The Consett Guardian

AND DERWENT VALLEY ADVERTISER.

A NEWSPAPER and ADVERTISING MEDIUM for Blackhill, Consett, Lanchester, Leadgate, Shotley Bridge, and District.

No. 470. {REGISTERED FOR TRANSMISSION ABROAD.} CONSETT, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 11TH, 1869. PRICE ONE PENNY.

Wanted.

WANTED, a Good SADDLER, for Colliery Purposes.—Apply to Mr. R. T. SWALLOW, Annfield Plain. 333a

WANTED, an Apprentice to the TINPLATE WORKING, GASFITTING, and PLUMBING BUSINESS.—Apply to WILLIAM STRACHAN, Front Street, Blackhill. 318a

WANTED TO BORROW £100, £120, and £160 upon Freehold Building Property of ample value.—For particulars apply to Mr. JOS. HOWARD, Consett. 283a

For Sale.

FREEHOLD BUILDING SITES for SALE, at DIPTON.—Apply to Mr. JOHN MADDISON. 167a

TO BE SOLD, at BURNHOPE COLLIERY a Desirable Property and Eight Acres of Land attached to it, on a Lease to be renewed every Twenty-one Years.—For further particulars apply to Mr. WM. MORDEW, the owner, on the premises. 317a

VALUABLE and DESIRABLE BUILDING SITES for SALE by PRIVATE CONTRACT, situate at Blackhill, Baxton Burn, Shotley Bridge, Leadgate, Medomsley Edge, and Consett.—Apply to Mr. WM. RAW, Auctioneer, Valuer, Surveyor, and Commission Agent, Blackhill.
Sale Office, Blackhill, April 29th, 1868. 316

TO BE SOLD BY PRIVATE CONTRACT,

A PIECE of Freehold BUILDING GROUND, near BLACKHILL, in the County of Durham, containing Three Hundred and Seventy Square Yards or thereabouts.

The Ground is bounded on the West by a Road leading from the Consett Ironworks, on the East by an intended Street twenty feet wide, on the North by the Road to the Tin Works Colliery, and on the South by Premises now or late belonging to Mr. ROBERT WHITFIELD.

The Ground will be Sold subject to Ten Feet in Width being required for the intended New Street, and Five Feet in Width being required for the Tin Works Road.

Offers, in Writing, for the Ground above-mentioned to be sent to Messrs. J. & R. S. WATSON, Solicitors, 101, Pilgrim Street, Newcastle-on-Tyne. 269a

To Let.

A HOUSE TO LET.—Apply to GEO. HAWDON, Grocer, Pont Terrace, Leadgate. 328a

TO LET, a Two-Roomed COTTAGE and Three-Stalled STABLE.—Apply to Mr. J. HOWARD, Medomsley Road, Consett. 255a

TO LET, A HOUSE AND SHOP, situate in VICTORIA STREET, CONSETT, suitable for any kind of business.—For particulars, apply to JOHN BARRON, Number One, Consett. 321a

TO LET, with immediate possession, a Small Steam CORN MILL, situate in DELVES LANE, CONSETT. All improvements required will be done by the Owner.—Apply to Mr. T. RAWES, Innkeeper, Consett. 305a

TO LET, at CONSETT, and may be entered upon immediately, a HOUSE AND SHOP, with a STABLE, now in the occupation of THOMAS MOSS; also a COTTAGE HOUSE adjoining.—Apply to THOMAS LONGSTAFF, Innkeeper, Leadgate. 320a

TO LET, an excellent DWELLING HOUSE, containing Five Rooms, with JOINERS' SHOPS, STABLE, TIMBER YARD, and other appurtenances attached, situate at CONSETT.—For particulars apply to Mr. JOS. HOWARD, Accountant and Sharebroker, Consett. 282a

TO BE LET, with immediate possession, a First-class HOUSE and SHOP, containing Nine Good Rooms, Cellar, and Stable, large enclosed Yard, and other conveniences, situate at Blackhill.—Apply to Mr. W. RAW, Auctioneer and Commission Agent, Blackhill. 325a

TO BE LET, and entered upon on 13th May next, 1870, for a term of years, ROWLEY FARM, now in the occupation of Mr. JAMES ROBINSON, situate near Castleside, within 2 miles of Consett Ironworks, and a quarter mile from Rowley Station, on the Stockton and Darlington Railway, containing 90 Acres more or less, of which the greater portion is in Old Grass Land. Many improvements having been made upon the Farm by the Landlord it offers advantages to an industrious Farmer.—For conditions, &c., apply to Mr. W. J. SCOTT, Merchant, Consett, to whom also offers must be sent in on or before January 4th, 1870.
Consett, December 7th, 1869. 336a

Public Notices.

TOWNHALL—SUNDAY EVENING.

"Naomi: The Wife, the Mother, the Widow; or Ten Years' Experience of Life."
Preacher—W. MIDDLETON. 327a

CONCERT AT THE BROOMS.

A CONCERT will be given at the above place, on MONDAY, January 3, 1870.
Particulars in Programmes. 337a

CONSETT INFIRMARY.

DONATIONS of OLD LINEN for the use of the Patients will be thankfully received by the Matron at the Consett Infirmary. 250a

IMPORTANT TO OVERSEERS AND OTHERS.

FORMS for LISTS, &c., required by "The Poor Rate Assessment and Collection Act, 1869," together with Balance Sheet and other Poor Rate Forms, are obtainable at the *Guardian* Office, Consett.

THE ANNUAL DINNER of the TANFIELD ASSOCIATION FOR THE PROSECUTION OF FELONS will be held at the house of Mr. T. FORSTER, on MONDAY, the 20th day of December, 1869. 319a

TO LEND.

£300 AND £500 upon approved Security.—For particulars apply to Messrs. SCAIFE AND BRITTON, No. 6, Medomsley Road, Consett. 278a

ANNUAL CONCERT OF SACRED MUSIC.

THE LEADGATE WESLEYAN CHOIR will give their ANNUAL CONCERT OF SACRED MUSIC in the WESLEYAN CHAPEL, LEADGATE, on CHRISTMAS DAY, December 25, 1869. Programme—Mozart's Twelfth Mass.

Doors open at Six, to commence at Seven o'clock.

ADMISSION—Reserved Seats, One Shilling; Unreserved, Sixpence.

The proceeds are to assist in warming the above place of worship. 314a

TO FARMERS AND GARDENERS.

THE Subscriber is now booking Orders for present and future delivery of his Wheat and other Manufactured MANURES. Prices on application. A CHEMICAL MANURE is manufactured especially for Gardeners, and sold in small bags. Prices on application.

WILLIAM MURRAY,
CHEMICAL MANURE MANUFACTURER,
LEADGATE.

P.S.—The Highest Prices given for Old Horses, and any number bought. 307a

Found.

TAKEN UP, at Blackhill, on the 23rd November, a Black-faced EWE. If not claimed within Fourteen Days will be Sold to defray Expenses.—Apply to Mr. JOHN MEWES, Grocer, Blackhill. 330a

Lost.

LOST, at Crookgate, on the 2nd inst., a HORSE RUG. Whoever will return the same to ROBT. STOKEL, Clow Dean, will be rewarded for their trouble. 331a

LOST, STOLEN, or STRAYED, from Maiden Law, on the 1st or 2nd of December, a Male ASS with white Nose. Any one giving such information to Mr. JOHN VICKERS, Annfield Plain, as will lead to his recovery will be rewarded, and any one detaining him after this notice will be prosecuted. 332a

Contracts.

CONSETT WATERWORKS COMPANY.

TO CONTRACTORS FOR EARTHWORK, NAVVIES, &c.

TENDERS are invited by the Consett Waterworks Company for the Excavation of a Ditch at the proposed Smiddy Shaw Reservoir, situated on the Muggleswick Common, near the village of Waskerley.

Plans and Specifications may be seen and Forms of Tender obtained at the Company's Office, Consett, County Durham, where Tenders must be delivered on or before TUESDAY, the 21st day of December, 1869.

The Company do not bind themselves to accept the lowest or any Tender.

By order,
JOHN GLEDSTONE, Secretary.
Consett, County Durham,
December 7th, 1869. 326a

Business Announcements.

ESTABLISHED 1740.

DICKINSON,
TOBACCO MANUFACTURER,
BIGG MARKET,
NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.

TRADE PROTECTION OFFICES
FOR CONSETT AND DISTRICT.
MR. JOSEPH HOWARD,
MANAGER,
6, MEDOMSLEY ROAD, CONSETT. 284a

MISS M. PATON,
DRESS AND MANTLE MAKER,
2, CORNWALL TERRACE, BENFIELDSIDE.

Machine Work Neatly and Expeditiously Executed.

CLARENDON SCHOOL, CONSETT.

JON. C. WYLIE, MASTER.
DAY SCHOOL, from 5s. 6d. per quarter (in advance only).
Algebra, French, Latin, Greek, extra.

AN EVENING SCHOOL.

FISH! FISH!! FRESH FISH!!!

J. MILLER & SON, Middle Street, Consett, the Largest and Best FRESH FISH, to be had at the above Address. During the Fresh Herring Season, a Large Supply of KIPPERED HERRING and BLOATERS—Wholesale and Retail—at the Cheap Fish Establishment for the Million, MIDDLE STREET, CONSETT. 992

J. PARKER,
FRONT STREET, CONSETT.

CLOCKS and WATCHES of every description CLEANED and REPAIRED.
WORK WARRANTED.—NO SECOND CHARGE.
CLUB Open for Watches and Gold Chains, at 8s. per month. 292a

LOOK HERE!

CASH Buyers would find it to their advantage to call at the
NEWCASTLE READY-MONEY GROCERY, AND PROVISION SHOP
(Next door to Mr. BROWN'S Auction Mart),
NEWMARKET STREET, CONSETT.
110a JAMES LAKE, Proprietor.

CHEAP GROCERIES.

GEORGE CAREY,
(Late Manager of the Grocery Department of the Co-operative Store, Consett),

BEGS to inform his Friends and the Public of Consett and neighbourhood, that he has OPENED that SHOP in FRONT STREET, CONSETT, next door to Mr. JOHN PARKER, jeweller, with a choice Stock of TEAS, GROCERIES, PROVISIONS, &c., of the Best Quality, which he will sell at the lowest possible Price, for Ready-Money. 287a

NOT GUILTY

Is
the true Verdict of Thousands who last year pronounced
J. GREEN AND CO.'S
ROYAL MONSTER CAKE to be the best and cheapest ever offered to the British Public.

GREEN and Co. have again great pleasure in announcing to their Patrons that they have been successful in completing their wonderful Royal Monster Cake, which for quality and size never was before equalled in the North of England.

Tickets, 1s. each (now ready), will secure One Pound of this Rich Monster Cake, with a chance of a most magnificent Prize.

The Royal Monster Cake will be cut up on FRIDAY, the 31st December.

As the number of Tickets is limited, an early application is requested.

To be had of J. GREEN and Co., 67, Clayton Street; 30, Quayside; and at the Turk's Head, Quayside. 329a

WILLIAM RAW,
AUCTIONEER, APPRAISER, AND GENERAL COMMISSION AGENT,
DURHAM ROAD, BLACKHILL, near SHOTLEY BRIDGE, VIA GATESHEAD.

VALUATIONS MADE FOR PROBATE AND LEGACY DUTIES.

Agent to the Liverpool, London, and Globe Fire and Life Insurance Company.

☞ All Orders attended to with care and punctuality

EMIGRATION AGENT. 27

MR. E. BURTON, Professor of Music, Organist of ST. CUTHBERT'S CHURCH, Benfieldside, TEACHER of the PIANOFORTE, ORGAN, HARMONIUM, &c. First-class References. Terms on application.
Poplar Cottage, Shotley Bridge. 25

WILLIAM FITZPATRICK,
TAILOR, &c.,
ANNFIELD PLAIN,

BEGS to intimate to his Customers and the Public in general, that he is prepared to execute orders for every description of Gentlemen's, Youths', or Boys' Clothing.

N.B.—Gentlemen's own Material made up on the shortest notice, at moderate Prices. 719

Business Announcements.

A WORD TO THE WISE IS ENOUGH.

WE discharge a duty to our friends when we inform them that we have contracted for a large supply of FINE TEAS, and are prepared to offer them at a REDUCTION of SIXPENCE PER POUND on the price obtained by the importers at the early part of the season. This unprecedented reduction will be a terrific loss to the importers and a corresponding gain to those who have judgment enough to take advantage of a dull, flat market. We say to our friends, replenish your stocks at once? We further offer to forward, carriage paid, to any address—

10lbs. of the Cheapest Tea in England for £1 0 0 | 10lbs. of the old-fashioned sort of Tea for £1 10 0
10lbs. „ Finest Keyson Congou for .. 1 5 0 | 10lbs. „ rich and rare Souchong for .. 1 13 0

Such confidence have we in the quality of the tea, we express our willingness to return the money should the tea not please.

N.B.—Upwards of 104,000 POUNDS of TEA were sold by us last year. Post Office Orders to be made payable to

WILLIAM STEWART, THE TEA DEALER,
33, GRAINGER STREET, 33, SANDHILL, 32, MOSLEY STREET, NEWCASTLE;
or at our NEW BRANCH, CORNER OF FREDERICK ROAD, HIGH STREET, SUNDERLAND. 159a

CONSETT STEAM PRINTING WORKS.

ROBERT JACKSON,
PRINTER, WHOLESALE AND RETAIL STATIONER, LITHOGRAPHER, BOOKBINDER, &c., GUARDIAN OFFICE, FRONT STREET, CONSETT.

EVERY description of LETTERPRESS PRINTING executed in the first style of typography, with accuracy and despatch, on the most reasonable terms.
SHOW CARDS, BUSINESS CARDS, CONTRIBUTION CARDS, and TICKETS of all kinds.
WEDDING CARDS, FUNERAL CARDS, and MOURNING CARDS.
PAMPHLETS, CLUB RULES, AUCTIONEERS' CATALOGUES, and REPORTS and RULES of Public Institutions and Societies.
PROGRAMMES, BOOKS OF WORDS, and CONCERT BILLS in the most approved styles.
BALANCE SHEETS, INVOICES, and DELIVERY NOTES.
HAND BILLS POSTING BILLS, PLACARDS, and WINDOW BILLS, of all sizes, in black and coloured inks, executed in a bold and effective style.
CIRCULARS, LETTER HEADINGS, and ORDER NOTES.
SERMONS, LECTURES, and all kinds of BOOK WORK neatly and quickly executed.
CHEQUE BOOKS of all descriptions made to order.
TEA PAPERS, TOBACCO PAPERS, and CLOTH and PARCHMENT TALLIES.
LITHOGRAPHING and ENGRAVING.
BRASS and ZINC WINDOW and DOOR PLATES.
BOOKBINDING in all its Branches.
A large Supply of LEDGERS, DAY BOOKS, MINUTE BOOKS, and every variety of STATIONERY

THE FOLLOWING ARE KEPT IN STOCK:—
OVERSEERS' COLLECTING AND DEPOSIT BOOKS.
HIGHWAY RATE BOOKS and HIGHWAY RATE RECEIPT BOOKS.
POOR RATE BOOKS and POOR RATE RECEIPT BOOKS. 9

H. WHITFIELD,
WHOLESALE AND RETAIL FURNITURE BROKER,
129, HIGH STREET, GATESHEAD.

HAS a Large STOCK of Ancient and Modern HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE, including IRON BEDSTEADS in great variety, CARPETS, DRUGGETS, HEARTH RUGS, and OIL CLOTHS, varying in design, quality, and price. Also a Large and Choice Selection of Hardware, etc. H. W. is prepared to Purchase or Exchange on the Shortest Notice. 43a

HOUSE FURNISHING.

J. W. DAVISON,
CABINET-MAKER & FURNITURE BROKER,
FRONT STREET, CONSETT.

FEATHERS, FLOCKS, RABBIT DOWN.
IRON BEDSTEADS.
MATTRESSES.
HARDWARE GOODS.
PARAFFIN LAMPS and GLASSES.
PARAFFIN OIL and BENZOLINE OIL.
Furniture delivered free. 640

MEMORIAL CARDS of the Choicest Designs are printed to order and supplied on the most reasonable terms, at the
GENERAL PRINTING OFFICES
AND
STATIONERY WAREHOUSE,
DERWENT STREET, BLACKHILL.

GEORGE HOBSON,
WHOLESALE & RETAIL FLOUR DEALER, GROCER, DRAPER, & PROVISION MERCHANT,
HARPERLEY STEAM & WATER CORN MILL,
NEAR ANNFIELD PLAIN.

FINEST ENGLISH OILCAKE always on hand.

Now on Hand, a Large Quantity of Fine SEEDS, Peas, Tares, Barley, &c.

G. H.'s Mixture of CLOVER and GRASS SEEDS for permanent pasture has been tested and approved of by the leading Agriculturists in the district for the last twenty years. 206

THE OLDEST ESTABLISHED HAT SHOP IN NEWCASTLE.

THOMAS COCHRANE is now selling the BEST SILK HAT in the Trade at 10s. 6d.

THOMAS COCHRANE,
19, GRAINGER STREET,
(CORNER OF NUNS' STREET)
118a NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.

NEWGATE STREET TEA AND GROCERY WAREHOUSE.

ROBERT WHITE,

MANY Years with Mr. Greaves, 17, and 19, Nun Street, and Mr. Stewart, Tea Dealer, 32, Mosley Street, has Opened the Shop 38, NEWGATE STREET, next door to Phœnix Inn, where he intends to carry on the Grocery Business on the improved principle for Cash.

R. W. deems it unnecessary to adopt the old hackneyed style of quoting prices, but begs to say that his selection of TEAS, COFFEES, SPICES, SOAPS, &c., are bought from the best markets, and one trial will be sufficient to convince his friends that he is worthy of their support.

NOTE THE NUMBER:—
38, NEWGATE STREET, 112a
ROBERT WHITE, PROPRIETOR.

SMART'S VICTORIA HOTEL.

G. H. SMART
(Late Station Master North-Eastern and Midland Railways),
NEVILLE STREET, Directly Opposite the Central Station.
WINES, SPIRITS, ALES, STOUT, and CIGARS of the best quality.
REFRESHMENTS on the Shortest Notice.
WELL AIRED BEDS. 990

WILKINSON'S
IMPROVED
Concrete Flooring for Kitchens, Pantries and Passages.
„ Flooring for Laundries and Wash Houses.
„ Flooring for Schools and Yards.
„ Flooring for Stables and Coach Houses.
„ Flooring for Barns, Byers, and Maltings.
„ Flooring for Workshops and Warehouses.
„ Flooring for Cellars and Footpaths.

Was first extensively used at the Works of Sir W G. Armstrong & Co., in 1858, and has since been laid by the Advertisers at more than 2,000 Places in the Northern Counties, a List of which may be had on Application. It is not affected by Frost, Damp or Heat; has no Smell, and its Durability is guaranteed.

Town Price for 70 Square Yards and Upwards, 2s. per Yard. Country Prices and further Particulars on application to

W. B. WILKINSON & CO.,
PRUDHOE STREET, NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE. 117a

EXTRACT FROM
PATTISON BROTHERS' PRICE LIST

BLACK TEAS.

		s.	d.
No. 1.	BLACK TEA—Excellent Congou, strong, rough, and pungent; a very economical Tea for general family use..	2	0
No. 2.	BLACK TEA—Superior Congou. We wish to draw special attention to this Tea for quality and price. It is strong, brisk, and lasting, even in second and third water, and must secure a large demand when more fully known.	2	8
No. 3.	BLACK TEA—Fine Kaisow and Moning Congou. Full, fragrant, ripe, and strong. It is equal to Teas sold at much higher prices, and will be fully appreciated by the connoisseur as high class Tea	3	0
No. 4.	BLACK TEA—A mixture of the finest Teas grown in India and China. It is of extremely fine quality, combining all the delicacy of flavour possessed in the finest Souchong, with the deep full colour and rich character of the high class Assam Teas	3	6
No. 5.	BLACK TEA—This is also a mixture of the finest Teas grown in India and China. It is unrivalled in quality, possessing every character needed by the most fastidious, and it is offered to the connoisseur of this delicious beverage as the finest Tea procurable	3	8
No. 6.	BLACK TEA—Finest Assam Pekoe Souchong. This fine Tea possesses fine flavour and extraordinary strength	4	0

Either of the above Teas can be had in original pakages at the following reductions, viz.:—
Caddie boxes, containing 20lb., 1d. per lb. reduction on above prices.
Half Chests, containing 45lb., 1½d. per lb. reduction on above prices.
Chests, containing 90lb., 2d. per lb. reduction on above prices.

