in the Busty Colliery, Medomsley.

21 Nov., Michael McConnell, Blackhill, aged 23.

22 Nov., Deborah, widow of Francis Erskine, grocer, Leadgate, aged 56.

24 Nov., George Johnson, Burnhope, aged 67.

23 Nov., James Jobson, Shotley Grove, aged 71.

29 Nov., Stephen Hindson, aged 21, hewer, died from burns caused by an explosion of gas at a candle in Stanley Coal Mine on Nov. 22nd.

30 Nov., Thomas Forster, Townhead, aged 73.

1 Dec., Ann, wife of Thomas Dewrence, Summerbell's Houses, aged 73.

3 Dec., Jane Crowe, Cornsay, aged 80.

4 Dec., John Johnston, aged 16, putter, died from burns caused by an explosion of gas in Stanley Colliery.

6 Dec., John Turner, West Stanley, aged 61.

6 Dec., Dorothy Ann, daughter of Patrick Suddes, innkeeper, High Conside, aged 22.

7 Dec., Mary, widow of William Wilson, weaver, South Pontop, aged 68.

10 Dec., Robert Rutherford, farmer, Ebchester, aged 81.

10 Dec., Isabella, widow of Ralph Bainbridge, Dipton, aged 52.

11 Dec., Euphemia, wife of the Rev. Blythe Hurst, perpetual curate of Collierley, aged 65.

11 Dec., John Hunter, grocer, Burnopfield, aged 71.

12 Dec., Robert Telford, cattle dealer, Tinkler's Hill, aged 86.

12 Dec., Jane, wife of John Joseph Clemitson Parker, Hill Top, Dipton, aged 42.

17 Dec., William Crosby, Kyo, aged 74.

23 Dec., John Postle, breaksman, Leadgate, aged 20.

25 Dec., Michael McIntyre, Lanchester, aged 58.

25 Dec., Ellen, wife of Christopher McQuiggan, Crookhall, aged 36.

26 Dec., George Ridley, Tanfield, aged 61.

27 Dec., Nicholas Boyle, Stobswoodhead, Ebchester, aged 52.

31 Dec., George Storey, High Conside, aged 25.

31 Dec., Ann, widow of John Oliver, farmer, Benfieldside, aged 89.

1866.

2 Jan., Hannah, wife of Charles Panting, Templetown, aged 32.

2 Jan., Elizabeth Jane Watson, Tantobie, aged 21.

6 Jan., Mary, widow of John Conn, Hill House, Lanchester, aged 78.

9 Jan., Thomas Roberts, Leadgate, aged 44.

9 Jan., Jane, wife of William Coupland, landagent, Slade's House, Ebchester, aged 66.

13 Jan., Sarah Daglish, South Moor, aged 20.

13 Jan., Catharine, wife of William Brown, sawyer, Benfieldside, aged 52.

17 Jan., John McAvinia, High Hamsterley Huts, Medomsley, aged 23.

18 Jan., Dorothy, widow of Ralph Ord, mason, Hill Top, Esh, aged 58.

20 Jan., Edward Miller, aged 31, hewer, Medomsley, killed by coal falling on him in Derwent Pit.

23 Jan., James Young, Lintz Colliery, aged 20.

25 Jan., Mary Ann, aged 7 years, daughter of Hugh Farrell, Leadgate, burnt to death by clothes catching fire while putting the kettle on.

26 Jan., Edward Keenan, High Conside, aged 40.

26 Jan., Ann, wife of Joseph Turpin, blacksmith, High Conside, aged 40.

26 Jan., Margaret, wife of Thomas Stephenson, master butcher, Shotley Bridge, aged 24.

29 Jan., Elizabeth, daughter of Hugh Wood, New Stanley, aged 20.

2 Feb., Dorothy, wife of Ralph Curry, Westwood, aged 51.

2 Feb., Margaret, widow of John Birkley, Hill Top, Dipton, aged 80.

6 Feb., James Robinson, engine driver, Waskerley Park, aged 43.

7 Feb., Jane, wife of John Shields, Cornsay, aged 29.

10 Feb., William Hornby, farmer, Chapman's Well, aged 49.

13 Feb., William Stockton, aged 40, foreman fitter-up engineer at Consett, died from being crushed in a revolving shaft on the 20th January.

15 Feb., Elizabeth, widow of William Watson, Leadgate, aged 45.

17 Feb., Margaret, wife of Jeffrey Hunter, Dipton, aged 61.

17 Feb., Anthony Shaw, mason, Hill Top, Esh, aged 38.

17 Feb., Mary, widow of John Kirkup, cartwright, Blackhill, aged 65.

19 Feb., Isabella, wife of William Forster, grocer, Hill Top, Dipton, aged 36.

22 Feb., Jane Pratt Brown, Blackhill, aged 58.

23 Feb., Thomas Pickering, Hobson Colliery, aged 65.

23 Feb., John Rodham, overman, White-le-Head, aged 68.

24 Feb., George Hunter, aged 29, joiner, Iveston, killed by falling down staple in engine house of Sunniside Pit.

28 Feb., William Wigham, mason and beerhouse keeper, High Conside, aged 48.

(TO BE CONTINUED).

SOUTH MOOR.

YEARLY CLUB.—On Saturday evening, the members of the South Moor Yearly Club held their annual supper at the Stag Inn, when some forty members did full justice to a splendid repast, served by Hostess Lumley. After the tables had been cleared, Mr John Nicholson was voted to the chair, and Mr William Bell appointed vice-chairman. The Secretary (Mr Wm. Coulson) presented his annual report, showing that the receipts for the year had amounted to £31 18s 10d, as against an expenditure of £27 10s 3d, leaving a balance of £4 8s 7d in hand. The report was considered extremely satisfactory, and some 45 names were entered on the books for the coming year. At the conclusion of the business part of the proceedirgs, songs were given by Messrs J. Nicholson, W. Bell, J. W. Garthwaite, Thos. Pearson, Robert Brown, Ed. Graham, and the worthy host, Mr Richard Lumley. A hearty vote of thanks was accorded to Mr and Mrs Lumley, on the proposition of the Chairman, and the proceedings concluded by the singing of "Auld Lang Syne."

LANCHESTER BOARD OF GUARDIANS.

The monthly meeting of the above Board was held on Thursday, at the Board Offices, Lanchester, Mr T. J. Muse (Vice-Chairman) presiding. There were also present Rev. C. Fortin, Rev. A. Magill, Mr Geo. Robson, Mr G. J. Robinson, Mr W. Robinson, Mr J. Oliver, Mr J. Pumphrey, Mr G. D. Powell, Mr V. Dunn, Mr W. Young, Mr R. Kay, Mr P. Kirkup, Mr W. Grey, Mr T. Wilkinson, Mr J. Green, Mr R. Collier, Mr L. Nicholson, Mr E. Sloane, Mr E. J. Wardle, Mr H. Greener, Mr A. Kuhlman, Mr Geo. Forster, Mr H. C. Wood, Miss Peile, Mr G. Walles, Mr W. Johnson, and Mr W. H. Ritson (Clerk).

THE WORKHOUSE CHAPLAINS' SALARY.

Mr OLIVER, in proposing that the salary of the Rev. George Jepson and the Rev. Samuel Harris, the workhouse chaplains, be increased to £15 a year, remarked that it was not necessary to say many words on the subject of advancing the salaries of the two clergymen who officiated at the Workhouse. He felt sure that the large amount of property which they were erecting for the people who were unable to take care of themselves, he meant the new infirmary, would bring a large number of old and infirm people to be attended to. The number in the Workhouse would probably be double the number that it was at the present time. A large number would come in from the outlying district, with whom the Vicar of Lanchester had nothing to do. Mr Jepson had a very large parish, and had no curate to assist him; and it would be an act of justice to the old people in granting this small emolument to assist him in carrying out his duties. He hoped that the Board would see their way clear to grant the increase unanimously.

Mr GREEN: On a point of order, the motions must be moved separately.

Mr OLIVER: The case of Father Harris is really stronger than the other.

The CHAIRMAN: Does anybody second Mr Oliver's proposition to increase Mr Jepson's salary?

Mr MAGILL said that he had great pleasure in seconding Mr Oliver's proposal; though he would have preferred that the increase should have been to £25 per year. He thought the clergymen had a great deal to do; and the moral influence of the clergymen on the old people must be very great. It must be very consoling to the old people to have attention from a minister of their own religion. They could not expect a man to work for nothing, even if he was a clergyman. Clergymen had to live the same as other people; and he did not see why Mr Jepson should be expected to do the work for nothing. There were certain rules which had to be conformed to by the Chaplain, and on a recent occasion, the House Committee had hauled the clergyman over the coals, for not regularly attending to his duties. He took the rebuke in very good part, and attended to the duties very much better afterwards. If the committee had the right to fix the time of his work, they had a perfect right to pay him for the same.

Miss PEILE: Are the duties of the chaplain regulated? Have they to attend a certain number of services? If the salary is to be increased, I think in common fairness that the number of attendances also should be increased.

The CHAIRMAN: The Church of England clergyman is expected to attend services every week.

Mr POWELL: I beg leave to propose that this resolution be not carried. (Laughter.) I am a Churchman like Mr Oliver, and I believe with the seconder of his motion, that every man should be paid for his duties. This institution is in the parish of Lanchester, and Mr Jepson is the parish parson, and receives a fairly sufficient salary for his duties, I believe. At any rate if he is not, this £5 a year is not a great increase. If he was receiving nothing for his duties, it would be an insult to offer him £5. I believe he is receiving a sufficient salary. We are guardians of the poor, and it is profitable and right to look after every little bit of expenditure. I go dead against any increase either to Mr Jepson or any other parish priest.

Mr DUNN also opposed the proposition. Talk was current throughout the district that out of every half-crown gathered in in the shape of poor rates, eighteenpence was spent before the poor got any benefit. That was the talk of the public, and though he could not vouch for the accuracy, it was not very nice, if it was anything like correct.

Mr OLIVER: It is a pity for the poor ratepayers if they are knocked down and robbed in this way.

Mr GREEN said that he could not allow the opportunity to go by without having a word. He would take a higher ground than had yet been taken on the subject, and say that he did not believe in payment of any kind. In all cases, he believed that the ministers of Jesus Christ should consider it their chief glory to afford consolation and pity for the poor of the land. He himself, with every gentleman in the room, believed in keeping up the payments of the ministers in their well-favoured land. He believed in a well-paid ministry, but if he were a minister of religion, he should consider one of his chief glories the opportunity of proving true to Christ by ministering to the poor.

On a division, there voted:—For the proposition—Messrs Oliver, Hobson, Magill, Fortin, Kirkup, Pumphrey, and Sloane—7. Against—Messrs Collier, Dunn, Wailes, Forster, Gray, Green, Greener, Kay, Kuhlman, Muse, Nicholson, Powell, W. Robinson, G. J. Robinson, Wardle, Wood, Wilkinson, Young, and Miss Peile—19.

The motion was thus defeated, and Mr OLIVER announced that he would withdraw his proposition with regard to the increase of Mr Harrison's salary.

NEW LAUNDRY MAID.

The Workhouse Committee recommended that a laundry maid be engaged at a salary of £26 per annum, with rations, residence, &c.

Mr WARDLE suggested that the salary recommended by the committee was excessive.

Mr POWELL said that he had great pleasure in objecting to the proposal. What with laundries costing £2,000 and laundry maids £100 a year, he was dead against any further expenditure in that direction. He suggested that there were plenty of able-bodied women in the Workhouse to do the laundry work.

Mr FORTIN said there were very few able-bodied women in the House able to do washing at all. There were only about eight or ten able-bodied women in the Workhouse who could be employed at all.

Mr OLIVER said that the Committee had gone very carefully into the matter, and if the Guardians in their wisdom thought an appointment should not be made, it would be much more expensive to have the work done outside.

Mr POWELL: Does any member expect that this laundry maid will do any work?

The CHAIRMAN: She will assist. She cannot do all the work. There is a large amount of washing to be done, and sometimes there are able-bodied women to do it. Just now there are not.

Mr WOOD said he would like the Chairman of the Visiting Committee to state whether this laundry maid would be required after the Board had got the new machinery put in. He supposed that the work would be much more expeditiously done when the new laundry was started.

Mr FORTIN: The probability is that we will still require somebody to superintend the whole of the work, and more especially when we have had valuable machinery placed in the laundry.

Miss PEILE said that if the Matron had her time taken up with the laundry, she could not possibly look after the children or attend to her other duties.

Mr GRAY said that he quite agreed with what Miss Peile had said, and he believed that there was a necessity for a laundry maid to supervise the work. It therefore afforded him great pleasure to propose that a laundry maid be advertised for, but at a reduced salary of £20 instead of £26 as recommended by the Committee.

Mr GREEN said that he could not see the advisability of engaging a laundry maid. If they could not manage their washing, they could manage nothing.

Mr FORTIN: I don't think that Mr Green has any idea of the amount of laundry work.

Mr Brotherhood said that the laundry maid would not be engaged to do the washing, but to superintend the washing in the laundry, and do the necessary ironing. There were three nurses in the establishment now, and their terms of engagement included washing. They nearly took a laundry maid for themselves. Then there was the master, matron, and others, whose washing had to be done. He knew of no Workhouse except Lanchester which had not a laundry maid, and he had done without one as long as he could. He had recently taken the figures of the washing in the Workhouse, and found the average to be 3,752 articles a week. They had no drying place, and had to take one of the men's day rooms to get the clothes dried in during the night. There was no Workhouse in the four northern counties which was put to such straits as they were at Lanchester to get the washing done, dried, and ironed. He asked for a laundry maid to be engaged, because he did not think it was the matron's duty to stay up at night and do the ironing for the nurses. The nurses complained, and rightly complained, that they had to do their own ironing. There was not a woman in the Workhouse at present who would iron him a collar. (Laughter.)

Mr WOOD: Will this one do so?

Mr Brotherhood: She will have to do so. There are plenty of women, both married and single, who don't know even how to hold a brush. There are only about six able-bodied women at liberty to assist in the washing.

Mr GREEN said that Mr Brotherhood had led them astray by saying that there were only six able-bodied women in the House. There were four times that number.

Mr Brotherhood said that he could easily explain. There were 28 able-bodied women in the House, five of whom were sick, four at the Infirmary, five in the kitchen, one in the scullery, one in charge of the nursery, one in charge of the laundry, and the remainder in the washhouse.

On a division, it was agreed by 18 votes to nine to engage a laundry maid, it being decided, on the proposition of Mr GRAY, seconded by Mr DUNN, that the salary should be fixed at £20 per annum with rations, washing, &c.

Mr POWELL moved that the salary should be £16 a year, but there was no seconder. The members who voted in favour of engaging a laundry maid were Messrs Collier, Forster, Fortin, Gray, Greener, Hobson, Kay, Kirkup, Magill, Muse, Nicholson, Oliver, Pumphrey, W. Robinson, Sloane, Wilkinson, Young, and Miss Peile. The minority consisted of Messrs Dunn, Green, Kuhlman, Powell, J. G. Robinson, Walles, Wardle, and Wood.

SUGGESTED REGISTRATION ALTERATION.

Mr KIRKUP, on behalf of a Committee appointed to consider the matter, recommended that the Guardians should be asked to request the Registrar-General to consent to the transfer of the village of South Moor from the Lanchester to the Tanfield Registration District.

Mr FORTIN: Do the Committee give any reason?

Mr KIRKUP: Geographically, and in response to the desires of the inhabitants.

The CHAIRMAN: We have a memorial from the inhabitants in favour of the change.

Mr FORTIN said that the matter required consideration. It ought to have been placed on the agenda.

Mr KIRKUP said that there would be no harm in putting it on the agenda for next month.

The Clerk read a memorial signed by a large number of the inhabitants of South Moor in favour of the transference from Lanchester to Stanley, the latter place being much more conveniently situated.

Mr WILKINSON: Do we take that as a complaint from the inhabitants of South Moor?

Mr KAY: Certainly.

The CHAIRMAN: Certainly. It is their desire that the change should be made.

Mr WOOD: Is it a matter that involves any special expenditure?

Mr FORTIN: It will involve lessening the registrar's salary, if he has less to do.

Mr KIRKUP: I will give notice to move it at the next meeting.

ASSISTANT OVERSEER FOR COLLIERLEY AND PONTOP.

The CHAIRMAN announced that Mr Thomas L. Watchman, Clerk of the Annfield Plain Urban Council, had been appointed Assistant Overseer for Collierley and Pontop in succession to Mr David Moie.

THE NEW LAUNDRY.

An inquiry was read from the Local Government Board respecting the increased estimate for the cost of laundry erections from £600 to £1,200.

Mr FORTIN said that he was sure it was a great surprise to him to find this increase. He had inquired into the matter, but could not obtain any satisfactory solution. The matter certainly required further inquiry, at present it was thoroughly unsatisfactory.

THE CHRISTMAS DINNER.

MR POWELL OBJECTS TO BEER.

Mr FORTIN proposed that the Workhouse inmates be treated to their usual Christmas dinner on Christmas Day.

Mr POWELL: Does that include beer?

Mr FORTIN: Just the same as usual.

Mr KIRKUP: The beer is not at the expense of the ratepayers. It is usually given.

Mr POWELL: I think there must be some misunderstanding, Mr Chairman. There was a Christmas dinner passed "the usual way" once, and I was given to understand that it included beer. If beer is included, I am against it. It has done a great deal of harm in the district, and has brought the majority of the Workhouse inmates to their present position.

Mr FORTIN: It includes the beer if anybody will be good enough to supply it.

Mr POWELL: Beer has been king of this county long enough—(laughter)—and he has got plenty of his subjects in this Workhouse, and similar institutions. Sedgefield Asylum has been largely populated by his victims. The result is that our buildings here are far too small, and we have had to buy property and increase our accommodation. I certainly enter my emphatic protest against beer being given. It is not that it is a sustaining thing or a pleasing thing, because it is not; and the result of giving inmates beer is certainly painful. They are tempted with the taste, and the result is that when they get a day out, and go up to Consett, they get dead drunk and fall down on their way back to the Workhouse. Beer has done a great deal of harm, and I emphatically protest against its being allowed.

Mr OLIVER: I can take your opinion as not being of very much value, seeing that you have never taken any beer, and cannot be expected to know much about it.

Mr POWELL: As Mr Oliver has made a very personal remark, the Chairman will probably allow me to reply. I have been brought up a teetotaler, and have learned that I can live happily and well without beer. I was ordered beer when a youth, through ignorance, I think, on the part of the doctor, and took it, but since then I have known better. It is a big fraud—(laughter)—from beginning to end, and many of the Guardians sitting round this table have themselves been deceived thereby. (Loud laughter.) I claim to have as good experience on this matter as any man in this room.

Mr OLIVER: I must withdraw what I said about Mr Powell's lack of experience. (Renewed laughter.)

Mr WOOD: It never has been usual for the beer to be provided at the expense of the Guardians.

Mr FORTIN: On many occasions, Mr Murray provided the beer, and on other occasions someone else did, but the Guardians themselves have, I think, never provided it.

The Clerk: I think the Board provided beer on one occasion.

Mr POWELL: Once too often.

Mr Brotherhood said that he had been at the Workhouse about twenty years, and on one or two occasions the beer had been provided by the Board. He could get twenty barrels of beer given this Christmas. They need not be afraid.

Mr WOOD said he would like to ask how the beer was distributed. Was there any particular allowance for each person?

Mr WILKINSON: I think it is like the pudding and the beef. They get as much as they can take.

Mr WOOD: Then if that be the case I shall support Mr Powell. I think it is very discreditable.

The CHAIRMAN: I have been at several dinners, and I never saw any of the inmates get too much drink.

Mr HOBSON bore out the statement of the Chairman.

Mr Brotherhood: Mr Wilkinson has made a statement which is not correct.

Mr WILKINSON: I never said that any of the men got drunk.

Mr Brotherhood: I know what you said. You said that the inmates got as much beer as they could take, just the same as the beef and the pudding. It never has been so since I have been here. There is a pint of beer allowed to each person, and Mr Sadler, the stationmaster, who has charge of that department, in the event of their being any left in the tin, generally gives it out.

Mr WILKINSON: It is no use saying that there is just a pint allowed.

Mr POWELL: Has Mr Brotherhood known any inmates of this House who have had too much beer either at Christmas or on any other occasion?

Mr MAGILL: In the Workhouse.

Mr Brotherhood: No. I have been here for twenty years, and I never heard of one except a woman who got to the decanter in the House and helped herself. (Laughter.)

Mr POWELL: I am agreeable to the dinner, and my amendment will take the same form as the motion, "with the exception of the beer."

Mr WOOD moved that the amount of beer be restricted to one pint per adult inmate.

Mr KAY seconded.

Mr POWELL: I move that none be allowed.

The Clerk: Does Mr Powell withdraw his amendment in favour of that proposed by Mr Wood?

Mr POWELL: Certainly not.

Mr DUNN: Not likely.

Mr KUHLMAN: It is a case of beer or water.

Mr WOOD: It is not a question of beer or no beer. I am not opposed to the giving of a pint of beer to those who want it, but I am against an indiscriminate allowance of beer, as some of us have heard mentioned.

The CHAIRMAN: The inmates never have had too much. There never was one tipsy.

Mr WOOD: If the rule has been to let them have as much as they liked, my experience is that they would get more than was good for them.

On a division, there voted for the motion—Messrs Collier, Forster, Fortin, Gray, Greener, Hobson, Kay, Kirkup, Kuhlman, Magill, Muse, Nicholson, Oliver, Sloane, Wardle, and Young—16. For Mr Powell's amendment—Messrs Dunn, Powell, W. Robinson, G. J. Robinson, Wailes, and Wilkinson. Mr H. C. Wood did not vote.

Mr WOOD moved that the amount of beer be limited to one pint for each adult inmate.

The CHAIRMAN seconded.

Mr OLIVER moved that the matter be left in the hands of the Workhouse Committee.

Mr HOBSON seconded.

Mr POWELL: I am against that.

Mr KIRKUP: Do I understand Mr Powell to mean that he wants them to have more than a pint? (Laughter.)

Mr POWELL replied in the negative.

Mr Wood's motion was adopted.

CHRISTMAS GIFTS FOR POOR PEOPLE.

Mr FORTIN, on behalf of the committee, proposed that the Relieving Officer be instructed to bring all out-relief cases before the relief committee with a view to having the relief allowances advanced during Christmas week, one shilling for adults, and 6d for each child.

Mr WOOD proposed that the matter be adjourned for a month.

Mr MAGILL: Is not that a pure negative?

The CHAIRMAN: Yes.

Mr WOOD: I hold that the amendment is perfectly in order. I move the amendment because the proposition is contrary, in my judgment, to the standing orders. I claim to have the amendment put.

The CHAIRMAN: It must be a negative if the adjournment is till after Christmas.

Mr WOOD: Those interested in the matter can easily give notice for a special meeting, and bring the matter forward then. My motion is not to adjourn the matter for a month.

Mr WAILES said that half the money distributed would be wasted.

Mr A. MAGILL: That is a hard saying. If it be true, they are unworthy to receive out relief.

A MEMBER: It is true.

Mr WOOD said that his motion was perfectly in order. In the Houses of Parliament, it was quite customary to move that a certain bill should be read "this day six months," and this was always taken as an amendment.

Mr A. MAGIL said that the next meeting of the Board being a month hence, and after Christmas time, the illustration was not applicable. A motion that a bill should be read, "this day six months," did not prevent the bill being passed.

Mr WOOD pointed out that Parliament would not be sitting at the end of six months, and the inaccuracy of Mr Magill's argument was shown by the fact that the bill could not therefore be passed.

Mr MAGILL: At the time, I grant you.

The CHAIRMAN: If we take the amendment, the whole matter will be disposed of in a minute or two.

Mr FORTIN: But the Clerk says that the amendment is out of order.

Mr POWELL seconded Mr Wood's amendment.

Mr KIRKUP: Might I suggest that Mr Wood should include in his amendment "that the matter be considered at an adjourned meeting, to be held a fortnight hence."

Mr WOOD: My argument is that this is special expenditure, and that notice of motion ought to be given.

Mr FORTIN: No notice is required.

The CHAIRMAN: I quite understand all that, but if we will take Mr Wood's amendment, the matter will be settled in three minutes.

On a division, there voted:—For Mr Wood's amendment—Messrs Dunn, Powell, G. J. Robinson, Wailes, Wilkinson, Green, and Wood—7. For the motion—Messrs Collier, Forster, Fortin, Gray, Greener, Hobson, Kay, Kirkup, Kuhlman, Magill, Muse, Nicholson, Oliver, W. Robinson, Sloane, and Young—16. Mr Wardle remained neutral.

MR POWELL AND THE WHISKY.

During the discussion of the relief cases, Mr POWELL again intervened, and detailed, to the evident amusement of all present, the story of an outdoor recipient of relief, who had been ordered whisky about two years ago. He took the whisky, and after some months' trial, the doctor reported that the man had grown worse. The man was still on the books, and seemed to get worse. They were ordering the man to take whisky in order to make him worse (Laughter.)

Mr OLIVER said that the man would have been dead long since if it had not been for the whisky.

At this point, Mr Moon, Relieving Officer, stated that he had been instructed by the doctor to obtain sanction for the purchase of two gallons of whisky, the supply being almost exhausted.

The Clerk explained that the patient to whom Mr Powell had referred, was suffering from dropsy, and was filling with water.

A MEMBER: He has had too little whisky.

Mr Moon, replying to Mr Wood, sa'd that the usual amount of whisky supplied in these cases was three half-glasses daily.

Mr WILKINSON said that whisky could not do the man any good. He stood before them as a professional man, and stated that the doctor ought to be able to supply medicine which would do far more good to the man than whisky. They should be able to supply medicine which would do 50 per cent. more good than whisky.

The CHAIRMAN: We cannot go behind the doctor's orders. What is the good of arguing like that?

Mr WOOD moved that the question of supplying the whisky should be referred to the Consett Local Relief Commitee.

Mr G. J. ROBINSON seconded Mr Wood's proposition. He thought that the matter ought to be brought before the Local Committee.

Mr Moon, replying to Mr Wood, stated that the whisky was absolutely needed before the Relief Committee met.

Mr G. J. ROBINSON proposed that the amount supplied be reduced to one quart.

The Clerk: You are going back to the old style, when Mr Moon used to give an order to the pauper to go to the public-house for whisky. That system was done away with, it being considered objectionable to have the men going to the public-houses, and a certain quantity was stored at Mr Moon's house.

The CHAIRMAN: We had hard work to get Mr Moon to take it.

Mr G. J. ROBINSON: How do they do in the Eastern District?

Mr FORTIN: Sometimes the doctor grants an order, and the man gets it from a public-house. There are not cases very often, and even in your district there is only one case.

Mr WOOD: This man has been on the list a long time.

Mr POWELL: The man has been doctored regularly with whisky for three years, and he is no better.

Mr WOOD said that he would not oppose the granting of these two gallons if he understood that in the future the matter would be brought before the Relief Committee.

Mr OLIVER suggested that Mr Powell would miss his train if he stayed any longer to oppose the two gallons.

Mr POWELL: I am here to do my duty. I don't care if I miss the train.

The CHAIRMAN: We are all here to do our duty.

A division being taken, there voted for the two gallons: Messrs Johnson, Muse, Fortin, Oliver, Young, and Gray. For the quart: Messrs Powell, Dunn, G.J. Robinson, Wilkinson, Wailes, and another.

Mr POWELL declared that the quart had won, and left for the train; but Mr Fortin called on the Chairman to give his casting vote, which he did in favour of the two gallons.

Mr J. W. TAYLOR entered the room shortly afterwards, and announced that some of the Consett representatives had missed their train, at which the members present set up a hearty laugh, the Chairman, Mr Fortin, and Mr Oliver being quite boisterous in their merriment.

SUNDAY TRAIN SERVICE ON THE ANNFIELD PLAIN BRANCH.

DEPUTATION TO SIR J. JOICEY, BART., MP.

For several months past, the public bodies of North-West Durham, including the Urban authorities of Tanfield, Stanley, Annfield Plain, Leadgate, and Consett have been agitating for a Sunday train service on the Annfield Plain branch of the North-Eastern Railway; and also for an improved week-day service on the same line; and on Saturday a deputation waited upon Sir James Joicey, Bart., M.P., at his office on the Newcastle Quayside, with a view of urging the concession.

Mr Wm. Indian, who had been appointed to represent the Stanley Urban Council on the deputation, was unable to be present owing to an important arbitration case, and through some misunderstanding, neither the Leadgate nor Annfield Plain Councils were represented. The deputation, as it appeared before Sir James, consisted only of Messrs Wm. Bulmer and J. W. Anderson (representing the Tanfield Urban Council), and Mr G. T. Hyden (representing the Consett Urban Council).

The interview was arranged for half-past ten a.m., and punctual to the minute the deputation presented themselves, and were courteously received by the genial member for Chester-le-Street, who was accompanied by Mr Thompson.

Mr WILLIAM BULMER, having introduced the members of the deputation to Sir James Joicey, proceeded to state the case on their behalf. The first point in favour of a Sunday train service was that there were many local branches on which there was a Sunday service; and they who lived in proximity to the Annfield Plain line, thought that considering the population throughout the whole length of the line, and the mineral wealth of the district, they were entitled to a Sunday service; and to the same advantages as other local lines. Hence they asked that they should be granted the same advantages.

SIR JAMES JOICEY: With regard to that point, the whole question of traffic arrangements is in the hands of Mr Godfrey Smith, and the Traffic Committee; a committee appointed by the directors to deal with all traffic arrangements. The Board of directors, as a whole, cannot deal with the whole of the matters that come before them, and various committees are appointed to attend to particular matters. I don't happen to be on the Traffic Committee; I am on the Ways and Works Committee, having to deal with the stations, lines, &c. But, as you know, there is a great objection to increase the Sunday services unless it is absolutely necessary, because the Board are very anxious to give as much leisure as is possible to their servants on Sundays. There is a great objection on the part of the servants to doing Sunday work, except when it cannot be avoided; and as you know when it is done, it is done at a much increased cost. I don't know what traffic there would be in the event of the service being granted; but it will be necessary to make out a very strong case. I have no doubt that Mr Godfrey Smith and the Traffic Committee will give the matter careful consideration, and if they think the case strong enough, will grant the request.

Mr BULMER: Our object in meeting you, Sir James, is to secure your influence to assist us, either directly or indirectly. We thought that if we presented the case to you, you would do all you could to assist us.

Sir JAMES JOICEY: It is a reasonable thing to ask, and if you don't ask, you won't get. (Laughter.) What I would like to ask you, is to state what reason you have to believe that the passenger traffic would be large on Sundays.

Mr BULMER: We think so because of the large amount of vehicular traffic throughout the district on the Sundays during the summer months.

Sir JAMES JOICEY: To and from Newcastle, I suppose?

Mr BULMER: Yes, and to other places as well. We think that a trial might be given to a Sunday train service for six or nine months. Then if the result was not satisfactory, the matter could be reconsidered by the directors. People living in the district sometimes go away at the week-ends, and they have to lose time because of there being no service on the Sunday, and they cannot therefore return till Monday. They may go away, say, on the pay Friday night, and return on the Sunday night, if we get the train service. At present, they have to lose time through there being no Sunday service. Another point is that funerals are very often held on the Sundays. It is very convenient for the people to get away without losing work. A Sunday train service would be a great boon in this respect. As I have already intimated, there is so much horse-hire on the Sundays, that instead of being a case of increasing Sunday labour, it would reduce it very much.

Sir JAMES JOYCEY: Yes, yes. I have a petition here from the inhabitants of the district, but it says nothing about Sunday trains. Evidently you want more trains during the week?

Mr BULMER: Yes, sir; we should like a better train service during the week. The Sunday service we ask for is simply a train each way night and morning.

Sir JAMES JOICEY: I see. That would be four trains. You want one out from and one running into Newcastle, night and morning?

Mr BULMER: Yes.

Sir JAMES JOICEY: I shall be very glad to lay the case before Mr Godfrey Smith and my colleagues, and I will do all I can to get them to meet your views. There is a great population in the district, and a Sunday service would possibly be a great convenience. The objection is that we don't want to put any unnecessary work on our servants on Sundays if it can be avoided. I think a good case might be made out, but whether I can persuade Mr Smith and the Traffic Committee is a different matter.

Mr ANDERSON enquired if it would be of any assistance to Sir James if a petition was presented and signed by the whole of the Chairmen of the districts concerned:—Stanley, Tanfield, Annfield Plain, Leadgate, and Consett, giving also the populations of the districts.

Sir JAMES JOICEY: I certainly think it would assist me.

Mr THOMPSON: Have you any Sunday trains on the Consett line?

Mr ANDERSON: Yes.

Sir JAMES JOICEY: But it is to assist in getting a Sunday service on the Annfield Plain line that you are here?

Mr BULMER: Yes.

Sir JAMES JOICEY: I have never spoken to Mr Godfrey Smith on the matter, but I shall bring it before him, and see what I can do. I have had no talk with him on the subject, and don't know what objections he may have.

Mr HYDEN said that he could quite see that they would want as much support as they could get to bring the matter to a successful issue. The Urban Councils of Tanfield, Stanley, Annfield Plain, and Leadgate had written to the Consett Council asking them to assist in the attempt to obtain a Sunday train service. The Consett Council was quite in sympathy with the inhabitants of the Annfield Plain, Stanley, and Tanfield districts, and one reason for this was that the 10,000 inhabitants of Consett and the 6,000 or 7,000 inhabitants of Blackhill were cut off entirely on Sundays from the whole of the people residing in the district covered by the Annfield Plain line. With regard to the question of Sunday labour, he ventured to suggest that all the requirements of the case would be met if a train left Newcastle, and went right round the line one way in the morning, and the other in the evening. That would be done by simply making an extension of the traffic as it at present was on the Blackhill line. A morning train and one about eight or nine at night might meet the wishes and convenience of the public generally. He had incidentally taken up a copy of that morning's *Newcastle Chronicle*, and from it he found that there were several lectures and sermons in Newcastle on Sunday. The people of the Annfield Plain line were unable to attend any of these lectures or sermons, and the granting of a Sunday train service would be an appreciable advantage in that respect. The thickly-populated districts from Consett to Shield Row were at present cut off from anything of that kind. He could speak on that point from very intimate knowledge. He happened to be a southerner born, and several times had travelled on Saturday night as far as Newcastle on his journey homeward to Consett, and had been unable to get to Consett on Saturday through being too late for that scarcely late train at half-past seven. Had there been no Sunday service to Blackhill, he would have been compelled to stay over the week-end, or travel by trap, at a cost of probably a sovereign. They at Consett sympathised very much with the inhabitants of the Annfield Plain line, and the Consett Council would be very willing to help in any way to show the North-Eastern directors that the granting of a Sunday train service would be a boon. From his experience on former deputations, he thought that if a reasonable case could be made out, the directors would meet the wishes of the people of the district.

Sir JAMES JOICEY: Have you any idea of the population of the district where there is no train service at present?

Mr BULMER: We calculated about 40,000 to 50,000 when we were agitating for the line to be made.

Sir JAMES JOICEY: And the population has increased greatly since then. Shall we say 60,000?

Mr BULMER: Well, I would hardly say 60,000. Say about 50,000.

Sir James Joicey then shook hands cordially with the members of the deputation, and the interview was brought to a close.

HEROISM OF A CASTLESIDE MAN.

PRESENTATION OF THE ROYAL HUMANE SOCIETY'S CERTIFICATE.