62, CLAYTON STREET, AND 11, SIDE,
NEWCASTLE. 87

CHEAP COALS! CHEAP COALS!;

BROOM HILL COLLIERY, EBCHESTER.

HENRY RITSON,

BEGS to inform the public that he is prepared to supply good Unscreened Coalss at the above Colliery, at the following prices, viz.:—
TUB OF 6cwt........1s.
LOAD OF 18cwt. 3s. 316a

MEMORIAL CARDS FRAMED at Moderate Rates at the
GENERAL PRINTING OFFICE,
AND
WHOLESALE STATIONERY WAREHOUSE,
BLACKHILL.

CARRIAGE PAID TO CONSETT
and Neighbourhood—
CHEAP AND EXCELLENT
GROCERIES
From the Old Established
TEA AND GROCERY SHOP OF
THOMAS PUMPHREY,
48, CLOTH MARKET, NEWCASTLE. 174a

ESTABLISHED 51 YEARS.

JOHN WILSON AND SON,
WORSTED AND YARN MANUFACTURERS,
WHOLESALE HOSIERS, AND HABERDASHERS,
BLANKET AND FANNEL MERCHANTS,
35, DEAN STREET, AND
14 & 16, ST. NICHOLAS' CHURCHYARD,
NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE. 704

NORTHUMBERLAND TURKISH BATHS (near the Cricket Grounds), Northumberland Street.

OPEN
Daily from 7 0 a.m., till 9 0 p.m.
Saturday ..7 0 a.m., till 10 0 p.m.
Sunday....7 0 a.m., till 10 0 a.m.

CHARGES.

First-class Bath ..2s. 0d.	Do., with champooing. 2s. 6d.
Second do........1s. 0d.	Do., do. 1s. 6d.
Third do........0s. 6d.	Do., do. 1s. 0d.

Ladies—First-class only open on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, from 7 a.m., to 11 a.m.

Ladies'—Second-class open on Tuesdays and Thursdays, 1s. and 1s. 6d.; Ladies' and Gentlemen's Large Swimming Bath open Daily; also, Vapour and Warm Baths for Ladies' and Gentlemen. 17a

SUPERIOR WATCHES, SHIP CHRONOMETERS, ENGLISH AND FRENCH CLOCKS.

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Silver Patent Lever Watches	3	10	0	to	27	0	0
Gold Patent Lever Watches	10	10	0	to	40	0	0
Geneva Silver Watches..........	2	2	0	to	5	5	0
Geneva Gold Watches	5	5	0	to	30	0	0
Ship Chronometers	27	0	0	to	40	0	0

LISTER AND SONS,
WATCHMAKERS TO THE QUEEN, CHRONOMETER MAKERS TO THE ADMIRALTY,
12, 14, & 16, MOSLEY STREET, NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE. 334

Business Announcements.

TO WOOLLEN CLOTH BUYERS.

ADAM BRODIE,
CLOTH AGENT,
NEW MARKET STREET, CONSETT,

RESPECTFULLY informs the Public that he has been appointed Resident Agent in this district for one of the largest Woollen Cloth Manufacturers in the Kingdom, and is at all times in a position to supply cut lengths of WOOLLEN CLOTHS of every description at makers' prices.

OBSERVE THE ADDRESS—
ADAM BRODIE,
CLOTH AGENT,
NEW MARKET STREET, CONSETT. 311a

MR. E. BURTON,
DEALER IN PIANOFORTES AND HARMONIUMS
PIANOFORTES
Direct from the best London and Parisian Makers.
PIANOFORTES, &c.,
Tuned, Repaired, or Taken in Exchange.
SHEET MUSIC, Newest at Half-price.
Residence:—POPLAR COTTAGE, SHOTLEY BRIDGE. 26

THERE ARE THREE QUALITIES
FOR WHICH
CARIS'S PATENT LEVER WATCHES
ARE JUSTLY CELEBRATED, VIZ:—
LOWNESS IN PRICE,
CORRECT TIMEKEEPING, while for
DURABILITY they excel all.

JOHN D. CARIS,
20, HIGH STREET, GATESHEAD,
AND
1, BROAD CHARE, QUAYSIDE, NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE. 235a

MONTGOMERY'S CONCRETE FLOORING laid complete in Newcastle or Gateshead at 1s. 10. per yard. Its durability guaranteed. References where laid.

JOHN MONTGOMERY & SON,
CONCRETE STONE WORKS,
LEAZES LANE, NEWCASTLE. 864

"REID'S CELEBRATED EIGHTPENNY MILD ALE (Leazes Brewery) is the best sample of heavy-bodied Ale brewed in Newcastle, and is well-known for its fine flavour."—From "Innkeeper's Trade Circular," for Feb., 1866. 493

"MELVIN'S NOTED EDINBURGH MILD and BITTER ALES are as good Ales as can be purchased, . . . and we do not wonder at the immense sale of these Ales."—(See "Innkeeper's Trade Circular" for Feb., 1866.) 494

PICTURES FRAMED
In every Variety of Style
AT THE PRINTING OFFICES,
AND
WHOLESALE STATIONERY WAREHOUSE,
DERWENT STREET, BLACKHILL.

BLACKETT STREET TEA AND GROCERY WAREHOUSE.

JOHNSON (late Crosier), being determined to extend his business, is prepared to offer his Friends and the general Public, Teas, Coffee, Sugars, Spices, Soaps, and general Groceries, selected from the Best Markets, at the lowest possible Prices for Cash, feeling sure that one trial of his celebrated Teas from Two Shillings per pound, will ensure success. N.B.—A liberal allowance on Parcels of Ten Pounds upwards of these Teas.
Note the Address, 91 *and* 93, *Blackett Street, Newcastle,*
991 JAMES JOHNSON, PROPRIETOR.

WILSON'S
CELEBRATED HATS,
38, *GREY STREET,*
NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE.

WILSON'S New Improved, Easy-Fitting, FRENCH SILK HATS, cannot be surpassed for lightness, elegance, durability, and comfort. FELT HATS of every description. A large assortment of CAPS in the newest styles, Silk Umbrellas, &c. 738

WINES for CASH only. Town orders cash at the Counter. Country orders executed on pre-payment. Bottles, 1s. per dozen.

Clarets............	10s.	12s.	15s.	18s.	21s.	doz.
Port	15s.	18s.	21s.	24s.	27s.	„
Sherry	15s.	18s.	21s.	24s.	27s.	„
Champagne	21s.	24s.	36s.	48s.	56s.	„
Sauterne and Chablis	10s.	12s.	15s.	18s.	21s.	„

AT R. WATSON'S,
GROCER AND ITALIAN WAREHOUSEMAN,
WINE AND BRANDY MERCHANT,
116, GREY STREET, NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE. 165a

REID AND SONS,
GOLDSMITHS AND JEWELLERS TO THE QUEEN,
CHRONOMETER MAKERS TO THE ADMIRALTY.

SILVER TEA SERVICES, from........£20 to £40
SILVER COFFEE POTS, from ....£14 to £20
SILVER SALVERS, from ....£4 to £50
SILVER CAKE BASKETS, from ......£10 to £35
SILVER INKSTANDS, from ....£4 to £25
SILVER CLARET JUGS, from ....£14 to £35
SILVER MUGS for CHILDREN, from..45s. to £6
SILVER KNIFE, FORK, & SPOON, in Case, from..................24s. to £5
SILVER PORRINGERS and SPOONS, from..........................£5 to 8gs.
ELECTRO-PLATED CORNER DISHES, from 8gs. the Set of Four; the Handles remove, and Covers form four extra Dishes if required.
ELECTRO-PLATED DISH COVERS, from..........................8gs. per Set
ELECTRO-PLATED TEA SERVICES, from..........................70s.
ELECTRO-PLATED DESSERT KNIVES and FORKS, 12 Pairs, in Case, from ....63s.

REID AND SONS,
41, GREY STREET, NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE. 950

STATIONERY SUPPLIED
to Shops and Hawkers
AT
WHOLESALE PRICES,
AT THE
WHOLESALE STATIONERY WAREHOUSE,
DERWENT STREET, BLACKHILL.

McEWAN'S
CELEBRATED EDINBURGH ALES AND INDIA PALE ALE,
Are daily rising in public estimation.
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Advertisements for the *Consett Guardian* received up to *Nine* o'clock on FRIDAY Mornings. 931

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This Work contains his highly-successful and only safe treatment, and is illustrated with hundreds of cases and testimonials from patients with plain directions for perfect restoration to health. Sent post-free to any address, secure from observation, on receipt of two postage stamps.

Letters, with details of case, promptly answered.

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DEPILATORY.—WELLS'S DEPILATORY is the only *effectual* remedy for the immediate and permanent removal of superfluous hair from the face, arms, neck, &c. This preparation effects its purpose almost instantaneously, without pain or injury to the most sensitive skin. Forwarded by post (secured from observation) on receipt of 5s. by stamps or post-office order.

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N.B.—Hundreds of Testimonials have been received from the nobility and ladies of rank who have tried this marvellous remedy. 269

INSTANT CURE OF TOOTH-ACHE. Bunter's Nervine gives immediate and permanent relief in ordinary tooth-ache. It also forms a stopping, and saves the tooth, thus rendering extraction unnecessary. It does not injure the other teeth.

From the Medical Testimonials received, the following are selected:—

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NERVOUS DEBILITY and all NERVOUS AFFECTIONS, whether the result of early errors or otherwise, are by very simple and inexpensive means quickly cured in both France and Germany. The advertiser, a resident in this country, will be happy to send, free to all applicants, full particulars of the mode of treatment there adopted, on receipt of a directed envelope. All persons may cure themselves, and thus not run the risk of being victimised. Address, Mons. A. DUVAL, 13, Newmarket Street, Birmingham.

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Wanted.

WANTED, a Strong Active GIRL. One that has been accustomed to Cows.—Apply to SAMUEL SKELTON, Durham Road, Blackhill. 339a

For Sale.

FOR SALE, 50 SHARES, or One-Twentieth part of an Excellent LEAD MINE, situate in a Lead Mining District. The present operations are yielding a profit of £75 per Cent. To view, and for particulars apply to Mr. JOS. HOWARD, Sharebroker, Consett. 340a

TO BE SOLD BY PRIVATE CONTRACT 9 Acres of very Superior GRASS LAND, well suited for a Genteel Country Residence, or equally adapted for Market Gardens, Nurseries, &c. The situation is one of the most lovely and picturesque spots on the Tyne.—To view, and for particulars apply to Mr. JOSEPH HOWARD, Accountant and Sharebroker, Consett, Durham. 341a

STATIONERY in PACKETS, at 1d., 6d., and 1s. sold at the STATIONERY WAREHOUSE, DERWENT STREET, BLACKHILL.

Public Notice.

THE BANKRUPTCY ACT, 1861.

IN THE COUNTY COURT OF DURHAM, HOLDEN AT SHOTLEY BRIDGE.

WILLIAM KER, late of Medomsley Lane Ends, near Leadgate, in the County of Durham, Innkeeper, and now of Consett, in the same County, out of business, having been adjudged Bankrupt on the 16th day of November, 1869, a public sitting for the said Bankrupt to pass his last examination, and make application for his Discharge, will be held at the said Court at Shotley Bridge, on the 10th day of January, 1870, at Ten o'clock in the Forenoon precisely, the day last aforesaid being the day limited for the said Bankrupt to surrender.

The Registrar of the Court is the Official Assignee, and Mr. GEO. SALKELD, of Durham, is the Solicitor acting in the Bankruptcy.

338a JOHN BOOTH, JUN., Registrar.

Sales by Auction.

By Mr. Adam Brodie.

CLOTH BLANKETS and GENERAL DRAPERY FOR SALE BY AUCTION at the house of Mr. R. DETCHIN, BELSAY, on MONDAY, December 13, 1869,

315a MR. A. BRODIE, Auctioneer.

By Mr. Joseph Oley

DRAPERY SALE AT FLINT HILL.

MR. JOSEPH OLEY WILL SELL BY PUBLIC AUCTION, in the Long-room of Mrs. BELL's public-house, Flint Hill, on MONDAY and TUESDAY, December 13th and 14th, 1869, large and most valuable STOCK OF DRAPERY GOODS, of all kinds and descriptions, and of the Best Quality. Sale to commence at Half-past Six o'clock each Evening.

335a MR. OLEY, Auctioneer.

By Mr. Henry Brown.

HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE FOR SALE BY AUCTION, at the house of Miss DAWSON, Flint Hill, near Collierley Dykes, on TUESDAY, Dec. 14th, 1869 (removed for convenience of sale),

MR. HENRY BROWN, Auctioneer,

Comprising 1 Eight Days' Clock; 1 American Do.; 3 Mahogany Chest of Drawers; 2 Sofas; 1 Couch; 4 Four-poled Bedsteads and Mattresses; 1 Iron Do., with Hangings; 1 Desk Bed; 1 Night Commode; 2 Wardrobes; 2 Washstands and Dressing Table; 1 Mirror; 2 Looking Glasses; 10 Carpets; 8 Pictures; Window Cornices; Zinc and other Blinds; 2 Screens; 1 dozen Chairs; Tables; 1 Child's Chair; Gas Brackets; 1 Seated Stool: 1 Set of China; Knives and Forks; Cruet Stands; 2 Meat Safes; Fenders and Fireirons; Pots, Pans, and Cooking Utensils, with a variety of other goods.

Sale to commence at One o'clock. 334a

EDITORIAL NOTICES.

"Rambler's" remarks and also our report of Lanchester Highway Board are left over to next week.

The Consett Guardian.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 11, 1869.

OUR GAS SUPPLY.

THE duties of a journalist are neither few nor light, and amongst the duties which necessarily devolve upon him at times is that of grumbling. Last week we had the unpleasant duty to perform of finding fault with the Shotley Bridge and Consett District Gas Company for the gas supplied to the district. This week we have the more pleasant task assigned us of complimenting the Gas Company for the manner in which they have managed matters during the present week. With the exception of one night, we have had an abundant supply of gas of an improved quality. The improvements thus effected reflect credit upon the Directorate, and we trust that these improvements will be continuous.

OUR LONDON CORRESPONDENT.

I suppose that we shall hear ere long who has been chosen to be the leader of the Conservative party in the House of Lords; but nothing reliable has yet transpired, though speculations are numerous enough. The Duke of Marlborough, the Duke Richmond, the Marquess of Salisbury, the Earl of Derby, and the Earl of Carnavon are all talked of. Why this nobleman should be chosen, and why the other not, is just one of those matters of opinion which are very difficult to settle; but that there should be so great a variety of opinion shows that there is no single nobleman in the Conservative ranks manifestly qualified in every way to take precedence, and perhaps it may likewise be taking as evincing a want of organisation in the party.

Parliament, it seems, is not to be called together before Christmas, and therefore there can be no intention of a proximate suspension of the Habeas Corpus Act in Ireland. Let us be thankful for this double mercy. As to Parliament being convoked owing to the disturbed state of Ireland, that would probably only make matters worse, and it certainly would give immense satisfaction to the Fenians, who would howl with delight at having forced the Government to take such a step. If the law officers of the Crown will only use the powers they possess, and if the loyal magistrates of Ireland will only follow the example of the Limerick magistracy, and prohibit any street demonstrations or disturbances, there will be no occasion for the suspension of the Habeas Corpus Act. The Government ought, it seems pretty generally thought, to do something to prevent the scurrilous outpourings of the so called national press.

"Treason never prospers; what's the reason?
When it prospers, none dare call it treason;"

but the more Fenianism has seemed to prosper through adventitious aids, the more decidedly treasonable it has become, the more cruel, and the more sanguinary. It is quite time that the Government took it in hand vigorously and determinedly. To do this, it is not requisite to suspend the Habeas Corpus Act. But we must not therefore conclude that ministers have definitely abandoned all idea of suspending the Act—a matter which they have been undoubtedly considering for some weeks past. Ireland, in fact, is on her good behaviour; and should we have any more agrarian outrages within the next few weeks, ministers would probably, after exerting the powers which they already possess to obtain security of life and property, have recourse to a suspension of the Habeas Corpus Act on the re-assembling of Parliament. In any case, it is probable that the unsatisfactory state of Ireland will render it desirable to convoke Parliament a few days earlier than the ordinary period for the commencement of the session.

I think we may safely reckon on a bill next session to amend the Reform Act, and that it will be a Government measure. Its main features will be the proposal of the ballot and the abolition of nomination at the hustings, but there will be provisions for securing greater order and preventing so much excitement during elections. But will a majority be found in favour of the ballot?

"To all in debt or difficulties," as advertising solicitors say, the remaining days of 1869 offer facilities which will never recur for getting rid of pecuniary burdens; and the insolvent and embarrassed seem to appreciate this, as there were 153 adjudications of bankruptcy in the London Court last week, mostly on the petitions of debtors themselves. Under the new law, no person can be made a bankrupt on his own petition, nor can a bankrupt obtain an order of discharge without paying 10s. in the pound, except on the special recommendation of his creditors. Putting this and that together, without adverting to other important features of the new law which comes into force on the 1st of January, 1870, we can quite appreciate the present rush to the Bankruptcy Court. Perhaps we could not have a more satisfactory proof of the wholesome reform which the new act will effect than this hurrying to take advantage of the old one; and I venture to predict that next month will be as remarkable for scarcity of adjudications in bankruptcy as this month is for abundance of them.

A little fellow eight years of age has been proved guilty of placing some iron railway chairs and some large stones on a railway, so that, had these obstructions not be discovered, there might have been a frightful accident and perhaps a heavy loss of life. Baron Pigott could not tell what to do with the young culprit, so he sent him home to his father and mother, saying that "he ought to be flogged." Then why was he not flogged? The castigation might of course have been tempered to the tender skin of this mischievous young monkey; but it is annoying that he should not be punished at all, seeing that if a train is thrown off the rails by the acts of a child, the damage will be none the less on account of the juvenility of the criminal.

The *Observer* tells us that a postal convention has been adopted by the British and the American Governments to reduce the postage of letters between the two countries from 6d. to 8d. Rather stale news this. Why, Mr. Mundella, M.P., publicly stated the same thing some weeks ago.

The barriers still remain around those unfortunate cracked columns of the Holborn Viaduct; and though it is a month since these annoying flaws were discovered we are still left in doubt as to the cause. Three engineers have been making inquiries about it; but if they have discovered anything, they have kept it to themselves. This looks as though there had been gross mismanagement somewhere, and the engineers don't like to say so.

From all parts of the country people have been coming up within the past few days to visit the great Christmas Cattle Show. Not only do the attractions of this exhibition show no falling-off, but they have this year increased, and the Agricultural Hall seems likely to be thronged all the week by larger crowds than ever. The prizes this year amount to a larger sum than previously, being no less than £2,070, besides three pieces of plate, three gold medals, eleven silver ones, and a number of prizes of a sovereign each with a framed certificate. There is an immense amount of distress—human distress—visible in London; but cattle and sheep seem to be doing very well. If they were only more numerous, human poverty would not be so severe. Rather an *outre* view of matters this, perhaps, but it naturally presents itself to me, owing to the misery that just now makes itself so painfully apparent—as apparent as the signs of coming Christmas festivity.

Local and District News.

Mr. Candlish and Captain Beaumont, members of the Abyssinian Inquiry Commission, have arrived at Bombay. Captain Beaumont now intends to return home in December by the Euphrates valley route.