A public meeting was held in the Board Schools, Castleside, on Saturday evening, for the purpose of presenting the honorary vellum certificate of the Royal Humane Society of England, to Mr E. T. Duckworth, marine engineer, youngest son of Mr Thomas Duckworth, of Castleside. The particulars of the act of bravery which has been thus recognised, will be gleaned from the interesting speech made by Mr Scott. Mr Robert Johnson (chairman of the Parish Council) presided, and there were also present Mr W. J. Scott, Mr and Mrs T. Duckworth, Mr E. T. Duckworth, Mr B. Duckworth (Newcastle), Mr J. W. Golightly, Mr and Mrs G. T. Hyden, Mr T. C. Elliott, Rev. J. Wallis, Mr Walton, Mrs T. Raine, Mr J. Proud, Mr J. Lister, Mr Ripley, and Mr Anderson.

The CHAIRMAN, in opening the proceedings, said he had a most pleasing duty to perform that night, in regard to one whom they would fittingly describe as the hero of Castleside, and who recently came prominently before the public in consequence of the heroism he displayed in trying to save a fellow creature from drowning. His first duty would be to call upon Mr. Scott, who would give them some details concerning the event which had called them together.

Mr SCOTT, who met with a cordial reception, after some prefatory remarks, said that while Mr Duckworth, sen., and his wife and family were at the Isle of Man, a young man named Arthur Edward Hannah, twenty-five years of age, who was also visting the island, slipped out of the house where he was staying, unknown to his parents, and by some means fell into the water, by the Glen Maye Waterfalls. Mr Duckworth, jun., who was near the spot, seeing that the young man was likely to be drowned at once plunged into the water and made a gallant attempt to save him. (Applause.) He made two attempts to save the young fellow, which, however, were not successful. On the second occasion, he managed to get hold of a button on the young man's coat, but as he was being hauled up, the button gave way, and he fell back into the falls. If the coat had not been badly made he would probably have been saved. He said he remembered a similar case happening when the Rowley Bridge was being built, and a man fell from the top. His coat caught on a hook, and it saved his life. Had the coat the young man was wearing, whose life Mr Duckworth tried to save, been of the same texture, no doubt, it would have been instrumental in saving him. The plucky attempt Mr Duckworth made was duly reported in the papers, and, of course, they had read the account in the local press. He at once congratulated Mr and Mrs Duckworth upon the heroism of their son, and he thought it behoved everyone, no matter whoever they were, to encourage such heroic acts. (Applause.) The subject had been brought to the attention of the Royal Humane Society, who in sending a certificate said it was forwarded for the bravery Mr Duckworth had displayed at Glen Maye. A desire was also expressed that the certificate should be presented publicly. The certificate was then read by Mr Scott, who afterwards proceeded to mention that a silver medal had been sent from the young man's father, a monogram on solid gold being in the centre. (Applause.) He had known Mr Duckworth, jun., all his life, as he was born near his house at Rowley, and could speak in the highest terms of praise concerning him. He was going in for an engineer at sea, and he was glad to be able to say that at a recent examination he received a certificate of second class. (Applause.) The proof of the pudding was in the eating, and as Mr Duckworth expected to be going away every day to try and obtain a first-class certificate, he had no doubt he would succeed in getting it. (Applause.)

Mr C. T. ELLIOTT next addressed the assembly. He said he had known Mr Duckworth a considerable time, and he thought they must all recognise that he was a most dutiful son, apart from his other abilities. He had a clean sheet to his life. (Hear, hear, and applause). None had ever known him do a dishonourable or unworthy action, and he hailed with pleasure the heroism he had displayed in connection with the white flower of a blameless life. (Applause.)

Mr GOLIGHTLY was the next speaker. He said it afforded him pleasure to add a few words to those which had been uttered by Mr Scott and Mr Elliott. He was the first to make the acquaintanceship of Mr Duckworth when he (Mr Duckworth) first went to Castleside, therefore it was most gratifying to him to learn of the heroism displayed by his son. They were met together under somewhat unique and interesting circumstances, and to his mind the only matter of regret was that Mr Duckworth's attempt to save the young man's life was unsuccessful. And yet, although unsuccessful it did not in the least degree detract from the heroism displayed by him on that lamentable occasion. (Hear, hear.) Of course, there were always a great number of people who were always ready to say it was only just what anybody else would have done, and that he was only doing his duty. Well, if he had only done his duty it behoved them to acknowledge the humane act he had performed. (Hear, hear.) Mr Duckworth had shown that he at least was in possession of those qualities which enabled a man to at once face the difficulties of a situation, and he certainly did so on the occasion to which they were referring. (Hear, hear.) It grieved him very much indeed on looking round to see so many young men spending their time practically in a state of lethargy and indifference to gaining knowledge, contenting themselves with passing away their time in two or three outdoor sports and pastimes. There seemed to be a lack of self-culture, a lack of moral and intellectual culture in the village. Now, he was not going to say one word in depreciation of outdoor pastimes, yet he should like to see practised in the village a greater desire for self-culture and improvement on the part of the young men. In regard to Mr Duckworth, he was able to devote his life to a calling which would be both hazardous and dangerous at times, but he thought he had manifested the qualities fitting him for his future calling. (Hear, hear.) He only hoped that he would go on from one stage of success to another until he gained the height of his ambition. (Applause.) He thought they ought to try and provide an ambulance class for Castleside, as they were some distance from a medical man. (Hear, hear.) It would be a good thing if they had a dozen or so young men versed in the art of first aid. (Hear, hear.) He wished Mr Duckworth every success in his future life. (Applause.)

Mr HYDEN was the next speaker. He said he was there that night to show his appreciation of the plucky conduct of Mr Duckworth. (Hear, hear.) He thought they in Castleside were doing right in rendering honour to whom honour was due. He was there as the representative of a neighbouring Council, and the inhabitants of Consett, to express approval of what they were doing, and to express his admiration at the heroism displayed by the young man, whom he had known from a baby boy. (Applause). He was a young man who had benefitted from the instruction he had received from his parents. (Applause.) He thought more attention ought to be paid to the teaching of the art of natation. (Hear, hear.) There were no swimming baths in Castleside, but either in the river Derwent or elsewhere Mr Duckworth had paid attention to this valuable art, and it had stood him in good stead. (Hear, hear.) He heartily congratulated the parents of such a boy, and to them, that must be one of the proudest moments of their lives. After expressing regret that young men did not pay more attention to self-culture, and that so much time was spent in mere physical exercises, he concluded a most able speech by wishing Mr Duckworth every success in his future life. (Applause.)

The presentation of the certificate and medal then took place, the CHAIRMAN adding a few appropriate words of congratulation in handing them to the plucky recipient.

Mr DUCKWORTH, in reply, said: I wish to tender my thanks to the Royal Humane Society for this vellum certificate, and to you personally for the conveyance of the same, in such flattering terms. I also thank the Parish Council, and Mr Scott in particular, for the deep interest they have shown towards me. When I think of Glen Maye, it is with feelings of regret that the life of Mr Hannah was not saved, and that the news of his great danger was not made known to me sooner. In attempting to rescue him, I only did what anyone else would have done in my case, and what I consider the duty we are all expected to do towards each other. I think every lad should learn the art of swimming. I was driven to this thought by an experience I had some time ago, shortly after leaving Castleside for Sunderland. A lot of us from the fitting shops used to go down to the sea to bathe, and on one of these occasions I had the misfortune to get out of my depth, and it was only by a great effort that I got a footing again, as all the rest of the fellows were a good distance off at the time. After this, I made up mind to learn the art, and found plenty willing to teach me. With regular practice, I soon felt just as safe in deep water as in shallow, and with no fear of knocking the skin off my toes on the sharp rocks at the bottom. The art to me has been a source of great pleasure, and on a few occasions has proved very useful. (Applause).

Mr PATTINSON said it would ill-become one not to say something upon such a unique occasion. He said unique because it was the first time in the history of the village—he was going to say the county—that a certificate of that kind had ever been presented. He quite endorsed what had been said respecting Mr Duckworth, for by the heroism he had displayed he had well merited the award that was to be given him. He certainly felt proud of the lad as soon as he read the account of the occurrence (applause),—and he had great pleasure in adding his quota to the remarks which hod been made concerning Mr Duckworth. (Applause.)

Mr RAYNE added a few appropriate words, and then Miss Dalkin sang very effectively "Grace Darling."

The Rev. J. WALLIS moved a vote of thanks to the Chairman, which was seconded by Mr HYDEN, and carried.

The CHAIRMAN replied, and the interesting proceedings closed with the singing of the National Anthem.

A PHILHARMONIC REHEARSAL.

A correspondent writes: As I was wending my way homewards from Blackhill on Thursday evening, and when passing the Primitive Methodist Schools, I was attracted by the sound of sweet music. I was almost enraptured with the strains which fell on my ear; and then I remembered that this was the place in which the Philharmonic Society held their practices. I ventured to look into the hall, where I was very kindly welcomed by three of my old friends, Mr Colmar, Mr Brown, and Mr Heslop. Although I take a great interest in music, I feared at first that I would be regarded by the members as a sort of intruder, but when I got into the Schoolroom I found several gentlemen, who, like myself, had just dropped in to listen to the rehearsal. I must confess that I was greatly surprised to see such a large gathering of ladies, both married and single, and representing all denominations, uniting to form such a splendid vocal combination. I was also delighted with the orchestra, and could not help wondering how it had been organised. Presently, the conductor, Mr George Stephenson, asked for the next chorus, "Stone Him to Death." The orchestra played over a little introductory piece in fine style, and then it was taken up by the chorus—at first in subdued tones, and then gradually swelling out until the full power of the united voices was heard to splendid advantage. The chorus is a most difficult one, but the parts are well balanced, and the rendering was almost perfect. In fact, I was really amazed to hear it so well done, seeing this is only their first season and they have just beer practicing for a month. But I think the Society must be composed of what might be called, musically speaking, the "cream" of the neighbourhood. The merits of the choir were even more fully shown by the admirable way which the gave "Oh, great is the depth." I was pleased to see the members enter into their work with such enthusiasm; and I could not help thinking what a splendid future there is in store for the society. One word about the conductor. I knew his father well as an able muician, and a gentleman who did a great work in the way of 'educating the tastes of the public to an appreciation of good music. His mantle has assuredly fallen on his son. I know he is a brilliant organist, and an expert accompanist on the piano, but I think it is as a conductor that he excels. He has his combination well in hand; and he is most kindly and courteous in all his remarks to the members. Those who are lovers of music should not miss hearing "St. Paul" when it is publicly performed.

PELTON.

PARISH COUNCIL.—The usual monthly meeting of this body was held in the Cooperative Hall, Pelton Lane Ends, on Thursday evening last, the chair being occupied by Mr Mark Richardson. The other members present were Messrs Hume, Hall, Lawson, Schofield, Emmerson, Wilkinson, Paull, Bolam, Haddon, and the Clerk (Mr Heppell). The minutes of the last meeting having been read, and the cheques signed, Councillor Emmerson again brought forward the question of public baths, and it was unanimously resolved that another parish meeting be called, and that bills be distributed amongst the electors. Some discussion took place on the advisability of erecting a plunge bath, but the matter was allowed to lie over. It was decided to erect more lamps at Grange Villa and Pelton village, and also to draw the attention of the District Council to the state of the roads near Munroe's Buildings, Pelton. This was all the business.

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THE EARL'S SECRET

BY

J. MARSDEN SUTCLIFFE,

Author of "Romance of an Insurance Office," "By Mutual Consent," "A Martyr to Justice," &c., &c.

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CHAPTER XXVIII.

Several weeks elapsed after Michael Delaney's hurried departure from Traxford Castle when a select company of his friends assembled at Dartforth Grange, the English residence of the Earls of Traxford.

Dartforth Grange was originally built in the time of the Tudors, and although time had made great ravages on some portions of the building enough was left untouched by the hand of change to form a commodious dwelling and to show how noble the original structure must have been, which boasted of having more than once in its history given shelter to Royalty during great state progresses in the West. It was sheltered from the bleak winds of winter by a forest of thickly-planted trees, and the grounds shelving down to the sea gave an uninterrupted view of the wide expanse of ocean.

One or two strange faces were to be seen amongst the guests. There was Miss Dale, for instance, a remote cousin of Randal Dale's, who took charge of his bachelor establishment, and who had accompanied the London lawyer to Dartforth to play the same rôle for Michael Delaney and to assist him to entertain his guests. Miss Dale was a quiet, ladylike woman with nothing remarkable in her appearance or manner, unless it was a wonderful power of self-effacement and the marked deference that she showed to Delaney, who was reminded more frequently of the rank he had assumed by the frequency with which she "my-lorded" him, than by all the rest of the guests combined. Randal Dale was there, a host in himself, for whose presence and countenance, as testifying to the belief of a remarkably keen-witted lawyer in the coming success of Delaney's suit before the House of Lords, the host was becomingly grateful.

Chaperoned by Miss Dale, the company consisted of four other ladies. There was Mary Stopher, Mr. Stopher's eldest daughter, with her plain face and handsome figure, to whom it was understood that Randal Dale was engaged to be married. Miss Julia Dunregan was also there with her friend Lucy Moncton; the former looking more beautiful than ever, though her charms encountered a dangerous rivalry in the more "spirituelle" beauty of Mrs. Paliosky, the wife of Mr. Randal Dale's stockbroker, who, with her husband, had been included in the invitation.

There were several male visitors whose names have not been mentioned. There was Captain McBride, whose reputation for finessing at cards was known in every capital in Europe; a man of shady antecedents in every respect, but endowed with an abundance of "savoir faire," and who by way of recommendation to the society in which he found himself added to his qualifications a graceful wit and the gifts of a charming "raconteur." Amongst the other men constituting this mixed house party was Patrick Dunregan, gay, volatile, and impudent as ever, and Tom Dalton.

But Tom Dalton's presence in the house of the claimant to the Earldom of Traxford must not be left to the end of a paragraph. Tom was not drawn to Dartforth Grange by the magnetic attractions of Miss Julia Dunregan's charms alone, though the presence of that young lady was most largely responsible for his. The fact must be recorded that he was not in the counsels of his mother, Lady Mary Dalton. Tom, who was acquainted with the gossip amongst the clerks at Crutched Friars concerning what had come to be spoken of as the Traxford Peerage case, and who believed that Delaney had a good case, saw no reason why he should cut an old friend because it turned out that he had some sort of claim to the family honours. It may even be advanced that in his heart Tom, who was jealous of Delaney, felt more bitterness that he should presume to thwart him in his pursuit of the affections of the fair Julia than in presuming to declare that he was the Earl of Traxford.

It pained and distressed Lady Mary greatly to hear her youngest son argue the points of the great peerage case in his light and inconsiderate manner, thereby showing how far he was from comprehending his duty at this crisis in the affairs of the Dalton family, but she gave way to his caprice. It was part of Lady Mary's policy to allow Michael Delaney to act his self-chosen part a little while longer. She could wait, she thought, confiding in the goodness of her cause, of which she could not be induced to speak to her son, until the day came when she believed that she would be able to make an end of Delaney's pretensions. She had other objects in view, too, which made it desirable that Delaney should not suspect the snare that was being laid for his feet, and if Tom's continued friendship (which she sincerely disliked, notwithstanding) helped to lure Delaney into a false sense of security a little while longer it seemed to Lady Mary that "the end justifies the means," and she was even inclined in moments of reflection to congratulate herself on her skilful diplomacy. So, Tom was simply following his own bent without any protest from Lady Mary Dalton when he accepted Delaney's invitation to Dartforth. Delaney, of course, was glad to have him there, because Tom's presence enabled him to throw dust in the eyes of the world as to his relations with "the other side" in the pending suit.

Amongst the amusements provided by the host for his guests was a yacht race, which was to be the signal for the departure of the company. The race was to take place between "The Countess Anne," the name given by Michael Delaney to a yacht that he had recently purchased and by which he meant to flaunt his attachment to the widowed Countess before the world, and "The Julia," the name of Tom Dalton's yacht, so named after Julia Dunregan. The stakes, which were heavy, were to be deposited beforehand with Mr. Randal Dale. The season was too far advanced for a regatta, such as Delaney had at one time contemplated, but to give a further interest in the proceedings a few races had been arranged by the guests amongst themselves.

The evening before the great event a more than usually well-served dinner was provided to celebrate the coming event. The next evening would find several of the guests scattered, one or two of them only remaining until the morning after the race.

There was no shade of care on the face of Michael Delaney as he applied himself with graceful ease to the task of entertainment. No spectre from the past haunted his peace; no fears for the future darkened the brightness of the present hour. Captain McBride, too, it might have been supposed, had kept his best stories for this last night of their meeting together at the same table, under the same roof, so brilliant and amusing were his anecdotes. Tom Dalton was gay and careless as usual. No sense of the incongruity of his presence in the house of the man who stood in the way of his mother's assumption of the title of Countess of Traxford troubled him. He was happy, inasmuch as he was in the presence of the bright beauty that ensnared him, and whose subtle power to allure was never more strongly felt by him than now, whilst she sat by his side and proved kinder to him than was her wont.

For something had happened to alter Julia Dunregan's opinion of the chances of Delaney's success in the suit that was to decide the Traxford peerage case. In her tête-à-tête conversations with him she fancied she detected an undertone that was not expressive of confidence. Perhaps for this reason she was disposed to be kinder to Tom, especially as several months having rolled by since Julia was in Paris and no news of Sir Francis having been received, she had grown to look on Tom in the light of the future Baronet and owner of Rathminning. Perhaps, too, his coldness of manner when he parted from her at Paris, and his cutting reply to her levity that gave her a fresh insight into his character, may have also influenced her in the greater warmth of manner that she showed to her old playmate and lover.