CONSETT CADETS OF TEMPERANCE.—This band of youths is connected with the "John Wesley" (Consett) division of the Sons of Temperance, and has been in a healthy condition numerically. On Saturday night, a meeting was held in connection with that society, in Mr Scott's sale-room, Consett, which was presided over by Mr. H. Rogers. A few of the lads recited some touching pieces, and the Chairman and Messrs. J. Bushby and W. M. Patterson addressed the meeting. Melodies were sung by Messrs. J. Weir and C. White. There was a tolerably good audience.

OPENING SERVICES AT COLLIERLEY DYKES.—On Sunday, the opening services in connection with a preaching-room and Sunday school at Collierley were held, when eloquent sermons were preached in the morning and evening by Mr. W. D. Lawson, of Newcastle, and in the afternoon by the Rev. J. Jordan, of Gateshead. On Saturday evening an instructive lecture was delivered by the Rev. Joseph Jordan, which was listened to with great attention by a numerous auditory. At the Sunday afternoon and evening services, the room was filled to overflowing, and liberal collections were taken.

A VILLAGE CONSTABLE AND HIS SERVANT.—Robert Bell, a farmer, near Shotley Bridge, was summoned to the County Court held at Shotley Bridge, on Monday by his servant, William Martin, for non-payment of wages. It appeared that, owing to some disagreement about the leave allowed on Sundays, Bell had offered Martin his wages, and told him to quit his service. Martin denied having been offered his wages, and stated that when he came to ask for them, defendant took his constable's staff and threatened to "lay it over his head." Complainant left about a fortnight before the term. Ultimately, the solicitors employed on the case, Messrs. Pattinson and Taylor, agreed that it should be compromised by the payment of £6, the sum demanded, the defendant paying the costs.

FIRE AT BLACKHILL.—On Wednesday afternoon, a fire broke out in the dwelling of James Smith, puddler, Front Street, Blackhill. His sister-in-law, Dorothy Waters, had been going into the pantry with a candle, and while opening the pantry-door with her disengaged hand, the other which was holding the candle went close to the bed curtains, which immediately ignited. A porter named Young, observing the smoke issuing from the house as he was passing, gallantly rushed into the house, and at once lifted the carpeting from the floor to smother the fire. The neighbours were alarmed, water was brought in buckets, the smoking and burnt bedding and wearing apparel were dragged into the street, and the fire was speedily got under. The curtains of the bed were completely destroyed, and the bedding and some wearing apparel were rendered almost useless. Too much praise cannot be accorded to Young for his presence of mind and prompt exertions.

CONSETT MECHANICS' ANNUAL SUPPER.—The mechanics of Consett Iron Works held their annual supper on Saturday evening, at the house of Mr. R. Surtees, Queen's Head Inn, Middle Street, Consett, when forty-three sat down to an excellent repast. The room was tastefully decorated for the occasion, and the tables furnished with the choicest viands of the season. Ample justice was done to the good things spread before them. After the withdrawal of the cloth, Mr. R. Pearson was called upon to occupy the chair, while Mr. Wm. Lumsden filled the vice-chair. The usual loyal and patriotic toasts having been disposed off, the chairman gave the toast of the evening—"The mechanics of Consett and their foremen." The vice-chairman gave "The Consett Iron Works, coupled with the name of Mr. Priestman, the late managing director." "The Health of the late manager, Mr. James Radcliffe," was then proposed, and drunk with musical honours, and a tribute of respect paid to that gentleman's name. Song and sentiment were then the order of the evening. The singing of Messrs. A. Wild, J. Palliser, W. Moir, and J. Muse, contributed greatly to the harmony of the evening. The "Health and Prosperity of the worthy host and hostess" was then drunk with musical honours. Mr. Surtees briefly responded. The national anthem then brought a very pleasant evening to a close.

THE UNITED PRESBYTERIAN PRESBYTERY OF NEWCASTLE.—The above presbytery met on Tuesday in the vestry of Clavering Place Church, the Rev. G. Douglas, of Walker, moderator. There was a good muster of ministers and elders. A letter was read from the Rev. Stephen Wallace, clerk to the presbytery, stating his inability to attend, and that his doctor had advised his spending the winter in the south of France, and tending his resignation as clerk. The letter was laid on the table and the Rev. G. Bell appointed to act for the present. A report was read from the Rev. W. Salmond, of North Shields, anent the church at Hull, which argued favourably for the future prosperity of that church. Reports were also read, and commissioners heard, in the case of Gateshead. It appears that they have a very large and well-conducted Sabbath School, and have now 29 members which the commissioners believe will be augmented to 39 before the end of the month, and no objection being offered from any of the sister churches, of Newcastle, these 29 were unanimously declared the united presbyterian church of Gateshead. Mr. Alexander Baillie, the minister elect, of Blackhill, next appeared for his trials, which he went through with great *eclat*, and at the close was very highly complimented by all the ministers present for the great ability evinced by him that day. The call from Blackhill was then put into his hands, and Wednesday, the 22nd inst., appointed for his ordination, to take place at Blackhill. The Rev. G. Douglas, of Walker, was then elected clerk *pro tem.*

A man named John Lee, of Carlisle, was on Tuesday fined £2 and costs, by the Hexham magistrates, for travelling on the railway without a ticket.

CONCEALMENT OF BIRTH.—At the Bishop Auckland Police Court, on Tuesday, a young woman named Jane Dawson was committed for trial on a charge of concealment of birth.

FORESTRY AT LEADGATE.—On Saturday evening the half-yearly election of officers of the Court "Jonathan Priestman," of the Ancient Order of Foresters, held at the house of Mr. Clarkson, Greyhound Inn, Leadgate, took place. The following were elected for the ensuing half-year:—John Mealay, C.R.; George White, S.C.R.; Edward Lynup, Secretary; John Burn, Assistant-Secretary; Joseph Snowdon, Treasurer; Thomas Rogan, S.W.; Joseph Davey, J.W.; Thomas Hepple, S.B.; Benjamin Jeffrey, J.B.; R. Ross and G. White, Auditors. The Secretary reports the court to be in a flourishing state, and with nearly 100 members on the books.

STANLEY PENNY READINGS.—The fortnightly penny readings in connection with the Stanley Reading-room and Library took place in the Infant School-room, on Wednesday evening—Mr. T. W. W. Ritson, secretary, presiding. Mr. M. Stewart sang some Scottish songs in good taste, and Mr. J. Armstrong's readings were well received, as also was the reading of Mr. Wm. Fitzpatrick. Mr. Thomas Armstrong, however, appeared to be the "man of the hour." His local songs—"Stanley Reading-room" and "The Tanfield Brake"—provoked a perfect storm of merriment, as all the hits were so apposite and the characters introduced were so well known. There was a large attendance, and an interesting evening was spent.

SHOTLEY BRIDGE COUNTY COURT.—Before H. Stapylton, Esq., judge. On Monday the cases heard possessed but little local interest. The case of Raine v. Featherstonehaugh, adjourned from last court, came up for judgment. It will be remembered that this was an action taken by Mr. George Raine to recover from the Rev. Walker Featherstonehaugh an amount for out-going crop on his quitting the farm at Edmondbyers. His Honour, after reviewing the case, gave a verdict in favour of the defendant, with costs.—Town v. Nicholson.—Mr. A. Town, butcher, Consett, sued Mr. Hedley Nicholson, butcher, Consett, for the value of a sheep which he had taken by mistake from his flock at Benfieldside. His Honour adjourned the case till next court for the production of an important witness. Two or three other cases were also ordered to stand over for the same reason.

TOW LAW LOCAL BOARD.—The monthly meeting of this Board was held on Wednesday evening. A general district rate of 6d. in the pound was sealed and signed, and a pay-bill of £36 6s. 1d. was allowed. The auditor's summary and report were read, being very short and satisfactory. A report was read relating to street lighting, and dissatisfaction expressed that the work was not proceeding more vigorously. The Inspector's report showed that some streets were in a bad state, and the owners of property were ordered to have notices given them that if the streets were not satisfactorily repaired, the Board would do the work and charge the same as private improvements. A nuisance committee was appointed. Tenders were received for flagging Bridge Street and kerbing towards North Street, and the works were ordered to be done by Messrs. T. Westgarth and J. Ridley.

A CONTRACTOR ROBBED OF £90 IN GATESHEAD.—A contractor named Philip Roe, lodging with Mr. John Bickerdyke, High Street, Gateshead, was robbed of £90 some time between the hours of four o'clock of the afternoon of the fourth inst., and eight o'clock of the evening of the next day. It appears that at half-past four o'clock on the 4th Mr. Roe left his lodgings, and before doing so neglected to take the key out of the lock of a box in his bed-room. In this box there was with other things an india-rubber tobacco pouch. In this pouch there were 40 sovereigns and ten £5 Bank of England notes. Mr. Roe returned to his lodgings at eight o'clock in the evening of the next day. He proceeded to his bed-room, and found his box locked and the key taken away. The box was broken open, and it was then found that the money had been taken. Information was given to the police, but the robber has not yet been found. A late lodger is suspected of the theft.

ALARMING FIRE IN NEWCASTLE.—A fire, which assumed a somewhat alarming aspect, broke out about twelve o'clock on Friday night, in the Albion House, the extensive establishment of Messrs. Dunn and Co., drapers, Market Street, Newcastle. The discovery was made by Mr. Swallow, the locker-up of the premises. It appeared that the fire was raging in the tailors' workshop, which is situated at the top of the building, and a good supply of water was speedily brought to bear upon the burning apartment. By two o'clock the fire had been extinguished, and all danger put an end to. The roof of the workshop fell in, and very much damage was done by the water, which also extended to some property in the lower portions of the building, but no accurate estimate of the full extent of the loss can yet be arrived at. The fire is supposed to have originated in the stove, which, getting over-heated, had ignited some woodwork or other combustible material.

CONCERT AT SHOTLEY BRIDGE.—It is astonishing with what rapidity a taste for minstrelsy has been developed of late years in our district. This is particularly the case amongst those who have not in their school days had the privilege of being "furnished" by professionals in the different accomplishments. And as a consequence, church and chapel choirs are pretty strong, and can make a respectable effort in public. The members of the Shotley Bridge Primitive Methodist choir have just celebrated their anniversary by having special sermons and a concert of sacred music. The preacher was Mr. George Charlton, of Bensham, who gave two practical sermons on Sunday, to large congregations. The concert took place in the chapel, on Monday night, and was well attended, Rev T. Greenfield, the Superintendant of the circuit, presided, and opened the proceedings with a few happy and instructive remarks upon the Psalter. The performances of the choristers were extremely well received by the audience; and notwithstanding a defect or two, the lengthy programme was gone through in a manner that at once showed the improvement that had been made by the choir as a whole and the talent of some of its more prominent members. Some portions of "celebration" were rendered extremely sweet, and the chorus of "In the days of Herod the King" was powerful. The bass of Mr. W. Urwin and the alto of Miss Smith made a capital impression in "Praise the Lord ye hosts on high" and "Sound the trumpet in Zion." We do not remember of having heard their tenor better, and as amateurs the flattering encomiums given them at the close were just. Miss Oley presided at the harmonium. Rev J. Nicholls gave a few remarks upon the history and power of music, and Mr. A Seed filled up the "interval." Mr. G. Charlton in a short speech given in his usual effective style, showed importance of having facts as a basis of religious belief. Votes of thanks were given to all that had contributed to the evening's enjoyment, and the meeting dispersed.

THEATRE, CONSETT.—Owing to the inclemency of the weather there was a poor attendance at this place of entertainment on Friday evening. Mr. J. R. Talfourd's benefit was announced for that evening, but he did not meet with that support which his acknowledged ability deserves. "Rob Roy" was the piece selected for this occasion. Mr. Talfourd's impersonation of Bailie Nichol Jarvie was an excellent performance, keeping the risible faculties of the audience in constant play by his versatility, and was repeatedly applauded. The Rob Roy of Mr. G. Dunbar, and the Helen McGregor of Mrs. G. Dunbar were rendered with tolerable accuracy. The following also took part in the cast: Messrs. H. Vollaire, C. O'Brien, H. Coles, &c. Whilst expressing a favourable opinion, we think that had a little more preparation been bestowed upon a piece like Rob Roy the effect would have been better appreciated.—On Tuesday evening the Theatre was crowded in every part, the occasion being for the benefit of Mr. G. Dunbar, who has, since his first appearance in Consett, merited the support and approbation of our local playgoers. "The Man with the Iron Mask," a drama possessing considerable historic interest was represented. Mr. G. Dunbar's conception of Gaston, the Iron Mask, surpassed all his previous performances. His portrayal of the two periods of the Iron Mask's imprisonment was very accurately played. The Marie d'Ortanges of Mrs. G. Dunbar was given with much pathos and judgment. Mr. J. R. Talfourd displayed fine acting in the character of D'Aubigne. We cannot but congratulate the De St. Mars of Mr. H. Vollaire. The good opinion formed on this gentleman's *debut* has been fully borne out. Miss E. Victor was very vivacious as Mademoiselle Aubry. Miss Lily Mordon had only an indifferent character assigned to her. On the fall of the curtain, Mr. Dunbar, in a few appropriate remarks, thanked the audience for their presence and patronage on that occasion. Two or three parties had rumoured that they had to leave Consett. He desired to contradict that, and by their permission would stay a few weeks longer. (Applause.) During the interval Mr. H. Vollaire recited Lord Macaulay's celebrated poem, "Horatius," with marked effect, receiving the applause of the audience. Songs by Charlie O'Brien, and trapeze performances by Mdlle. Victoria and Mons. Alvando added considerably to the evening's entertainment. Mr. H. Coles takes a benefit to-night (Friday.)

A PROFITABLE PIG.—On Wednesday, Mr. James Johnstone, grocer, &c., Annfield Plain, killed a pig which weighed 40st. 4lb. This enormous animal wanted a week of being 19 months old, and must have been profitable to its possessor.

A pleasing recognition of the services which Colour-Sergeant Gray has rendered the Chester-le-Street Volunteer corps for the period of nine years, was made on Friday night, by being presented with a valuable gold guard, locket, and a purse of gold which had been subscribed to by the officers and men.

A WEARDALE MAN KILLED IN AUSTRALIA.—The Australian mail just to hand brings the sorrowful news to Weardale of a much respected young man, Nathan Race Watson, of St. John's Chapel, having received a fatal injury in the Nightingale Co.'s Gold Mine, Australia. A fortnight after the accident he died, leaving a wife and three children.

DERWENT COTTAGES AND THE DURHAM COUNTY MINERS' ASSOCIATION.—A meeting of delegates from the various collieries united in the Durham County Miners' Mutual Confident Association was held on Saturday last, in the Market Hotel, Durham, Mr. Isaac Parks, of Trimdon, presiding. Amongst the business that came before the meeting was a resolution from Derwent Cottages that sixpence per member be deposited in the Central Fund, and that no part of the working expenses of the association be taken out of this fund, next came on for consideration. It was stated that the proposition would interfere with the general rules already drawn up, and that the question ought to be struck off.—This was agreed to.

PREPARING FOR CHRISTMAS FESTIVITIES.—Two men, named Thomas Fenwick and Robert Davison, were charged, on Tuesday, before the Lanchester magistrates, with damaging underwood, the property of the Earl of Durham. The prisoners had been caught in the woods near Lanchester, busily engaged in cutting down holly, which they intended to dispose of for decorative purposes, in some of the neighbouring towns.—The magistrates were of opinion that a check was required at the outset to the work of those freetraders, in order to preserve the plantations from their incursions at this season of the year. They were, accordingly, fined £1 and costs each, or 14 days' hard labour. The fines were paid.

VIOLENT ASSAULT ON A POLICE SERGEANT AT COXHOE.—On Saturday, a pitman, named Harland Hawcroft, was brought before the Durham county magistrates charged with a violent and unprovoked assault on Sergeant John Welsh, at Coxhoe, on Friday night last. It appears that Sergeant Welsh was called to eject the prisoner from a public-house, where he was conducting himself more like a madman than anything else. The moment he caught sight of the officer he launched out with his fists, dealing him a severe blow on the mouth before he could protect himself. Sergeant Welsh then got hold of him and removed him, with great difficulty, to the station, the prisoner kicking him severely on the legs on the road. The Bench thought the case an exceedingly bad one, and fined the prisoner £6 and costs, or two months' imprisonment. Hawcroft went to gaol in default of payment.

SINGULAR DISAPPEARANCE OF A CHESTER-LE-STREET TRADESMAN.—One of the tradesmen of Chester-le-Street has suddenly and unexpectedly bidden the town what is to all appearance a long farewell. The particulars, so far as we have been able to glean, are these:—The tradesman had called in the minister of his chapel to baptise his child, on Sunday, when the rev. gentleman gave his friend some good practical advice. He promised to attend chapel the same evening, and requested his wife to adjourn to her sister's house, close by, till he returned, as she might be dull. Then sitting down he curtly wrote—on an envelope which he left for his wife—that he was off for America, and requested her to make the best effort she could to maintain herself and family. We may add that much sympathy is felt for the deserted wife and children.—*Newcastle Daily Journal.*

RIOT AMONGST THE IRISH AT DARLINGTON.—On Sunday night, about half-past ten o'clock, a fight of a very serious character took place between the Irish residents of Albert Hill, Darlington. A party of about ten men had left Todd's public-house, and soon afterwards while in the street near they were met by about a like number of men, who were returning from the town about a mile distant. All the parties had, no doubt, had more or less drink. How the row arose is not stated, but it seems that on coming athwart one another a fearful encounter ensued, the fight being carried on with thick sticks loaded with lead, with stones, and what other defensive weapons could be obtained. The police came up some little time after when the rioters dispersed, but not before two of their number, one of whom is considerably bruised about the face and head, had been captured. Another man was found at Albert Hill with his nose smashed in a fearful manner, with a serious cut on the head, and other injuries. It is believed that several others of the party must also have suffered. It is said that the two contending parties represent Orangemen and Fenians.

LANCHESTER BOARD OF GUARDIANS.

The usual fortnightly meeting of the Guardians of the Lanchester Union was held in the Board-room, Lanchester, on Thursday, when there were present: Messrs. N. Clark (presiding), Major Joicey, W. J. Joicey, G. Alder, T. Elliott, T. Humphrey, J. Bowey, D. C. Balleny, E. Charlton, John Collinson, Robert Dickinson, F. Holmes, G. Hobson, J. Wilkinson, W. Cumming, J. Gledstone, and H. Ritson.

The minutes of last meeting were read and confirmed.

THE CORRESPONDENCE

received during the past fortnight was of no public importance.

THE "CONSETT GUARDIAN'S" CORRESPONDENTS.

The letter which appeared in our issue of the 27th ult., referring to the sanitary state of Lanchester, and "Rambler's" remarks thereon last week were then the theme of an animated conversation. The Guardians denying the truthfulness of the allegations contained in that letter. From the evidence of the Master of the Workhouse it appeared that no nuisance were suffered to flow into the "burn," and the soap suds and manure were of too much service to the land adjoining the workhouse to allow such a waste. Further, there are no water closets at the workhouse, and the refuse from the ash-pit is emptied frequently and regularly upon the land.

The Clerk was instructed to reply to the letter referred to.

THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

then examined accounts amounting to £9 10s. 2d., which were ordered to be paid.

THE BUILDING COMMITTEE

then examined the amended plans of the alterations and additions to the workhouse. A letter from the Poor Law Board, in which the Board expressed their satisfaction with the plans generally, was also read. In this communication the Board suggested some alterations, which was, on the Major JOICEY, ordered to be made, previous to which, the plans were again to be submitted to the architect.

Major JOICEY thought it would be well to form a committee, and for them to take the question of the sewerage of the village into consideration, and to ascertain the estimated cost of putting in a main sewer.

Mr. D. C. BALLENY was of opinion that the expense of the sewer should be borne by the property owners.

Major JOICEY: It would be well for the Guardians of Lanchester to get the property owners together for the purpose of adopting measures to secure the village being properly drained.

Mr. D. C. BALLENY: It will be well also for the committee to be fully informed of the powers they possess.