Julia was arrayed in a piquante dinner dress, specially imported from Paris for this last evening at Dartforth; which, though less startling than the dress she wore at the Bal Masque at the Elysée some months back, still showed her weakness for the display of an amplitude of neck. Her only ornaments were the gold bangles which she wore on her wrists, and a large ruby heart surrounded by smaller rubies which she wore suspended by a slight gold chain, and whose red liquid fires burned and sparkled with every movement of her snowy breast. She was glad that she had not worn her diamonds when she saw—looking across the table—the magnificent diamond necklace, surpassing her own in value, that lay on the neck of Mrs. Paliosky and which harmonised with her chaster and more classic beauty. Tom thought that Julia needed not the meretricious aid of any jewels to increase her charms. A glance from her sparkling eyes outshone in his opinion a peck of diamonds.

When the ladies rose and left for the drawing-room several of the men left also and followed them, with apologies to their host, leaving only Delaney himself, Captain McBride, who was to act as umpire at the morrow's race, Randal Dale, and Tom Dalton.

"I say, Dale," cried Delaney, when the door closed upon the ladies, "I cannot make out which it was you fell in love with; Mary Stopher's face or her figure. She has a deuced fine figure, but as for her face, it is plainness itself."

A man less thick-skinned than Randal Dale would have taken offence at the rudeness, to say nothing of the coarseness, of this remark. But Randal Dale was very thick-skinned, or appeared at least to have been endowed with a double portion of the cuticle with which Nature has endowed ordinary mortals. Like Sir Pertinax MacSycophant in Macklin's comedy, Randal Dale believed in the principle, "Booing" (Scottice for bowing). No small part of his success in life was due to the industry with which he had practised this art. He always "booed" to the great, and if Michael Delaney was not already great Randal Dale thought that he was in the way to become so. Like his cousin, Miss Dale, he had already anticipated the judgment of the House of Lords, and though he did not carry his worship of a title so far as did that amiable lady, he let few opportunities slip of reminding the company that they were in the presence of a distinguished member of the nobility—knowing that such incense was very sweet in Delaney's nostrils.

"Her face or her figure?" he exclaimed, puffing meditatively at a cigar that he had just lighted. "Why, her figure, of course."

"He means old Stopher's figure," said Captain McBride, with a merry twinkle in his eye which set the table in a roar.

Randal Dale took the playful sally as a high compliment to his shrewdness.

"You are a fool in general, Mac," he said, "but in this particular instance you have spoken like a Solomon."

"There, I told you so," said Captain McBride. "How much will the old boy cut up for?" he continued. "A pretty stiff figure or you wouldn't go in for it, Randy."

"Mary Stopher has a deuced fine figure, as his lordship remarks," replied Randal Dale, "but her figure isn't the best part about her. Her face may be homely, but she has good eyes, and her eyes are like windows through which looks the most loving soul that was ever given to a woman. She is not one of your noisy ones, but quiet, lady-like, and self-possessed. She is not made for show either, but her beauty, such as it is, will last after your painted hussies have grown yellow and wrinkled."

"You put me in mind of a reduced gentleman whom I once saw making his mid-day meal off dry bread," said Captain McBride. "He was taking this splendid repast near one of the fountains in Trafalgar Square. He cut his slice of bread into small pieces and he began, 'Now for the soup'—bolting the first mouthful. Another piece stood for fish, another for 'rôti,' and so on, until he polished off the last mouthful for dessert. Then he went for the fountain with a cry, 'And now for a copious draught of champagne.' When the poor beggar took his head out of the water he was heard to mutter 'What delicious nectar!' But he took it with an uncommonly wry face I can assure you."

"I don't see the point of the story," said Randal Dale, looking a little nettled.

"No? Really?" cried the imperturbable Captain. "You must be very dull, Randy. The moral is obvious. You may dilate on the dry-bread charms of Mary Stopher as much as you please, but if you did not see soup, fish, rôti, champagne, and a heap of good things in connection with her you would find her a very dry morsel."

"Nevertheless, Mary Stopher is a good girl," said Tom Dalton, sipping his claret to give emphasis to his testimony of Miss Stopher's merits.

"Not a doubt of it," said Captain McBride; "but the point is, that it is the old man's figure that is the attraction, not the young lady's, though I admit that that is perfect in its way."

"Right, Mac., in both particulars," said Randal Dale, recovering his good humour. "When my late partner mentioned his intention to retire from the profession he intimated that it had been his hope to hand over his share in the practice to a son-in-law. 'On that hint I spake,' as Othello did to Desdemona, and, hey, presto! the thing was done. It would have cost me a pretty penny to buy him out; for he had bound me tight as wax under our partnership deed. Now, Mac, that I have gratified your unholy curiosity let us get to business."

They continued some time longer together settling the details of the yacht race. The rules by which the rival yachtsmen were to be bound were read over, signed and witnessed. The stakes, £1,000 a-side, were paid over into the hands of Randal Dale. It was a mystery to Michael Delaney how Tom Dalton had managed to provide so large a sum of money; but Tom was confident of the sailing qualities of his craft and Lady Mary Dalton, though loath to risk the money, was infected with Tom's confidence, and was not unwilling to adopt any means that would serve to keep her fish in play until the opportune hour for striking came.

The final details having been arranged they rose and joined the ladies in the drawing-room, where they found Julia Dunregan holding the company under a spell as she sat at the fine grand piano, singing to her own accompaniment one of the most pathetic of Moore's Irish ballads.

As soon as she saw the men enter she brought her song to a conclusion and beckoned Tom to her side, whilst she plunged into a brilliant fantasia under cover of which she began a spirited conversation with him on the prospects of to-morrow's race.

"Have you settled everything," she asked.

Tom assured her that everything was arranged to his entire satisfaction.

"If only the weather will hold up and the wind remain in the same quarter I am sure of winning."

"I hope so," said Julia. "I am as anxious as you are, for the success of my name's sake. I am delighted that you have named the yacht after me."

"I thought it would bring me good luck."

Poor Tom! He was very much in love, and often found himself short of the right words at the right moment. He felt that the remark he had just made was trivial, but nothing else occurred to him to say at that moment. He wished he had the ready tact of Captain McBride, who never seemed at a loss for a reply; for at that moment the glance of Julia's eye was unusually soft and tender, and her whole demeanour bewitching, and Tom thought that a compliment uttered then might win her. But the compliment would not come.

Another moment and the opportunity was past, for the bright beauty of Julia Dunregan was overshadowed with "the pale cast of thought."

"Bend your ear a little lower," she said, continuing her playing, and almost drowning her voice in a brilliantly-executed passage, as her fingers flew over the keys like the rapid splashing movement of a fountain.

Tom did as he was told.

"Closer still," she urged, continuing her rapid execution.

Tom bent his head until he could feel the warm breath on his cheeks.

"Don't ask me any questions. You won't want to know my reasons, will you?" she said.

Tom whispered his assent to her wish, wondering what this appeal was intended to lead up to.

"If you find yourself winning to-morrow, beware of treachery, for my sake," and with a bang Julia Dunregan brought the fantasia to a conclusion, and almost without a pause struck the opening bars of the "Soldiers' Chorus" from Faust, which was immediately taken up by the rest of Michael Delaney's guests, who joyously trolled out the strains of that triumphant melody.

As Tom Dalton took his candle from his host on retiring for the night the words of Julia Dunregan's warning were still ringing in his ears—"If you find yourself winning to-morrow, beware of treachery, for my sake!" He looked eagerly in Delaney's face, but it wore a smiling, inscrutable expression. The thoughts of the mind were not indexed there, or there was no reason for Julia Dunregan's warning.

In his happy-go-lucky way Tom dismissed the warning from his mind. All except the last three words—"For my sake."

"Then Julia does love me after all," he softly said to himself.

He fell asleep, wooed to rest with the gentle murmuring of the sea, with which the low tones of a woman's voice were mingled—"For my sake!"

CHAPTER XXIX.

The morning of the day appointed for the yacht race was fine and brilliant. A bright sun, a clear sky, a light wind from the right quarter provided everything that the most ardent yachtsman could desire. The sea shone in the sun's rays like burnished gold, and the jocund waters sparkled and danced merrily.

As the day advanced the heat grew somewhat oppressive. Towards noon, however, the wind freshened, cooling the air, but threatening a postponement of the race. But the enthusiasm of the inhabitants of the secluded village of Dartforth was not to be daunted by the sudden change of manners on the part of the weather. Long before the hour arranged for the start they had gathered in considerable numbers on the broad shelving beach, eagerly discussing the coming events, on which odds were freely offered and taken. The greatest amount of interest was shown, however, in the race between the rival yachts, the "Countess Anne" and the "Julia;" though the minor events which were to follow attracted a fair share of attention.

The first intimation that the crowd received of the approaching gratification of their wishes was the arrival of a large waggonette drawn by two prancing greys that brought down from the Grange nearly every member of the House Party. A lusty cheer was raised by the crowd as Mr. Randal Dale descended from the brake and offered a hand to each of the ladies, whose handsome costumes excited the admiration of the feminine minds as they strolled to and fro protecting their faces from the sun's glare with their gayly-tinted parasols. The costume of the lovely Mrs. Paliosky, who wore an exceedingly smart cape of blue cloth lined with silk of a rich golden yellow, with a large blue hood covering her head, was an object of universal envy; though Lucy Moncton in her smart sailor's hat, wearing a gown of blue and white, striped, boating flannel, with her fair English face blooming like a newly-blown rose, came in for a large share of attention. In the sensation excited by the bewitching appearance of these two fair women, Mary Stopher and Miss Dale, whose costumes were of a less striking character, contrived to escape the public attention which they would have found embarrassing.

The enthusiasm of the crowd, however, was wrought to the highest pitch when the rival yachtsmen appeared in a small phaeton drawn by a pair of spirited bay ponies, and driven by Miss Dunregan, whose reputation as an accomplished horsewoman seemed to have preceded her. The skill with which Julia handled the reins, and the grace with which she acknowledged the salutations of the crowd, who cheered vociferously, completely ravished the hearts of the men; whilst the ladies present were loud in praise of her beauty and the tastefulness of her attire. She was arrayed in a charming dress of blue cloth serge, with a skirt slightly fulled in front, and a pretty and becoming bodice of Surah navy blue, spotted with gold. A deep band of the same material was visible at the bottom of the skirt under a vandycked line of gold and blue braid; details quickly noticed by the gentler portion of the throng, who waved their handkerchiefs vigorously on the appearance of the Queen of the Revels, excited by the two principal actors in the day's proceedings.

After their arrival no time was lost in making preparations for the start. The sky was beginning to grow overcast and the weather threatening. The fine promise of the morning was fast disappearing, and sundry puffs of wind accompanied by "spots" that felt like rain warned the pleasure-seekers that if the race was to take place at all they must set about it quickly.

"Remember my warning," said Julia Dunregan, approaching Tom and laying her hand softly upon his arm. "Don't let it depress your spirits, which would be a bad compliment to your courage as a man and your skill as a yachtsman. Only let it teach you to be wary."

"I am not to ask your reason for giving me this caution, you say?"

"No, you are not. Isn't the reason I gave you sufficient? What more can I say than ask you to be careful to give Mr. Delaney a wide berth, for my sake?" said Julia with an eloquent glance from her eyes, that seemed swimming in a tender mist of sympathy and loving solicitude for Tom's safety. "I want you to win the race, but I would sooner it was lost a thousand times over than any harm should come to you. Now, are you satisfied?"

Tom was more than satisfied; he was delighted; he was carried into the highest heaven of lover's rapture at Julia's signal display of affection.

"I am sorry to break up this charming 'tête-à-tête,' but time is up," said Delaney, who came up at that instant.

By the time that Dalton and Delaney were aboard their yachts the water outside the course was alive with every kind of craft, from the six-oar boat to the steam-launch, of which there were quite a dozen.

At last the signal gun to prepare for action was fired, and in a few seconds both yachts emerged from a crowd of smaller craft, amid the hurrahs of the crowd.

"Ready?" cried the umpire through his speaking trumpet, at the same time waving a red flag. At this signal the last gun was fired, a puff of smoke was seen, followed by a sharp report, and the yachts quickly responded by a capital start.

Every eye was now strained seawards, intent on missing no feature of the exciting race. Soon Tom Dalton was seen to shoot rapidly ahead of Delaney, as the "Julia" skimmed along with as much apparent smoothness as the sea-gull rides the crested waves. By dint, however, of remarkable good seamanship on the part of Delaney, the "Countess Anne" soon regained the ground she had lost, and to the surprise of most persons was sailing breast to breast with her antagonist.

Both vessels went driving swiftly before the wind, with every particle of their well-filled canvas stretched to its utmost. At times it appeared to the eyes of the landsmen as if they were lying completely on their beam ends so literally were they hugging the water, and then again they were seen rising majestically like huge sea birds and rushing onwards with vehement haste.

The time came for a crucial test which would enable the judges to determine the idiosyncrasies, as well as the genuine capabilities, of the respective yachts. A difficult manœuvre was about to be executed; both vessels being about to take a turn almost in the opposite direction to that in which they were sailing. In nautical phraseology they were "about to tack."

"Tacks and sheets," cried Tom Dalton, whose stentorian voice could be distinctly heard on the "Countess Anne," although the wind was rapidly rising.

"Let go and haul," cried Delaney.

"Aye, aye, sir," responded the helmsman.

"Steady," cried Delaney, in some alarm, suddenly perceiving that his yacht refused to answer her helm.

"Port a little," said he, with a white, set face, his right hand firmly clasped to the brass bannister of the companion ladder.

"Port it is," repeated the helmsman.

But all Delaney's tactics proved of no avail. The "Countess Anne" was obstinate and self-willed, and would not come round to the wind. For a few seconds her sails lay fluttering idly in the breeze, and the yacht appeared to become quite unmanageable.

Delaney now began to lose his temper, which was never good when his schemes were crossed.

"Curse the jade," he said through his teeth, "I shall lose the race after all." Then with a curse, "I will run him down first. The 'Countess Anne' is the stronger craft of the two, and woe betide that egg-shell if we come in contact," making a vigorous effort to get the yacht righted.

Whilst Delaney was giving way to his mad passion a white squall, more dreaded by mariners than a hurricane, because of the suddenness of its onset, that had appeared only a few moments before as a mere speck in the distance, churned the sea into a foam and threatened to strike what Tom Dalton now seriously considered to be Delaney's doomed yacht. At the critical moment, however, the yacht righted herself, and the force of the wind, instead of overwhelming her as they feared, caught her just where it was wanted, in the right fore-quarter, and sent her spinning round like a top.

With the speed almost of a flash of lightning the "Countess Anne" answered her rudder, and flew right ahead, in a straight line for the "Julia," which had cleared one-half of the course, and was making under close-reefed sails in the direction of the winning post.

"Hadn't I better keep her head a point or two off, sir?" cried the helmsman. "We shall run her down else."

"Run her down and be hanged," was Delaney's curt reply.

"Well, all I can say is, that if we continue our present course we shall run right into her in two or three minutes."

"Do you want to have us on our beam ends again?" cried Delaney, savagely, ignoring the last remark.

"Steady," replied the man, sulkily.

"Hard a starboard," shouted Delaney, "and we shall clear her."

But whether he really wished to avoid a collision and had made a miscalculation of the distance, or whether he had resolved in his mind to prevent his adversary, by hook or by crook, from winning the race, there was nothing to show. Nor was there time left for conjecture, one way or the other; for the next moment the "Countess Anne," which was the heavier yacht of the two, struck the "Julia" directly amidship with terrific force, and cut her completely down to the water's edge, and plunging backwards, glanced aside.

"Haul in," shouted Delaney excitedly, in a panic-stricken voice, as his eye took in the measure of the disaster.

"For heaven's sake," cried Dalton, "throw us a rope or lend us a helping hand! We are sinking. The loose ropes and spars are alone buoying us up; without aid we are lost."

"The yacht is sinking fast," said Delaney's helmsman; "there is Mr. Dalton clinging to the mast, and Mr. Dunregan is in the water."

"We must save him at all hazards;" and in a twinkling Pat Dunregan was hauled aboard the "Countess Anne."

"If you forsake Dalton in his peril we cease to be friends," said Dunregan, as soon as he was rescued, noticing that Delaney appeared to be hesitating.

"Don't you see, man, that we are heeling-over?" cried Delaney, and in an instant, seizing the main sheet and making fast the canvass, the "Countess Anne" flew through the waters like a bird, leaving Tom Dalton clinging to the tackle of his sinking yacht. The next moment Dalton was battling with the waves and the "Countess Anne" was heading for the shore.

Delaney and Dunregan stood confronting each other with stern, pale faces, each endeavouring to read the thoughts of the other.

"I call that murder," said Dunregan.

"You may call it so, if you like," said Delaney. "It was a pure accident. What do you call it?" he asked, addressing McBride, who had accompanied Delaney in the "Countess Anne."

"An accident, most decidedly," replied the imperturbable Captain. "Did you not see that we were heeling over? Our main-sail was flapping on the water, when Delaney seized and held it before the wind. In another moment the 'Countess Anne' would have been floating keel uppermost."

The collision happened at too great a distance from the shore for the spectators to have any clear idea of what had transpired. It was observed by Julia Dunregan, who was eagerly watching the race through her powerful binocular. She saw the yachts collide, and after a brief moment, in which she could scarcely feel herself breathe, so intense was her excitement, she saw them separate, and one of them lie-to whilst the other yacht lay helpless on the water. But her heart beat so loudly that she could not hold the glass steadily, and if she could have done so, the mist of tears which came over her eyes must have prevented her from seeing.

"Take the glass, Mr. Dale," she said, through her white lips. "There is an accident, it appears. I cannot make out quite what it is."

Randal Dale took the binocular, and holding it as steadily as he could, he adjusted it to his vision.

"Pardon me, young lady," said a voice at her elbow, and Julia turned to meet the face of Captain Black, whom she had learned to know by sight during her short stay at the Grange, and who was well-known in yachting circles at Dartforth. "Pardon me," he repeated, "I don't think there is any cause for alarm. There has been an accident, it is true; but I distinctly saw one of the yachts lie-to and take someone on board."

"Thank you, very much indeed," said Julia, smiling sweetly, and a radiant blush overspread her lovely face, which had worn a sickly hue only a moment before. "Can you tell me which of the yachts it is that is disabled?"

"The 'Julia,' I believe," said Captain Black. "No doubt you will find that all is right. The yacht is of course doomed, but I do not think that any lives are lost."

Julia Dunregan was greatly relieved by Captain Black's well-meant assurance. For, in spite of the gaiety with which she had welcomed the day's proceedings, a strange presentiment of coming evil that required all her natural buoyancy of disposition to combat hung upon her. For one thing, Delaney had not won her sympathies during the last few days that she had been a guest under his roof at the Grange. She had sense enough to perceive that though he was spending money freely his resources must be extremely limited so long as he was unable to obtain the handling of the Traxford rents; and the sum at stake in this trial between the two yachts was too large for him to lose with complacency. She was so convinced in her own mind that Delaney meant winning "neck or nothing" that she had ventured, as we have seen, on broadly hinting her suspicions to Tom Dalton.

When, therefore, Julia saw the collision, her heart sank within her, and for a moment it seemed as though its beating was arrested. She did not for a moment believe that the collision was due to accident, which ordinary prudence could have avoided. She knew Delaney well enough to believe that if he harboured the design that she attributed to him, nothing that craft could do would be left untried. The collision, accordingly, appeared to her, as though it was a fulfilment of her own sad presentiment. Her gratitude, however, to Captain Black for his assurances, which took a heavy load off her spirits, was great. She was vexed that Tom's mishap had lost him the race, but in her joy that her worst fears were not justified, she quickly recovered from her disappointment. The loss of the yacht seemed a small matter, so long as her lover's life was safe. For Julia was no longer unwilling to acknowledge that her affections were irrevocably given to Tom Dalton. In those terrible moments of dread her own heart had spoken in language too significant to be mistaken. She knew that she loved him.

"The 'Countess Anne' carries more than the complement of men that she had when she started, but I cannot make out their faces," said Randal Dale to her gravely, as he returned her the binocular. "But she will be in presently and then we shall know the worst."

"The best, you mean," said Julia Dunregan, and gaily turning to the other ladies, she was soon engaged in an animated conversation, which gave Randal Dale an opportunity to draw Mr. Paliosky aside.

"For God's sake, help me to get the women out of this," he said. "I have counted every man on the 'Countess Anne,' but there is one missing. I greatly fear the missing man is Tom Dalton, and if so we shall have a dreadful scene."

"I don't see what can be done," returned Mr. Paliosky anxiously, in his broken English. "I can carry off my vife and your cousin, and Mary Stover vill no doubt do vat you vish, but Miss Dunregan vill decline to follow their example."

"I think you are right," said Randal Dale anxiously. "What on earth is to be done?"

"Nothing; ve can only vait. And see," he said, pointing to the yacht, which was skimming rapidly as a bird to the shore, "ve shall not have long to vait."

A six-oared boat was alongside the 'Countess Anne' as soon as she was made fast, and one by one the men on board stepped into it; Julia Dunregan watching the proceeding with dilating eyes and heaving breast.

"Mr. Delaney, what have you done with Tom Dalton?" she asked, stepping up to him as the boat was beached.

"Am I Tom Dalton's keeper?" he asked angrily, as he saw the suspicion that was plainly manifested in Julia's flashing eyes. "Each for himself. I saved your brother; but I could not save Tom Dalton."

"Would not, you mean," cried Julia, passionately. "Pat, find out the time of the next train," she said, turning to her brother; "I will not stay in that man's house another hour—murderer!"

"Miss Dunregan, you are forgetting yourself," said Delaney, in a tone of grave rebuke.

"On the contrary, I quite agree with my sister," said Pat Dunregan. "You know my opinion of the transaction, Delaney, and there is nothing more to be said. But we shall not leave Dartforth until a full enquiry has been made. I shall take quarters for my sister and myself at the Marine Hotel, and for the future we are strangers."

The days, however, slipped by without bringing tidings of Tom Dalton's fate. It was surmised that his body had been washed out to sea, and would eventually turn up on the French coast. There was no inquest held, in default of the recovery of the body, but the police made close examination into the circumstances attending the collision, though without discovering any reason to prosecute the matter further. All the authorities consulted were in agreement that the collision was a pure accident, chief among whom were Captains Black and McBride.

Two men there were who might have thrown a different complexion on the affair. One of them was Captain McBride; but the graceful wit and brilliant raconteur knew as he said "on which side his bread was buttered." He told Delaney privately that he was not the man to betray a friend, and Delaney gave him a large cheque as a mark of his appreciation of such a signal display of virtue. The other person who might have thrown an important light on the affair was Patrick Dunregan; but Pat was bidden by Julia to hold his tongue.

"Do not you be his accuser," said Julia. "Leave him to himself; he will be found out before long."

(To be Continued).

BEAMISH, PONTOP, & CONSETT AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

GRAND BALL AT WEST STANLEY.

Owing to the financial position of the Beamish, Pontop, and Consett Agricultural Society, it was considered necessary last year to hold a couple of socials, one at Consett, the other at West Stanley, in order to fill the coffers of the Association, and so successful were the socials that it was almost unanimously agreed that the socials should become annual institutions. The Stanley Social came off on Monday evening in the Co-operative Hall, West Stanley, and proved a huge success in every respect. Messrs A. Atkinson and J. Hodgson attended to the secretarial arrangements with their usual energy, and success marked their labours to a most gratifying extent. The attendance was very large, some 120 couples hailing from all parts of the North of England enjoying the amenities of the dance, and the decorations, which had again been entrusted to the capable hands of Mr Bell, of the West Stanley Co-operative Society, were in themselves sources of pleasure and delight. Mrs Cunningham, of Stanley, attended to the refreshment department, with satisfactory results to all, and the musicians, whose efforts were highly appreciated, consisted of Messrs William Robson (piano), Joseph Robson (bass violin), Travena, sen., Travena, jun., and M. Simpson (small violins), W. Smurthwaite (piccolo), and J. Ward (cornet). Messrs John Geo. Ridley and George Watson acted as treasurers, and the Committee of Management consisted of Messrs C. Benson, J. Fairley, W. Swallow, R. Johnson, S. Edgell, A. Clark, N. Clark, jun., W. Liddle, Urpeth; W. Cheeseman, U. A. Ritson, jun., Burnhope; J. H. Leighton, W. C. Callender, W. Thompson, Cuthbertson, Crookgate; and Thompson, Whickham. The Working Committee, which attended to the whole of the necessary arrangements, prior to the evening of the ball, consisted of Messrs A. H. Swinburn, J. Green, E. Wilkinson, J. Wilkinson, W. Young, M. Hobson, T. Robinson, R. W. Little, T. Howden, R. Dixon, E. Wylam, G. Watson, H. Richards, W. Bell, and W. Welsh. The M.'sC. were Messrs A. H. Swinburn, W. Welsh, W. Aynsley, and R. Forster, and these gentlemen attended very efficiently to the duties of their office. Dancing commenced about eight o'clock on Monday evening, and was kept up with unabated zest till nearly six o'clock on Tuesday morning. Amongst those present were—

Wake, Misses (3), Maiden Law.
Shipley, Miss.
Atkinson, Misses (2), Newcastle.
Atkinson, Mr and Miss, Causey.
Hodgson, Mr and Miss.
Anderson, Miss, Beamish.
Oates, Miss, Newcastle.
Wylam, Mr and Miss, Shield Row.
Wylam, Mr A. and Miss, Shield Row.
Hobson, Mr M, Catchgate.
Benson, Mr C., Mr S. and E., and W., Stanley.
Kay, Misses, Stanley.
Watson, Mr R. Hobson.
Robinson, Miss M. Hobson.
Lewens, Mr, Jarrow.
Robinson, Mr and Mrs, Tanfield Leith.
Cordner, Miss, Oxhill.
Swinburn, Mr and Mrs, Stanley.
Little, Mr and Mrs, Stanley.
Craven, Mr.
Scott, Miss.
Dixon, Miss, South Moor.
Wilkinson, Mr and Misses (2), New Acres.
Storey, Mr and Miss, Catchgate.
Orr, Miss.
Leighton, Mr J. H, Stanley.
Twinhoe, Miss, Stanley.
Bell, Mr and Mrs, Stanley.
Aynsley, Mr, Stanley.
Cumberledge, Miss, Catchgate.
Hunter, Miss E., Medomsley Grange.
Forster, Mr R., Whickham.
Cheeseman, Mr., Gibside.
Moore, Mr R, Annfield Plain.
Watson, Mr G.
Dowson, Mr, Lanchester.
Pallister, Miss., Lanchester.
Walton, Mr R. and Miss., Lanchester.
Weston, Mr W. and Miss D., Annfield Plain.
Dawson, Mr S.
Potts, Mr S., Annfield Plain.
Weston, Miss B., Annfield Plain.
Tindle, Mr., Annfield Plain.
Greener, Miss, Annfield Plain.
Greener, Mr, Annfield Plain.
Aitchison, Miss., Annfield Plain.
Richards, Mrs and Miss Amy, Beamish.
Thompson, Miss.
Easey, Miss.
Cuthbertson, Mr.
Thompson, Mr.
Taylor, Miss.
Welch, Mr T., Miss, and Miss Lilian, Holly Terrace.
Cuthbertson, Mr.
Shipper, Mr., Burnopfield.
Thompson, Mr F.
Howden, Mrs.
Scott, Miss.
Green, Mr, Axwell.
Brown, Mr.
Lambert, Miss.
Johnson, Mr.
Gray, Mr.
Johnson, Mr and Miss.
Bolam, Mr and Mrs., The View.
Callender, Mr C., Leazes.
Bullerwell, Mr and Miss, Kyo.
Fenwick, Mr R.
Henderson, Mr Robt. and Miss., Stanley.
Callender, Mr H., Leazes.
Wilson, Mr T. and Miss, Maiden Hall.
Nicholson, Mr.
Young, Miss.
Garlahan, Mr, Beamish.
Brannen, Miss, Beamish.
Shield, Mr, Stanley.
Forster, Misses (2), Chester-le-Street.
Barrow, Mr, Annfield Plain.
Smith, Miss, Annfield Plain.
Fenwick, Mr J.
Grace, Mr G.
Geeen, Mr and Mrs J., Stanley.
Cheeseman, Mr, Newfield.
Young, Mr Jos., Pitt Hill.
Errington, Mr J., Oxhill.
Young, Mr W., Oxhill.
Errington, Mr John W.
Todd, Mr.
Errington, Miss
Long, Mr W., Stanley.
Crossling, Captain and Mrs, Stanley.
Nicholson, Miss, Stanley.
Oxley, Mr and Mrs, Craghead.
Johnson, Mr R., Stanley.
Foreman, Mr W. J., Leadgate.
McPherson, Mr, Tantobie.
Craig, Miss, Tantobie.
Thompson, Mr and Miss, Flint Hill.
Wilkinson, Mr and Mrs Ed.
Liddle, Mr.
Ridley, Miss.
Johnson, Miss.
Larkman, Miss.
Oxley, Mr Thos. and Mrs, South Moor.
Wilkinson, Mr Wm. and Miss.
Ridley, Mr and Mrs H., Stanley.
Swinburn, Mr S.
Glendinning, Miss.
Coyle, Mr James and Miss, Stanley.
Stokoe, Mr.
Atkinson, Miss.
Gordon, Mr.
Leighton, Miss.
Mole, Mr F., Beamish.
Ryder, Mr and Mrs, Beamish.
Hall, Mr, Stanley.
Southeran, Miss, Stanley.
Jewitt, Mr, Burnhope.
Dobson, Mr, Burnhope.
Graham, Mr J., Stanley.
Roxby, Mr Thos., Stanley.
Wylam, Miss, Shield Row.
Bates, Mr and Miss.
Atkinson, Mr C.
Brown, Mr C.
Gibson, Mr C.
Cook, Mr A., No Place.
Wylam, Miss, Shield Row.
Carthorne, Mr, South Moor.
Turnbull, Mr and Miss, Stanley.
Turnbull, Mr and Mrs.
Elliott, Mr and Mrs.
Beattie, Mr.
Maughan, Miss.
Murray, Mr and Mrs.
Kirkup, Mr.
Wilkinson, Miss.
Sinclair, Mr, Newfield.
Parker, Mr T. S., Stanley.
Bates, Mr J. H., Eden Hill.
Hutchinson, Miss, Eden Hill.
McGilligan, Mr, Newcastle.
Edwards, Mr, Beamish.
Kennedy, Miss, Beamish.
Winship, Mr W. H., Stanley.
Westall, Mr, Stanley.
Turnbull, Miss, Stanley.
Brown, Mr Robert.
Coates, Miss.
Coates, Mr and Mrs M., Catchgate.
Lindon, Mr M. H.

LANCHESTER PARISH COUNCIL

The usual meeting of the members of the above Council was held on Monday night, at the Schools, Burnhope, Mr J. R. Ritson (chairman) presiding. The other Councillors present were Messrs R. Innes, Bowman, Keenleyside, Thornton, Chapman, Dodd, Champney, Gibson, and Hartley, with the Clerk (Mr Thompson).

THE CORRESPONDENCE.

The minutes of the previous meeting having been read and confirmed, the Clerk read the correspondence, which included a notification from the Local Government Board, that an inquiry would be held at Lanchester, on Monday first, respecting the proposed purchase of Mr Logan's property. A communication was also read from the County Council, enclosing the scale of fees to be charged at the election of Parish Councillors, &c.

LANCHESTER VILLAGE GREEN.

Councillor Wilson was unable to attend, but sent a letter to the Council stating that he had been unable to complete his report on the Village Green. He had been in communication with the Steward of the Copyhold Court, and he hoped to have his report ready by the next meeting of the Council.

MALTON SEWERAGE.

Mr J. E. Parker, Surveyor, attended the meeting, and submitted plans for the new sewerage disposal works at Malton Colliery. He also submitted plans for a new bridge at Maiden Law.

THE ROAD TO DORMAN'S COTTAGES.

Mr CHAMPNEY moved that a new road be made from Kit's Well to Hurbuck Gates. He contended that if neither the District Council nor the County Council would do the work, it was the duty of the Parish Council to do it. And if the Parish Council would not make the road, then he thought that the public would come to the rescue. The making of a road would be an immense boon to the public, and he knew one gentleman who would give £50 towards making it, and he felt certain that there were other public-spirited men who would also contribute liberally. If the Parish Council could not make the road all the way to Hurbuck Gates, where it would join the mainroad to Consett, they could at all events make it up to Dorman's Cottages, in defiance of all opposition. At present, the condition of the road was simply abominable. It was, in fact, a disgrace to a Christian country, and the age we lived in. Other Councils could spend money, and why not the Lanchester Parish Council? He urged that something should be done at once, not only in the interests of the general public who used the road, but in the interests of the poor children living at Dorman's Cottages. The bairns had to trudge through mud ankle, and in some places, knee deep, and he asked them to picture to themselves the condition of the little ones as they sat shivering in School all day long, with wet feet and mud-bespattered garments.

Mr BOWMAN thought that they ought to make a footpath by the side of the bridle road. At the high end of the road, Mr Pallister's fence projected slightly on to the road, and in order that it might be widened here, Mr Pallister had kindly consented to give the Council a narrow strip of land, which would give them a straight line for the footpath. A footpath was urgently needed, and as the Parish Council had the power to make one, he thought that the work should be undertaken at once, without reference either to the County or District Councils.

The CHAIRMAN thought that the footpath could not be made, as it was by the side of the road.

Mr CHAPMAN: Let us make it in the field then, at the other side of the hedge, where there is already a public footpath.

Mr KEENLEYSIDE; On which side is the footpath?

Mr INNES: On both sides.

Mr CHAPMAN: Let us approach Mr Pallister again. I move that tenders be invited, and that we make the footpath in the field. We have only limited power, I know, but we really must do something, if only for the sake of the children. The children living at Dorman's Cottages are in a pitiable condition when they reach the Schools, and there they sit all day shivering with wet feet. I have children of my own, and I should not like them to walk through the mud as those from Dorman's Cottages do.

Mr DODD seconded Mr Chapman's motion.

Mr BOWMAN said he would move as an amendment that the footpath be made on the side of the bridle road.

Mr HARTLEY seconded.

THE CHAIRMAN, before submitting the motions to the meeting, suggested that, as a deputation of the Parish Council had to meet the District Council on Thursday the question of making a footpath might be consdered at the same time.

Mr KNOWLES said this was a very good suggestion.

Mr Chapman and Mr Bowman eventually agreed to withdraw their propositions in its favour, and the deputation was instructed to bring the matter before the District Council at Thursday,s meeting, it being understood, however, that in the event of the last-named body refusing to entertain the matter, the Parish Council would proceed with the footpath without furtrer delay.

YEARLY CLUB SUPPER AT MEDOMSLEY.

On Saturday evening last, the members of the Royal Oak Yearly Club, held their first annual supper in Mr Kelly's Royal Oak Hotel, Medomsley. The tables were sumptuously spread for the occasion by the host and hostess (Mr and Mrs Kelly), and Miss F. Kelly, Mrs Ramsay, Miss Ramsay, Miss P. Bell, and others. Mr Cairns occupied the chair, whilst the vice-chair was filled by Mr Robert Moffitt. Amongst those present were the following:—Messrs D. McKinnel, J. McKinnel, Robert Moffitt, W. Lovatt, J. Cairns, M. Graham, Bewicke, Ramsay, senr., Ramsay, junr, Kelly, junr., Brown, Milligham, Sanderson, W. Burke Irwin, A. Burn, senr., A. Burke, junr., J. Robinson, and Dr. Downs. Supper over, the Chairman gave the usual loyal toasts of the Queen and Royal Family, which were received with enthusiasm. The Chairman next proposed the toast of the "Bishops and Clergy of all denominations."