The CHAIRMAN thought that the Building Committee of the Workhouse and the magistrates, who are ex-officio members of the Board, together with the Guardians representing Lanchester should form the Sewerage Committe. The owners of property in Lanchester could be called on to put a drain through the village.

Mr. D. C. BALLENY: The Workhouse Building Committee should be included in the Sewerage Committee.

Major JOICEY then proposed that a Sewerage Committee be appointed, and that such committee consist of the Magistrates, the Workhouse Building Committee, and the Guardians for Lanchester. This resolution was then seconded, and carried unanimously.

The Board then proceeded to the relief of the poor, after which

THE ASSESSMENT COMMITTEE

sat, and the various valuation lists were signed, after which the committee adjourned.

The revenue from tobacco in Virginia has increased one hundred and twenty fold in the last twelve months.

SHOCKING ACCIDENT IN A CHURCH.—A communication from Louisville, Kentucky, states that while funeral services were going on, on the 21st ult., in the Second Coloured Baptist Church, before a very large congregation, the floor gave way, and five or six persons were killed, and 150 wounded. They were all coloured.

LEADGATE LOCAL BOARD.

On Wednesday afternoon, the usual monthly meeting of this Board was held in the Board-room, Leadgate. The members present were—Rev. Canon Kearney (chairman), E. Charlton, R. W. Shaw, J. Wilson, J. Bland, J. Calvert, J. Thompson, J. Davidson, D. C. Balleny, and J. Parker.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and signed.

THE RATE'S DISPUTE.

A consultation took place upon the draft of the case between the Board and the North-Eastern Railway Company regarding the disputed rates, which had been sent to the Board.

Mr. CHARLTON said his opinion of the draft was that there was a deal of irrelevant matter in it, which did not bear on the case at all. He then explained wherein the irrelevancy lay. The Acts of Parliament for the lines round about had no connection with the lines that ran through the Leadgate Local Board district, as they had never been anything but way-leave lines, and no passengers had been carried upon them.

The CLERK stated that he had informed the counsel in London that no passengers were conveyed through the district.

The CHAIRMAN said they would have had a much stronger case if Consett had not been amalgamated with them.

Mr. CALVERT said the Consett people had been talked over in their dispute, but he was not yet satisfied about the matter.

The CHAIRMAN thought no Act of Parliament could have been got for such a line as they had in the Local Board district. A committee of the Board should be appointed to go fully into the draft. Each one of the proposed committee should read it, and get himself up in the matter, after which they could have a conference, and then meet the solicitors.

After a prolonged conversation, in which it was stated that they had a clear case, the idea of the Chairman was approved of, and the following were appointed a committee:—The Chairman, Messrs. Calvert, Balleny, and Shaw; the Clerk *ex-officio*.

LIGHTING.

In answer to Mr. Charlton, the CLERK said he had not received any reply from the North-Eastern Railway Company in answer to the request of the Board, to cause lamps to be put up at the railway-crossings.

Mr. CHARLTON thought that was strange, as he had mentioned the matter to Mr. Mitford, and he was under the impression that the reply had been sent. They were quite willing that it should be done, and he thought the Board would be justified in proceeding with the flagging.

The Board concluded that the Clerk should write to the officials reminding them that no reply had been received to the request.

FLAGGING.

Mr. BALLENY said Mr. Nicholson, of Leadgate, had mentioned something to him about Mr. Taylor, the contractor, having laid the flagging three inches higher than his door step. He got Mr. Kell to make them the proper level, and he had sent in a bill of £1 10s. for lowering and relaying the flags. He (Mr. Balleny) wanted to know if Nicholson or the Board should pay the account. After looking at the matter, he thought neither Nicholson nor the Board should be put to the expense, but that the contractor Taylor should pay it.

The CLERK said he observed that it would have been a critical matter to lay the flagging so as to suit every door step, and gave the contractor liberty to do it for the best. Mr. Nicholson had waited upon him, and said that he could not wait until a Board meeting to get liberty. He advised him to see the members of the Board but could do nothing himself.

The CHAIRMAN: If private individuals are to interfere with public works in that way, where will it end?

Mr. SHAW remarked that other steps had been taken into consideration in the flagging.

During the conversation, it transpired that Mr. Nicholson had been a member or two, after which Mr. SHAW moved that the account be paid by the Board, which was seconded by Mr. BALLENY in a few explanatory remarks.

The CLERK, in reply to Mr. Parker, said he was of opinion that Mr. Nicholson should pay one-third, and the Board two-thirds, when the motion of Messrs. Shaw and Balleny was amended to that, and carried.

RATING INFORMALITIES.

The committee appointed at last meeting to inquire into the informalities in the rate-book, complained of by Mr. J. Lee, of the North-Eastern Railway Company, gave in their report, which after a few amendations was approved of.

THE SURVEYOR'S REPORT

showed that a considerable quantity of material had been put upon the roads, and that the flagging in Leadgate was finished. The district pay-bill was £22 19s. 4d.; Medomsley, £14 17s. 6d.

INSPECTOR'S REPORT.

The CHAIRMAN read the above report, which stated that the greater part of the district had been inspected and was found to be in a clean and satisfactory condition. A notice had been served upon Mr. Watson Smith to connect his property in Plantation Row with the main drain. The Chairman remarked that he could not endorse the Inspector's view that the district was satisfactory. There was small-pox of a very malignant type on the south side of the village, and the Nuisance Removal Committee should get disinfectants if the Guardians did not supply it.—Agreed to.

FINANCE.

An estimate was given for a general district rate of 10d. in the pound, and on the motion of Mr. DAVIDSON, seconded by Mr. PARKER, the Clerk was instructed to get the rate prepared.

The Clerk reported that there was a balance of £97 3s. 4d. in the bank to the credit of the Board, and cheques were signed for £37 16s. 10d., after which the Board adjourned till Wednesday next.

GROSS CRUELTY NEAR WOLSINGHAM.

A revolting case of cruelty to a cow was brought before the Wolsingham bench of magistrates on Tuesday, Thos. Dodd, of Broadwood, near Frosterly, farmer (occupying a large farm under the Hon. Mr. Coventry), was summoned at the instance of the Royal Humane Society for the prevention of Cruelty to Animals for cruelly ill-treating a cow, on the 11th October last. Mr Skidmore, barrister, of Darlington, appeared for the prosecution, and Mr. Brignall, solicitor of Durham, for the defence.—It appeared from the evidence that on the 11th October last the defendant had a cow which fell over a cliff 60 feet high and broke one of its fore legs, several of its ribs and also its back. The defendant was at once informed of the accident, and told distinctly by one of his own men that the animal could never be got out alive from the place where it had fallen. Notwithstanding this the defendant took no steps to get the opinion of a veterinary surgeon as to whether the cow could recover or not, nor did he order it to be slaughtered. He visited it on two or three occasions, but did not order anything to be done to alleviate its sufferings, but allowed it to linger on in agony, almost without food and water, and entirely without covering or other protection, in inclement weather, from the 11th to the 14th of October, when it was slaughtered where it fallen (and lain) by two butchers to whom the defendant sold it. The defendant was at the previous Wolsingham Petty Sessions convicted and fined in the sum of £10 and costs each, for exposing portions of this unfortunate cow for sale as human food, and on that occasion Todd, the present defendant, gave evidence in favour of the butchers, stating that the meat of the cow (notwithstanding all her injuries, her exposure, and the state of fever and inflammation in which she must have been) was good and wholesome. On Inspector Garland (the officer of the Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals) going to the defendant on the subject of the present charge, the defendant admitted he knew that the legs, ribs, and back of the cow were broken, but said "He did nothing for her, as he was not going to spend his corn, and he did not think it worth while to lay a man and horse idle to look after a cow with a broken leg. He thought a great deal more of his corn than the cow." The bench were unanimously of opinion that the defendant had shown a great want of humanity in allowing the poor animal to remain in the state he had done, and they fined him in the sum of £5, including costs.

THE SUEZ CANAL.—The barque Noel, from Bordeaux, bound to Bombay, the first vessel which passed through the Canal on the morning of November 28th, was wrecked at eight o'clock the same evening, 86 miles from Suez.

A QUARTETTE.—The wife of a working turner at Oyonnax, in France, has just been confined with four children at a birth. Three of them, boys, are fully developed and healthy, but the other was still-born.

MADAME DE LESSEPS.—The lady to whom M. de Lesseps has just been married was latterly known in Egypt as the "Rose of Sharon," in commemoration of the mode in which he asked for her hand. He brought her a flower from Suez. On this flower being twisted in the fingers by anyone, it was understood to bulb out and disclose in the centre of the blossom the holder's future consort. M. de Lesseps is related to, have given his lady-love this flower, asking her whom she saw in its frail leaves. The lady very soon said, "You!" and so the matter was settled. These flowers will doubtless be soon on sale in Convent Garden Market. They would be exceedingly useful to the bashful "popper."

SAD END OF A CATTLE-FEEDER AT SHOTLEY BRIDGE.

The usually quiet village of Shotley Bridge was thrown into a state of great excitement, on Monday afternoon, by the news of a man having been found drowned in the "race" of Messrs. Annandale's Flour Mill. It occurred that one of the workmen in the mill, which is propelled by water power, wanted it stopped, and gave orders to that effect. On the orders being executed, it was found the lever by which the water was turned off was unusually heavy, and a search was instituted to ascertain the cause, when the body of a man was found under the trap in the mill. Information was immediately sent to the police authorities, and P.C. Smith was promptly on the spot, who assisted in getting the body out, and on searching his pockets found about 25s. in them. Deceased turned out to be James Douglass, of Shotley Field. On the 12th of November he left home to go to Hawick. He was seen at Blackhill and Shotley Bridge on the afternoon of the 26th ult.; at which time he was under the influence of drink. It was ascertained that he had drawn £10 when in Scotland, and it was believed that he had been drinking excessively. On his friends learning his melancholy end, they telegraphed to Scotland to ascertain if possible, when he had left there, but the reply telegram did not give that information. A suspicion had got afloat at Shotley Bridge that deceased had come to his death by unfair means, which was strengthened by his being found inside of the trap. How the body had got past the sluice-grating could not be accounted for, except that he had been thrown down an aperture on the mill-side of it. On the morning of the inquest, however, that idea was dispelled, for one of the millers had remembered having the grating up for a day or two lately, in order to clear away the dead leaves that had accumulated during the "fresh" in the Derwent. Deceased is stated to have been a quiet inoffensive man, but very much addicted to drinking.

On Wednesday forenoon, an inquest was held on the body, at the Commercial Inn, Shotley Bridge, before J. M. Favell, Esq., and the following jury:—Messrs. William Wilson (foreman), T. Wilson, J. Wilson, R. Taylor, Pattinson Osborne, R. Hall, A. Houliston, George Farrage, F. Bowman, Charles Mosley, H. Carss, and T. Huddleston. After the jury had been sworn, they proceeded to look at the mill-race and the place in the mill where the body of deceased was found. Mr. A. Annandale showed a section of the water-course, and accompanied the jury in their inspection, explaining the whole route. After the body had been viewed,

Thomas Douglass, nephew of the deceased was sworn, and said: I am a hind with T. Wilson, Esq., at Shotley Field. Deceased was 64 years of age, and was at one time a cattle-feeder in Scotland. He left Shotley Field for Scotland on the 12th of November, but did not say where he was going to. I got a letter from Hawick saying he was in good health, and we never heard about him till he was found drowned. I don't know when he left Scotland. I did not see him nor hear from him till he was found on Monday night. He was much addicted to drinking. We telegraphed to Scotland. [The telegram produced was from Jedburgh, but could not give any information of leaving.]

Mary Ann Stokoe, wife of John Stokoe, publican, Bridge Inn, Shotley Bridge, sworn, said: I saw Jas. Douglass on the 26th November. He came, into our house a little after four o'clock in the afternoon and called for a glass of rum and something to eat. I said we were going to have tea, and he might have some with us. He did not drink the rum, and went out before tea. He was the worse for drink, but walked steady. I saw him afterwards on the foot-path near the door that leads to the mill-race.—By a Juryman—He did not speak to me. It was ten minutes after he left the house that I saw him on the footpath.—By the Coroner: I know the time exactly, because I was going to the station.

George Robson, grinder at Shotley Bridge Flour Mill, deposed: I wanted the mill stopped on Monday afternoon about a quarter-past three o'clock and I called to my father to stop it. He did so, but felt the lever of the "flap" that turns the water on and off the wheel unusually heavy to lift. I said we had better look down the trap inside of the mill, and I went down and found the deceased lying with his face downwards against the crank. With assistance I got him out. He was quite dead, and I did not observe anything particular. The police-officer found some money in his pocket. There was a "fresh" in the river last week and the week previous and leaves accumulated at the grating in front of the sluce which regulates the water into the two 30-inch pipes, which in turn empty themselves into the trap where deceased was found. The grating is lifted up occasionally when it gets stopped to clear it.

John Robson, father of the last witness, also a workman at the same mill, said: I lifted up the grating, and put it down again eight or ten days ago. Perhaps it might be open three or four days and nights. We never bother it but when the leaves get troublesome. It would be open on Saturday the 27th, and for a few days previous. My opinion is that it was open on Friday, the 26th. When the grating is up, it is clear of the water.

P.C. John Smith said he was present when the body of deceased was lifted out of the trap. He searched him, and found in his right side trouser-pocket a half-sovereign in gold, 14s. 6d. in silver, and 2d. in copper. He had a top-coat on, which was buttoned up to the throat. His hat was not on his head but it was found in the trap.

Dr. W. M. Renton was then sworn and said: I am a surgeon and doctor of medicine, and have seen the body of deceased. There are no marks of violence upon it; but there is a scratch upon the right temple, which must have been done after death. I have made a *post mortem* examination as I was not satisfied that death had been caused by drowning. I found many negative symptoms, but few positive ones. There was no distension of the lungs, which never subside in drowned persons, unless the bodies mortify; there were no bubbles on the trachea; no goose-skin; nothing on the stomach but food, and we usually find water. The right cavities of the heart were distended, which is not usually the case in persons drowned or suffocated. The only positive evidence that deceased died from drowning was the remarkable fluidity of the blood, which was dark and treacle like. Deceased appears to have died in a fit of apoplexy, which has been produced by "alcoholism." My opinion is that he had taken a fit and fallen into the mill-race. I found 3oz. of fluid in the ventricles of the brain, which was quite enough to account for his death without drowning. I have since heard that he complained of being unwell previous to his disappearance, which might have arisen from the approach of apoplexy.

The CORONER then summed up. He suspected that the deceased had been in too bad a state of drunkenness when he left the rum untouched in the Bridge Inn, for that was unusual in the case of men who were in the habit of drinking. There was no doubt that he had fallen into the mill-race, and that he had been washed beneath the grating at the sluce, carried by the water through one of the 30-inch pipes, and landed in the extraordinary place where he was found. It seemed to him a mixture of apoplexy and drowning, and looked as if he had taken a fit and fallen into the mill-race before he was quite dead. Excessive drinking was the cause of his being seized by apoplexy.

The jury returned a verdict in accordance with the remarks of the Coroner.

The FOREMAN asked if the jury should not express some wish to have the doors leading to the mill-race locked. One door was private, and the other public.

The CORONER said they could not do anything in the matter. The Local Board was the proper authority to act in the case.

A great reciprocity meeting was held in the Free Trade Hall, Manchester, on Monday.

It is stated that the conference of Wesleyans just held in London on the education question came to no definite resolution. There was, however, a very strong opposition to the denominational system.

The trial of the Rev. Mr. Smith, the clergyman who was accused of drowning his wife in Illinois, for the purpose of obtaining 9,000 dollars for which her life was insured, has ended in his acquittal.

"POISONING."—Just now, when authors are racking their brains for horrible stories suitable for the "jovial" time of Christmas, the following advertisement, which has been inserted in several London and other papers, must be a most sensible godsend:—"Whereas, it is believed that attempts have, for some time past, been made to poison a lady in Lancashire, a reward of £1,000 is hereby offered to anyone who may turn Queen's evidence, or who may give such information as may lead to the conviction of the guilty party.—Address to the lady herself, as well as to the constabulary." A "Younger Son" writes as follows:—"If the advertisement refers to my mother, I know what's poisoning her. It's that horrid lager beer she now drinks herself and gives to us all, because it's cheap. In my opinion the chap that sells it ought to be hung for it." A young lady, who signs her name as "Mariana Vero de Vero," says, "There can be no doubt but this extraordinary advertisement refers to my aunt. She will dress as a young girl, and I am sure the horrid stuff she puts on her hair and face cause the *extraordinary* pains she feels. Please tell me where I am to call for the reward, and can I have it all in *sovereigns*, as I don't understand paper money?"

Correspondence.

[*We are not responsible for the opinions expressed by our contributors.*]

TOM SKRIMP'S VIEWS.

To the Editor of the Consett Guardian.

SIR,—I need not attempt to describe to you the high state of excitement which my friend Tom manifested when he called on me a few evenings ago, neither need I reproduce the rather expressive epithets, which, in his temporary derangement of mind, he was placed to apply to me.

"Not that I care a great deal about it myself," says Tom, after his effervescence had subsided, "but the ruling power at home."

Tom generally dignifies his better half with some title of distinction.

Tom says "She is in a dreadful way at my name appearing in the papers, and she says, Bill, that she'll give you a regular keel-hawling about it."

Now, sir, though I don't much care when Tom frizzles up a little, I must confess to having a rather formidable dread of his spouse. The fact is, she is such a—such a—well I don't like to put the word down, for she reads the *Guardian*, and her finger nails are very sharp just now, but you know nicely what I mean. Tom, himself, though standing six-feet-nothing-and-a-half in his stockings, is afraid to rile her too much; indeed, she is the only person he never tries to "sprag." Once upon a time he used to try his hand with her, but she crushed his "sprags" to pieces with as much ease as Chaillu's Gorillas were said to snap through gun stocks with their teeth. But one day Tom tried a stronger "sprag" than usual, and caused a break down. It happened on this wise, Mrs. Skrimp had invited a large party of her own friends—Tom's are always kept in the background on such occasions—to celebrate one of the young Skrimp's birthdays. Somehow or other the conversation turned upon the superiority of little things compared with large things, and Mrs. Tom, who is little bigger than the stopper of a good-sized vinagrette, and judging from her acerbity of temper, one might reasonably suppose she had been a good deal used for that purpose, so reasoned upon the problem that she found herself in possession of an axiom which she laid before her visitors, and asked Tom with one of her blandest and most coaxing smiles, so that he might quite understand the answer she wished him to give, whether it was not correct, namely, "That good things were generally put up in very small parcels." Tom, without raising his eyes from the pudding he was eating, replied "Yes, my dear, and so is poison." Now Tom was quite aware, for he had read somewhere, that there was only one step between the sublime and the ridiculous, but he did not know till that precious minute that there was a much shorter distance between the angel and the fiend. It was a lesson, however, he has not since forgot, and is not likely soon to forget. He hasn't tried spragging with her since. But to return to Tom, no sooner was he fairly seated than he got into his usual good humour, and pulled a parcel of papers out of his pocket and laid them on the table, saying that they contained a full report of the speeches delivered at the conference.

"Well, Bill," says Tom, "I've read all them speeches right through, and I'm blowed if I know what to make of them. I believe a good many of the speakers are possessed with some sort of an evil spirit, which urges them on from one thing to another with an apparently irresistible influence. They are always snuffing out some imaginary evil, the removal of which would ensure, according to their sanguine minds, lasting blessings on our race. They are men of one idea, and that idea is overturn, overturn, overturn, and were it not, Bill, for an all-perfect and singularly manifest retributive Providence, these restless insatiable spirits of evil would produce incalculable mischief. They talk about progress, Bill, as if progress were everything; it never seems to enter the very limited scope of their calculations that a community or a country may progress to destruction, and were it not for that all-pervading Providence, above referred to, 'which shapes our ends, rough hew them as we will,' these emissaries of evil would have ruined our country long ago."

At this remarkably brilliant speech, for Tom at least, I sat and wondered at every word as he uttered it. I had seldom seen him so desperately serious before, and concluded that our previous conversation had roused him to go into the subject "teeth and nail." As I was cogitating in my mind the best course to steer in order to give him plenty of sea-room, Tom solves the difficulty by resuming as follows:—

"You see, Bill, them fellahs as are kicking up this shindy are just the same sort o' chaps as made us believe that the passing of the Corn Laws would give us grain for little or nowt and ruin all the landlords in the country. Now you know, Bill, that instead of being ruined, the proprietors never knew what it was to get high rents till then, nor the farmers high prices, while we, poor people, who were to be benefited, are not a bit better off than before. Then, again, these overturners thought that both our poor and the people would be the better for a Poor Law. Well, they got what they wanted, and what is the result, a waste of many millions of money, and the poor all but utterly neglected. Eight millions collected in poor rates, the greater part of which is paid in official salaries. Then, again, there is the Franchise, the extension of which was to make us all gentlemen, as if a man could keep his childer up on the privilege of putting down his name as a voter. Speaking of the Franchise, Bill, it was amusing to hear Joe Cowen, the other day, he said they had got the Franchise and they now wanted the Education question settled. Now, that is just the way Joe and his friends get on; they have always something to settle, and the more they settle the more unsettled they get. You see, Bill, them fellahs can't or won't look at both sides of a question. Just look at the Irish Church case as another example of their one-sided working. What with trumpeting their own philanthropy and harping on the chord that the Church was a badge of conquest that galled the purty necks of the wearers, they got the majority of the people persuaded that if the Church were abolished the Irish would be satisfied and contented. Now, what has been the result? Everything opposite to what her self-styled friends, but really greatest enemies, predicted. What with their teeth being whetted for more concessions and the imbecility of our Government, we are now being served with uncomfortably large and frequent dishes of Irish stew."

"Well, but Tom, I don't see how all this talk bears upon the education question."

"Why, bless me, Bill, don't you see what I'm driving at? When them revolution fellahs have been wrong in *all* their expectations and predictions regarding the reforms, as they call them, which have been brought about. Where is the certainty that their position in this here education question is not also a false one. Suppose, Bill, that them Leaguers had all they desired—compulsory education, rate for paying the wages, inspectors, and all the necessary machinery in good working order—how long would it last? Just look at how one of the best compulsory acts we have is at present spoken against—I mean the vaccination act. See how that annoys those who would like to make the public believe that they had a conscience. Look at the Established Church, and see how she is inveighed against. Look at anything you like that is compulsory, and see how it is rebelled against. So with education. No sooner would it be established than it would be found that the consciences of a great many people would be violated, especially those who had no conscience at all, but only its counterfeit, and who generally make up for it by noisy demonstrations. Independent schools would be erected just as dissenting chapels have been erected, and voluntaryism would be pitted against establishment in schools, just as they now are in churches."

"Well, Tom, I must candidly confess that you have have made out a very good case against the Leaguers, and I now see the drift of your previous remarks, and thoroughly appreciate them. Like you, I have read all the speeches, and really I think the League's advocates failed to bring any serious case against the present system. No doubt, it does not embrace all that could be wished for, but what is there on earth perfect any more than it. What do you think of the religious aspect of the question, Tom."

"Well, Bill, I'm not quite sure if I can make myself easily understood on that point. In the first place, I would like to see the Bible used as a class book in every school, and that examinations should be made upon it and select pieces committed to memory, just as is done with any historical, scientific, or poetical school book. I would like to see all our catechisms done away with, not that they are positively injurious, but because they are behind the age, and because they are rendered quite unnecessary by the Bible being so abundantly circulated in our midst. What do you say, Bill?"

"What about the Catholics?"

"Well, I would just do with them as with the others, and then they would have no just ground of complaint. If they read the Bible openly in their schools and allowed them to be examined like the others, I would share with them whatever help the others got. For myself, Bill, I rather agree with the chap (Warwick) when he said that he did'nt think the reading of the Bible would do any harm to any boy or girl. I know the Catholics think otherwise, and I also know that they are a very considerable and a very influential body, still, I do not think we would be justified in making any exemption in their favour. You know, Bill, they have neither part or lot in that which makes us glorious as a nation. They are practically the subjects of a foreign prince, who must be at war with us on our religious teaching. The freedom of our institutions is as gall and wormwood to them, even the very liberty which tolerates their presence in our midst. So you see, Bill, it would be suicidal in us making any provision for them, but there was a much worse and dangerous class represented at the Conference. I mean that class represented by Dr. Rutherford and Messrs. Street and Bell. Strange combination of names. The Catholics come to us openly and honestly declaring war, and if we are deceived regarding them it is our own fault, not theirs. While the other gentlemen come to us pretending to hold out the right hand of fellowship, as they call it, to all professing Christians, while at the same time they are sapping all the established institutions of our country. Them ministers of the Gospel of Peace, one would be safe to infer from their speeches that they were ministers of discord. How they, especially the last named, did peg away at the poor old Establishment. Most assuredly, Bill, if the spirit which they manifested towards it is the spirit of their Master, the less we know of the one or the 'tother the better. It matters not what these gentlemen sing, the chorus is always the same. They, too, would have the Bible out of our schools, and have children taught on Sundays. But where, Bill, is there any security that the Sunday teacher will be any better fitted to teach religion than the week-day one, and more than that, Bill, if the teaching given in these schools is anything akin to the spirit manifested by these gentlemen, the sooner these Sunday schools are abolished the better. I know they should not get a child of mine to teach."

Here Tom paused, gave the match a whisk across the bowl of his pipe, and started to smoke.

"Well, Tom," says I, "I think you are fairly in the wrong this time, where did you know of anybody being any the better for all the religion they acquired at school?"

"Well, I declare, Bill, you are stupid. I never said they acquired religion at school; they only acquire a knowledge of it, as they do of rule of three, interest, or any other branch of education, so that when they are required to apply that knowledge in the business of life they may be able to do it. Religion, or what is perhaps a better word, Christianity, is not for children only, or merely for Sundays, it is thoroughly an every day affair. Of course, everybody may ignore it, may live without availing themselves of their knowledge of it, but it has never been asserted that the possession of this knowledge ever did any harm, while the want of it, or what is practically the same thing, the neglecting or refusing to put their knowledge into practice, has been the ruin of thousands. Hence, Bill, I would give every school-boy a Bible education."

I was so well pleased at this explanation of Tom's that I could not help shaking him by the hand, and lauding him very warmly. I tried to get him on the subject of certificated teachers, but he said he had taken a fancy to write to you himself, so it is more than likely you will hear from him. In the meantime

I am, yours, &c.,
BILL.

"A LAUDABLE ACTION."

To the Editor of the Consett Guardian.

SIR,—I noticed in your impression of Saturday last, a paragraph concerning "The plundering of the house of a poor woman, named Mrs. Iley, residing at Rowley," and the "Laudable Action of Mr. Thomas Featherstone, station master, in making a collection in Castleside and vicinity on behalf of the poor woman." Now, sir, it is just fair to say that there should be coupled with the name of Mr. Featherstone that of Mr Henry Golightly, of Castleside. "Honour to whom honour is due."

Yours, &c.,
JUSTITIA.

Castleside, December 4th, 1869.

A PROPOSED DRINKING FOUNTAIN.

To the Editor of the Consett Guardian.

SIR,—I see by your impression of the 4th inst. that we are going to have a public watering-trough at the end of Middle Street. I think, therefore, that the present is the proper time for the public to set about getting a drinking fountain. I would suggest that a subscription list be opened for the purpose of obtaining funds to erect one in honour of Jon. Priestman, Esq., as an expression of our gratitude for his esteemed services in the locality. Hoping this will meet with general approval,

I remain, dear sir,
A RATEPAYER.

Consett, Dec. 10, 1869.

EDUCATION.

To the Editor of the Consett Guardian.

SIR,—When about eight years ago the Chancellor of the Exchequer announced his determination to cut down the Government grant in aid of education, and when the "Revised Code," which certainly made a decided difference to the estimates, and not a little to teachers, was promulgated, he would have been thought a vain dreamer, who dared to hint to the possibility of the formation, in our day, of influential unions and leagues, suggesting schemes calculated vastly to increase the sums annually contributed by the Parliament to the Educational Department.

It is not my intention at present to discuss any particular scheme, nor to examine any existing system of education, but, with your permission, I will offer to the public of Consett a few remarks upon our own town. "Charity," they say, "begins at home," and we have the very best authority for believing it to be a prudent course to put our own affairs right, before we meddle with those of other people. What I desire to know is "Are all the children in Consett at school; and what proportion of those *at* school are actually *in* school a sufficient length of time to make it worth their while to have been there?" I am led to make this distinction because it is highly important that the two phrases "*at* school" and "*in* school" should not be confounded together. There were about 350 children *at* the British Schools last year, but of these, not more than 200 were actually *in* school 100 days out of 222. So far as I can judge there seems to be school-accommodation in and near Consett for about 600 children. Supposing all the schools to be fully occupied throughout the whole year—i. e. to have 600 names on the books—and estimating the population of Consett at 6000, if we apply the Prussian ratio of attendance one child to six inhabitants (the best certainly, but why should we be behind the best), these ought to be 1000 children at school in our town. Where are they? There are, therefore, 400 not there. Part of them are at work who, if their own interests only could be consulted, ought not to be, and the remainder a pest to the neighbourhood. Besides these, some of whom have doubtless received a mere smattering of the R's, we have to remember that from the 600 who may be on the books, those whom I have classed as "at school" only must be substracted. The proportion of these appears to be about three-sevenths of the whole. To be within the mark, say three-tenths, and there remain 180 receiving no appreciable benefit from their supposed attendance.

If the foregoing calculations be correct in Consett, there ought to be 1000 children in school; there are not more than 420, and of the remaining 580, I take it that about 300 are receiving no education, and 280 either are obtaining or have obtained no education worth mentioning. Certainly it is time for something to be done either in the shape of meetings or otherwise, and I will gladly hail and cheerfully assist in any effort, which at all tends to ameliorate so vast an evil, and to remove such a tremendous "sprag" to the prosperity of our community.

I am, sir, your's faithfully,
JOSEPH CROSS.

Templetown, Dec. 9th.

RAVINGS OF "A RAMBLER."

To the Editor of the Consett Guardian.

SIR,—The readers of your paper, no doubt, would be highly gratified with the short but pithy treatise on "Despotism" by "Rambler," last week, giving on the information of some aristocratic correspondent of his, and one that has no respect for the truth of anything, if we may judge from what he has told "Rambler." He ("Rambler") says there are places of business at Sierra Leone called "Stores." What a very important piece of information. How has "Rambler" found that out, and of what import is it to the people of Consett. But, then, this is only the prelude to some other important information—to wit, that there are "Stores" nearer home than Sierra Leone; one forsooth, within the bounds of the Lanchester Poor Law Union, and this is called, a what—a Co-operative Store. What a name for a respectable place of business! Why, those people at Sierra Leone don't call their places that, but simply, "A Store." But, as Billy Quiver Lance has somewhere said:—

"What's in a name? that, which we call a rose,
By any other name would smell as sweet."

But, I am given to think there is more import in a name than he ever dreamt of in his philosophy; for, there are certain people, and amongst the number is the very respectable correspondent of "Rambler's, who are ever and anon annoyed at the name—this Co-operative thing,—and then, the affairs of this place of business are managed by Plebians, who partake largely of the Patricians tyranny, and not by anyone aristocratically connected. Now, from this description of the place by its name and the managers, people will think this is a strange sort of a community, and why not sweep them off the stage of action at once, and be for ever done with them, than suffer them to annoy those aristocratic subjects of Her Majesty. But, softly, Mr. Rambler, those poor Plebians claim equal citizenship with the most enlightened aristocrat in the district. They also claim to themselves the liberty to manage the affairs of this place of business, with which they are connected, on the most approved principles, known or to be known. They also claim the liberty to interfere with their servants, when they see a just cause to do so, and dare Mr. Rambler to show how or where they have ever trampled on the liberty of any subject in the United Kingdom. It is a consummate falsehood, sir, that they met in solemn conclave, and spent a whole night in trying to reduce the wages of their underlings. It is equally false that the manager, with the large bundle of the very best testimonials, gave up his situation through the aforesaid meeting, and that they (the Plebians) passed a resolution that the shopman had to leave his lodgings within a week, or leave his employment. Then, if these be false, in what consists the "despotism" spoken about. Surely, Mr. Rambler, you are off the track this time. We have no desire to be so harsh with you as you have been with us; but, in speaking on liberty, remember there are conditions connected with it, which you don't seem to comprehend. I would recommend you to get a good treatis on liberty, and study it well and carefully for some time to come, in order that you may have those enlarged views of liberty, which a writer on public matters ought to have, and without which he is a mere scribbling baboon. I would also recommend you to be careful in taking for granted all that comes to hand in the shape of correspondence; because, anything touching our concern that bears the stamp of falsehood, like the present, will be as assuredly contradicted as I am writing, so long as I can and have the power to do so; and, further, at any time should any information be wanted on any subject of public importance connected with our concern, so long as I am able and have leisure, I will most readily grant it. Hoping you, Mr. Rambler, will see the error of your past conduct, and that you, Mr. Editor, will forgive me for so long a trespass on your valuable space.

I remain, yours truly,
JESSE HALL,
Secretary to the Consett Industrial and Provident Society (Limited).

December, 8th, 1869.

[We have seen "Rambler," and gave him to understand that the above letter was to appear this week. Our friend jocularly remarked that he would reply in our next issue.—ED. C. G.]

THE POOR RATE ASSESSMENT AND COLLECTION ACT, 1869.

To the Editor of the Consett Guardian.

SIR,—There appears to be considerable misconception respecting "The Poor Rate Assessment and Collection Act, 1869," as to whether it is permissive or imperative. I infer the Overseers in several townships suppose the Act permissive, as vestry meetings have been convened to adopt the Act. The mistake about adoption has arisen, I presume, from a provision in section 22, by which vestries were empowered to rate owners before the 29th day of September, but after that date the Act came into operation without action on the part of the vestries. By this Act the 43 Eliz., c. 2, s. 1, is restored throughout England and Wales. By the above statute, occupiers alone were to be rated. The statute 43 Eliz. has been acted upon in some townships without deviation, in others "The Small Tenements Act" has been carried out without ever adopting it, as in the township of Benfieldside, in which there has been no legal rate made for many years; owners having been rated (illegally) instead of occupiers. Overseers cannot compel the payment of poor rate by owners where the Act 13 and 14 Vict. c. 99 has not been adopted, so that owners and agents rated, may, at their option, pay or refuse. The new Act 32 and 33 Vict. c. 41, 1869, is most comprehensive and simple, giving us in 22 sections a most equitable law; securing to every occupier a right to vote in vestry meetings—in fact, carrying us back to the days of our forefathers, when almost everybody took part in parish affairs. In other words, the Act of 1869 gives us household suffrage in parish matters. I hope some of your more able correspondents will give your readers more information on this subject than I am able to do, so that my design in calling attention to this Act (of interesting the householders of the district in parochial affairs) may be accomplished.

Yours respectfully,
A RATEPAYER.

Benfieldside, December 7th, 1869.

WAS MAN'S TONGUE MADE FOR SPEECH?

To the Editor of the Consett Guardian.

SIR,—My question may seem a strange one, but I have the highest scientific precedent for such. It is one of those magnificent axioms in the brave Old Book—"That God made man out of the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life." Modern "savants" have discovered that man is merely the last link of a long chain of development or evolution, as the favourite term now goes. An oyster used to be a favourite "origin"—I suppose this is the reason why most men are so fond of oysters. Adopting the learned hypothesis, there is still better grounds for asserting that a goose was one of those links between the oyster and the man, since so many men are daily shewing themselves to be "geese." Witness the two following instancesr. In the first number of a lately published and highly scientific work, the *Academy*, there is the following marvellous enunciation—"That the eye was made to see, is now a universally exploded formula." What next? Wait a little. I, sir, in common with yourself and all right-thing men, in charity hope that the man who wrote the above has either recovered or is now under restraint. But there is still at large a "developed" specimen who holds such extraordinary opinions respecting facts and numbers that he is eminently fitted to conduct any journal of science, so far (and so far only, I believe), as absurd theories and manifest contradictions are concerned. The gentleman to whom I refer was "safely delivered," a short time ago, of a speech, but having suffered severely from the after pains, his throes were relieved by some potent pills from Dr. Rambler. But "who can minister to a mind that is deseased." The poor patient is evidently labouring under mental aberation. He says the "numbers have deteriorated." Who ever before heard of numbers turning worse? We say the "numbers are lessened," and although not logically correct, it is an accepted and intelligible phrase. But numbers deteriorating, in the sense of becoming less, is simple nonsense. But listen to the subsequence. Starting from what we know to be his original numbers, 300, let us examine his "deterioration." It is made to consist of 400 street arabs and an indefinate number of scores at "nany" a "do the boys" institute getting "treacle and brimstone." Rather a strange use of the tongue this, Mr. Editor, and one which shows the pertinence of my question. Those who are well paid for speaking at home, must speak sense or nonsense, or a hodge-podge of both. It would be a wise descretion on the part of one to keep at home or be silent when abroad.

Your's truly,
JOHN TAIT.

Everything and Nothing School, Consett.

CERTIFICATED AND UNCERTIFICATED TEACHERS.

To the Editor of the Consett Guardian.

SIR,—I have no doubt when you get to the end of this note—that is to say if your patience has really endurance enough to persevere unto the end—that you will consider that I am scarcely "a fit and proper person" to write upon this subject; but you must know that though I can't write grammatically nor spell my words so well as some folk, that I once could do both tolerably well. Besides, Bill Crinkle, my wife's brother, says that newspaper editors get queer sort of written letters sometimes, and that you have a good deal to do to put them into a readable form. But you know, sir, I think Bill quick a little sometimes, at least, I am quite sure, he pretends to a good deal more knowledge than he possesses; but I would not like to say that to every one, as he and I are generally very great friends. One night lately Bill and I had a long talk about our schools and schoolmasters, and, after coming home, I pondered over the matter a great deal, and contrasted, as well as I could, the qualifications of the old-fashioned uncertificated teacher and the new-fangled certificated ones. My thoughts having special reference to country schools, and I thought I would just let you know what they were. In the age preceding the certificated one the school desk was the receptacle for nearly all classes of the community, especially the maimed and the halt, unsuccessful merchants, and disappointed ministers of all denominations. It is needless to say that among such a miscellaneous lot there were a great many very unsuitable for the office, but to their credit be it spoken a goodly number turned out most successful teachers, not so much because they possessed any great amount of knowledge, but they had the faculty or aptitude in a very high degree of communicating their knowledge unto others. So successful were numbers of them in breaking up the fallow ground of their pupil's intellects, that it was no uncommon circumstance for the latter to out-run their preceptors in their race for knowledge. Now, sir, this fact weighs heavily with me when considering this education question, and if uncertificated teachers pushed on their pupils as well as certificated ones, I think they should have the same assistance from Government as their more favoured brethren. I think also that every teacher should be licensed instead of certificated. At first sight these terms may seem synonymous, but they are widely different, for example—before a person can get a certificate he must know a good deal of a great many different subjects, whereas a license could be granted for whatever the person, after an examination, was found to be qualified to teach, be it much or little. In some colliery and other districts the splendid attainments and hard-earned honours of the certificated teacher are completely out of place, consequently these schools are seldom filled with such men, and, of course, they suffer from want of Government aid, whereas a person licensed to teach only those things as are wanted—such as the the R's and the G's—would just be what was required, and to give such a person the benefit of the Government aid would, I think, be a step in the right direction. I wish, sir, you would put on your cap of knowledge, and give us an article on this question ere long, and oblige,

Your's &c.,
TOM SKRIMP.

P.S.—I say, if Bill sends you any more stuff, don't put it in. Tell him you "have'nt room," or better still, "not up to the mark." Oh! how that would shrivel him up so nicely.

T. S.

Local Literature.

☞ *We do not hold ourselves responsible for the opinions expressed by our Correspondents.*

THE GENIUS AND LITERATURE OF ANCIENT GREECE.