Mr Moffitt responded in appropriate terms.

The Vice-Chairman next gave the "Royal Oak Yearly Club." He spoke in favour of the Club and its usefulness. Although he had not attended the meetings, he was quite satisfied with the progress the Club had made during the past year. They stood very well financially, the income for the past year being £52 2s, and expenditure £7 14s, being a balance of £44 8s, and a dividend of 7s per member. He hoped that by the next annual meeting the number of members enrolled would be trebled. (Applause.) The toast was enthusiastically drank.

The Chairman, in responding, said there was no better Club in the district than the Royal Oak Yearly Club. (Applause.) He expressed the hope that he would be able to enroll three times as many members.

Mr McKinnel next gave the health of the Chairman, which was heartily drank, and acknowledged.

Mr Kelly submitted the toast of the Vice-Chairman. In doing so, he said they possessed a useful member in the person of Mr Moffitt. He felt sure Mr Moffitt took a great interest in the Club. (Applause.)

Mr MOFFITT responded, and stated that the supper that evening was of a very high-class quality. His connection with the club was a source of pleasure to him, and he was glad to do anything in the interests of the people of the Medomsley district. He had resided there all his life-time, and he was sure no one knew more about the needs of the people than he did.

The VICE CHAIRMAN next gave the toast of the Press, which was suitably acknowledged.

The CHAIRMAN proposed the toast of the host and hostess, and remarked that they all had seen Mr Kelly's abilities in providing the refreshments that evening.

Mr KELLY responded, and said that he and his wife was willing to do anything that lay in their power to make the habitues of his house comfortable.

The officers for the ensuing year have all been re-elected. They are as follows:—Chairman, Mr J. Cairns; Secretary, Mr David McKinnel; Treasurer, Mr Kelly.

The speeches were agreeably interspersed with songs and recitations contributed by Messrs McKinnel, A. Burns, junr., J. Ross, junr., J. Robinson, Mr Kelly, and others. Mr J. Robinson played the piano in an efficient manner.

ORIGINAL POETRY.

THE CALLER—A COLLIERY ODE.

What's that that thunders at the door,
And shakes my dear heart to the core,
I never heard such thuds before—
Why, smash, it's our awd caller!
"Thou lies," he says, "just like a block,
Does thou not hear the caller's knock?
The sound would rouse a metal rock,
And give a man a 'lectric shock,
And there thou's lyin' like a hog
That's happy snoakin' in a bog,
Or lurchin' like a lazy dog,
That does not ken his caller."

"Thou's lyin' like a stucken sheep,
Thou must be in a mortal sleep;
But take thy body on't the heap,
An' dinna blame the caller.
The night is stormy, black and dark,
There's not a star in all the sky,
But rub thy eyes and get to wark,
The sun will shine out by and bye;
The moon is hidden o'er the hill,
And I have wakened Bob and Bill;
If they're not up they're lyin' still,
An' they may sleep the caller."

"Ho-away, ho-away! the buzzer's blawn,
Its time for yokin'—every man,
Then leave thy hammock, if thou can,
An' dinna sleep the caller.
For three o'clock will soon be past,
And may-be four is very nigh;
But dinna thou come traílin' last,
When all thy mates are far 'in-bye.'
Just waken up, and come away,
And lie thou back another day,
Thy wife and bairns have time to play
They dinna need a caller.

"Now, dinna twist and craik and cough,
But boldly hoy the bed claes off;
I warrant thou thinks there's time enough,
And does not heed the caller.
"What's up?" said one, and then he laughed,
"Woy, is thou frighten'd o' thy craft?
Or has the pit fa'n down the shaft!
Man, dinna make thysel se daft;
I care nowt for thy noisy tricks,
For if I lie till five or six,
Then I'll be there as sure as bricks
And never heed the caller.

"A sleepy chap I once heard say,
He slept in, and lost a day,
And was a shift short at the pay,
And how he blamed the caller.
And now, ye men of Durham pits,
Ye lick the awd 'un into fits;
Ye vex a man beyond his wits,
And shake his temper all to bits.
The caller cannot raise the deed;
There's not a man from Wear to Reed,
Or not a man 'twixt Tyne and Tweed
Abused as is the caller."

Twizell, Durham. JOHN ROWELL.

CHRISTMAS FAT STOCK SALE AT CHESTER-LE-STREET.

Mr James Turnbull held his 15th Christmas fat stock show and sale on Monday, in his mart, Chester-le-Street. The stock forward consisted of 150 cattle, 6 fat ewes, and 420 fat sheep. Consignments were forward from the Earl of Durham, Earl of Ravensworth, Earl of Strathmore, the Birtley Iron Company, Hedley Bros., and other well-known feeders. The cattle consisted of shorthorns, polled Herefords and Kyloes, and were a very fine lot; some of them being of very heavy weights, but the majority of them were what is known as "butcher's beef." The sheep were all fine lots, and well up. Competition in the show was of a keen nature, and the task of judging was no easy one. The judges were: For cattle—Messrs J. Clark, Durham; W. Chisholm, West Pelton; and T. Hall, Birtley. For sheep—Messrs C. Charlton, Sunderland; R. Watson, Chester-le-Street; and W. Potts, Pauper Haugh, Morpeth. The awards were as follow:—

Best Pair of Fat Cattle, any sex (Open).—Mr Joseph Thornton, Tribley, 1.

Best Fat Bullock (Open).—Mr Joseph Thornton, Tribley, 1 and 2.

Best Fat Heifer (Open).—Mr Joseph Thornton, Tribley, 1; Earl of Durham, 2.

Best Pair of Fat Cattle (Tenant Farmers).—Mr Joseph Thornton, Tribley, 1 and 2.

Best Fat Bullock (Tenant Farmers).—Mr Joseph Thornton, 1; Mr H. Potts, 2.

Best Fat Heifer (Tenant Farmers).—Mr Joseph Thornton, 1; Mr W. Burn, Brooke House, 2.

Best Fat Cow (Tenant Farmers).—Mr H. Potts, 1; Mr Joseph Thompson, Chester-le-Street.

Fat Bull (Open).—Mr Reed, Pringle House, Brandon, 1.

Best Pen of Five Fat Hoggs (Open).—Mr T. Young, Brooking Holme, 1; Mr Joseph Thornton, Thornton, Tribley Hall, 2.

Best Pen of Five Fat Shearlings (Open).—Charlaw Coal Company, Chawlaw, 1 and 2.

Best Pen of Five Fat Ewes (Open).—Mr Joseph Thornton, 1; Crawlaw Coal Company, 2.

Best Pen of Five Fat Mule Shearlings (Open).—Messrs Bell Bros., Low Butterby, 1; Messrs Turnbull Bros., Twizel Hall, 2.

After the judging, which took place on the spacious front of the Lambton Arms Inn, luncheon was served in the Assembly Room attached to the Inn. A movement was then made to the sale ring, where a start was made with the prize sheep. Mr Young's prize-winners fell to the bid of the Craghead Stores at 63s. Mr Thornton's prize ewes went to Mr W. Tindale for 30s, Mr Thornton's hoggs made to 41s, and a batch of shearlings from Mr T. Howdon, of Pockerley, went to Durham Store for 43s 6d. Mr W. Hunter secured Messrs Bell Brothers' prize lot for 49s; other lots of the consignment made 46s. Mr Jas. Howdon's h.c. mule shearlings were sold to Mr R. Nixon, Chester-le-Street, for 45s. The Charlaw Coal Company's shearlings were sold to Mr J. D. Hunter, Sacriston, for 70s, and to Mr Jas. Hunter for 61s, respectively. Ewes from the same firm realized to 51s. A lot of shearlings from Mrs Young, of Plawsworth, went all to the Chester-le-Street Store at prices up to 44s. Other prices for sheep maintained the rates, the trade being very good. The chief buyers were the Co-operative Stores in the district; Messrs J. G. Robson, Chester-le-Street; R. Nixon, Chester-le-Street; W. Tindale, Woodton House; Hunters, Sacriston; Mrs Henderson, Chester-le-Street. Mr Thornton's prize bullock, a Birmingham winner, was bought by West Pelton Store for £31. Mr T. Cooper, of Coxhoe, secured the butchers' prize heifer, from Tribley, for £24 5s, the prize lot of four realising £107 15s. The Earl of Durham's two highly commended heifers sold for £24 5s and £23 5s to Mr Charlton, of Sunderland, and the West Stanley Store respectively. Birtley Store got Mr Potts's prize bullock for £28 10s, his other lot making up £25 15s, which was given for the prize cow by Mr Wm. Tindale. The trade throughout was brisk, and of a good tone; prices being good all through, and the demand sustained.

STANLEY & DISTRICT GOSSIP.

[By our own Correspondent.]

STANLEY GUARDIANS AND THE BEER QUESTION.

Twelve months ago, the three Guardians of the Poor representing Stanley were all present when the question of allowing the workhouse inmates a drink of beer to their Christmas dinner was raised, and on that occasion Messrs Geo. Forster and Wm. Indian voted in favour of an allowance of beer, whilst Mr Jonathan Green exhibited his temperance sympathies by recording his vote the other way. At that time the local lodge of Good Templars were bold enough to "censure" Messrs Indian and Forster for their action, and to "thank" Mr Green for his vote. Last Thursday the annual battle was fought out, and Mr Forster showed his disregard of the censure and his consistency of opinion and action by again voting for the beer allowance. Mr Indian was absent from the meeting, and Mr Green was not in the room when the division was taken. The representatives of South Moor and Oxhill, Messrs Kuhlman and Robert Kay, both voted on the same side as Mr Forster. It will be interesting to see whether the Good Templars will again "censure" those who favoured the allowance of beer, and what action they will adopt with reference to the absentees. Now, Mr Carr!

THE LION AND THE LAMB.

Tanfield Councillors had a short but merry meeting last Wednesday evening. The Councillors are wise men, and every one turns up eagerly at the newsagents on Thursday evening to buy his *Consett Chronicle*. Evidently a paragraph which had appeared in Stanley Gossip of a previous issue of the *Chronicle*, had tickled the fancy of the Councillors, for many humourous queries were addressed to Messrs Archdall and Bulmer as to which of them represented the Lion, and which the Lamb in the *Chronicle* notice. "The Lion is the King of Beasts," quoth Mr Archdall proudly; and Mr Gladstone's namesake meekly observed "I am the Lamb," in response to the aforesaid queries.

THE COUNCIL BUSINESS

was, as is stated above, of brief duration, the only topic of any importance being that introduced by Mr Holmes, who very sensibly protested against the doings and sayings of the members in the privacy of the committee room being conveyed to interested parties by either members or officials. The officials both denied any knowledge of the matter; and it is therefore evident that, either intentionally or unintentionally, some member of the Council has committed a serious breach of trust. It is to be hoped that the manly protest entered by Mr Holmes, together with the stirring remarks of the Chairman, will lead to a stoppage of this kind of business.

TANFIELD COUNCIL CLOCK.

The Tanfield Councillors have at length got their new clock, but some doubt appears to exist regarding its accuracy as a timekeeper. Mr Bulmer entered the room last Wednesday evening, and on catching sight of the new ticker, exclaimed "The clock is three minutes wrong already." Mr Archdall ventured to disagree with the Tanfield Lea favourite, but churchwarden Holmes mutinied, and surported the allegation of the People's William. "What clock do you take your time from Mr Bulmer?" enquired the genial parson. "St. Nicholas's," was the reply, which produced from the vicar. The crushing rejoiner: Oh, Mr Bulmer, I never thought you would put you trust in saints."

THE LOCAL TRAIN SERVICE.

A full report of the interview between Sir James Joicey, M.P., and the representatives of the local councils, regarding the granting of a Sunday train service on the Annfield Plain line, appears in another column, and as will be observed from a perusal of that report, Mr Bulmer and his colleagues have succeeded in obtaining the sympathy of the member for Chester-le-Street, and the promise of his support. Apart altogether from the Sunday question, the present service does not appear to give satisfaction to the inhabitants of Stanley and district, and a petition, signed by 3,523 inhabitants of Annfield Plain, Kyo, South Moor, Oxhill, Shield Row, Tantobie, Tanfield Lea, and Stanley, has been presented to Sir James, asking him to use his influence to secure an improvement in the daily service. The petitioners suggest that the 2-20 p.m. train from Newcastle to Consett, and the 3-45 from Consett to Newcastle, should be run every day, instead of Tuesday only as at present. They also state that the 8 a.m. train from Annfield Plain is too early and the 11-53 too late for ordinary business purposes, and suggest that a train should be run to leave Annfield Plain about 9 a.m. Railway directors are proverbially hard to move, but Mr Bulmer has set his hand to the plough, and he is not the man to turn back. I wish every success to the campaign for a Sunday service and for a better week-day service.

MUTLUM IN PARVO.

Tanfield Council got through their business in record time last Wednesday.

Doubtless this was owing to the presence of the new Council clock.

Socials are all the rage Stanleywards just now. The Agricultural Society's gathering proved a huge success last Monday; and a record attendance is expected at the football social next Tuesday.

Sammy Wood has been appointed vice-captain of the Stanley Football Club, in succession to Peter O'Connor.

A grand three-days' bazaar is to be commenced in the Stanley Central Schools next Thursday, for the purpose of removing the debt now existing on the Mission Churches. Mrs F. H. Burn has kindly consented to open the bazaar on Thursday afternoon.

TANFIELD SCHOOL BOARD AND THE PRESS.

The members and officials of the Tanfield School Board have always been courteous and obliging in their dealings with the press men who have attended their deliberations, and the emphatic manner in which the attempt to muzzle publicity was defeated on Tuesday morning is a proof of the desire of the majority of the Board to have neither secrecy nor concealment, but to let all their doings bear the full light of day. There are matters which come before our public bodies which it is desirable should be kept private, but whenever this is so, the request of the Chairman for privacy is always respected. Mr Matthew Armstrong, however, on Tuesday evening, attempted to draw the veil over proceedings regarding which the fullest publicity should have been granted, and he went about his work in a very blundering fashion, and well deserved the rebuke administered to him by the majority of the Board. Mr Armstrong opened operations by suggesting that discussions in which the name of any of H.M. Inspectors were introduced should not be published by the reporters present at the meeting; but he failed to give a single valid reason why this rule should be adopted with regard to Mr Ward, or any of H.M. Inspectors. I feel sure that neither Mr Ward nor his colleagues will thank Mr Armstrong for his interference. They are gentlemen who are well paid for doing important public duties, and they neither fear honest criticism nor dread publicity. Mr Armstrong appeared very wishful that not the slightest shade of annoyance should be caused to any of these worthy gentlemen; but his anxiety for their protection led him into the gross error of misrepresenting his one-time friend from Tanfield Lea. Mr Bulmer had pointed out the anomaly of having a certain plan approved by the Board of Education, and subsequently objected to by an Inspector under the Board. Mr Armstrong asserted that in doing this Mr Bulmer was wishful to prevent the Inspector from expressing an opinion. As Mr Thompson remarked, Mr Bulmer had done nothing of the kind. Mr Armstrong is often mourning over the iniquities of Mr Bulmer. Let him learn to give that gentleman fair play, and he will perhaps learn that some of the sins he has urged against "the People's William" have existed only in his own imagination.

MEDOMSLEY DISTRICT NOTES.

[By our own Correspondent.]

The electric light has been rapidly introduced in the various pits in the Medomsley and surrounding district. The Derwent and Hunter pits at Medomsley, were the first to take the lead in this way, and the new light has proved valuable to the miners who go underground daily. It has been introduced into the Bust Pit, between Derwent Cottages and Medomsley. The electric engines are kept going daily and nightly by experienced workmen.

The footpath which was recently made at Derwent Cottages, seems to be very little used by pedestrians.

Medomsley district seems to be fully equipped with clubs and societies. On Saturday night the Royal Oak Yearly Club whose headquarters are at Mr Kelly's Royal Oak Hotel, held their first annual supper. A large number of members attended, and did ample justice to the good things provided. The meeting was very harmonious throughout. The expenditure of the club had been light, so that a fair balance is left in hand.

The telegraphic facilities at Medomsley still leave something to be desired. The Medomsley Parish Council are trying to procure some improvement in this direction. At the last meeting of the Council, a letter was read from the Postmaster-General in respect to the telegraph communication, stating that letters were carried from Ebchester, and nothing was charged for the porterage.

Although the Westwood inhabitants have not, as yet, been furnished with a railway station, they are still urging the Railway officials to give effect to their wishes. Many persons have to travel nearly two miles, if they want to get to the railway, Ebchester or Lintz Green being the nearest.

Medomsley are at present, the proud possessors of a first-class football team, which figures in the Tyneside League. Although they do not play on their old ground, they have been enabled to get another good pitch, the only drawback of it is, that it is rather too much exposed. Mr Richard Murray has kindly levelled the old ground behind Mr Kelly's Hotel, but it is not suitable for playing on yet.

The Derwent Valley Ploughing Association is increasing in popularity every year. They are about to hold their annual ploughing competition on Mr Hunter's, Grange Farm, Medomsley. On Monday evening last, a meeting was held in connection with the Association, at Mr Temperley's, Raven Inn, Ebchester, when the ballots were drawn for the competition, and final arrangements were made. The secretarial duties are being capably performed by Mr Geo. Bell, jun.

A benefit concert, in aid of Mr W. R. Thompson, who has been unable to follow his employment through ill health, was given in the Westwood Board Schools. Several well-known local amateurs gave their services for the occasion.

A DAY'S DRIVE AND ITS REMINISCENCES.

[BY W. J. SCOTT.]