If we compare the states of the adjacent countries at that period, the difference is most astonishing. Darkness was spread over the greatest part of the countries known and frequented by the Greeks. There was no enlightened communication between states which were near one another, and bound by reciprocal interests. Insurmountable barriers were opposed to knowledge by the barbarousness of the people, and the ignorance of princes; as well by their military spirit; and the taste for pleasure incompatible for the most part with the arts of the mind and the means of civilization. It seemed that an evil genius, an enemy of the human race, was in every place, to cross the operations of thought, and disconcert the efforts of the wise, who had in view the good, not only of their native country, but the general good of all. In short, there stalked around, so far as the mental operations were concerned, the image of death. Such an image as is portrayed by Milton, with dark and terrible sublimity:—

"That other shape, if shape it might be call'd,
That shape had none, distinguishable in member, wit,
or limb,
Black it stood as night, fierce as ten furies;
Terrible as hell; and shook a deadly dart,
What seem'd its head the likeness of a
Kingly crown had on."

Plato and Xenophon, whose works at this day instruct all nations; Herodotus who had travelled among so many people; Thucydides, who in one work had opened a school of politics for the universe; these great men were only known in Athens and Greece. But the Romans had the good sense to study the works of the Greeks as soon as they were known to them; they even imitated them with some success; and, as soon as the Greek authors became generally known, all Europe seemed to break the chains of ignorance and barbarism—

"Nature and nature's works were hid in night
The works of Greece were spread—and all was light."

I have briefly alluded to Herodotus, Thucydides, and Xenophon; but they deserve more than a passing notice. We find in them the finest touches of nature, that simplicity and those graces which are not redeemable by ornaments; and which are so vividly felt by well formed minds. We may place Herodotus at the head of this class of prose writers. His style is clear, easy, flowing, rich with images, and full of that nature so dear to his heart. He relates not—he sees, and we believe that we see with him. A philosophic writer, he gives his thoughts in the choice of the circumstances, of which he composes the recitals; and, without slackening his pace by his reflections, he gives place for the reader to form them. He seems to have designedly scattered in his work a thousand little stories to let us know the manners of those distant times. The foundation even of his history is extremely interesting, and the most precious remains of that remote antiquity. A large portion of your readers are probably aware that Rollin's ancient history is principally founded on Herodotus.

Thucydides, more grave, and more to be relied on for the truth of his statements; in his style close, sometimes obscure; but full of facts, of matter, and profound reflections seems to have shut up the germ of events, and lessons for all ages. The scene which Thucydides presents is so vast, so interesting; so nice was the balance of power between Athens and Lacedaemon; their forces by land and sea so well combined; the views of the writer so just, and his reflections so dictated by the soundest politics; that there is no nation, no statesman, who might not profit by them, if blind passion, cupidity, and a spirit of dizziness did not cast them into the same faults, as past examples might teach them to avoid, if, as they have eyes to read, they had also reason to comprehend.

Simplicity and sweetness of style are the chief peculiarities which characterise the disciple of Socrates. A great work of his is the retreat of the ten thousand Greeks, in which he had so great a part; and where one does not know what to admire most, the wisdom of his conduct, or the beauty of his narrative. This work so perfect in its kind, gives the reader no time to breathe, he is so dragged along by the continuity of interesting events. The commentaries of Cæsar may perhaps bear comparison with it in some respect in point of style, but are much inferior on the side of those virtuous impressions, and of that sublime philosophy which one feels in reading every work of Xenophon; especially his Cyropædia.

How happy is the state which possesses men of minds like these; of generous efforts, and indefatigable application. If it were necessary justly to appreciate the work of true genius, all the gold of nations could not pay it. Immense treasures are dissipated; nations pass, and are extinguished. There only remain of them those sacred sparks of reason and taste which certain happy ages have seen to shine, and which posterity preserves with religious veneration. How fortunate is this our nation, where the divine fire is propagated from age to age; where one generation adds to the treasury of solid learning which has preceded it, by means of which a large portion of the people become rational, intellectual, and enlightened. To such a state, if it be careful to preserve its freedom, there seems to be assured a duration to which no limit can be applied.

J. RODHAM CARR, LL.D.

(To be continued.)

Local Police Courts.

SHOTLEY BRIDGE POLICE COURT.

MONDAY, December 6th.—Before A. TOWN, and T. WILSON, Esqrs.

REFUSING TO QUIT A PUBLIC-HOUSE.

— *Gillespie*, a pitman, employed at the Bantling Colliery, was charged by P.C. Firn with being drunk at Clarkson's public-house, Leadgate, on Saturday night.—John Clarkson preferred another charge against the prisoner of refusing to quit his house on the same night. Prosecutor said about seven o'clock on Saturday night, a person came into his tap-room, and the prisoner struck him without a word being exchanged. Prosecutor warned him that if he did not desist, he would put him out, at which prisoner attempted to strike him. He was then ejected, but he came back again two or three times. When prosecutor was in the club-room, prisoner rushed after his wife to strike her, but he was again put out of the house. Prisoner then held the outer door, and would not allow anyone to get in. He afterwards threw stones at the door. He was not so drunk but that he knew what he was doing. Prosecutor did not serve him with any drink while he was in that state.—Prisoner's only defence was that he did not think that he had committed any depredation.—Prosecutor: I do not want him hardly dealt with, as he is a very quiet man when he's sober.—Fined 2s. 6d., with 4s. costs, for being drunk, and 5s., with 2s. 6d. for refusing to quit the house, or 14 days' imprisonment.

A ROW AT CONSETT.

James Welsh and *Thomas Greener*, of Consett, were charged with rioting and assaulting the police, at that place, on Saturday night.—Sergt. Wood said he heard of a disturbance in Middle Street, Consett, about six o'clock on the evening in question, and in going along with P.C. Fearn he saw the prisoners. Welsh ran up against him, when he just told him to get out of the way. Welsh immediately stood in a fighting attitude, and challenged him to fight, when he seized hold of him. A rescue was attempted; prisoner flung himself down, and struck him; stones were flying about and windows were broken; Greener got hold of the prisoner, and urged the mob to "wire in," and struck the other officer; and a regular row ensued. He applied for a remand, as the case was not yet complete.—P.C. Fearn gave corroborative evidence.—Welsh said he could not tell anything about it, and Greener denied ever having been near the disturbance.—The case was remanded. Bail was accepted for Greener, but refused for Welsh.

"THE KNIFE" AT BLACKHILL.

James McCann, of Blackhill, was charged with cutting and wounding George Duffy, of Blackfine, on Saturday night. The face of the prisoner was dreadfully bruised. On the night in question, it appears that Duffy and the prisoner had been drinking in Brannigan's public-house, at Blackhill, where they had a quarrel. Prisoner subsequently went out to purchase spring-backed knife, but failing to get that he bought a small pocket-knife. He then returned to the inn, and deliberately stabbed Duffy in the abdomen. The other men in the house at once sprang upon the prisoner, and kept him in custody until the arrival of P.C. Riddle. When that officer entered the house he found Duffy bleeding very much from a wound about an inch long in the part named. The prisoner was then bruised in the same manner as he appeared at court, and on seeing the police, exclaimed with an oath, "I don't care whether I hang for it or not!"—In defence, prisoner said he lent Duffy a shilling and when he asked him for it, he struck at him, so he had to stand up in his own defence. A medical certificate was produced to state that Duffy was unable to appear, and the case was remanded for eight days, bail being refused for the prisoner.

DRUNK AND RIOTOUS.

Thomas McClusky and *John Riley*, both of Blackhill, were charged by P.C. Smith with being drunk and riotous, at Blackhill, on Saturday evening. It appears that the prisoners had been drinking together, and were on their way home, about seven o'clock on Saturday evening. When at the top of the village, Riley wanted his companion to have some more drink, but he refused. Riley attempted to force him to go, when a fight ensued. Police-constables Smith and Liddle heard of the disturbance, and on reaching the place, they observed a great crowd in the public thoroughfare looking at the prisoners fighting. They were both very drunk, and on being apprehended, Riley resisted very much.—Both having been previously convicted, they were fined 10s. each and costs, or 14 days' imprisonment.

Oney Markey, a youth 17 years of age, and a puddler, was charged with being drunk and riotous in the streets of Blackhill on the 28th ult. P.C. Riddle said on the day named he found the youth in a great crowd wanting to fight. There had been some one fighting before.—Defendant admitted the charge, with a smile.—Mr. Town: You have begun this sort of thing very young. As you have been before the court previously, we will fine you £1 and costs, 6s. 6d, or one month in Durham gaol.—At this announcement, the youth wore a more serious aspect.

John Jones, Consett, was arraigned on a similar charge. About a quarter past eleven o'clock on the 28th ult., he was standing in company with other men in the Middle Street, and as P.C. Fearn passed he said something insultingly of the police. The officer asked him what he had to say about the police, when defendant used abusive language, and challenged the other to fight. This was repeated, and as the policeman could not get hold of him he summoned him to appear before the court.—Defendant said a companion from Gateshead had visited him at that time, and he had had more drink than usual. The policeman had drawn his staff to him when he had no right.—Fined 2s. 6d. with 7s. costs.

SELLING BEER WITHOUT A LICENSE.

Bridget Guinity, of Blackhill, was charged with selling beer in her house without a license, on the 21st ult.—P.C. Riddle said he and another officer were attracted to the house of defendant by hearing a noise, between one and two o'clock on the morning of the 21st ult. He stood listening, and discovered that they were drinking. While looking into the pantry window, he saw defendant fill a quart port with beer from a barrel, and on going round to the window of the house he observed a man reach her some money. As the other officer and himself were entering the house, the beer and can were put under the table. They went into the pantry, and found a half-barrel of beer in it, which was about three parts full. The game had been carried on for a long time. There were four or five men in the house. Defendant told him her husband had been in America for about six months, and that she got the quart can from a publican. The barrel was a regular beer barrel, but he did not see what mark was on it.—P.C. Smith said he accompanied Riddle to Guinity's house, and when at the window he heard some one say, "Fill us a quart again, and we'll go home." He saw two broken glasses on the table, the can under the table, and the barrel in the pantry. She admitted selling beer for a livelihood, and added that she got money occasionally from her husband.—Defendant, who was accompanied by her children, said the persons in her house were two lodgers and her relatives. She expected it was table-beer, but was no judge, and had been purchased by a lodger from Mr. Turner. The lodger had left the place, and said she might give the beer away to anybody that was kind to her children. Her sister's husband was in the house that night, and had asked for a drop of beer, which she gave him, but did not sell it. She never told the policeman that she sold it to make a livelihood. A neighbour of hers had differed with one of the children, and had told the police through spite. She got parish relief about two months, but did not get any now. She maintained her family by going out to wash and doing odd jobs.—Superintendent Thompson said selling beer without a license was carried on to a most alarming extent, and the licensed persons were complaining about it.—Sent to gaol for seven days.

"PITCH AND TOSS" AT CONSETT.

William Thorp, of Highgate, and *Edward Lamb*, of Consett, were charged with playing at "pitch and toss," at Consett, on the 30th ult. The defendants, who were mere lads, had been bargaining about a pigeon, and Thorpe, who was the seller, agreed to "hoy," whether he should be paid 6d. or 1s. for the bird. They were thus engaged tossing in Sunderland Street, when P.C. Simpson came upon them.—Thorp, who had been twice convicted previously, was sent to Durham gaol for one month, and Lamb was sentenced to 14 days' imprisonment.

A FAMILY SQUABBLE.

Patrick Dowling, *Maria Dowling*, and *Owen Smith*, were summoned by Catherine Muldowning for assaulting her at Leadgate, on the 24th ult.—None of the defendants were in court, but prosecutor's husband came forward, and said they were all relatives, and they wished the case compromised.—P.C. Firn said he had told the prosecutor several times that she would have to appear.—Mr. Town: We cannot compromise the case until we hear something about it. The prosecutrix must appear next fortnight, and then we shall see whether we can allow you to settle the case.

LANCHESTER PETTY SESSIONS.

THURSDAY, December 9, 1869.—Before M. KEARNEY (chairman) and A. H. TALMADGE, J. L. SMITH, E. T. SMITH, Esqrs. and Major JOICEY.

PITCH AND TOSS AT HILL TOP.

Arthur Quigley, *John Jopling*, and *Peter Crain*, three young men, were charged with playing at pitch and toss on the public highway, on the 27th ult. P.C. Morland said on the day in question he saw a number of men and boys playing at pitch and toss. He saw Crain pick some money up from the ground. The rest had ran away.—The magistrates said that a new law had been passed which did not give them the option of fining, they would therefore send each of them to prison for seven days.

Joseph Blackett was charged with a similar offence. P.C. Smith said that he was on duty at Lintz Colliery, when he saw the prisoner among others gambling.—Fourteen days' inprisonment.

ASSAULT ON SERGEANT WOOD AT CONSETT.

James Welsh and *Thomas Greener* were brought up on remand on a charge of having assaulted a police sergeant at Consett, on the 4th inst.—Sergeant Wood said he was on duty in the Middle Street, about six o'clock in the evening, when he heard that a row was going on at the other end of the street. Whilst making his way there the prisoner Welsh ran against him. He told him that would not do, whereupon he struck him with his fist. In taking him into custody a rescue was attempted, and he had to draw his truncheon. By this time about twenty or thirty people had gathered round him. He then took the prisoner into a shop till assistance arrived. Thomas Greener was arraigned on the same charge.—P.C. Fearn gave confirmatory evidence.—Alice Smith, a witness on behalf of Greener, after being cautioned, asserted that Greener was in the house till half-past six o'clock, she did not see him again till he was taken into custody.—Welsh said he knew nothing about the affair.—Greener denied being present at the time.—The magistrates sentenced Welsh to six months' hard labour. A number of previous serious charges were put in against him, for which he had undergone imprisonment.—Greener was sentenced to three months' hard labour.

THE RESULT OF PERSONATING A POLICE-OFFICER.

Joseph Smith, blacksmith, was charged with robbing James Kelley at Crookhall, near Leadgate, on the 20th ult. The prosecutor deposed that he was drinking at Mrs. Anderson's public-house, Leadgate, on the evening of the 20th. After he came out of the house the prisoner came to him saying that he was Sergeant Scott and demanded what money he had upon him. There was another man with him (the prosecutor) named McCartney, who was a navvy, but has left the neighbourhood. The prisoner took him to a place leading to Crookhall where he was thrown into a blacksmith's shop and robbed of half-a-sovereign and some loose silver. He knew that the prisoner was not Sergeant Scott. In scuffling with Smith he fell over some iron, and was so much afraid that he delivered his money through fear of bad usage. After this he went out, shutting the door behind him, about fifteen or twenty minutes after came back and opened the door, telling him (the prosecutor) to be off. William Almond, of Crookhall, was then examined. He said he was at Mrs. Anderson's public house, and among others he saw Kelley and McCartney drinking. He did hear Smith say he was Sergeant Scott; and saw him leading Kelley by the neck down the road to the blacksmith's shop, and heard him also say that he would let them (Kelley and McCartney) lie there till the next morning. Smith asked the men if they had any money, to which they replied "yes," on which he told them to "fork out." One of them gave him a shilling, but he asked for more. He (the witness) positively swore that he saw the prisoner take the money from the men, and was afterwards told that he got three half-crowns, a two-shilling piece, three shillings, and a halfpenny. On being questioned by the magistrates the witness thought that Smith had been joking throughout; but afterwards told him to go and give the money back or he would get wrong.—Mr. Britton defended the prisoner. In cross-examining Almond, he elicited that witness thought he might be apprehended, and that was the reason that led him to give information. But he stoutly denied he ever agreed with Smith to take Kelley and McCartney to Sergeant Scott.—Sergeant Scott said that from information he had received he took Smith into custody and charged him with robbing Kelley and McCartney, to which he replied he knew nothing about it.—Mr. Britton, in defence, said the circumstances in connection with the case were peculiar. It was merely a joke of his client in assuming the character of the constable, and for the better carrying out of that joke he had demanded their money, but not with any dishonest intention. Almon and Smith seemed to have been on pretty equal circumstances at the public house. His client had taken hold of Kelley's arm for a laudable purpose as it was past closing time. The most serious part of the business was the robbery committed on the prosecution. From the fact of his client being a respectable man and in constant employment he would have no motive for taking the money. It would be a most disastrous thing to Smith to send him to gaol on a charge of felony.—The prisoner on being asked if he had anything to say to the charge replied that Almond was speaking falsely.—The magistrates decided to send the case to the Sessions. They would however take bail, which was given.

FOUND AT LAST.

George Wilkinson was charged with stealing a watch and a purse containing 14s. 6d. from the person of John Peters, at Scott's Houses, on the 16th of January. It appears that five men were concerned in the above robbery at the beginning of the present year. The case had been adjourned to give an opportunity of tracing the property and discovering the delinquents. Several witnesses deposed to knowing the watch and purse (which were produced.) Sergeant Woodward said he apprehended the prisoner at Quebec, on the 27th ult. Since the robbery he had made every search, but could not find them. Whilst in Quebec he heard the prisoner singing in a public house, when he went in and took him into custody.—Committed for trial at the sessions.

Mr. Spurgeon has recovered sufficiently to be able to leave London for Paris.

A lady ran on the rails near the Twickenham Station on Monday, in pursuit of a little dog, and was knocked down and killed immediately.

INSTINCT *v.* REASON IN ANIMALS.—A small herd of antelopes was feeding in a field, when six wolves were observed, seated on their hind quarters like dogs, and apparently in deep consultation. They clearly wanted venison, but were aware that they were no match for the antelope in speed, and were evidently about to recourse to stratagem. Having apparently decided upon their plan of attack, the wolves separated, one remaining stationary, and the other five creeping cautiously round the edge of the field, like setters drawing on a shy covey of birds. In this manner they surrounded the unsuspecting herd, one wolf lying down at each corner of the field, and the fifth creeping silently towards the centre of it, where he concealed himself in a deep furrow. The conspirators being thus placed, the sixth wolf, which had not yet moved, now started from his hiding-place, and made a dash at the antelopes. The graceful creatures, confident in matchless speed, tossed their heads as if in disdain, and started off in a succession of flying bounds, which soon left their pursuer far behind. But no sooner did they approach the edge of the field than one of the crouching wolves started up, turned them, and chased them in a contrary direction, while his panting accomplice lay down in his place, to recover wind for a fresh burst. Again the bounding herd dashed across the field, and were again headed, turned, and chased. In this manner the persecuted animals were driven from side to side, till they were perfectly stupefied with fear, and crowded together like frightened sheep. All this time the wolf concealed in the middle of the field had never moved, though the antelopes had passed and repassed within a few feet of him: his time for action had not arrived. Could any plan have been more skilfully laid? Each wolf in turn chasing the antelopes to tire them out, whilst the others rested; and the one in the middle keeping himself quite fresh to seize upon the tired animals at last and pull them down for himself and his friends. Surely this showed something more than mere instinct. It is by instinct that a bird builds its nest and the rabbit makes it burrow; and amongst ourselves the ordinary acts of everyday life, in which the intellectual faculty is not knowing called into action, may be said to be governed by instinct. A mother does not reason about loving her children; neither do we reason when we eat and drink—it would be better for some of us if we did. But when circumstances arise in which forethought, design, and skill in carrying the design into effect are required, then, whether it be by an animal or by man, the faculty that is called into operation is undoubtedly reason.—*The Animal World.*

We learn that the reigning Duke of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha is seriously ill. The Duke of Edinburgh is the heir to the throne.—*The Echo.*

THE STORY OF A CHRISTENING.—A somewhat singular incident occured in the village of Kingsley, near Frodsham, last week. A little "stranger" made its appearance in the house of a labourer, and as it was not likely to live long, a parson was sent for, in order that it might be baptised. After casting about, as is usual with parents, to ascertain by what name the little one should be called, it was decided that it should be Frederick. Accordingly the minister went through the baptismal service, giving the child the desired name. A short time afterwards a neighbour went in to see how "baby" was getting on, when she horrified the parents by discovering that the little one was a girl! A too close attention to the bottle was, it seems, the cause of the unusual mistake. Of course the child will be required to be re-christened.—*Chester Guardian.*

Markets.