Last week I left off at the Smelters' Arms, where, meeting a friend, we decided to have a look round whilst Mr Christopher was arranging for dinner. We went first to the Primitive Methodist Chapel, and I was very sorry that my old friend, Mr Will Pattinson, was not there to show us the place. I knew his father and mother well, and they were canny old people, with a smile and a kind word for everybody. The Chapel is a pattern of neatness, and there is a nice organ, which I found locked, and therefore was unable to make it speak. An excellent and commodious Sunday School has been built at the rear of the Chapel, with which it communicates. As I looked at the building and contrasted it with the old place, I could not help thinking of many of the old standards who have passed away since I first knew the place. As everybody knows, Castleside possesses a School Board, with excellent Schools, of which Mr Thomas Duckworth is Headmaster. My friend wishing to see Mr Muse, we called at Castleside House, but unfortunately he was from home on public business. My friend, who is a regular reader of the *Chronicle*, had read many of Mr Muse's funny stories, and was anxious to have a crack with him about old times. He knew the late Mr Robt. Robson, and had not heard of his death until I told him. Mr Robson was an upright, honest, straightforward man, and his memory will always be respected by the people hereabouts. He was local agent for the Ecclesiastical Commissioners, and whilst he did his duty to his employers, he always acted fairly and squarely to the tenants. I called in to see my old friend Mr Elliot Leybourne, of Healeyfield West Farm. Mr Leybourne is now in his 89th year, hale and hearty, and still able to run over his farm, and, up till quite lately, could walk from Castleside to Rowley Baptist Chapel twice every Sunday. He has done much for the Baptist cause, and besides being the senior member of the Church, he is the oldest inhabitant in the parish. Speaking of the old standards reminds me of another old resident whom I remember—old Willie Armstrong. He was a well-known local preacher, one who lived up to his preaching. There were many peculiarities about old Willie. He always had a close cropped head, and his hair stood up like bristles. I fear that you will think my notes rather discursive, but I am giving them just as I jotted them down. I don't make pretensions to a literary style. The low public-house is now occupied by Mr M. Laing, and is just the same old house that it was when I first knew it. It was then carried on by Mr Milner, who has left two sons that no father need be ashamed of—steady, industrious men, who are succeeding in their respective businesses. George now tells us that luncheon is ready at the Smelters' Arms. This is a comfortable hostelry belonging to Mr Edward Wylam. Everything is clean and neat, and I need hardly say that we did full justice to the spread, George particularly putting in a solid foundation for the long drive that we were to have over the fells. During lunch, we talked over many things, and George having a good memory we got on well together. When you are out for a drive, there is nothing like having a sociable companion, who can appreciate a good story, and tell a better one when it is finished. My reference to Castleside would not be complete if I omitted the Rev. Wesley Farrar, the first Vicar of the parish. He was a splendid preacher—no better in the countryside—full of sympathy, and an ideal parish priest, and universal regret was expressed when blindness and ill-health obliged him to resign the living. He was succeeded by Mr Walker as Curate-in-Charge, and during his residence at Castleside this gentleman did much to improve both the interior and exterior of the Church, receiving a substantial testimonial from the parishioners before leaving. Mr Wallis is the present Curate-in-Charge, and it is universally admitted that he is the right man in the right place. He is popular with his own people, and respected by the people of other denominations. Mr Matthew Lee is getting grey, but he is still strong and as firm as a rock—fit man to be a butcher, and as he has a large family of industrious sons, the race is not likely to die out. I must not forget to mention the Wesleyan Chapel. I remember once attending an amusing service here. The celebrated evangelist, Tommy Harker, officiated in the afternoon, and the Rev. Richard Roberts at night. The building was crammed on both occasions. I have a very lively recollection of the day's proceedings, especially of a prayer that was offered up by Tommy, respecting the Russians wanting to be at Herat with a railway. "Good Lord," shouts Tommy, "there's that Russian bear, hit him on the nose, and stramp on his toes, and let him ken whe thou is. Save us, good Lord. Send us some rain, man, and let the poor folks hev their scallions up." The late Joseph Oley was present, and seeing him, Tommy shouts—"Joe Oley, thou's a good man, nee doubt, but thy brother is a better, praise the Lord. I hev had a good time whilst here. That canny body I stop with can make as good a girdle cake as anyone, bless her and her bonny eyes. I hope she will live to make many another." The contrast at night was very striking, the text being, "Agree with thine adversary quickly," &c., and the preacher speaking of the devil as the adversary. I remember having heard this same text preached many years ago by a well-known Wesleyan local preacher and County Court bailiff, who wound up his discourse with the admonition—"Now, my friends, if there are any here that owe their tradesmen anything, I would advise them to pay up at once, because if they are summoned before the County Court Judge, they will very likely be handed over to me, and put into prison." Now, Mr Editor, just another story, and then we will get the horse yoked and proceed on our journey. I once had an uncle living at Consett. He was considered a very good man. But I have heard it said that some men are over good for the devil and not good enough for heaven. I think he was one of this kind. Although I was not a stranger he took me in. On one occasion I was instructed to order a horse and trap to take him to Tow Law on the Sunday morning. When we arrived at Castleside he told me to drive up to the old Wesleyan Chapel. The Sunday scholars were then assembled, and when he entered, I stayed at the door to hear what was going on. After calling out "Silence," he addressed them, and at the close of his remarks, presented each scholar with a little book, telling them that they were not to forget the old gentleman (that was himself) with the spectacles. We then proceeded to Tow Low, which was a bleak place then. He had a good tuck out here, and after dinner, he sent word to the preacher, who was planned to preach at the Chapel, that a better man had come to take his place, and that, therefore, his services would not be required. About a week afterwards, a pair of shoes came from Tow Law. Suspecting that he had got measured on the Sunday, I spoke to him about it, but was told not to be so inquisitive. When I had properly cornered the old fellow, he replied —"Never you mind; the better day the better deed." I fear he was like a great many more people, who put precept before example. But, as you told me that your space was limited, I must leave what more I have to say until next week.

[TO BE CONTINUED NEXT WEEK.]

LEADGATE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

The monthly meeting of this Council was held in the Council Offices, Leadgate, on Wednesday evening, when there were present: Messrs H. Palmer (Chairman), George Nicholson, H. Cheesmond, J. Costello, T. Foreman, J. W. Winter, W. F. Lane, W. Whitfield, L. Nicholson, T. Keenleyside, W. Robson, with J. H. Coupland (Clerk), and T. S. Longstaff (Surveyor).

A MISUNDERSTANDING.

The Chairman said before proceeding with the business on the agenda, he desired to refer to a matter connected with a newspaper report of last meeting, and which, it was thought by the Council, should not become public property. A request was expressed that this should not be published, but only one paper adhered to that request. He thought it his duty to take notice of that matter. It was their desire to give the Press the fullest particulars of their proceedings; but he did not see that matters of no special interest to the public should be published. (Hear, hear.)

Our Reporter: As I am the offending reporter, Mr Chairman, perhaps you will permit me to say that it was a distinct misunderstanding on my part. I hope you will take my assurance that there was no desire on my part to go behind the Council, but I was not aware that there was any definite request from the meeting that the report should not be published.

The Chairman indicated that he was pleased to hear the statement of our reporter, and would accept his explanation.

Mr Costello was understood to say that the other reporter present had expressed his intention of publishing a report of the proceedings, and that the *Chronicle* reporter might have been misled in this way.

The Chairman: I think we have said enough about the matter.

BACK DURHAM ROAD.

The Clerk intimated in regard to this matter that he had received a letter from Mr McCarten on behalf of Mr Robert Anderson and himself asking the Council to postpone the work till the spring, when he thought it could be better carried out. A similar request was also received from Mr J. Clark.

The Clerk was instructed to inform these gentlemen that the Council would be glad to accede to their request.

A REGISTRATION QUESTION.

Mr Winter moved the following resolution:—"To call the Council's attention to a resolution passed in May, 1897, on the subject of registration, and to the Order made by the County Council, and to ask the Overseer to explain why the Order had not been carried out." He reminded them that the resolution was passed by the Council in May last. That resolution had been forwarded to the proper authorities in Durham; and on the 28th of July the Clerk of the Peace was instructed to address the Order, which had been sanctioned by the Overseers of Iveston. So far as he knew, nothing further was heard of the matter until Mr Mellor, the Revising Barrister, held his Revision Court at Leadgate. The Assistant Overseer appeared before Mr Mellor, and asked him to revoke the Order. The Revising Barrister replied that he had no power to interfere in this matter, and that this was a final Order. Of course, he knew the reply of the Assistant Overseer would be that the Order having been received on the 27th of July was, to all intents and purposes, too late as the lists were expected to be published on the 1st of August. He was a Registration Agent, and he wrote to the Clerk of the Peace, asking if there had been any communication between him and the Overseers of Leadgate, and he (the Clerk of the County Council) replied that the lists had not been made up according to the order issued, and up till November of this year, he had not received any intimation, so far as the Overseers were concerned. He desired to know whether that order was ever placed before the Overseers at all. The question would be discussed at the January meeting of the Local Government Committee, but what they were prepared to do he could not say. He, however, was placed in a rather uncomfortable position before the Revising Barrister, and in the presence of all the Assistant Overseers. He desired to know what action, if any, the Overseers had taken in the matter. He had special reasons for desiring the lists made out in street order. The lists were for electoral purposes, and for the convenience of the Assistant Overseer himself, for, by the new arrangement, only half the attention would have to be devoted to lists to what was given at the present time.

The Chairman referred to the minute of the May meeting, at which the Council agreed that the lists should be made out in street order instead of alphabetically.

Mr Costello moved that the Clerk be instructed to ask the Overseers for an explanation.

Mr Robson said Mr Winter could have got an explanation if he had asked any of the Overseers. It seemed a wonderful thing to be put upon the agenda; but it might be a great matter to Mr Winter seeing the mandate was not carried out. They were evidently rather slow, but it was not expected that anything would take harm, seeing it was simply a matter of registration or a political movement——

Mr Winter rose to a point of order. He did not think the question of politics should be introduced. He was anxious, he added, that the lists should be ready for the election in March. Politics were not in his mind at all, and the resolution had been seconded by the President of the Conservative Association.

Mr Robson said no doubt the new arrangement would be better, but it was a question whether they had neglected to do it in a given time. What harm had any one taken by it? It looked like an attempt to bring the Assistant Overseer into the scrape, and lay the greatest charge possible against him. He maintained that if the question had been asked quietly there would have been nothing said, and he did not think there was any necessity for being in a hurry. The Assistant Overseer would be able to answer the charge himself. He was of opinion that the subject should not have been brought before them at all, as it was a personal matter between Mr Winter and Mr Robson, and it ought to have been fought outside. If they paid attention to all these little matters outside, they would never be done. They had not transgressed a single law. They might have delayed a little, but that was all the charge.

The Chairman said the mandate had not been carried out, and it was quite competent for any member to raise the point and ask the reason why.

Mr Robson: I think Mr Winter might have enquired.

Mr Winter said one point which Mr Robson had overlooked was the appearance of the Assistant Overseer before the Revising Barrister, and the fact that he asked him to revoke the order. Did he do that by the instructions of the Council? He had consulted three of the Overseers, and they had declared to him that the communications which came from the County Council had never been brought before their notice, and this was why he had raised the question.

Mr Luke Nicholson said he was opposed to the change at the time the proposition was made, and he was opposed to it yet. They did not get these communications until the second Wednesday in August, and of course this was too late for registration work.

Mr Winter said the order was issued from the County Council to the Overseers.

Mr L. Nicholson said that it would not have come before the Council before the 11th of August, and how could the arrangements be carried out for the elections in March following?

The Chairman pointed out that what Mr Winter took exception to was the Assistant Overseer asking the Revising Barrister to revoke the order.

Mr Nicholson stated that the change could be made in the next register.

Mr Winter mentioned that the Local Government Board Committee had power to issue the request, but he had asked them to defer the matter until it was confirmed by a full meeting of the Council. On the 28th of July, the Clerk of the Peace communicated with the Assistant Overseer, and the Overseer had not seen the letter.

After some further discussion, the matter dropped.

SAND FOR THE FOOTPATHS.

Mr Winter, in terms of notice given, moved that the Council order a truck of sand for spreading upon the footpaths in frosty weather. He maintained that sand would be preferable to ashes or lumps of soil.

Mr Robson seconded, and the resolution was carried.

THE TECHNICAL INSTITUTE.

A deputation, consisting of Messrs H. Holliday, G. T. Hyden, T. L. Gledstone, and J. W. Leyburn, Consett, attended before the Council, with a view to urging the claims of the proposed Technical Institute for Consett, and asking whether the Council would be prepared to levy a rate of one penny in the £ for support of the scheme. Plans were produced, and the undertaking explained at some length; and the Council, who seemed to be favourable to the scheme, undertook to give the matter their careful consideration.

THOMPSON'S BUILDINGS.

The Medical Officer (Dr. Renton) reported on a visit paid to Thompson's Buildings. The principal sanitary defects were the absence of spouting and channels. The houses at either end showed signs of dampness, and they should be remedied at once. The yards were unpaved, and the common ashpit was uncovered.

Mr Robson moved, seconded by Mr L. Nicholson, that the Clerk be instructed to forward a copy of the report to the owners, with a request to comply with the suggestions without delay.

Mr Winter, after the motion had been passed, remarked that it was a mild way of putting it.

WATER IN THE COMPANY'S HOUSES.

A letter, signed by Mr H. Holliday, on behalf of the Consett Iron Company, was read, in which it was stated that the Company did not see their way to fall in with the suggestions of the Council in the matter.

Mr Cheesemond and Mr Costello thought if it was pointed out what a great sanitary improvement it would be, the Company might give effect to their wishes.

Mr Winter suggested that a deputation should wait upon Mr Palmer, and ask him to bring this matter before the directors. It was by this method that the same concession had been granted in a neighbouring village.

The Chairman said the inhabitants of Westwood had agreed to pay 1d. per fortnight per cottage for the water, and that was why it had been granted by the Company. He would be very glad to receive a deputation, and to forward their request to the proper quarter. The Company were not unreasonable, but in this case, as it was taking the whole thing upon their shoulders, they could not see their way to do it.

A CLEAN SHEET.

Dr. Renton, in his monthly report, stated that no cases of notifiable disease had been reported to him during the past month. No comment was needed.

The opinion was expressed that the report was highly satisfactory.

TANFIELD RATEPAYERS' ASSOCIATION.

A meeting of the members of the above Association was held in the Board Schools, Pickering, on Tuesday night, Mr Rogerson, the president, in the chair. After a long discussion on the encroachment question, the secretary was instructed to write to the President of the Local Government Board respecting the same. A committee was also appointed to examine the rate books respecting the rating of houses in the Stanley and Tanfield districts. The County Council representation was brought before the meeting the committee of the Association being instructed to report on this matter at the next meeting. The election of officers was then proceeded with. It was proposed by Mr G. Cawthorn, seconded by Mr Rogerson, that Mr B. Mason Hobson be elected president for the next 12 months. The resolution was carried unanimously. It was also proposed by Mr Ridley, and seconded by Mr A. Turnbull, that Mr J. Rogerson be appointed working secretary for the next 12 months. This was also carried. Mr J. Rogerson proposed, and Mr T. Layton seconded, that Mr G. Cawthorn be re-appointed treasurer, which was carried. Mr Cawthorn suitably replied, thanking them for his re-election. A cordial vote of thanks to Mr Rogerson was proposed by Mr M. Beck, for his services as President for the past twelve months, and was carried with applause. Mr Rogerson briefly responded, thanking the members for the support given to him during his term of office, which had made his duties comparatively light, and trusted the same support would be given to the newly-appointed president, who was unavoidably absent, having a meeting to attend at Stanley. He had no doubt as to Mr Mason making a capital President. It being the last meeting of the year, hearty wishes for a happy New Year to all, and a prosperous one for the Tanfield Ratepayers' Association, brought a successful meeting to a close.

PLOUGHING COMPETITION AT BURNHOPE.

The third annual competition in connection with the Burnhope, Lanchester, and Stanley Ploughing Association was held at Burnhope, on Wednesday, on land granted for the purpose by Mr Joseph Jewitt, Moor Edge Farm. Snow fell at intervals during the day, rendering the ploughing anything but agreeable to the competitors. Mr Joseph Innes, of High Burnopside, Lanchester, attended to the secretarial arrangements, and the financial duties were performed by Mr Matthew Wake, Maiden Law. The committee and management consisted of Messrs J. Hornby, Chapman's Well; G. Wake, Maiden Law; W. Wilson, Maiden Hall; J. Wake, Moor Leazes; W. Bates, Stanley; R. Smith, Farside; T. Mitchinson, Park Head; W. Jewitt, Wheatley Hill; J. Henderson, Tanfield Lane; T. H. Smith, Tanfield; G. Garraway, Moor Side; T. Smith, Low Fell; E. Wylam, Shield Row; J. Gibson, West Newbiggen; D. Champney, Lanchester; R. Elliott, Stanley; G. Watson, Stanley; T. Robinson, Tanfield Leigh; J. Turnbull, Collins Green; J. Ridley, Holmside New Hall; W. Wilkinson, Craghead; and C. Pomary, Craghead. The stewards and judges were:—For general arrangements—Mr J. Watson, Stanley, and Mr J. Gibson, Newbiggen. For field—Local swing—Mr W. Wilson, Maiden Hall; local wheels—Mr J. Hornby, Chapman's Well; for lads under 19 years of age—Mr J. Turnbull, Collins Green; best groomed horses and best kept harness—Mr R. Elliott, Store Farm, Stanley; neatest pair of decorated horses — Mr W. Wilkinson, New Acres; best pair of horses on the ground—Mr R Smith, Far Side. Judges for ploughing—Mr William Bewick, Billy Mill, North Shields; Mr George Bramley, New Brancepeth, Durham; and Mr W. W. Coxon, Pictree, Chester-le-Street. Judges for horses, &c.—Mr James Humble, Lanchester; Mr Thomas Howdon, Pockerley; and Mr Robert Turnbull, Twizell Hall.