THE CORN TRADE.

The *Mark Lane Express*, in its review of the corn trade predicts that the prices of wheat must eventually mend. There is now no inducement for foreign houses to send us their produce, the values here being relatively lower than anywhere else, California, perhaps, excepted. It is remarkable that our recent depression found no response in any foreign port. France seemed most affected, but is now recovering. Holland was dull, but has not since declined. In several parts of Germany, as well as at Dantzic, prices have rather improved. Hungary, though quiet, has not wavered. It has been much the same at Odessa, while New York quotes higher prices.

CORN MARKETS.

NEWCASTLE CORN MARKET, Tuesday.—At this day's market there was a fair supply of wheat from the country, and a large arrival from abroad, but very little from the coast. Trade ruled dull, and where business was done, the rates of this day week were not exceeded, thus losing the advance of Saturday. Barley was dull. Malt unchanged. Beans and peas 1s, and oats 6d lower. Flour slow at previous value.

DURHAM CORN AND PROVISION MARKET, Saturday.—The following were the prices current at our market this day:—Wheat 0s 0d to 0s 0d, barley 0s 0d to 0s 0d per qr; oats, 6s 6d to 8s 6d per boll. Beef, 7½d to 9d; mutton, 8d to 9d; veal, 9d to 9½d; pork, 0d to 10d per lb. Chickens, 1s 6d to 2s 0d; ducks, 2s 0d to 2s 3d; hens, 1s 0d to 1s 8d; geese 5s 6d to 8s 6d; guinea fowl 0s 0d to 0s 0d; hares 3s 0d to 3s 6d; turkeys 6s 6d to 8s 0d each. Rabbits, 2s 3d to 2s 6d; pigeons, 1s 0d to 1s 3d per couple. Pheasants, 5s 0d to 6s 6d; partridges, 2s 6d to 3s 0d per brace. Butter, 1s 7d to 1s 8d per lb; eggs 6 to 7 for 1s. Gooseberries, 0d to 0d; plums, 0d to 0d; red currants 0d per quart. Cherries 0d to 0d per lb. Green peas 0s 0d to 0s 0d; onions 1s 6d to 2s 0d; apples 1s 8d to 4s 0d; pears 2s 0d to 4s 0d per peck. Potatoes 6d to 7d per stone.

DARLINGTON CORN MARKET, Monday.—New red wheat sold from 11s 0d to 12s 2d per boll of two bushels; white ditto, 12s 0d to 13s 0d; old red wheat, 12s 0d to 13s 0d; white ditto, 14s 0d to 15s 6d; barley, 9s 0d to 9s 6d per boll; long oats, 2s 6d to 2s 9d; short ditto, 3s 0d to 3s 6d per boll.

HEXHAM CORN MARKET, Tuesday.—Wheat met a slow sale at last week's prices. Large quantity of barley and oats shown, the latter meeting a reduction of 1s per boll. White wheat, 45s to 50s; red do., 37s to 46s per qr.; barley 19s 6d to 21s 6d; oats, 15s 6d to 18s 6d per Hexham boll.

LONDON CORN MARKET, Wednesday.—The trade continues dull, with prices still anything but buoyant, affected by the heavy supplies of foreign produce in granary. The quantity of wheat on passage is still large but the excess which it has hitherto shown as compared with last year has at length disappeared. From the country the letters speak of continued quiet, and at Liverpool prices are easier. At Mark Lane this morning the attendance was meagre, and the trade dull for all kinds of grain.

GENERAL CORN AVERAGES.

The following were the averages for the week ending Saturday last:—

	Qrs.	s.	d.
Wheat	48,186	at 43	3
Barley	5,122	at 37	0
Oats	3,207	at 22	6

CATTLE MARKETS.

NEWCASTLE CATTLE MARKET, Tuesday.—The show of stock presented for sale exhibited an increase of 220 beasts and 207 sheep, as compared with that of last week. The quality of the cattle was again of a very varying character, while sheep were middling. The supply of beef comprised 1,122 head. The beef trade was somewhat less than on Tuesday last, and prices receded about 3d per stone. A few choice qualities of heifers made 9s 3d, but the general top figure was 9s per imperial stone. Buyers were tolerably numerous, and there was a fair good clearance at the close of business. The number of sheep was 6,341. The better qualities were in brisk demand, and moved freely off at a shade more money than the quotations, but the middling and inferior sorts were rather sluggish and stood long in the market, yet nearly all changed hands. Pigs—493 were shown. The cold state of the weather was favourable for the pork trade, and some good lots were bought for the south, prices did not vote to any quotable extent and nearly all were disposed of.

Prices:—Beasts; prime heifer, 8s 9d to 9s 0d; secondary sorts, 6s 6d to 7s 6d; inferior sorts, 5s 6d to 6s 6d; first-class oxen, 8s 6d to 8s 9d; middling, 7s 3d to 7s 9d; cows, 5s 9d to 6s 9d; pork, 6s 3d to 8s 3d; small dairy-fed, 9s 0d to 9s 6d per stone of 14 lbs. Sheep; good vendable mutton, 8½d to 9d; middling, 7½d to 7¾d; tups, ewes, and inferior, 6½d to 7½d; lamb, 0d to 0d per lb., sinking offal.

DARLINGTON CATTLE MARKET, Monday.—Best beef made from 8s to 8s 6d, secondary 7s 3d to 8s per stone. Lean and Irish cattle were a slow sale. The prices of sheep and pigs remain unaltered.

WAKEFIELD CATTLE MARKET, Wednesday.—There was only a limited supply of stock offered to-day and sellers had the advantage in prices at extreme rates. Beef made from 8s 0d to 9s per stone of 14lbs.; mutton, ewes 7½d to 8½d, wethers 8d to 8½d per lb., fat pigs 8s 3d to 8s 6d per stone, small stores a shade lower.

LONDON CATTLE MARKET, Thursday.—Beef 3s 6d to 5s 8d; mutton 3s 6d to 5s 10d; veal 3s 6d to 5s 10d; pork 4s 0d to 6s 3d; lamb 0s 0d to 0s 0d per stone per 8lbs. sinking offal. Beef stationary; mutton lower, and trade heavy; veal and pork unaltered; trade in the former more animated.

MISCELLANEOUS MARKETS.

NEWCASTLE HAY AND STRAW MARKET, Tuesday.—There were 162 carts of hay, and 44 carts of straw in the market.

Prices: old land Hay, £6 0s 0d to £7 10s 0d; this year's growth, £4 15s 0d to £5 10s 0d; new land Hay, £0 0s 0d to £0 0s 0d; this year's growth, £4 16s 0d to £6 0s 0d; clover hay, £4 0s 0d to £4 10s 0d per ton. Wheat straw, 1s 9d to 2s 0d; barley straw, 1s 9d to 2s 0d; and oat straw, 2s 3d to 2s 8d per thrave.

MIDDLESBOROUGH IRON MARKET, Tuesday.—There was a large attendance on 'Change at Middlesbro', and a good deal of business was transacted. There is a steadily increasing demand for iron, and some of the large consumers, who a few months ago might have contracted at low rates, now regret that they did not do so, as they begin to see that prices will advance still further. No. 3 was eagerly bought at 47s 6d, but most of the sellers declined to accept less than 48s. Some makers would not contract at that figure. All the smelters are well sold, and are holding off, believing that they will soon get higher prices than are now quoted. In the manufactured trade everything is satisfactory, and many of the masters state that the ironworkers will obtain the advance they are asking for, except in some departments. Engineering and shipbuilding are in a good condition.

Births, Marriages, and Deaths.

[*The insertion of anything beyond the simple announcement of Births, Marriages, or Deaths, will be charged as Advertisements.*]

BIRTHS.

BLACKHILL.—At 57, on the 3rd inst., Mrs. Mee, of a daughter.
At 36, on the 7th inst., Mrs. McKanna, of a son.
At Blackfine, on the 6th inst., Mrs. Finnigan, of a daughter.
SHOTLEY BRIDGE.—At Cutlers' Hall, on the 27th ult. Mrs. Judge, of a daughter.
MINSTERACRES.—At the Old School House, on the 1st inst., Mrs. Hornsby, of a son.
At Cutlers' Hall, on the 6th inst., Mrs. Greatorex, of a daughter.

MARRIAGES.

CONSETT.—At Christ Church, by the Rev. F. Steggall, on the 7th inst., Mr. Adolphus May, watchmaker, to Caroline, only daughter of Mr. Thos. Wilkinson, both of Consett.
LANCHESTER.—At the Parish Church, on the 5th inst., Mr. Francis Davison, grocer, to Miss Rebecca Temperley, both of Annfield Plain.
WOLSINGHAM.—At the Register Office, on the 4th inst., Mr. John Dixon, of Sunny Row, Weardale, to Miss Sarah Jane Watson, of St. John's Chapel.
BISHOP AUCKLAND.—At the Register Office, on the 4th inst., Mr. James Hanley, of Tow Law, to Miss M. Vickers, of Toft Hill.

DEATHS.

LEADGATE.—On the 9th inst., aged 78, John Valentine
DIPTON.—On the 7th inst., aged 5 months, John Cain.
FLINT HILL.—On the 7th inst., aged 70, Mr. Matthew Smailes.
LINTZ COLLIERY.—On the 3rd inst., aged 83, Mrs. Elizabeth Clement.

Poetry: Original and Select.

A TRANSITION.

MRS. M. E. SANGSTER.

Bring fine linen, clean and white; lovingly about her
Fold the raiment pure and bright; she hath left the outer
Court where suppliants kneeling wait, for the inner palace,
For the ring and robe of state, and the jewelled chalice.

Press the weary eyelids down; ah! the eyes were faded,
Many a pang, to us unknown, their sweet vision shaded.
Oft their brightness hid the tears, sorrows all unspoken,
While she soothed our secret fears by some loving token.

Cross her hands upon her breast; all her work is over!
Soft and sweet shall be her rest. Surely like a lover,
Loosing with a touch so fleet all life's twist and tangle,
Lifting tenderly her feet from the road's sharp angle,
Death, the strong, the beautiful, came to her this morning;
And she met him dutiful, though he gave no warning.

Here upon this pallid brow, cold his seal is lying,
Every wrinkle smoothed out now; this the bliss of dying;
Left behind her all the care, all the fret and fever,
And the smile these pale lips wear welcomes God's forever.

Patiently along her way walked this late our sister,
Asking strength for every day; yet no sorrow missed her
That we bore, no joy went by but left its story,
Laughing from that clear blue eye, beaming now in glory.

Yet the grief outweighed the joy, and the sparkling gladness,
Quenched too oft, alas! would die in a mist of sadness.
Why, O Father, are thy saints sometimes tried by fire,
Tortured till the spirit faints, ere thou lift them higher.

Far above earth's woe and war, through the shining portal
That was left a bit ajar when this dear immortal
Changed her pilgrim branch of palm for the fruits that quiver,
Dropping down their dews of balm by Life's flowing river?

Shut the door, and come away; not alone we leave her
Who but only yesterday had so much to grieve her.
For this dim and narrow room seems one of the places
Where amid the gorgeous gloom, angels veil their faces.

—*Leeds Mercury.*

BEFORE THE BATTLE.

A LAY OF THE COVENANTERS.

The foemen stand ready
In battle array;
Ere we go forth to meet them
We kneel down to pray
That the Lord God of Hosts would be with us, as of old be our strength and our stay.

This battle we fight
That God's will be fulfilled;
The blows that we strike,
The blood that is spilled,
May He pardon and pity the hearts that to-day will be stricken and stilled.

Would God He would carry us
Forth of this route!
Would God He would bear us
From storm and from shout!
To be safe with himself in the City from which we shall never go out.

But our hands from the plough
We dare not draw back;
O may Heaven be the goal
Of our death-dealing track!
And give us the light that we need, and send us the strength that we lack.

Far more of might far
Than Earth's chariots or horses
Are the army of Heaven—
The stars in their courses,
When they fight at the bidding of God and marshal the might of their forces!

Our foes show no pity—
Have dreamt of no ruth;
They have scoffed at Thy Name,
They have trampled on truth,
They have smitten the brows of the aged and quenched the bright hopings of youth.

They have dealt on Thy people
Blows deathly and sore;
And do Thou unto us,
So also, and more,
If we strike them not down, and avenge us the ills that Thy chosen ones bore.

Lord turn back the bondage
Of Zion, we plead,
And send us Thine aid
In our uttermost need,
When all other help is as nothing, and vain as the veriest reed.

If we live, may we praise Thee,
Be it so if we fall.
We need words no further,
Thou knowest us all;
And we shall not be backward to answer his hest, when the Lord God shall call.

NICHOLAS MAITLAND.

—*Edinburgh Review.*

Varieties.

Extracts from PUNCH.

The British "Public."—The beer-shop.

HIGHTY-TIGHTY!—The United States is going to take possession of Hayti. When once Jonathan has got his grip on it, the island may change its name to "Hayti-tighty."

NEIGHBOURS IN COUNCIL.—*France* (in a fix): "What *am* I to do with my 'irreconcilables?'"—*Britannia* (with a birch in pickle): "I know perfectly well, my dear, what I'm going to do with mine!"

THE RETURNED CONVICT.—"Member returned to serve in the present Parliament.—County of Tipperary: Jeremiah O'Donovan Rossa."—*London Gazette.*—"M.P." may stand for something else besides "Member of Parliament:" it may mean, for instance, "Milbank Penitentiary."

A PERT MEMORY.—"He told me," says Artemus Ward, "to get out of the office. I pitied him, and *scent.*" What put that into *Mr. Punch's* sublime head? Could it have been Lord Malmesbury's protest that he was not "deposed" from the leadership of the Tories, but that he "resigned?"

THE PRICE OF PERSECUTION.—The *Athenæum* says:—It appears to have cost the Government of Mary £1 5s. 2d. to burn the two martyrs" Latimer and Ridley. How cheap! And now the poor High Church and Low Church parsons can't get one of the Broad Church burnt for love or money, and not only are they unable to send him to the stake, but must go to the expense of above a thousand pounds if they only endeavour, when they generally fail, to bring him to book.

IMPORTANT ADVERTISEMENT.—WANTED.—A nobleman to lead the Opposition in the House of Lords. He must be cleanly, sober, and possess property, have a quoting acquaintance with Horace, and a reasonable knowledge of geography, and be a fluent speaker. He must not write in any review or newspaper, nor must he have any liberal proclivities. Temper not an object, as Scotch Dukes are aggravating. Theological views not insisted on, but he must stand well with the Episcopal Bench. Must know how to take orders from his Chief in the House of Commons. Must have no personal dislikes, but be able to be very offensive on occasion. Must not be too old to sit out a heavy debate. Will be allowed to keep racers, and indulge in the other ordinary recreations of his class, but is not to be considered a turf man.—Photograph and testimonials to be addressed, "Ixion," 1, Grosvenor Gate, W. Silence a polite negative. No law-lords need apply.

Extracts from JUDY.

Advice to Briefless.—Stick to the cause-way.

If a man be a teetotaller, he need not always be out of spirits.

Murder Will Out.—Very good, but who *is* Will Out, and why should he be murdered?

If your sister fell into a well, why couldn't you rescue her?—It's well-y likely you couldn't, because you can't be a brother and a-sist-her too!

THE "BEAUTIFUL TRUTH."—*Old Lady Fogle:* Lor', child, how this cold weather does make one's teeth chatter! *Promising Grandbabe:* If yours chatter much, Granny, perhaps they'll let out where you bought 'em. [N.B.—That child grew up and came to a bad end.

NOT PROPERLY ADDRESSED.—According to the *Gaulois*, two fair Parsians, of high social position, lost their hearts at the same time to a handsome Hungarian, and not being able to settle their disputes in the way usually in vogue among ladies, fought a duel with pistols in the garden of an hotel in the Rue Montaigne. Of course no one was hit. We all know that "every bullet has its billet," but in this case apparently the *billets* didn't reach the persons to whom they were despatched. Was this because they were not properly *directed.*

Extracts from FUN.

Link Boys.—The Siamese Twins.

When does a cask of beer look foolish.—When it's stoop-ed.

Why is the Suez Canal like an unmistakable snub?—Because it is the cut direct.

OFF WITH HIS HEAD!—"The pen is mightier than the sword," and no trifling weapon is the sister, or, if you prefer it, assister—we would say assist-aunt—to the pen—the pencil. With its point a man's head may be "hit off" instanter.

Literary Reviews.

DIETRICHSEN AND HANNAY'S ROYAL ALMANAC FOR 1870. London: Edward Cleaver, 63, Oxford Street.

This invaluable annual has made its appearance for another year, this being its thirty-third appearance. In an inland district like ours, we fear that it is little known; but who that has resided on the sea coast has not heard of "Dietrichsen and Hannay's Almanac?" It is also styled a "Nautical and Astronomical Ephemeris," which renders it peculiarly beneficial to sea-faring communities; but it has such a mass of useful information to the general public that the landsman finds in it a handy book of reference. Its price is 8d., and in 168 pages it gives, besides the indispensable calender, the royal geneology of England; the peerage; the army and navy lists; a register of remarkable occurrences; a London, provicial, colonial, and foreign banking directory, the House of Commons, &c., &c.

THE ANIMAL WORLD, No. 3. London: S. W. Partridge & Co., 9, Paternoster Row.

In the quality of the material with which this serial is filled, and in the superior style of its "get up," this month's number is equal to its predecessors. The projectors have already received great encouragement in their work, and they have no misgiving as to the success of their enterprise. The British Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, being the first of its kind started in the civilized world, is as creditable to the humanity of some sections of our population as the necessity for its existence discreditable to the inhumanity of other classes. In our motley and composite society we have so many elements that in almost all social matters there is an antagonism of discordant sections. As a people, we are not tender in respect to animal life and suffering like the professors of the Brahminic religion in India; neither are we savage and ruthless towards animals like the Abyssinians. We do not establish public hospitals for monkeys, or let sacred cattle have the run of our market places, nor do we cut beefsteaks from living oxen that we drive with us upon a journey until we have at last mutilated them beyond the power of further enduring the torture of locomotion. But while we have men as kindly disposed towards the brute creation as any Brahmin, we have, unfortunately, others who delight in torturing helpless brutes. And when we add to the effects of this individual cruelty, those which arise from ignorance, indifference, or carelessly, especially as systematically manifested, we arrive at an amount of torture inflicted on inferior animals which quite justifies the existence of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, and of their new organ—*The Animal World.* We heartily go with the endeavours of this Society, when, through this publication or otherwise, it directs its efforts against wanton or thoughtless cruelty inflicted on "our dumb companions," or even upon wild creatures, *feræ naturæ*, which in a new work have been distinguished as "our dumb neighbours." Let us by all means seek to punish the heartless wretched who would skin live cats for the sake of a little paltry gain, or would inhumanly beat horses and cattle out of mere wantonness. Let us, in fact, pull down with a high hand all individual cruelty inflicted on brute creatures, whether they be domestic animals of service to man or not; for in so doing we obtain two positive advantages. We relieve from unnecessary and useless pain creatures which the great Ruler of the universe has made with nerves and sensations akin to our own, but which are comparatively helpless against attack through lacking our high reason and speech; and we prevent the habit of cruelty growing upon men by its unchecked practice. For our own sake and that of our brute companions, they should be kindly treated by us; and it is certain that we shall never see the masses of our population reach a high state of cultivation until the habitual perpetration of cruelty to animals is put down, and we have as a people a proper respect for every life which God has given.

THE COMMERCIAL CONGRESS AT CAIRO.

For severial days prior to the opening of the Suez Canal there sat at Cairo a Congress of the representatives of European nations and Chambers of Commerce. The Congress was held during the visit of the Viceroy's guests; and his Excellency Nubar Pacha was elected president, and presided over the proceedings. The coal trade was most ably represented by Mr. Geo. Elliot, M.P. for North Durham, by whom we (*Newcastle Daily Journal*) have been favoured with a copy of the resolutions agreed to, and which will be read with considerable interest by the coal and iron trades in the North of England:—

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE CONFERENCE HELD AT CAIRO.

1.—That the periodical reports be furnished by the Egyptian Government to the different Chambers of Commerce of the productive capabilities of the country.

2.—The revision of the Egyptian laws and usages in regard to commerce.

3.—That there be uniformity in the system of measurement of vessels, meanwhile, that the method be that of the French Veritas.

4.—The exemption of all merchandise passing through the Canal from any dues to Government.

5.—The exemption of coal, either as cargo or as ship's fuel, from transit dues.

6.—That improved facilities be afforded for the establishment of houses of business and depots on the Isthmus.

7.—That similar facilities be afforded for industrial and commercial companies, and that no legislative or administrative obstacles be allowed to obstruct business.

8.—That uniformity be established in the laws of foreign countries affecting their respective communities settling in Egypt—in fact, uniform jurisdiction, and the relinquishment of the privilege of different foreign Governments in the country.

9.—The perfect neutrality of the Canal.

10.—Immunity of private property passing through from seizure in time of war.

11.—Fresh soundings to be taken of the Red Sea, and a new map to be published; also, new lights to be erected where required.

12.—The metrical system of weights and measures to be established in Egypt, and the Conference recommended a uniform monetary system to be established in Egypt and also in Europe.

November, 1869.

BRUTAL MURDER AT THORNLEY.

On Saturday night, considerable alarm was caused amongst the inhabitants at Thornley and the surrounding colliery villages, by a report that a man named Jon. Golt had been murdered at the above place. It appears that the deceased had been a considerable time resident at Thornley, and for the last eight or ten years was unable to work in consequence of some bodily complaint. At a late hour on Saturday evening, Golt was standing on the footpath that runs through Thornley, when two men came up to him, named James Hart and John Dunn, both belonging to Ludworth, a colliery village about a mile and a half distant. Without any provocation, so far as can be gathered, Hart dealt the deceased a blow which brought him to the ground. Dunn then joined in the attack, and both of them kicked Golt in a most violent manner about the head. One of his assailants maltreated him so viciously as to sever the jugular vein, and in a very few moments the assault proved fatal, the poor man dying on the spot. An alarm was at once given by some neighbours who had been attracted to the scene by the noise. On the police being communicated with, Constables Weetman and Boiston succeeded in apprehending a youth who had been brandishing a knife and putting the spectators at defiance. It turned out, however, that he was not one of the culprits, and Hart and Dunn seemed for a while likely to baffle the energy of the police who searched a number of the houses for them without avail. The two officers visited their dwellings but were still unsuccessful. P.C. Weetman not going to be outdone, and thinking that their proceedings were closely watched, either by the murderers themselves or by their friends, resolved on going home. He at once proceeded thither, and after remaining there for about half an hour he turned out again and searched the house of Hart whom he found in the act of changing his clothes. The constable at once secured him, and no sooner had that been accomplished than Dunn entered. He too, was arrested, and fastened to his companion, both being immediately afterwards taken to Thornley Police Station.—The inquest on the body of the man, Jon. Golt, was opened on Tuesday, at Thornley. No futher particulars were elicited, and the inquest was adjourned.—Yesterday (Thursday), James Hart, John Dunn, and John Holey were brought up before the Castle Eden magistrates, and, after the case had been heard, Hart was committed to the assizes on the charge of wilful murder, and Dunn and Holey were discharged.

The colliery proprietors of South Lancashire at a meeting on Wednesday at Liverpool, acceded to the request of the colliers for an advance of 10 per cent. in the amount of wages, to begin from the commencement of next year.

WIFE-MURDER IN DUNDEE.—On Wednesday night, Alex. Prain, a flesher, in Wellgate, Dundee, was apprehended, charged with murdering his wife. On Saturday last, they had had a quarrel, and Prain, it is alleged, struck his wife on the skull with a sharpening steel, which penetrated near to the brain. The woman sank thereafter, and died on Wednesday.

Foreign and Colonial Intelligence.

FRANCE.

PARIS, December 5.—The Empress Eugenie has returned to Paris.

The Protectionists have held another meeting at the Hotel du Louvre, and it is stated that thirty-two deputies have attached their names to an interpellation calling upon the Government to withdraw from the Anglo-French Treaty of Commerce. The interpellation was laid on the table of the Legislative Body on Saturday.

PARIS, December 8.—The *France* of to-night repeats the statement that, in consequence of the recent Parliamentary movements, Ministers have placed their resignations in the hands of the Emperor. In the Legislative Chamber, M. Raspail, on behalf of himself and M. Rochefort, laid on the table a bill proposing decentralisation in affairs of local interest, and centralisation in matters of general interest. The bill recommends that communes should be autonomous; that the elections of municipal councils should take place every three years, and of Mayors every year; that the Legislative Body should alone be empowered to settle matters of general interest, and should only agree to war when necessary for the defence of the country against iniquitous aggression; and that, in the event of war, the Legislative Body should appoint the general.

RIOT IN THE STREETS OF MARSEILLES.

MARSEILLES, December 9.—Yesterday being the festival of the Immaculate Conception, the town was illuminated in the evening. A band, numbering about 1,000 or 1,500 persons, traversed the streets shouting out against the illumination, singing the "Marseillaise," and breaking the gas lamps in front of the Bishop's palace and the hotel of the Perfect. Upwards of sixty arrests were made.

SPAIN.

MADRID, December 7 (evening).—In to-day's sitting of the Cortes, Senor Carrascon questioned the Government as to the attitude they intended to take up with regard to the approaching Œcumenical Council. Senor Marto, the Minister of State, replied that Convocation of the Council had suggested to the Catholic powers the advisability of providing guarantees against the possible results of its deliberations. He referred to the course taken by the German bishop, Alfulda, and said that the views expressed by Mgr. Dufanloup, would seem to indicate a revival of Gallicanism, whereas he considered the Ultramontanes to be seeking divorce between the Church and the progress of civilization. Senor Marto finally alluded to the diplomatic circular in which Prince Hohenlohe communicated to the Catholic governments the apprehensions of the Bavarian Cabinet, and he concluded his speech, which was loudly cheered, by stating that in his dispatches sent to Rome, he had declared that the Spanish Government was resolved to oppose any decision of the Council which might be contrary to the democratic principles expressed by the Constitution of 1869.

It is asserted that the Spanish Government still maintains the candidature of the Duke of Genoa.

ITALY.

THE MINISTERIAL CRISIS.

FLORENCE, December 6.—General Cialdini has undertaken the formation of a Cabinet, and has telegraphed to Signor Stella. General Cialdini will probably be supported by some members of the present Cabinet.

FLORENCE, Dec. 7 (evening).—General Cialdini relinquished this afternoon the task of forming a Cabinet, in consequence of the refusal of Signor Stella to accept the portfolio of Finance. The King, this evening, expressed a desire to confer with Gen. Menabrea, Count Cambray-Digny, and Signors Mordini and Minghetti on the position of affairs.

THE ŒCUMENICAL COUNCIL.

ROME, December 8.—The Œcumenical Council in connection with the Roman Catholic church, which promises to absorb the attention of the ecclesiastical world for some months, was opened to-day in the Vatican in Rome. The State ceremonial previously arranged was strictly carried out, and the Pope was accompanied by 6 Prince Archbishops, 49 Cardinals, 11 Patriarchs, 680 Archbishops and Bishops, 28 Abbots, and 29 Generals of religious orders. The opening address was pronounced by the Archbishop of Iconium, after which the Pope gave his benediction.

THE INSURRECTION IN DALMATIA.

VIENNA, December 7.—According to the last accounts from Cattaro, all the southern districts have now been pacified; and the insurgents in the north, having been cut off from all communication with the coast, are suffering greatly from the want of provisions. Bosnia, Herzegovina, and Albania are quiet.

TURKEY AND EGYPT.

CONSTANTINOPLE, Dec. 8.—A diplomatic telegram arrived here to-day announcing the acceptance by the Khedive of the conditions contained in the Sultan's latest firman, and stated the intention of His Highness to come in person to Constantinople to assure the Sultan of his faithful allegiance.

AMERICA.

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

WASHINGTON, December 6.—The following is a summary of President Grant's message to Congress:—Council is blessed with peace at home, and is without entangling alliances abroad. The troops have exuberant health, and manufactures hitherto unknown are sprining up. The President trusts that he and Congress will be able to render a satisfacory account of their stewardship. He recommends Congress to adopt measures to restore American commerce, which was nearly driven from the seas during the rebellion. The freedmen are advancing in education, and are industrious when properly remunerated. Reconstruction is progressing favourably, considering the difficulties which had to be encountered, and seven of the rebellious states are already restored to the Union. The President suggests that as the present Georgia legislature has wrongly expelled two negro members, Congress should authorise the Governor to convene the legislature. The recent Virginia elections were, he says, fairly conducted, and the officers elected have conformed to the Congressional requirements. He consequently advises that the Virginian delegation be admitted to seats in Congress. President Grant suggests a modification of the tariff and of taxation. He advises that a discrimination should be made, but no general revision at present, of the laws on these subjects. The treasurer's report shows the receipts of the fiscal year, ending June 30, to be 371,000,000 dollars, and the total expenditure 321,500,000. The estimates for the ensuing year are still more favourable, and the message approves the purchase of Government bonds with the surplus currency. With reference to Cuba, the President says the people and Government of the United States warmly sympathise with Cuba in its impending struggle; but the contest has not yet amounted to war in an international sense. The insurgents have not established a *de facto* Government entitling them to recognition as belligerents. The United States have no disposition to interfere in the relations of Spain with her American colonies, and our offer of meditation not having been accepted by Spain was withdrawn. The Administration still hopes that Spain will accept our good offices. Spain has rendered ample satisfaction for the recent seizure of American vessels. The question of the Spanish gunboat victualling at New York must be decided by the Court. The President approves the rejection of Mr. Reverdy Johnson's Alabama treaty, and declares that its provisions were inadequate for the settlement of the grave wrongs sustained by the United States, adding, a sensitive people, conscious of its powers, is more at ease under a great wrong wholly unatoned than under the restraint of a settlement which satisfies neither its ideas of justice nor the grave sense of injustice sustained. The Presidential message also recommends legislation to secure the colonies in the United States against any foreign enslavement. He approves the action of the Quaker Indian Commission, and predicts an early satisfactory adjustment of Indian difficulties, and urges the civilization of all the Indian tribes. The President considers that the reports of the war, post-office, navy, and interior departments are generally favourable, showing increased economy. The message concludes with a promise of rigid adherence to the laws, and their strict enforcement.

NEW YORK, December 7.—President Grant has sent a message to the Senate announcing that the French Government had favourably received a proposal for a telegraphic communication between France and the United States, securing immunity from interference to ocean cables in case of war, and providing reciprocal concessions. The President urges the participation of all nations in this convention.

Advices from Hayti state that Salnave has proclaimed himself President for life.

THE INSURRECTION IN THE RED RIVER TERRITORY.

Intelligence received from Fort Garry to the 22nd ult., announces that the insurrection is subsiding, and that there were then only about 50 insurgents under arms. Scotch and English half-breeds are favourable to Mr. MacDougal, and it is believed that he will be quietly installed as Governor on the 1st December. Governor MacFairish is dangerously ill.

Railway Time Tables.

NOTE.—*These Tables are compiled from the best authorities, but we do not hold ourselves responsible for any errors they may contain.*

STOCKTON AND DARLINGTON RAILWAY

GOING EAST.—WEEK DAYS ONLY.

STATIONS.		A.M. 1, 2, 3.	P.M. 1, 2.	P.M. 1, 2, 3
Benfieldside	dep.	6·55	3·30	....
Cold Rowley	"	7·3	3·40	....
Burnhill Junction	"	7·12	3·50	....
Tow Law	"	7·24	4·3	....
Crook	arr.	7·35	4·15	....
	dep.	7·40	5·20	....
Bishop Auckland	"	8·5	5·50	....
Darlington	"	9·0	6·40	....
Stockton	"	9·30	7·10	....
Middlesbro'	"	9·42	7·22	....

GOING WEST.—WEEK DAYS ONLY.

STATIONS.		A.M. 1, 2, 3.	P.M. 1 & 2.	P.M. 1, 2, 3.
Middlesbro'	dep.	6·22	2·20	....
Stockton	"	6·34	2·28	....
Darlington	"	7·20	3·10	....
Bishop Auckland	"	7·50	3·40	....
Crook	arr.	8·10	4·10	....
	dep.	8·13	4·30	....
Tow Law	"	8·23	4·40	....
Burnhill Junction	"	8·35	4·53	....
Cold Rowley	"	8·45	5·3	....
Benfieldside	arr.	8·58	5·15	....

CONSETT BRANCH.

UP TRAINS.—WEEK DAYS.

STATIONS.		1, 2, G. A.M.	1 & 2. A.M.	1 & 2. P.M.	1, 2, G P.M.
Newcastle	dep.	5·55	10·0	2·5	5·20
Scotswood	"	6·2	10·7	2·12	5·27
Swalwell	"	6·9	10·14	2·19	5·34
Rowland's Gill	"	6·19	10·24	2·29	5·44
Lintz Green	"	6·25	10·30	2·35	5·50
Ebchester	"	6·38	10·43	2·48	6·3
Shotley Bridge	"	6·44	10·49	2·54	6·9
Benfieldside (Consett & Blackhill)	"	6·50	10·55	3·0	6·15
Knitsley	"	7·4	11·9		6·29
Lanchester	"	7·13	11·18		6·38
Witton Gilbert	"	7·20	11·27		6·47
Durham	arr.	7·35	11·40		7·0

DOWN TRAINS.—WEEK DAYS.

STATIONS.		1, 2, G. A.M.	1 & 2. P.M.	1 & 2. P.M.	1, 2, G P.M.
Durham	dep.	8·10	12·0		7·40
Witton Gilbert	"	8·25	12·14		7·54
Lanchester	"	8·36	12·25		8·5
Knitsley	"	8·47	12·36		8·16
Benfieldside (Consett & Blackhill)	"	9·2	12·50	3·25	8·28
Shotley Bridge	"	9·7	12·55	3·30	8·33
Ebchester	"	9·10	12·59	3·34	8·37
Lintz Green	"	9·20	1·9	3·44	8·48
Rowland's Gill	"	9·25	1·14	3·49	8·53
Swalwell	"	9·34	1·23	4·1	9·2
Scotswood	"	9·40	1·29	4·8	9·9
Newcastle	arr.	9·50	1·40	4·20	9·20

MARKET TRAINS ON SATURDAYS.

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

UP TRAINS.

STATIONS.		GO. A.M.	RETURN. P.M.
Newcastle	dep.	8·0	4·0
Scotswood	"	8·7	4·9
Swalwell	"	8·13	4·15
Rowland's Gill	"	8·21	4·23
Lintz Green	"	8·27	4·29
Ebchester	"	8·40	4·42
Shotley Bridge	"	8·45	4·47
Benfieldside (for Consett and Blackhill)	arr.	8·55	4·56
	dep.	9·10	5·5
Knitsley	"	9·21	5·16
Lanchester	"	9·34	5·29
Witton Gilbert	"	9·46	5·41
Durham	arr.	10·0	5·55

DOWN TRAINS.

STATIONS.		GO. A.M.	RETURN. P.M.
Durham	dep.		4·0
Witton Gilbert	"	8·3	4·13
Lanchester	"	8·15	4·25
Knitsley	"	8·28	4·38
Benfieldside (for Consett and Blackhill)	arr.	8·40	4·50
	dep.	9·30	6·16
Shotley Bridge	"	9·35	6·21
Ebchester	"	9·40	6·26
Lintz Green	"	9·49	6·35
Rowland's Gill	"	9·56	6·42
Swalwell	"	10·7	6·53
Scotswood	"	10·13	6·59
Newcastle	arr.	10·25	7·11

The notorious Broadhead, of Sheffield "rattening" fame was a passenger by the Inman steamer Etna, which took her departure from Liverpool on Saturday last for Halifax and New York.

The *Echo* "understands that the Duke of Marlborough, on account of his 'religious soundness,' is the favourite with a majority of Conservative Peers though not the most influential, for the vacant leadership."

FALL OF A RAILWAY STATION AT EDINBURGH.—On Monday night, about 400 feet in length and 80 feet in breadth of the new station being built for the Caledonian Railway Company, at Edinburgh, fell in with a fearful crash. Four men and two horses had a narrow escape from being buried in the ruins. The damage is estimated at nearly £2,000.

CONFIRMATION OF DR. TEMPLE.—The ceremony of confirming Dr. Temple as Bishop of Exeter took place on Wednesday. Objections were called in the usual form. Mr. Curry, the Proctor, appeared for Bishop Trower and others to oppose the confirmation. The Vicar General decided that he was bound to confirm the election. Dr. Temple was therefore confirmed in the see of Exeter accordingly.

THE DUKE OF GENOA AND THE SPANISH CROWN.—The *Gazette d'Italia* of Monday say that the King of Italy had a conference on Saturday with the Duchess of Genoa as to the acceptance of the Spanish crown by the young Duke. According to the Florence journal, the Duchess asked for time to consider, but left the King to understand that she would not in the end oppose the choice of the Spanish nation.

ONE WAY TO PAY THE NATIONAL DEBT.—By the will of the late Dr. Comparative, jun., who was greived at the heavy taxes, and also the wants of every description under which his countrymen groan and grumble incessantly; and wishing, from the bottom of his heart, to make every body comfortable and happy throughout the three sister kingdoms, bequeathed to the Governors of the Bank of England £10, and this £10, at lawful interest of 5 per cent., with compound interest, in three hundred and eighty years' time, makes £1,127,026,233.

BREAKFAST.—EPPS'S COCOA.—GRATEFUL AND COMFORTING.—The very agreeable character of this preparation has rendered it a general favourite.—The *Civil Service Gazette* remarks:—"The singular success which Mr. Epps attained by his homœopathic preparation of cocoa has never been surpassed by any experimentalist. By a thorough knowledge of the natural laws which govern the operations of digestion and nutrition, and by a careful application of the fine properties of well-selected cocoa, Mr. Epps has provided our breakfast tables with a delicately flavoured beverage which may save us many heavy doctors' bills." Made simply with boiling water or milk. Sold only in ¼ lb., ½ lb., and 1 lb. tin-lined packets, labelled—JAMES EPPS and Co., Homœopathic Chemists, London. 207a

EXTRAORDINARY CURE OF A COUGH BY POWELL'S BALSAM OF ANISEED.—"Her Majesty's Gun Boat, 'Netley,' Wick, North East Coast of Scotland, 7th September, 1868.—Dear Sir,—Having had a most distressing and severe cough, which caused me many sleepless nights and restless days, I was recommended by His Lordship, the Earl of Caithness, to try your most invaluable Balsam of Aniseed, and I can assure you, with the first dose I found immediate relief, even without having to suspend my various duties; and the first small bottle completely cured me; therefore, I have the greatest confidence in fully recommending it to the million.—Most respectfully yours, W. LINZELL, H.M.G.B. 'Netley.'—To Mr. Powell."—POWELL'S BALSAM OF ANISEED can be had of all Chemists. In Bottles at 1s. 1½d. and 2s. 3d.—Warehouse, 16, Blackfriars Road, London.—Ask for "POWELL'S BALSAM OF ANISEED." 294a

ADVICE TO MOTHERS.—Are you broken off your rest by a sick child, suffering with the pain of cutting teeth? Go at once to a chemist, and get a bottle of MRS. WINSLOW'S SOOTHING SYRUP. It will relieve the poor sufferer immediately; it produces natural quiet sleep, by relieving the child from pain, and the little cherub awakes "as bright as a button." It has been long in use in America, and is highly recommended by medical men; it is very pleasant to take; it soothes the child; it softens the gums, allays all pain, relieves wind, regulates the bowels, and is the best known remedy for dysentry and diarrhœa, whether arising from teething or other causes. Be sure and ask for MRS. WINSLOW'S SOOTHING SYRUP, and see that "Curtis and Perkins, New York and London" is on the outside wrapper. No mother should be without it.—Sold by all medicine dealers at 1s. 1½d. per Bottle, London Depot, 205, High Holborn. 339

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