Appended is a list of awards:—

Local Swing Ploughs (for men who have never won a first prize)—First £3, second £1 10s, third, 10s.—J. Embleton, Middles Farm, 1; W. Jewitt, Wheatley Hill, 2; T. H. Smith, Tanfield Farm, 3.

Local Wheel Ploughs (for men who have never won a first prize)—First £3, second £1 10s, third 10s.—James Smith, Twizel Dykes, 1; J. H. Bates, Stanley Hill Top, 2; R. Hill, Stanley Burn Farm, 3; W. A. Gibson, West Newbiggen, h.c.

Neatest Pair of Decorated Horses.—First, martindale, high level, and face piece, value 15s 6d, given by W. J. Thompson, Esq., saddler, Catchgate; second, 5s, given by R. Elliot, Esq., Stanley—W. W. Elliott, Store Farm, Stanley, 1; E. Watson, South Causey, 2.

Wheel Ploughs (for lads under 19 years of age)—first, gold medal, value £1 10s and £1; second, suit of clothes, given by T. C. Frater, Esq., Stanley; third, 10s; fourth, 5s; also a special price, silver albert, value 7s 6d, given by Welch and Co., Annfield Plain.—E. Watson, South Causey Farm, 1; A. Wylam, Shield Row, 2; W. W. Elliott, Store Farm, Stanley, 3rd and special; Jos. Young, Tanfield Farm, 4.

For Best-Groomed Horses—first, brass-mounted cart bridle and a high level, value £1; second, pair polished harness, value 10s. Both prizes given by Teasdale and Son, saddlers, Stanley and Dipton.—W. W. Elliott, Store Farm, Stanley, 1; R. Hill, Stanley Burn, 2.

Best Pair of Horses on the Ground—First martindale, high level, and face piece, value 22s 6d, given by J. R. Watson, Esq., saddler, Stanley; second, 10s, by R. Elliot, Esq., Stanley—J. Lamb, White House Farm, 1; R. Hill, Stanley Burn, 2.

Special Prizes.—Special prizes were offered for the first three classes, consisting of trouser piece, by Mr James Heslop, Newcastle, for the best set furrow, which was won by Mr James Smith, Twizell Dykes; a clock, given by Mr Wherly, Annfield Plain, won by Mr Elliott, Store Farm, Stanley; and two martingales, given by Mr Biggen, Burnopfield, won by Mr Smith, Twizell Dykes.

At the conclusion of the ploughing, an adjournment was made to the Burnhope Colliery Inn, where Host and Hostess Edgell provided a first-class spread, to which a numerous company did full justice. After the tables had been cleared, the remainder of the evening was spent in harmony, Mr Joseph Watson, of Stanley, presiding, with Mr A. H. Swinburn, of Stanley, in the vice-chair.

KIMBLESWORTH.

Mission Church. — Special services are being held at this Church by Capt. Douglas and Mr Piper, two members of the Church Army Van. A lantern service takes place every night, the subject being "The life of Christ." The choir, under the leadership of Mr Alderson, render several hymns, and the church is crowded on each occasion. Open air-meetings are also held, at which addresses are given by Capt. Douglas and Mr Piper. The services will be brought to a close on Sunday next.

GREENCROFT.

Primitive Methodism. — On Saturday evening, a new organ, which has recently been purchased for use in the Primitive Methodist Church, was formally opened by Mr John Storey, of Catchgate, in the presence of a large company. The Dipton Primitive Choir attended for the occasion, and rendered an interesting programme. Two sermons were preached, on Sunday, by Mr R. H. Pigford, of Catchgate.

CONSETT.

Storm. — A violent gale passed over Consett and district on Tuesday. The wind swept across the town in a north-westerly direction, and towards evening it became so violent that slates were removed from several houses, and other damage done.

The Volunteers in Consett.—The proposed Volunteer Corps for the district has advanced another stage. Colonel Peters and Major Wilson, of the 3rd V.B. Durham Light Infantry, met the Committee on Monday night. We learn that the meeting was of such a satisfactory nature that the promoters are now on the outlook for a suitable shooting range.

Bicycle Accident.—A young man, named Henry Turner, whilst riding down the Blackhill Bank on his bicycle, on Monday last, met with a serious accident. He lost control of his machine, and went at a terrific speed to the bottom of the hill, and eventually fell off. His head and face were dreadfully cut, and he was removed to a house close by, where he received surgical attention.

Christ Church Young Men's Debating Society.—"Should conscription be adoptd?" was the subject from which a profitable discussion arose last Friday night, in the Science and Art Room. The Rev. C. S. Wilson occupied the chair, and there was a good attendance. Mr Robinson opened the debate with a paper in the affirmative, followed by Mr H. Wood in the negative. Both papers dealt very ably with the subject, the negative side meeting with approval by a large majority.

Accident.—A little girl, named Amy Armstrong, was knocked down by a horse at the end of Victoria Street, on Tuesday afternoon. The rider, who was coming round the corner at a furious rate, at once dismounted, after the little one was knocked down, handed the bridle to a "corner man," drew forth his handkerchief, dried the blood from the child's face, gave her a half-crown, and ascertaining the child's address, expressed his intention of recompensing the parents for any injury that might have happened.

Police Court.—A court was held on Monday, Mr W. Aynsley being the presiding magistrate. Isaac Oliver and Thomas Sayers, labourers, were charged with being drunk and disorderly at Consett on Saturday, and were fined 2s 6d and 5s respectively. P.C. Pringle proved the case. — Richard Bennett, a compositor on tramp, was fined 2s 6d and costs, on the evidence of P.C. Grant, for being drunk and disorderly at Blackhill, on Saturday; and for a similar offence at Consett, Thomas Morris, labourer, was convicted on the testimony of P.C. Parkinson, and fined 2s 6d and costs.

The Theatre.—Several attractive pieces are being performed at the Consett Theatre this week. On Monday and Tuesday nights, "The Wages of Sin" was performed very creditably indeed. "Fallen Among Thieves," and "Sins of the Night" have also been played—a trying task for those engaged in the productions. Wednesday, December 22nd, has been fixed for Mr and Mrs Lloyd Clarance's complimentary benefit, the first of what we trust will be a series of annual benefits. Both Mr and Mrs Clarance have, by their universal courtesy, made themselves extremely popular, and more energetic managers it would be impossible to find.

The Tradesmen's Association.—A meeting of the Consett and District Tradesmen's Association was held in the smaller Town Hall, on Tuesday evening, when there were present Messrs W. Aynsley (Chairman), J. English, R. S. Murray, E. Lamb, J. Scott, T. Crick, W. Henderson, J. Hindson, R. Hand, T. Forster, W. Whitfield, G. Parsons, T. Milner, G. J. Robinson, J. Scott, G. Pattrick, H. Davison, V. Rowe, J. Brown, M. Gibson, and H. Cornforth. The meeting, at which the balance sheet was discussed, was in private, and lasted two and a half hours. No resolution was arrived at, the meeting being adjourned till Thursday of next week.

Formation of a Caledonian Society.—A meeting of Scotsmen resident in Consett and district was held in the Freemasons' Arms Hotel, Consett, on Saturday afternoon. There were present Dr Morison, Dr Ross, Dr Reid, Mr Russell, Mr J. Mathieson, Mr Orr, and Mr A. C. Wilson. Dr Morison was called to the chair. On the motion of Dr Ross, seconded by Mr Wilson, it was agreed to form a society, to be called the North-West Durham Caledonian Society. Dr Ross was elected Chairman, and Mr Mathieson secretary, *pro. tem.*, and it was arranged to hold another meeting in the smaller Town Hall, Consett, on Saturday afternoon, December 18th.

Winter.—There is no necessity to remind our readers that Autumn has passed; the russet leaves have fallen, and the country side looks indeed desolate. The ivy leaves still cling tenaciously to the ancient fabrics, but the frosts and snows are already here, reminding us very forcibly of the weather we shall be called upon to face during the next few months. To some it will mean great hardship, to others, who have the privilege of living in "luxury's lap," it means comparative comfort, and to such it may not be inappropriate to remind them that "man's inhumanity to man makes countless thousands mourn," and that the festive season, which is fast approaching, will give many an opportunity of displaying their philanthropy.

Forthcoming Concert. — We would direct attention to an advertisement which appears in another column with reference to the annual concert of the Consett and District Cricket Club, which takes place on Wednesday, January 26th, 1898. The Committee have again, at considerable expense, secured artistes of the first water, and a genuine treat is in store for concert lovers. The first part of the programme will be sustained by Miss Foxcroft, the renowned contralto from London, and Mr Walter George, the Society humourist. It may be remembered that these two artistes appeared on behalf of the club two years ago, and created a favourable impression, which has not yet been effaced. The second part will be entirely sustained by the celebrated humourist, who is a host in himself, Mr Harry Lisbon.

Yearly Club Supper.—The annual supper in connection with the Railway Tavern Yearly Club was held in that hostelry (Mrs Palmer's) on Saturday evening. Mr N. Elsdon occupied the chair, while the vice-chair was filled by Mr Hart. After an enjoyable repast had been served, the Chairman submitted the usual loyal and patriotic toasts in suitable terms, and the toasts were enthusiastically pledged. The Chairman, in proposing the toast of the evening, "Success to the Railway Tavern Yearly Club," referred to the fact that he had been connected with the club since its formation, and stated that he was always willing to do everything in his power to promote its success. The club, no doubt, had been a very useful institution, and this year the satisfactory dividend of 3s 9½d had been declared. He expressed the hope that the club would long continue to flourish as it had done in the past. Other toasts were submitted and drank with jovial enthusiasm. Songs were contributed by Messrs Hart, Hume, Eltringham, Green, Brough, Crick, Coulson, Forster, Watson, Glendenning, and Robinson.

Winding up of the Racing Company.—An extraordinary general meeting of the Consett and North-West Durham Racing Company, Limited, was held at the Registered Office of the Company, Taylor Street, on Tuesday, to consider the following resolution: "That it having been proved to the satisfaction of this meeting that the Company cannot, by reason of its liabilities, continue its business, and that it is advisable to wind up the same, the Company be wound up voluntarily."—Mr E. Wylam presided over a large attendance, and after a great deal of discussion relative to the unsatisfactory condition of the Carribees course, and its inadaptability for racing purposes, it was decided that, having regard to the liabilities of the Company, and the inexpediency of continuing its business, they voluntarily wind up the same. This was carried, there being only two dissentients. Mr J. G. Murray was appointed liquidator to conduct the winding up process, with full powers to carry out the object of the resolution.

MARKETS.

Tow Law, Dec. 6.—Mr Vickers had forward 40 dairy cows and heifers, 25 fat cattle, 5 calves, and 195 fat sheep and hoggs. Cows made up to £18 10s; fat cattle to £15 7s 6d, from Messrs Pease and Partners, Limited, Crook. Calves to 38s; fat hoggs to 30s 9d, from Mr Jas. Hall, Harperly; to 30s 6d, from Mr T. Nichol, Westshield; to 26s 3d, from Mr G. Henderson, Wiserly; fat B. F. wethers to 34s, from Mr J. Dowson, West Newlands.

Benfieldside, December 6th.—Mr Murray had forward at this mart to-day, 28 fat cattle, 6 cows, 3 calves, 118 sheep and hoggs, &c. Fat heifers: Messrs Graham, to £15 5s; T White, to £12; Messrs Anderson, to £17 5s; Jos. Teasdale, £15 2s 6d; R Murray, £14 15s; W Potts and Sons, to £14; Mr Maughan, to £16 5s; cows, £11 17s 6d to £14 10s; calves, 20s to £4 15s; calved cows to £16 2s 6d; calved heifers to £13; spring calvers to £9; sheep to 44s 6d, from Messrs Potts; Scotch wedders to 37s 6d, from Mr James Angus; Scotch ewes to 31s 6d, ewes to 45s 6d, R Murray; tups to 51s, Mr T Rawes, dog cart, £11 10s; geese, 7s each; ducks 2s; poultry, &c., at fair prices. There was a large company, and on the whole a fair but irregular trade. Some stock was very dear, and others big for money, but the best class met fairly satisfactory prices. The Christmas sale will be held Dec. 20th, and a large entry is expected.

EDMONDSLEY.

Temperance Meeting.—A meeting of the local Temperance Society was held in the British Schools, on Saturday evening, under the presidency of Mr John W. Kerr. The chairman, in his opening remarks, dwelt on the vice of intemperance, and congratulated the members of the Society upon the good work they had accomplished. Mr J. Curry also gave an address, and during the evening several songs, recitations, &c., were rendered, Mr Gilbert, of Sacriston, being loudly applauded for his rendition of "Killarney." Mr Thomas Grieves favoured the company with a recitation, and Mr Sam Brown, the well-known local humourist, also contributed to the harmony of the proceedings. Mr Harry Ramsay presided at the piano in his usual efficient manner. The society is in a good financial condition, and judging by the attendance at the meeting on Saturday night, it appears to have a good future. A collection was taken at the door to defray expenses. Mr Thomas Grieves is working with much energy for the success of the society, and it is mainly owing to his efforts that the club is in such a satisfactory position.

IN MEMORIAM NOTICES.

The charge for Inserting an "In Memoriam" Notice in the *Consett Chronicle*, with one verse of poetry, is 1s. When there are two verses, the charge is 1s 6d.

MEMORIAL CARDS.

GEORGE NEASHAM

Printer, New Station Road, Consett,

Begs to Inform Parents and others that he has on hand a very

LARGE AND ARTISTIC ASSORTMENT OF

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And that all Orders sent to him,

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An inspection of Cards is respectfully invited.

Two-fold Black-Bordered Silver Card, with Chastely-Designed Front Page, bearing the words "In Memoriam," or "In Loving Memory," and Poetry on the inside of Front Page, Price for the 1st Dozen, 2s. 6d. Each Succeeding Dozen, 1s. 6d. Relatives living at a distance may rely on having their Orders executed by Return of Post.

Relatives ordering Memorial Cards, are requested to send the Name of the Deceased, date of Death, &c. Wives who have been bereft of their husbands, husbands who have lost their wives, parents their children, children their father or mother, and relatives their friends, will find at the *Chronicle* Office, a large number of suitable verses to select from. A Printed Copy of these will be sent on application, Post Free.

MOURNING ENVELOPES.

Best Quality, 4d per Packet of 25.

FRANCES CHRISTOPHER,
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FRONT STREET, CONSETT.

HORSES, TRAPS, BRAKES, and all Kinds of VEHICLES for Hire.

Funerals Completely Furnished at the Lowest Possible Prices.

Births, Marriages, & Deaths

Marriages.

WAUGH and EWENS.—At the Register Office, Lanchester, on the 4th inst., Robert Aquilla Waugh, of Dipton, to Ellen Ewens, of Tantobie.

TOWARD and DAVISON.—At the Register Office, Lanchester, on the 4th inst., John Joseph Toward, to Jane Ann, Davison, both of Castleside.

Deaths.

At 42, Medomsley Road, Consett, on the 7th inst., Margaret Ellen, dearly beloved daughter of Annie and the late Richard Tweddle, (late of West Allandale). Interred at Benfieldside Cemetery on Friday at 3 o'clock. Lift 2-30. Friends please accept this the only intimation.

At Brewery Square, Burnopfield, on the 6th inst., aged 81 years, George Davison.

At Brewery Square, Tanfield, on the 6th inst., aged 1 year, Elanor Jane, daughter of Robert Dixon.

At 39, Mary Street, Stanley, on the 5th inst., aged 21 years, Joseph Robinson.

At Annfield Place, on the 7th inst., aged 13 months, Innocent, daughter of Arthur Speed.

At Lintz Colliery, on the 4th inst., aged 67 years, Charlotte, widow of William Nevin.

At South View, Kyo, on the 1st inst., aged 57 years, Thomas Johnson.

At Tantobie, on the 30th ult., aged 77 years, Amos Bell.

At Esh Winning, on the 1st inst., aged 45 years, Hannah, wife of John Bell.

At the Union Workhouse, Lanchester, on the 2nd inst., aged 53 years, William Price.

At the Union Workhouse, on the 3rd inst., aged 68 years, Elizabeth Allen.

At Hagsteels, on the 4th inst., aged 55 years, Julia, wife of William Hogan.

At Cornsay Colliery, on the 8th inst., aged 3 months, Mary, daughter of James Winter.

At 191, Sunderland Street, Leadgate, on the 2nd inst., Minnie, infant daughter of Thomas Simpson.

At Allendale Cottages, on the 2nd inst., aged 57 years, Robert Calvert.

At 42, Low Westwood, on the 4th inst., aged 20 years, Henry Kelly.

At 23, Saddlers Row, Consett, on the 4th inst., aged 3 years, Jane, daughter of Michael Sharkey.

At 9, Furnace Row, Consett, on the 5th inst., Dennis, infant son of Dennis Boyle.

At Quarry House, Castleside, on the 4th inst., Ralph, infant son of Ralph Craig.

At Low Westwood, on the 7th inst., aged 76 years, Ann, widow of Hugh Richardson.

IN MEMORIAM

In Affectionate and Loving Remembrance of PHILLIS, the dear beloved daughter of Phillis and the late Charles Panting, formerly of Consett Park, who departed this life at Leadgate on December 7th, 1896, aged 29 years, and was interred at St. Ives', Leadgate, on Saturday, December 12th, 1896.

She is gone from our cot to the mansion above,
And our hearts with deep anguish are riven,
Yet why should we mourn for the daughter we loved,
When we know that she's happy in Heaven!

Farewell, mother, brothers, and sisters dear,
And all relations kind:
And fond companions whom I loved,
I leave you all in tears behind.

I know you felt it hard to part
With me, the darling of your heart;
But only trust in Jesu's name,
And you shall see me once again.

Ever remembered by her dear mother,
Brothers and sisters;
Sweetly, gently she passed away,
From dim twilight to endless day.

JAMES HOPE,
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